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Governor objects to nuclear storage facility

Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts emphasized recently that safety, science and state law make it impossible for Oregon to support a potential temporary nuclear storage site on the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe's reservation in southeastern Malheur county. However, tribal officials say their tribe is merely studying the possibility of constructing a repository on tribal lands and that no final decisions have yet been made. A temporary nuclear storage facility, called a monitored retrievable storage (MRS) facility, would hold spent fuel used to generate electricity. No military nuclear waste would be stored at the site.

The federal government is soliciting proposals for MRS sites to receive spent nuclear fuel from reactors throughout the United States. A number of Native American tribes have expressed interest in studying possible sites, including the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshones, whose reservation straddles the Oregon/Nevada border. Because current federal law prohibits siting an MRS in Nevada, where studies are underway for a permanent nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, any facility on the Fort McDermitt reservation would have to be located in Oregon.

The Oregon facility would be built

Man beaten to death

The body of a 35-year-old tribal member man was found behind a residence in West Hills Saturday, March 26.

The badly beaten body of Randy Yahtin, Sr. was found behind the residence at 1715 Foster Street.

According to police chief Don Courtney, "foul play" is considered to be the contributing factor in Yahtin's death. An autopsy was performed March 27 by state medical examiner Larry Lewman who ruled Yahtin died as a result of massive trauma to the head.

Courtney said investigators from the FBI, BIA and tribal police department are following up on leads and tracking Yahtin's activities during the 24 hours prior to his death. The investigation continues.

above ground and would store nuclear wastes for about 40 years. Permanent disposal will be in a deep underground repository that will isolate wastes for thousands of years.

In 1991, the federal government stepped up its efforts to find a voluntary host for a MRS facility. All states and federally recognized Indian tribes were sent letters by the Nuclear Waste Negotiator which asked for volunteers to study the feasibility of hosting an MRS.

The Department of Energy offered grants in three phases to conduct the studies. By 1993, the DOE had awarded \$100,000 Phase I grants to seven tribes and three counties. Four tribes had received \$200,000 Phase II-A grants, the Fort McDermitt tribe being one of them. Further funding has been limited by amendments to the DOE's 1994 budget bill.

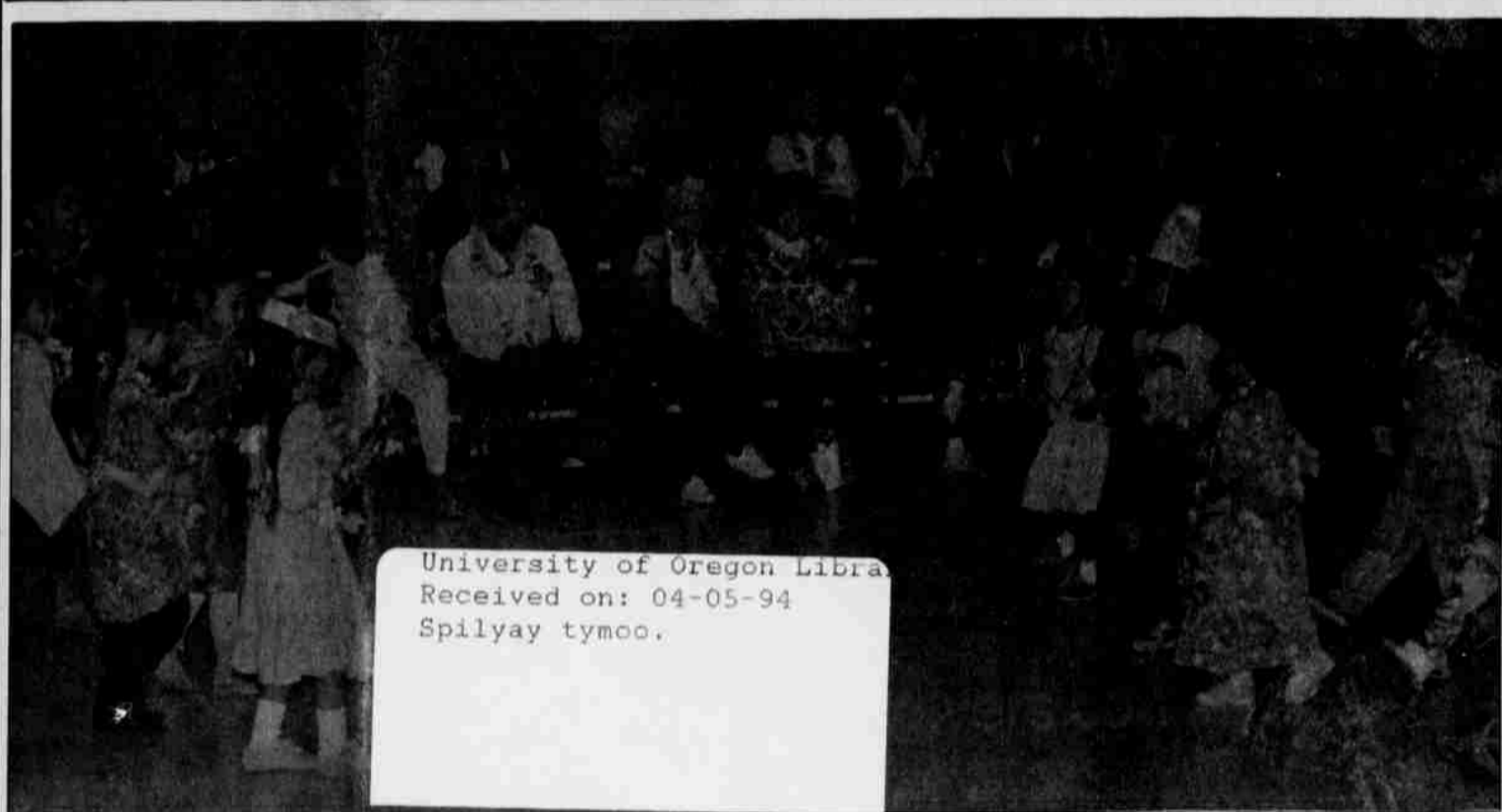
Tribal officials are adamant that the Fort McDermitt tribe is studying the possibility of constructing a facility on reservation land. Assuming the feasibility studies check out and the tribe continues the study process, it will take another four to six years of in-depth, scientific and public scrutiny before a license to construct a facility could be issued.

