

# Golf course work is behind the scenes

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Golf tournaments don't just happen at Kah-Nee-Ta.

A lot of work goes into getting the course ready for a tournament. Just like a football or baseball field before a big game, the entire course needs to be made ready.

First thing is dry out the course.

"We want golf courses dry so the golfer can have firm footing when they're swinging the club," says Troy Alderson, course superintendent, "because a lot of energy goes into swinging the golf club."

A golf swing isn't a natural motion for the human body. That's why golfers have bad backs and, in more extreme cases, injured knees and ankles.

"If you have a wet, soggy course, it's more likely for a player to be injured," Alderson continues. "It may not be an acute injury, but it is something that will develop over a long time."

And here's the tricky part. The maintenance crew dries the course for the golfers, but they do it so the grass isn't stressed. It's a delicate balancing act.

Then there's the mowing. The entire course needs to be mowed, but some parts are more important than others.

"Tees aren't nearly as important as the fairway because you only get eighteen shots off your tee," says Alderson, "but most of the time you're hitting from 2-4 shots off the fairway. A fairway is actually much more important (to the tournament) than a tee box."

According to Alderson, mowing fairways and greens is an aesthetic part of



Golf course maintenance Joe Ballenger rolls the greens at Kah-Nee-Ta.

the tournament that many golfers may not realize happens.

Looks are important to a golf course. Everyone has their expectations on what a course should look like: tournament participants, course and resort management, even, tribal management.

While that includes many perceptions, some ideas are pretty basic: Dry spots shouldn't even happen. It's one of Alderson's goals to not have any dry spots on the course. Weeds around trees don't fit in with anyone's idea of course aesthetics and anything else that "looks out of place."

The big item of the pre-tournament "to-do" list is the greens. Golfers demand greens to be fast.

"Contrary to what most golfers believe, a fast green is actually an easier

green to putt on," says Alderson. "But what they really asking for is an easier green to putt on."

A green that's smooth and consistent is easier to putt on because the golfer doesn't hit the ball as hard, and it'll keep rolling. Whereas it's more difficult to judge exactly how hard to hit the ball on a bumpy green with higher grass.

Greens are speeded up two ways: smoothing the surface with a metal roller, or lowering the height of the grass.

Rolling the grass gives the impression of a faster green. While there is evidence of slightly increased ball travel, it's mostly for appearances.

The grass on the greens at Kah-Nee-Ta isn't allowed to grow higher than an eighth of an inch. This is as low as creeping bent grass and annual blue-

grass will tolerate being cut for long periods.

When the maintenance crew at the course is facing a large tournament and the order is given to lower the greens, they do so by only 10 thousandths of an inch. This speeds up tournament play, keeps golfers happy and helps make the day a success.

After the event, Alderson gives the order to grow the greens back out to their original eighth of an inch.

"The lower you cut the grass, the more money it costs to maintain it," he says.

However, the important thing for maintaining the greens is airification. Each grass plant needs equal amounts of air and water. If this balance is thrown off through foot or golf cart traffic, the plant is stressed. When the grass is stressed and maintenance costs go up.

"We remove parts of the soil and fill that with sand. Sand will have bigger air pockets and doesn't compact as easily," Alderson says. "We're creating a more friendly environment for the grass roots."

Most golf courses airify their courses twice a year. Alderson and his crew are improving the greens at Kah-Nee-Ta by doing it three times each season.

When they're done with one tournament, they finish up and get ready for the next.

The Warm Springs Museum will be hosting a benefit toward the end of September, and the Northwest Indian Invitational will be happening in the middle of October.

## OSU Extension has canning safety advice

Fall is coming and so are the first frosts. It's time to clean up the garden and get the vegetables ready for winter.

Food handling experts from Oregon State University Extension warn the public to toss out their old style steam canners. These canners with a shallow pan and large dome cover have been marketed for years as the tool to preserve high acid foods.

Research has shown there can be uneven heating and under processing when a steam canner is used. This may aid the growth of bacteria which cause botulism, a severe type of food born illness.

Low acid food like meat, fish, poultry and vegetables which haven't been pickled must be processed in a pressure canner.

The high heat under pressure will break open the bacterial spores which grow in a low acid environment.

If you used the wrong equipment to can this season, evaluate your canned food before eating it.

If you used a steam canner rather than a boiling water canner for fruits, examine your jars for spoilage.

These signs include cloudy liquid or an unexpected sediment in the jars that spurts liquid when the jar is opened. They may also exude an unusual odor.

Don't eat home canned foods which show signs of spoilage — just throw it out.

Steam canned fruits may be safely re-processed in a boiling water canner at any time after canning. Low acid foods must be reprocessed in a pressure canner within 24 hours of canning.

After that length of time the number of bacteria will be too high to destroy with normal canning procedures.

For information about the safety of home-canned foods, contact the OSU Extension Service Food Safety/Preservation Hotline at 1-800-354-7319.

Volunteers will be standing by to answer your questions through October. Or contact the Extension Office at Warm Springs, at 553-3238.

