



Spilyay Tymoc

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Tribal events Saturday at Gorge

The Confederated Tribes will celebrate a return to the Columbia River this Saturday, May 18.

The event will include a religious celebration to bless the tribes' land, the river and the return of the salmon. The religious ceremony, open only to tribal members, will happen Saturday at 11 a.m., on Government Island at Cascade Locks.

Following the ceremony, tribal members are welcome to attend a traditional salmon bake. Bus rides will then be available for tribal members who wish to tour the Confederated Tribes' property at the Gorge.

All members of the tribes are invited to attend the ceremony, salmon bake and tours. Also on Saturday, May 18, the City of Cascade Locks will host a friendship reception at the Cascade Locks Marine Park. All tribal members and residents of Cascade Locks are invited to attend this reception.

Simnasho rodeo on new ground

The new Simnasho rodeo grounds will be the scene this Saturday, May 18, of the Simnasho Jackpot Rodeo.

The rodeo action begins at 2 p.m., but people will want to show up early. Starting at 11:30 a.m., there will be a lunch at the Simnasho Longhouse, followed by a raffle drawing. Opening services for the new rodeo grounds – built this year by residents of the Simnasho community – begin at 9 a.m. Also on rodeo day, an endurance race will start at 8 a.m.

Then starting at 2 p.m., the rodeo action will feature bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, senior barrel racing, and breakaway roping.

Other competitions include calf roping, wildhorse roping, wild cow milking, junior bull riding, among other events.

For information, contact the rodeo secretary Fay Hurtado at 553-1022 evenings until 9 p.m., or in the day at 419-7460. See page 10 for details of the upcoming rodeo.

Madras event celebrates diverse cultures

The Collage of Culture in Madras happens this Saturday, May 18.

As has been true in past years, the Confederated Tribes are an essential part of the event. Tribal members will be part of the day's entertainment, and tribal enterprises have contributed to the funding of the Collage.

This year, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Warm Springs Power Enterprises, and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, have contributed funding. As part of the Collage entertainment, the Unity Dancers of Warm Springs will perform. Their performance will be at 12:45 p.m. The Collage is an all-day event, featuring Hispanic dancers, African and Japanese drummers, Celtic music and belly dancers.

The headliner is the Jake Blair Band, who play blues music.

Referendum is Tuesday

Tribal members on Tuesday, May 21, will consider one of the most important referendums in the recent history of the Confederated Tribes.

In broad terms, the referendum ballot asks tribal members

whether the tribes shall move forward with expansion of the gaming enterprise.

More specifically, the referendum asks whether the Confederated Tribes shall proceed with an expansion of gaming to a site off the reservation at

the Columbia River Gorge.

Such an expansion would be a major investment by the tribes. A casino at the Gorge would cost an estimated \$165 million to construct.

Likewise, expansion of gaming to the Gorge would be a major source

of new revenue for the tribes.

The best and most recent estimates are that a Gorge casino would bring a net profit to the tribes of \$15 million during the first year of full operation.

The \$15 million would be after operating expenses and debt payment. In comparison, Kah-Nee-Ta generates about \$4 million per year in profit.

Additionally, the \$15 million figure for the Gorge is projected to increase in years subsequent to the first year of operation.

The new revenue is needed, tribal leaders agree, because other revenue sources – mainly timber – are no longer able to sustain the present level of essential tribal government services.

Rather than cutting essential services – education, police and fire protection, and community infrastructure – the tribal leadership has proposed the referendum to expand gaming.

The Gorge is proposed because a casino at that area, close to Portland, would generate a large profit, in comparison with a new casino on the reservation, farther away from Portland.

For the vote on May 21, there will be 2,230 tribal members eligible to cast their ballots.

A turnout of one-third of the eligible voters is needed for the election to be valid.

Reaching the necessary one-third voter turnout will likely not be an issue in the May 21 referendum election.

See VOTE on page 10

At the top of his game

MHS sophomore
Jordan Stacona
is the top player on
the school golf team

By Selena Boise
Spilyay Tymoc staff

Jordan Stacona began golfing at the age of 8.

Now 15 and a sophomore at Madras High School, Stacona is an outstanding golfer on the school varsity team.

During his freshman year, Stacona also was on the varsity team. That year he was the number two player on the team, and this year is the top player.

In the summer months, when school is out, Stacona competes in the Central Oregon Junior Golf Association (COJGA).

In the COJGA competition, Jordan travels all over the Central Oregon region, competing against other golfers his age. Over 225 youths between the ages of 6-18 belong to COJGA.

They play at some of the finer courses in Central Oregon. Jordan



Jordan Stacona

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

has won or placed in the various age divisions and tournaments through the years. This summer he would like to start competing in the

Oregon Junior Golf tournaments. He will travel throughout the state of Oregon for that.

See STACONA on page 10

Kah-Nee-Ta adopts tribal member hiring program

The Kah-Nee-Ta board of directors has approved a \$250,000 tribal member employment program.

The purpose of this new program is to recruit and employ tribal members at Kah-Nee-Ta, and to provide training for work in the gaming and hospitality industry.

The program is available only to tribal members.

The \$250,000 represents the initial funding for a program that the board members foresee as an ongoing effort at tribal member employment.

Currently, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino – including the resort, the Village, Indian

Head, the golf course, etc. – employ 318 people. Of the total, 98 people – or roughly 29 percent of the total – are tribal members.

During recent gatherings and discussions on gaming expansion, some tribal members have said that Kah-Nee-Ta should employ more tribal members.

"We have heard several complaints from tribal members about employment at Kah-Nee-Ta," said Rudy Clements, who is chairman of the resort and casino board.

The board members were concerned about tribal member employment before the recent gaming expansion meetings, but the comments at

"We are going to be assertively monitoring the progress."

Rudy Clements
Kah-Nee-Ta
board of directors

these meetings have served to reinforce the concerns, said Clements.

In response to the complaints about employment, the board of directors has instructed Kah-Nee-Ta management to focus on strong enforcement of the tribal member hiring preference policy, said Clements.

As part of this stepped-up enforcement, each department at the resort and casino is to compile monthly reports for review by the board, said Clements.

The reports will allow closer monitoring of how many tribal members are hired during the month in each department, and whether any have been terminated.

"We'll develop a cumulative ledger, instead of a general report," said Clements.

Also in response to the complaints regarding tribal member employment, the Kah-Nee-Ta board earlier this year agreed to initiate the \$250,000 tribal member-hiring program. "And we are going to be assertively monitoring the progress," said Clements.

A draft mission statement of the new program, explaining the overall goals, reads as follows:

To afford tribal members dignity and worth by providing them with the opportunity for a sense of control of a satisfactory quality of life and well-being, through a long-term recruitment, employment, supervision and retention program.

A part of the hiring issue at Kah-Nee-Ta has to do with the extensive background check that is currently required for employment in gaming.

Clements said that casino management may want to consider different levels of background checks, depending on the type of work the particular person is applying for.

The strict background check for people who handle money, or for people in security or upper level management, should not necessarily apply to a person seeking employment in some other, less sensitive field of casino work, said Clements.



Children honor elders with powwow

Honor Seniors Day last Friday, May 10, featured the popular ECE powwow. At left, Cirelle Frank dances during the powwow; and below, Brandon Lucei (at right) looks on with his friends.

Hundreds of seniors, including local tribal members as well as visitors, enjoyed the day. This year marked the Twelfth Annual Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day.



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