Governor Roberts listed several specific objections to the MRS siting process and to any location in Oregon.

* Oregon statutes specifically order that no disposal facility for nuclear waste can be established in the state, with minor exception such as for certain medical or research wastes. Both the Oregon Hanford Waste Board and the Oregon Department of Energy have recommended opposing any MRS.

* No evidence exists that MRS facilities would result in increased safety. They would use the same technology currently used for multiple-decade storage at individual reactor sites (including the decommissioned Trojan plant). Taking into account the added hazards of transportation to the MRS sites and, eventually, to a permanent federal repository, public health and safety risks may well be increased by collecting wastes from around the nation to temporary facilities.

Continued on page 2



ECE children did the shuffle for seniors.



Senior citizens shook hands and gave warm greetings to each other.



Queen and king for the day Tilly Salas and Reggie Winishut.

More photos on page 3

Cable system upgraded; signal strong

Warm Springs residents can once again go home after work, turn on the TV and watch the latest local and national news, thanks to an ambitious endeavor by Central Vision.

Short of satellite television, Central Vision owners have taken over what was Dan Macy's television system, long out of service due to ill-repair. Central Vision offers numerous (16) channels including Portland station, WTBS, TNN, USA, Family Blazer Cable and other channels. Owners expect to have a premium movie channel (Showtime) in working order very soon.

Cost for service is \$19.95 a month plus a \$30 hookup fee (\$10 per additional TV). Installation costs may vary due to repairs or long-distance cabling. The premium channel will cost \$9.95 more per month and \$5 more per TV.

Central Vision personnel have been busy upgrading and replacing the cable and electronics in the Warm Springs vicinity. Owners are also working with Tribal Council to re-

ceive permission to place TV "beam benders" in various locations so other remote areas of the reservation can receive signal, according to a letter distributed among residents.

If customers are delinquent paying their bills, Central Vision will be able to block out service. If customers

Kah-Nee-Ta April 11 and 12

Caregivers conference set

The Circle Of Life, a caregivers conference, will be held Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12 at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. The Central Oregon Hospice Coalition, Oregon Hospice Association and Cascades East Area Health Education Center are co-sponsoring the event. The conference will be a unique opportunity for hospice staff and volunteers, from nurses, physicians, pastors and chaplains, social workers to caregivers of every kind. Registration is \$175 for both days or \$87.50 for one day. Fees include all meals, including a tradi-

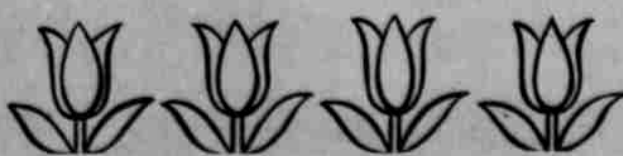
itional salmon bake at the Lodge. A workshop dealing with pain will be held from 8:30 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. At the same time, a cultural perspectives retreat on living and dying will be held and will include presentations on Native American, Hispanic American, African American and Asian American experiences.

The second day of the conference will feature "The Helper's Journey" with Dale Larson.

For further information contact the Central Oregon Hospice Coalition at (503) 548-7483.



Even though it's spring time, fire danger is unusually high this year. A small fire near Miller Heights had fire crew members and neighbors jumping last week. Use caution when burning around homes and property. Be sure to obtain the necessary fire permit.



Happy Easter