## October events raise awareness of abuse

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Here are some of the activities planned for the Warm Springs community:

Wednesday, Oct. 1: Public training on domestic violence sponsored by IHS. Contact Montell Elliot at 553-1196 for more information.

Oct. 1: Candle light vigil in Madras at Westside Elementary School, sponsored by Indian Country Coalition. 6 p.m.

Oct. 2: Elder abuse conference at Kah-Nee-Ta, free to the public, sponsored by Senior Program. Starting at 9 a.m. Contact Lucille Schuster at 553-3313 for more information.

Oct. 2: Batterers re-education, closed to public. Sponsored by Victims of Crime Services.

Oct. 6: Domestic violence awareness at the jail for men. Contact Sarah at 553-2293.

Oct. 8: Public training on domestic violence sponsored by IHS, contact Montell Elliot at 553-1196 for more information.

Oct. 9: Domestic violence awareness presentations at Warm Springs Elementary, all day. Contact Sarah at 553-2293.

Oct. 9: Batterers re-education, closed to public. Victims of Crime Services.

Oct. 10: Kids Healing Retreat, all

day at Community Center. Contact Kelly Leggett at 553-3205.

Oct. 13: Domestic violence awareness at the jail for women. Contact Sarah at 553-2293.

Oct. 14: Alcohol and drug classes at Tribal Court, sponsored by Victims of Crime Services. Contact Sarah at 553-2293.

Oct. 15: Public training on domestic violence sponsored by IHS. Contact Montell Elliot at 553-1196.

Oct. 16: Batterers re-education, closed to public. Sponsored by Victims of Crime Services.

Oct. 20: Domestic violence awareness at the jail for juveniles. Contact Sarah at 553-2293.

Oct. 22: Domestic Violence Awareness Walk in Madras, North Y to South Y, lunch provided. Sponsored by Indian Country Coalition. Contact Lucinda George at 475-6690. Walk starts at 12 noon.

Oct. 22: Public training on domestic violence sponsored by IHS. Contact Montell Elliot at 553-1196.

Oct. 29: Public training on domestic violence sponsored by IHS. Contact Elliot, 553-1196.

Oct. 31: End Abuse Potluck sponsored by IHS. Contact Elliot, 553-1196. Lunch is at 12 noon. Bring your own "Gruesome Grub."

## Hunters, fishers need to remember to be respectful

Recently, a discarded deer back was found in front of the Warm Springs Community Center.

A dead doe was found in the woods. Empty booze bottles were found at Sherars Falls.

Oliver Kirk, Warm Springs law enforcer, asks hunters to remember to be respectful.

"Don't waste game. Know what you are shooting and make sure it is legal," he says.

Wasting game and fish on tribal lands is illegal.

Only bucks, not does, are allowed

to be hunted on the reservation during the season.

Also, there is not any alcohol allowed while fishing at Sherars Falls.

Tribal officials encounter abuse of cultural resources each year.

Violators could face fines up to \$500 and have their hunting privileges removed along with all items in the household used for hunting, such as knives and guns.

Poachers face similar fines on the reservation and other tribal lands. Privileges to fish at Sherars Falls could also be removed.

## Teacher: going the extra mile

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New kindergartners nervously hold their mother's hand while they check out the new room in the next big experience of their life. In the hallway are piles and piles and piles of school supplies and equipment, ready for teachers to move into place.

Before school begins, Esther strolls the halls sorting through supplies looking for just the right teaching tools—some construction paper for kid's names on drawers, a cabinet that looks like it might work in the corner and don't forget the special stuffed monkey in the reading corner.

One of the things Esther likes best about this class of second graders is the progress they've made since they started school. Last year several of her students were very quiet and shy. Talking to others was difficult for them. Now those same students have the confidence to stand in front of their schoolmates and share a project with the class.

"It makes me feel good when the parents say, 'Ya know, they never came home and talked about school. Now they come home every day and talk about all the things they're doing in school,'" she says.

Preparing for the kids at school takes a lot of work. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

"The school allows you time to get prepared for lessons," she continues, "but you go beyond if you want to be on top of the game."

As often as not, Esther will finish



Esther Kalama-Culpus prepares for the start of the new school year.

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Esther Kalama-Culpus

not going to be sitting there waiting for me to get my act together. It would waste a lot of time we could be using teaching."

Wasting teaching time isn't Esther's idea of what she wants to do. "I want to hand the kids tools. I don't want to just skim the surface and say, 'Oh wow, these guys got really good scores.' But did they really learn?" she asks. "You know, go deeper and richer."

And so Esther Kalama-Culpus goes the extra mile for her kids. She takes the extra time to make sure they're well equipped for their next year.

But that's not surprising for someone who was "born to be a teacher."

## The Tenth Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit

The Museum at Warm Springs invites you to honor Warm Springs artists at the opening reception of

### Visions of Our People

Saturday, September 20,  
from 3 to 5 p.m.  
In the Changing Exhibits  
Gallery at the  
Museum at Warm Springs



## A message from the Seat Belt Coalition

Safety belt use can decrease fatalities and injuries 45 to 55 percent. Ejection from a vehicle occurs 10

times more often to passenger vehicle occupants who are unprotected and unrestrained.