

Simnasho kids to have new playground

Equipment made possible through cooperative effort

New playground equipment has arrived at the school playground in Simnasho.

The equipment was partially assembled earlier this month. The rest of the work will happen when the weather warms up, said Kathy Quaempts, of the Tribal Health Department.

The department, along with Indian Health Services, has cooperated in acquiring the new playground equipment. The Nike Corporation is also playing a key role. Purchase of the playground equipment has been made possible through an IHS diabetes prevention grant.

Earlier this month, helping assemble the new equipment, were 43 people from Nike.

They visited Simnasho for a day, had lunch, and worked on assembling the new equipment. As part of the project, Nike employees also contributed \$3,010. "They were very excited to come here and work," said Quaempts.

Austin Greene and Ed Henderson of Tribal Health, and Russ Alger, Diana Howell and Rob Collison, of IHS, have helped with the project.

In November, Quaempts and Henderson made a presentation to Brian Rogers, of the Nike community outreach committee. The company was eager to participate, said Quaempts.

Nike also donated a Track-In-The-Box set to the Simnasho community. This includes whistles, flags, and other equipment for different kinds of games. All the items



will be put to good use. "The Simnasho community is very active," said Quaempts.

The new playground equipment is about 60 percent assembled. The rest of the work, involving the pouring of some concrete, has to wait for warmer weather. The old equipment was removed some time ago. Captain Moody and his family had provided some tremendous support, said Quaempts.

Along with the new playground, new basketball facilities at Simnasho will also be added in the spring. This also was made possible through the diabetes prevention work.

In the photographs, Nike employees help local health workers with assembling the new playground equipment. The weather was rainy, but the workers pressed on and assembled about 60 percent of the new playground.



Offensive word removed from names

The names of three places in the Willamette National Forest were changed recently to remove a word that is offensive to Native Americans.

Two buttes and one creek, which formerly bore the name "squaw," were changed to Kwiskwis Butte, Latiwi Butte and Latiwi Creek.

The new place names are from the language of the Mollala Indians, said Mark Flannery, cartographer with the U.S. Forest Service.

The word Latiwi means "people," and Kwiskwis is the Indian name for a chipmunk. Kwiskwis was also the nickname of Mollala Indian Charlie Tufti, said Flannery.

The change in the place names was approved recently by the Oregon Geographic Names Board.

Passage of a state law to re-

move the "s-word" from public place names in Oregon has been a project of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Government Affairs.

Government Affairs representatives, with other tribal members, advocated passage of the law during the 2001 Oregon legislative session.

The Legislature passed the law, which Gov. Kitzhaber then signed later this past summer.

There are several places in the area of southern Jefferson and northern Deschutes counties that include the s-word.

Eventually, these place names will be replaced with names that are not offensive to Native Americans.

The new names in Jefferson and Deschutes counties could be derived from Indian names for the places.

Senate OK's Tribal-PGE hyrdo agreement

The agreement between the Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric to own and operate jointly the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Project received Congressional approval recently.

The U.S. Senate adopted a bill sanctioning the agreement, whereby the Confederated Tribes receive one-third ownership interest in the dams. Selling cost is \$30 million.

The tribes in the past have received payments from PGE for use of the reservation property that is part of the hydroelectric facilities.

The new arrangement gives the tribes ownership, and the

right to earn revenue directly from the sale of electricity, rather than through the lease payments from PGE.

The new agreement has been a part of the federal process to relicense the Pelton-Round Butte project.

PGE's original license, dating back to the 1950s, has come up for renewal. Initially, the tribes were competing directly with PGE for the license.

Through negotiation, PGE agreed to sell part of the ownership of the hydro facilities to the tribes. Over the next 30 to 40 years, the tribes can acquire additional interest in the facilities, up to 50.01 percent.

Hellon offering legal service

Tribal member Leo Hellon has passed the Warm Springs Tribes bar exam. He is now available for representation or legal advocacy to tribal members or anyone within the jurisdiction of Warm Springs Tribal Court.

Hellon can offer advice on legal issues such as criminal, civil procedure or action, criminal and juvenile law, housing and administrative issues, traditional law, hunting and fishing issues. He will also act as a legal facilitator.

Hellon has been on the Warm Springs Appeals Court for three years. This will not compromise or in-

terfere with the legal advocacy or aide to tribal members, said Hellon.

