



Photo by Dave McMechan

Native appreciation

Kelsey Haywahe and Attcity Begay participated in Native American Culture Appreciation Day at Jefferson County Middle School last month. More photographs of the event may be seen on Page 10 of this edition of the Spilyay Tymoo.

Jobs 101

➤ Training will be available to all of those who participate in the project.

➤ Fieldwork is never easy, but most importantly, the process of procuring insurance, equipment maintenance, submitting bids, record keeping, and payroll are just some examples of what will be learned.

➤ From the ground up, job title does not matter, for everyone will be learning the same items for him or her to succeed.

➤ The first Pilot Project will focus on Environmental Services. Construction is the next likely Project.

➤ Community support for this and other projects like it in the future will be greatly needed.

For information, call Clay Penhollow at Natural Resources, 553-2001.



From "William Finley, Pioneer Wildlife Photographer"

Condor named General would sit and spread wings in sun.

Condors ...

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Along with an altered habitat, the bird would face other problems, said Pitt. For instance, the condor is skilled in flight, but is awkward on the ground, making it easy prey for poachers.

And condors reproduce slowly. For this reason the killing of a single condor can be devastating to a local population, said Pitt.

The condor, he said, is a bird of cultural importance to the Confederated Tribes.

But other habitat restoration projects - including those for fish, roots and berries - may be of more immediate concern.

The condor is an example, he said, of a species that many people did not even know existed in the traditional lands of the Confederated Tribes.

The condor has the appearance of a large buzzard. It has a bald head, and dark plumage on its body. Like buzzards, the condors at the Columbia River Gorge would migrate with the seasons.

The condor is one of the largest birds in the world. A related species of condor lives in the Andes Mountains in South America.

The California condor, the species that once lived in Oregon, came to the brink of extinction in the 1970s and '80s.

In 1982 the population of California condors in the wild was just 22 birds.

Over the next five years, biologists captured all of the wild condors, and began a captive breeding program.

In 1992, California condors again were released into the wild. Today, there are over 50 of the birds living in the wild. The first eggs from wild California condors were reported just this year.

The Lewis and Clark Journals (1803-1807) mention that condors were at the Columbia River Gorge. An expedition member shot one of the birds for purposes of research and documentation.

Over the next 100 to 150 years, the California condor at the Columbia River Gorge was driven to extinction.

People give various specific reasons as to why this occurred, although the general reason is that white settlers arrived in the area. Two accounts are as follows:

The white settlers killed off large populations of animals that the condors had used for food. And secondly:

The settlers would shoot condors that were feeding on dead livestock. The thought was that the condors had killed the livestock, while actually the condors were scavenging

on carcasses that were already dead.

Whatever the cause, condors went extinct in the Columbia River Gorge several years ago.

An exact time as to when the birds disappeared is not known.

Ken Smith, of Corbett, said he saw condors in the region in the mid-1950s.

While traveling on the Washington side of the Columbia, Smith saw nine of them



Thunderbird, shown here on a beaded cradleboard at the Museum at Warm Springs, is thought to have been a condor.

sitting on fence posts, and that was the last time he ever saw condors.

In legend the condor was a bird of thunderstorms and rain, said Rudy Clements. The home of the condor, he said, was the ocean. Storm clouds came inland from the ocean.

The condor, because of its association with rain, is associated with the Creator. The rain causes things to grow.

The condor was a way of communication between the Earth and the Creator. The thunder and lightning were the condor's communication from the Creator above.

The thunder was a voice, and the lightning was caused by flint held by the condor, said Chief Wallulatumi.

Likewise, the condor or Thunderbird could communicate from people on Earth to the Creator.

"The Thunderbird was the medium between the Earth and the Creator," said Rudy Clements. The belief, he said, was held mainly among Wasco people.

By all accounts the condor was a bird to be feared. Cyrus Katchia's story of the boy who told a lie, and was carried off by a condor is an example.

The association of the Thunderbird with storms, which can be frightening, is a reason why the bird was to be feared.

But there may be another, more terrible reason why the bird came to be feared.

This other horrible reason could be rooted in events of documented history, rather than in Indian legend.

George Aguilar heard that condors thrived along the Columbia River during the decades when the smallpox epidemics were killing whole villages of the Indian people.

This happened during the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries.

There is a story that condors thrived at this time, said Aguilar.

Fires ...

Continued from Page 1

When there are small children or pets in the home, it's important to keep an eye on them around the decorations.

Many of the decorations use electricity, which creates heat or open flame itself.

When decorating for the holiday do not overload outlets, run wires or extension cords under carpet, burn candles unattended and allow bulbs to touch any part of the tree.

When decorating for the holiday always shut off lights when unattended, inspect wires for damages, keep your tree well watered, trim the trunk of your tree at least 2 inches, use a sturdy stand and keep combustibles away from open flame.

With these tips and information being followed there should be less hazardous accidents during the holidays.

Fire Management tips

Did you know that the leading cause of Christmas tree fires and property damage was a short circuit or ground fault? Cords and plugs were the leading type of equipment involved in the ignition of a Christmas tree.

When decorating your Christmas tree use safety approved tree lights. Any string of lights with worn, frayed, broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used. All lights should be in good condition. ... Never use electric lights on a metal tree and never use candles to decorate a tree. Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home, or going to bed at night.

When purchasing a Christmas tree don't pick one with dropping needles or that seems dry. Cut 1 inch off the trunk to help absorb water. Try to keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily. If you are going to be purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.

Make sure the tree is at least three feet from any heat source and try to position it near an outlet so the cords are not running long distances.

When the tree begins dropping a lot of needles, it's time to dispose of it. Dried out trees are highly flammable and should not be left inside a home or garage or placed against the house. Never burn a real tree in the fireplace!!!

Enjoy the holiday season, Fire Management would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Spilyay Tymoo

News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

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