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## Council election results

See the election flyer in this newspaper for results of the Tribal Council election.

# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

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## Tribes begin casino talks

(AP) - Leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have written to Gov. Ted Kulongoski, asking him to start negotiations on the building of a Columbia River casino.

In the letter, Garland Brunoe, chairman of the Tribal Council, explains that the confederation has the right to build on casino-eligible trust land just east of Hood River, which residents oppose.

The other option, he writes, is to build on nonreservation land in nearby Cascade Locks, which would require the governor's approval.

The Confederated Tribes have been planning to develop a new casino since before Gov. John Kitzhaber left office in January 2003. Brunoe noted that unemployment on the reservation is at 60 percent. The Warm Springs' existing Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino was always considered a "temporary facility" and its revenue is insufficient to support the tribe, he writes.

Cascade Locks residents generally support a venture that would bring jobs and tourism to the economically depressed area.

Mary Ellen Glynn, spokeswoman for the governor, said the Confederated Tribes own land in Hood River "where they do have a right to build a casino, and we'll be looking at that." She said federal law requires the governor to discuss the issue with the tribes.

Of the recent developments, Hood River County Commissioner Carol York said, "To me, it's great news. It means we will get an answer one way or another."

York and most Hood River residents are against the site east of town. The location is near the Mark Hatfield trailhead and in the national scenic area. She promoted the Cascade Locks site and next month plans to take that message to Kulongoski.

Cascade Locks City Manager Bob Willoughby said city officials will continue to push for the casino.



Mary Danzuka prepares roots for the feast at the Agency Longhouse. The root feast was held on Sunday, March 28, at the Agency and Simnasho longhouses. Dave McMechan/Spilyay

## Return of a tradition

(Indian naming ceremonies happen often among members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.)

The same is not true of other tribes. Grand Ronde, for instance, earlier this year held its first naming ceremony in recent memory. The event had connections to Warm Springs, as the following article describes.)

By Ron Karten

It was the first naming ceremony that anybody could remember happening in Grand Ronde. Tribal member James Holmes, long known around the family as 'Rabbit,' was at last given an Indian name - We-la-lik in the Wasco tongue and Wa-la-lik in the Sahaptin tongue - each a variation on the Indian word for "rabbit." Wasco and Sahaptin are languages of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The former Larry Dick, member of the Wasco Tribe, now exclusively using his Indian given name, Taaw-lee-winch, meaning 'life,' led the ceremony.

He learned his craft from Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatam. Wallulatam, also in attendance, led some of the songs.

The ceremony could have taken place at the Warm Springs Reservation, where traditions such as the naming ceremony have been honored unbroken for centuries, but We-la-lik said that his father, Tribal Elder Merle Holmes, had insisted that the ceremony take place here in Grand Ronde.

When he was deciding whether to have the naming ceremony, Taaw-lee-winch told him, "Make his name official." When he was deciding whether to hold the ceremony in Grand Ronde, delegations from other tribes told Holmes, "Let us know and we'll come."

Please see NAMING on page 11

## Tribal fish commission against BPA plan for dams

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has denounced the Bonneville Power Administration's proposal to cut salmon-protective measures at The Dalles, Bonneville, John Day and Ice Harbor dams.

The commission says the BPA plan to cut summer spill over the dams could kill 140,000 fish.

"The bottom line is that BPA's

plan sets the stage to sell out Northwest fisheries and salmon restoration efforts," said Harold Blackwolf Sr., chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

"The region is only beginning to realize benefits from decades of hard work and sacrifice for robust returns," said Blackwolf.

He said the BPA proposal was a "get

rich quick" plan that "might return us to the dark ages."

BPA's dam operation plan includes reducing or eliminating summer water-spill programs that help juvenile salmon navigate through federal dams en route to the sea.

CRITFC scientists estimate that 140,000 fish could perish as a result of the spill reduction.

"This plan reneges on tribal treaty rights and BPA's obligation to treat fish and electric power as equals," said Olney Patt Jr., executive director of CRITFC. "It chops away at salmon restoration progress so critical to our tribes' cultures and economies, and to the entire Pacific Northwest."

CRITFC represents the four treaty tribal confederations of the Columbia.

## Students land on their feet in different school district

By D. "Bing" Bingham  
Spilyay Tymoo

The most difficult thing about Antone Moody's day as a sixth grader in Maupin is the 20-minute ride from Simnasho to the bus stop.

"It's a long ride and I get tired of sitting. If it's snowing," he says, "it gets really icy."

Once he gets to school, he's fine. "It's cool here, school is fun," he says.

Well, maybe not all fun, but mostly fun. Some classes are harder than others. Mixed numbers and fractions in math aren't that great, but spelling is fine. For a good time, though, he recommends tackle football or basketball.

A few years back the 509-J School District decided to close the Simnasho School because of dwindling student numbers. Increasingly, parents who worked in Warm Springs were taking their children into town when they went to work.

Continued operation of the school was no longer viable, because of the cost.

"When the school board decided to close the school, the two older boys,



During a break from classes at Maupin, Kelly Moody plays a game of chess. Bing Bingham/Spilyay

Antone and Huston, for their own reasons, decided they didn't want to go to Warm Springs," says Captain Moody.

Captain and Winnona Moody decided they would support their children and honor their wishes. They pulled Huston and Antone out of class and

home schooled them for a year.

Then the Moody family began to consider: Maupin is 23 miles from Simnasho, and Warm Springs is 25.

"If my boys would have had to have gone to Madras for school, it would have been 40 miles, one way," says

Captain.

Convenience was part of the equation. Class size was another part. "We looked at the smallness of the school and the classroom sizes: 19 kids, 18, 17. You know, that appealed to us in what we're looking for."

The final piece of the puzzle was the state ratings for the southern Wasco County school district. A few years back the entire district was dragging along the bottom with many other underfunded schools. These days they are constantly rated among the top in the state. Captain and Winnona Moody approached Tom Rinearson, superintendent of schools in southern Wasco County, about their children getting into the system. He said, essentially, it was fine with him if they could get permission from 509-J.

No small thing. Because of the way schools are funded in Oregon, a school district gains, or loses, state funding based on the number of children in the district. Each district has about \$5,000 [more if there's special education involved] worth of state funding per year riding on the head of each

child.

In the case of Maupin, if 20 students wanted to cross the boundary into the 509-J School District, that would mean a loss of about \$100,000 - more than their entire athletic budget, or funding for a teacher and an aide.

"Historically, way back before I got here, there was an unwritten agreement between the two school districts, that we would accept about the same number of kids here that they accepted from our district," said Rinearson.

So the argument was on between the Moody family of Simnasho and the board of directors for 509-J. There were countless appearances and explanations before the board. Letters flew back and forth. Some even landed on the desk of Susan Castillo, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Finally, the 509-J board relented. Permission was given - partially.

"We have to get permission every year, but we've kind of grandfathered our way into where we won't be denied unless we choose to go back to 509-J," says Captain.

See STUDENTS on page 11