



Spilyay Tymoo

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News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

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Olympic Fancy Dance

Cory Johnson to dance at opening ceremonies

At age 13 Cory Johnson is experienced at traditional Native American dance. He has performed often during powwow events of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Cory has traveled to other states for powwows of other tribes. He has traveled to Europe as part of a traditional Native American dance group.

This week the performance of Cory Johnson will be unique. His colorful dance will be televised across the world.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m., this Friday evening, Feb. 8, during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

The Winter Olympics are being held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Cory arrived there last week for rehearsal of the opening ceremonies.

He will appear during the opening ceremonies with his



Photo courtesy of Michelle Edwards

Eighth-grader Cory Johnson is part of the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics.

aunt Julie and uncle David Johnson. Cory is the eighth-grade at Jefferson County Middle School. He grew up in Warm Springs and at Burns.

His parents are Michelle and Marvin Edwards. Michelle said she will be recording the opening ceremonies of the Olympics.

"It is a little hard to believe," said Michelle. Cory, she said, "has been so excited that he could hardly sleep."

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Gaming discussion enters critical phase

Tribal leaders have initiated a community discussion of gaming expansion, in anticipation of a tribal referendum later this year.

The community outreach effort will include district and family meetings, where tribal members can share their opinions on gaming expansion.

The Tribal Council has also reviewed a brochure, including a survey questionnaire, that will circulate within the community.

Questions on the brochure include:

Do you think the tribes should build a new, larger casino?

And if so, then where? Along Highway 26 at HeHe? Or at the tribes' trust property at Hood River? Or is there some other location?

HeHe Junction and Hood River are the two locations most often mentioned by tribal members as potential casino sites.

The gaming brochure lists the positive and negative aspects of both the HeHe and the Hood River casino locations. For instance, on the positive side for the Hood River site, the brochure states:

District meetings this month

A meeting of the Simnasho District is set for Monday, Feb. 11. The purpose of this district meeting is discussion of the gaming enterprise of the Confederated Tribes. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. with dinner, followed by presentations at 7 p.m.

A meeting of the Seekseequa District is set for Monday, Feb. 18. Meeting place is the Agency Longhouse. The meeting is called to discuss the gaming enterprise of the tribes. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by presentations.

The Columbia River Gorge is a traditional place of commerce and culture for the people of the Confederated Tribes. It makes sense to return to the Gorge with gaming expansion.

See CASINO on 12

Simnasho hosting powwow

Quartz Creek is host drum

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Staff

One of the great events of the year on the reservation, the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, happens this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8-10.

The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, held at the Simnasho Longhouse, began 25 years ago, and over the years has become quite well known across Indian country.

"For a powwow of average size, the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow draws championship dancers and championship drums," said tribal drummer

Mackie Begay.

"This is a warm and welcoming powwow," said Begay. "There are good feelings throughout the weekend."

Begay is a member of the Quartz Creek Drum group, host drum of the powwow.

Lead drummer of Quartz Creek Drum Austin Greene, who started the group in November 1997. Greene received the Quartz Creek drum from Charles Tailfeathers Sr.

The name Quartz Creek is a reference to a stream that runs through the Queahpama land at Simnasho.

The Quartz Creek Drum emphasizes alcohol-free and drug-free drumming.

Anyone who sits at the drum has to be alcohol and

drug free.

Along with the Quartz Creek Drum group, probably another 20 tribal drum groups will be at the powwow this weekend.

There were 20 drums at last year's Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, and a similar number is expected this year.

The Quartz Creek Drum group members are Austin Greene, Anson Begay, Mackie Begay, Charles Tailfeathers and Zack Delnero.

Also: Kyle Queahpama, Calvin Queahpama, Aaron Greene, Blanc Begay and Kelsey Haywahe.

And Atcitty Begay, Gavin Begay and Conrad Queahpama.

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Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Jr. Miss Pageant

Tribal members gathered this past weekend for the Junior Miss Warm Springs Pageant, held at the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center.

In the photo at left, Keeyana Yellowman talks with her mother Merle Kirk during the pageant.

More photographs from the pageant, this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, are on page 3 of The Spilyay Tymoo.

Enron bankruptcy doesn't harm tribal utility interest

In the ownership of the Pelton-Round Butte hydroelectric dams, the Confederated Tribes are partners with Portland General Electric.

PGE is a subsidiary of Enron, which has filed for bankruptcy in a financial catastrophe national in its scope.

Fortunately, the Confederated Tribes' finances have seen no financial repercussions from the Enron bankruptcy.

People who own Enron stock, including employees of PGE, were not so lucky, and some of them lost a great deal of money, including retirement money. PGE is regulated by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission, which ensures that the company has resources to provide electrical services.

For this reason, PGE is not

directly affected by the Enron bankruptcy, said Jim Manion, director of Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

In fact, PGE, an independent subsidiary of Enron, is not part of the formal bankruptcy proceeding regarding Enron's assets. Manion explained the PGE situation to Tribal Council last week. He said that the PUC this year likely will consider the sale of PGE to NW Natural Gas.

This would mean that, in operation and ownership of the Pelton project, the Confederated Tribes eventually may become partners with NW Natural Gas, if this company does in fact purchase PGE. It appears likely that the sale of PGE to Northwest Natural Gas will occur, said Manion.

Bighorns featured in museum collection



Years ago, people on the reservation were familiar with the sight of bighorn sheep.

Some people made beaded bags that included the image of the sheep.

The bag shown at left is from the collection of The Museum at Warm Springs.

The bag was provided to the museum by Arlita Rhoan. Mrs. Rhoan received the bag from her grandmother Ya-hum-loot, who passed away in 1952.

The bag was made in the 1930s, according to information at the museum.

The bighorn sheep on the bag appear to be climbing along landscape that looks very much like certain areas of the Mutton Mountains.

The cloud images above the mountains are rain clouds,

said Brigitte Whipple, director of tribal Cultural Resources.

Beaded bags are not the only means by which tribal people depicted the image of the bighorn sheep.

Many years ago at the Columbia River, tribal people drew pictures of the sheep onto rocks. Examples of these petroglyphs are on rocks at The Dalles, for instance. On the reservation, the bighorn sheep has not been seen for several decades, until just recently.

Twenty wild bighorns were released last month in the Mutton Mountains. The Natural Resources Department is tracking the animals, and the hope is that the sheep will multiply and repopulate the Mutton Mountains.