

Tom named team MVP

Mark C. Tom, son of Eldon L. Tom and grandchild of Christine and Elmer Tom, has received a Most Valuable Player Award for the Siletz Junior High School football team.

Mark received the MVP award in late October, on the night of the Junior High League Playoffs at Toledo.

Mark was the team's quarterback. The Siletz team came in third in the district. Mark is in the eighth grade at Siletz Middle School.

He is looking forward to playing freshman football at Toledo High School next year.

Photo and text submitted by Mark's mother, Pamela Lane



Boxers compete at Tacoma

Heading to Bend this Saturday

By Austin Smith
Boxing coach

These are the Dec. 6-7 boxing results from Tacoma, Wash., the Junior Golden Gloves Tournament.

Warm Springs Nation Boxing Club entered four boxers and three of the four brought home awards to that effect.

At 85 pounds Jamie Halliday boxed Erik Martinz of W. Side

PAL of Portland.

At 119 pounds Wesley Graybael lost by stoppage to Aaron McChesney of the South Everett Boxing Club.

At 145 pounds Trevor Tewee won in round three by stopping Ronald Ring of the Tacoma Boxing Club.

At 141 pounds Johnny Smith won by points over Juan Mendoza of the Columbia Basin Boxing Club.

Thanks goes out to the Warm Springs Fire Management, Warm Springs Community Cen-

ter staff, Warm Springs Tribal Social Services, the sports spirit of Warm Springs and all those who support these young boxers' efforts.

To win is a human link, to lose is its twin. Our next trip will be to the Bend Armory this Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003.

Come and check out the USA boxing action.

Travel safe and always make the best of everything.

Have a Merry Christmas, and get a new calendar for the coming year.

School: tribal members encourage involvement

(Continued from page 1)

"My recommendation is simply to make them aware they're doing it," she says.

- She expressed concern for the elimination of activities like the Christmas Program because of the lack of a gym.

- The activity bus that takes students from the high school to Warm Springs has never been a problem. Now passes are required and trips on the bus must be related to a school ac-

tivity. She agrees it's a good idea to keep the kids from getting into trouble without supervision. However, "what if you have a situation where a parent can't come [pick a kid up after school]...would the [school board] make allowances for that?"

Ross and Johnson feel it's important for tribal members to attend school board meetings.

"I'm glad I came because we need to stay in their face, that's

not to say 'get in their face,'" Johnson continues, "but to be there as a reminder that there are greater needs out there they really need to be talking about."

Ross says being an advocate for the education of kids helps.

"If [tribal members] are out of sight, we're out of mind. If we don't come [to school board meetings] and let them know we're not pleased with things," she says, "they're going to think everything is OK."

Timber sale planned for 2005

(An interdisciplinary team from the Forestry and Natural Resources branches has been collecting tribal member comments on the Coltsfoot timber sale.

The sale is planned for 2005, and will target approximately 42 million board feet of timber in the Badger Creek Watershed.

Responses to a number of comments and concerns are included in this article, part 2 of a story that began in the last edition of the paper.)

During a scoping meeting on the sale, one person expressed concern about rattlesnakes around her house.

In some areas abundant grass cover provides food and escape cover for rodents. Rattlesnakes like the cover because it offers opportunities to harvest rodents while avoiding detection from overhead predators such as redtail hawks. Mowing grass and removing shrubs around residences will discourage rodents and rattlesnakes from moving too close. This will also help reduce the risk of wildfire near buildings.

Employees from the Natural Resources staff assured those who attended scoping meetings that most of the opportunistic wildlife species will eventually return to areas that have been logged.

However, areas once used for cover may become more suitable for forage after logging has occurred. It was also mentioned that less adaptable species may not inhabit logged areas until the vegetation returns to its original condition and some may never return.

Elk and elk habitat drew a number of comments. The staff pointed out that elk wallows are typically located at springs or headwater areas and they are often situated within a meadow. These areas are generally protected from timber harvest by a minimum buffer of 100 feet.

