



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## School blaze

### Quick response contains flames to gymnasium

The fire last week that destroyed the Warm Springs Elementary School gymnasium could have been much worse.

"Everyone agrees that the initial work of the Warm Springs Fire Department kept the whole building from going up in flames," said Dawn Smith, school principal.

While the gym was destroyed, the rest of the building - including two classrooms, a music room and staff room - did not burn. Computers, books and many other items were saved.

Another bright point in an otherwise gloomy story is that school is out for Christmas break until January 6.

That leaves time to have the gymnasium building area leveled and cleared. Also,



The gymnasium area was fenced off following the blaze.

there is time to determine whether the rest of the building can still be used.

An engineer will be making that determination in the near future, said Smith. "We'll probably have to move some of our programs around," she said.

For instance, the Indian language class may have to move back to the language office trailer,

said Smith. The music room may move to a nearby house that is currently not being used, she said.

Another fortunate aspect of the fire: No one was in the gym at the time of the fire, last Friday night, Dec. 20.

The previous night the gym was crowded with young people who had come to the winter craft night. Had the fire happened on that night the consequences could have been tragic.

Damage to the gym, built in 1937, is estimated at \$1.2 million, with another \$300,000 in damage to property inside. The building was insured. Cause of the blaze was determined to be oily rags that spontaneously caught on fire.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

**First Snow** Marilyn Suppah (left) and Linda Smith were among the many young people enjoying the snow that fell recently on the reservation.

# Tribes consider petroglyph relocation plan

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal and federal government negotiators are moving forward with a plan to relocate Columbia River petroglyphs to Horsethief State Park in Washington.

Negotiations are among the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It has long been the desire of many Native Americans to move the rock art - in possession of the Corps of Engineers - closer to the original location.

Horsethief State Park, home of the She Who Watches pictograph, is the closest area to the original location. The original site is inundated by water of The Dalles Dam, built in 1960.

Before construction of the dam, Celilo Falls, a central fishing and trading place of Native Americans, rushed and swirled its mighty waters. The dam turned the waters placid like a lake, and inundated the surrounding land.

A place known as Petroglyph Canyon, site of many petroglyphs, was submerged in these waters.

Prior to 1960, the Corps of Engineers made an effort to preserve the rock art. Agency crews bulldozed, dynamited or chipped out with a jackhammer many of the pictures on the cliffs.

Since then the petroglyphs have been in the possession of the Army Corps of Engineers.

In 1974 the large rocks, sev-

eral weighing tons, were taken to the Dalles Dam, where they have resided since.

There are 38 rocks total, of which one is a pictograph. Most of the rocks at The Dalles Dam were taken from Petroglyph Canyon. Some are from Miller Island on the Columbia River. For others the original location is unknown.

Recently, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation presented the Army Corps of Engineers with a final design plan for the placement of the rock art in Horsethief State Park.

The Corps readily approved the design plan, and in a final move sent out a letter to the tribal councils of Warm Springs and Yakama. The Corps is hop-

ing to hear soon from the tribal councils.

"We want official approval from the tribal councils of both reservations," said Bert Radar, cultural resource team leader for the Corps. "We just want the tribes and everyone else involved to be happy."

Meanwhile, the Corps is preparing for the next step of the project.

"I'm putting my ducks in a row," said Gail Lovell, project manager for the Petroglyph Relocation Project. Bird droppings on the petroglyphs need to be cleaned, Lowell said.

The Corps has also hired an archaeological and ethnographic conservator to survey the condition of the petroglyphs at their location at The Dalles Dam.

The final report will provide information on what needs to be done for restoration of each petroglyph before relocation.

The report will describe methods for moving the rock art to their new location with minimal damage. Before any action is taken, the Corps is committed to receiving approval from the Wana-pa-koot-koot committee.

The Wana-pa-koot-koot committee represents the four lower Columbia River Basin tribes: the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Umatilla and Nez Perce. Also sitting on the committee are the Bonneville Power Administration and Army Corps of Engineers, among others.

At a Wana-pa-koot-koot Com-

*"The tribes weren't asked what they want. (The Corps) should have asked first."*

**Brigette Whipple**  
Tribal ethnographer

mittee meeting on Dec. 11 in Portland, participants developed subcommittees to work on each individual rock site at the park. Tribal elders will be asked for their advice on exact placement of the rocks and their translations.

Lowell hopes the rocks will be ready to be moved by April and the project will be completed by May.