Leo Hellon

"If you have any questions or doubt on any legal issues, please seek advice. If not from myself, from someone with the knowledge and expertise, because of the past and present situation of legal aid offered by the tribes, you are at a great disadvantage," says Hellon.

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Long-time pre-school teacher retiring

Marcele LeClaire has taught hundreds of local youths

Many people remember her from when they were growing up.

She's been at the job for 17 years, so some of the kids from the early days are grown and have their own kids.

Marcelene LeClaire, who has been teaching and taking care of youngsters for many years, this month announced her retirement.

She has been at the Early Childhood Center for the past several years.



Marcelene LeClaire

Before the ECE building opened, she worked with kids at the tribal pre-school at the

Presbyterian Church.

"I like teaching," Marcelene said. "Especially the 3-year-olds. You get a chance to teach them from the ground up."

After announcing she would retire, Marcelene at first didn't think much about it.

Then last week, at the kids' holiday

powwow at the Agency Longhouse, all of a sudden it hit her.

"I realized I wouldn't be doing this anymore," said Marcelene.

The part of the job she will miss the most, of course, is being around the youngsters.

She has her hobbies of painting and crocheting, "but it won't take the place of this," she said of her classroom at ECE.

Even so, retirement seems like the right thing to do, she said.

Her co-workers threw a surprise retirement party for Marcelene last week.

She will be greatly missed at ECE.

Tailfeathers: working with young people is most rewarding

Continued from page 1

In the many years that I have been announcing, and in my travels I have often been asked to announce for friends on special occasions.

My adventures include Great Gathering of Nations, the Big River PowWow the land of the White Fish Jr.'s in Saskatchewan Canada, and many more.

Through adventures with the tribes I have worked for, I have learned to appreciate the needs of the youth, who are often forgotten and yet are a head count for many dollars to develop programs.

I helped tribes coordinate youth conferences in the U.S. and Canada.

I enjoy being able to help youth be productive, healthy

and serve their community in a positive manner.

My travels extended with the Armed Services to Viet Nam where I saw that country with scars that may never heal, not to discount our boys and girls that have seen the same as I have.

Okinawa, which was a great experience for me, also seen the battle scars of yesteryear of our boys and girls that were in that campaign of war that I shall never forget.

Of all my experiences and travels the one that shines out for me is that youth smiling and enjoying the life experience of song and dance at the Pow-Wow as the sweat flows down his or her face, all the aches and pains, the wind flows on its face and the heart beat

The name Tailfeathers has a story within its self... The name came from a hunt where our grandfather wounded a Buffalo and chased it for several days.

of the drums is the only thing that matters.

My family consists of six children, three girls and three boys. Eight grand girls, seven grand boys, a set of grand twins and one great grandchild, another on its way, many adopted children, who we love dearly, and the most important, my wife Nancy (Red Hawk Woman).

Our home is located in the beautiful Simnasho Commu-

nity of the Warm Springs Reservation.

My affiliation is Blackfeet Cree and my Indian name is (Shadow Walks) this was given to me by my uncle Sam Windy Boy, Sr. The name comes from the Sweet Grass mountains of Montana, my sir name comes from my great, great, great, great grandfather, who was a warrior and a great hunter.

The name has a story within its self. With the coming of our white brothers the name was shortened by the shoulders. The name came from a hunt where our grandfather wounded a Buffalo and chased it for several days.

As he approached the rolling hill, as the wounded buffalo went over the hill, an Eagle flew over the hill chasing the

wounded buffalo.

As he told this story after he brought his kill home for his people, the wise ones gave the name of Eagle Tailfeathers chases Buffalo Over the Hill, this was shortened to just Tailfeathers.

I was told by my grandparents that I have been dancing from the time that I could walk, and my grandfather would sing so that I would be able to learn as I grew up.

I often think of him, as he was the chief singer for the sacred painted drum of the Sweet Grass Society.

He knew many sacred ceremonies that he was involved with throughout his life, and we had the opportunity to experience some and learn from him.

Death at jail being investigated

George W. Picard III, age 24, was found deceased on Monday, Dec. 24, in his cell at the Warm Springs Correctional Facility.

There were no obvious signs of foul play. Warm Springs Police are investigating the incident.

The Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office is conducting an autopsy. The FBI is participating in the investigation.

Mr. Picard was found deceased at 3:45 a.m. by a cellmate, who alerted the correctional facility security.

Warm Springs emergency response personnel were called but determined that Mr. Picard was deceased. He was awaiting trial on local charges.