The wildlife staff has recommended adding elk wallows to the 2.5 percent habitat islands required for all harvest units, which would increase habitat diversity while providing additional protection to wet areas.

The reservation elk herd has grown over the past 20-30 years. Unfortunately, the bull to cow ratio has been less than desirable in recent years, probably due to illegal harvest. Deer on the other hand have been on a steady decline over the past five years.

Cultural plants draw comments

Several comments from tribal members had to do with cultural plants and the potential impacts of livestock grazing.

The staff has noted that Indian tea and other culture plants may be affected by grazing. Proper management could enhance certain plant species, but overgrazing may result in negative impacts that affect an entire plant community.

If there are areas where culture plants are being impacted, the staff encourages members of the tribal public to contact the Cultural Resources Department and find out whether mitigation measures can be used to reduce the impacts.

One person asked if Homeland Security funds might be used for fencing and the answer to that question would be no. Fortunately there are federal programs that do provide funding for fencing and other range improvements.

Cultural resources are extremely important to tribal members and comments relating to this topic are common at scoping meetings.

The audience at one scoping meeting was reassured to learn that old campsites and artifacts are recorded by the Cultural Resources Department and left in place.

No collection is done and efforts are made to prevent damage by logging and other management activities. It was also mentioned that Culture and Heritage Committee is consulted on all projects.

The committee provides valuable input and also directs the Cultural Resources staff to elders who have expertise on specific issues.

One tribal member asked about gathering roots on ceded lands and the staff answered that most public lands (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, etc.) are open for root digging. Roots may be gathered on private property with the landowner's permission.

In response to a question on whether or not the reservation boundary is marked, it was noted that no trespassing signs are posted in some areas, but not along the entire boundary.

Recent wildfires have raised concerns over safety, the loss of timber, and tribal and personal property.

Fire danger was extremely high this past summer and the number of fires ignited on the reservation was above average. Tribal members have observed overstocked stands and heavy fuel loading in some units, and they want to know what is being done to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire.

Foresters will be treating some of the hazardous conditions in the 2005 sale area through commercial thinning and piling of slash for eventual burning. Fire Management will also do some jackpot burning on the units 1-3 years after harvest to reduce excessive fuel loads.

Unfortunately, there isn't any dependable market for much of the wood currently being piled as slash.

In the past, the mill took advantage of these slash piles by using the wood to generate electricity at the cogeneration plant. Current market conditions do not provide enough incentive to haul slash in for processing, a situation that may change in the future.

It was noted by one tribal member that Oregon white oak and mushrooms are important to the tribes and the resource staff agrees. Oak and a variety of mushrooms provide cultural, personal and economic benefits to the tribes.

Any additional questions regarding the 2005 Coltsfoot Timber Sale or other forest-related projects should be directed to the Branch of Forestry (553-2416) or Branch of Natural Resources (553-2013).

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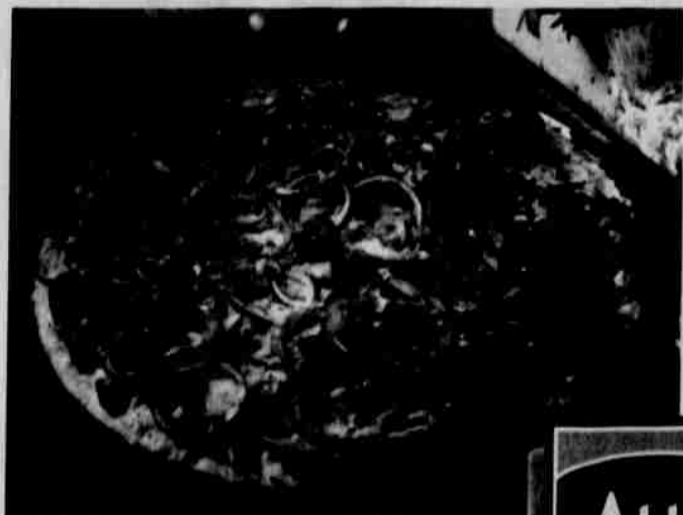
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