See **ROCK ART** on page 3

# Top 5 Stories of 2002

## New casino made the biggest headlines during the year

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

It was the year when tribal members honored their return to the Columbia River, with a May celebration on tribal land at Cascade Locks.

Meanwhile in 2002, a second attempt at holding a tribal adoption election failed for lack of voter turnout. During the year, a library opened in Warm Springs.

The Elliot Palmer VFW Post No. 4217 marked its Fifth Anniversary, while tribal elder Nettie Shawaway turned 102.

The year 2002 saw controversy develop over the large number of people who each year raft down the lower Deschutes River. The Confederated Tribes believe that a management agreement, signed several years ago by various government and other entities, jus-

ties the implementation of a rafting permit system.

Some of the parties to the agreement - local governments, supported by guides - now oppose the permit idea. This debate no doubt will continue into 2003.

Each December, *Spilyay Tymoo* looks back in order to determine the top news stories of the previous 12 months. The following is a brief description of the top five news stories of the year 2002 on the reservation.

### Top story

This year the choice of the top story was easy, as the long-standing plan to expand the gaming enterprise saw many dramatic developments.

The most dramatic event of the year in gaming happened in May, when nearly 1,000 tribal members cast their ballots in a tribal referendum.

The referendum asked tribal members whether the gaming enterprise should expand to a site at the Columbia River Gorge.

During the months leading

up to May 18 vote, tribal officials held many informational meetings, including family-based gatherings, regarding the significance of the vote.

During that time, opposition to expanding the gaming enterprise to the Gorge was at times quite vocal. In the end, though, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of such an expansion. Of the 940 total votes cast, 720 votes - or nearly 76 percent - were in favor of building a tribal casino at the Gorge.

"The best place to obtain new revenue for the tribes is the Columbia Gorge," gaming spokesman Rudy Clements said after the election. The area, he said, is part of the tribes' ceded land, "and it has always provided for us, since time immemorial. Why not continue to use it to survive?"

As the May election demonstrated, a large majority of tribal members agreed.

### Second

In the long run a new casino at the Gorge is expected to return the Confederated Tribes to financial stability, if not prosper-

ity. This may be some years away, though, as the tribes are just now entering the design phase of this multi-million dollar, multi-year project.

Tribal officials meanwhile are looking for ways to generate new revenue in the short-term. Over the past year the Geo Visions enterprise has provided the best example of this type of job- and revenue-generation program.

In the summer of 2002, during the wildfire season, Geo Visions staff were busy providing mapping technology to fire-fighting agencies.

But helping the fire crews appears to be just the beginning of the success that Geo Visions could bring to the Confederated Tribes.

In October of 2002 the federal government, through the U.S. Army, set aside \$5 million for development of resource plans for federal installations across the nation.

"They recognize our skill in this field," Jim Crocker, general manager of Geo Visions, said at the time.

In looking toward future government contracts, Crocker

said, "We're right on the edge of a breakthrough, and the sky is the limit."

Geo Visions grew out of the Global Imaging Systems (GIS) division of the tribes' Natural Resources Branch. While making a dramatic emergence in 2002, Geo Visions holds great promise for the tribes in 2003.

### Third

While the future holds promise for tribal economic ventures, the present situation is a somewhat different story. During 2002, for instance, the Tribal Council again faced difficult choices in developing a budget for the coming year.

Because of the large amount of money involved, the tribal government budget is one of the top stories of the year.

In the late fall, in developing the budget for the new year, the Council decided to use \$1.5 million from the Credit Enterprise retained earnings. At the same time the Council decided potentially to use approximately \$2 million from the tribes' revenue reserve, or rainy day fund.

The rainy day money will be

used only if the tribal general fund working capital reserve drops below \$6 million, an amount that is the minimum balance needed to make payroll and other essential expenditures.

These decisions - along with cuts in most every aspect and department of the tribal government - help demonstrate the seriousness of the situation.

"We are continuing to gradually cut back tribal government, and that means a cut in programs and services," Secretary-Treasurer Charles Jackson said at the time the budget was approved.

Under the 2003 budget, an estimated 20 job positions could be eliminated. "But Tribal Council has clearly stated that should explore all other avenues before doing that," said Jackson.

### Fourth

The federal court in Portland provided one of the big stories of the year for the Confederated Tribes. The news happened in June, when Judge Robert Hodges issued his opinion in the longstanding McQuinn Strip Blowdown lawsuit.

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