

## Tribes want 'squaw' names changed, but that's no simple task

**SISTERS (AP)** – Olivia Wallulatum finds it hard to even look at the sign, a marker for the Squaw River. It reminds her of all the names she was called as a girl. And she wants something done about it. She wants the name changed. "I don't care what they change it to. I just want to see it go," said Wallulatum.

Nearly a thousand places across the country – rivers, buttes, meadows, mountains – are named "squaw," and most American Indians want them to be called something else. Changing the names, though, isn't happening with any great speed and certainly not without a struggle.

American Indians' heightened sensitivity to the word came about in 1992 after an activist announced on a television talk show that squaw is derived from a vulgar Mohawk word. Linguists maintain "squaw" means "woman" in the language of the Massachusetts tribe, which once lived on the East Coast.

Three years later, activists and the government joined forces to change the names, but their efforts have been far from stellar. The U.S. Geographic Names Board shows that a decade of work has brought about different names for only 74 of the 967

places, less than 8 percent. In Oregon, which has more places named "squaw" than anywhere else in the nation, only six of the roughly 170 names have been changed since 2001, the year lawmakers passed a bill banning the word.

The board's executive director, Roger Payne, said part of the holdup is that tribal officials can't agree on what word should replace the offensive term.

Payne cites a board survey of American Indian tribes. Although the majority wanted the squaw name to go, each tribe wanted to replace it with a word from its language, he said.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is an example. In 2004, after three years of debate, the Warm Springs tribal council passed a resolution approving 42 words to replace squaw on the tribe's ancestral land.

Public opposition also has slowed the process of erasing "squaw" from the U.S. map.

In Arizona, officials faced a fury of public opinion after they renamed Squaw Peak for Lori Piestewa, a Hopi servicewoman killed in Iraq.

Still, there have been times when eradicating "squaw" has gone smoothly.

In Maine's Piscataquis County, commissioners voted to universally change "squaw" to "moose." In Colorado, the en-

dangered squawfish is now the Colorado pikeminnow. Glacier National Park's Squaw Mountain is now Dancing Lady Mountain.

In Minnesota, 18 of the 19 squaw land and water forms were rechristened without objection. The exception is the town of Squaw Lake, population 99.

"Are we supposed to change our entire language to justify a few people's misgivings?" asked Mayor Art Mertes, who maintains that the word is not derogatory.

Linguists say that Mertes is essentially right about the original meaning of "squaw." It was a word from the Massachusetts tribe used as early as 1663 in a translation of the Bible to mean "woman," said Ives Goddard, a senior linguist at the Smithsonian Institution, the

But Goddard cautions that the meaning of words change over time: "As we know, lots of words are considered offensive that have perfectly innocent etymologies. The famous 'n' word just meant black."

The swift change in awareness came with a 1992 appearance on "Oprah" by writer and activist Suzan Harjo, who said the word comes from a Mohawk word for female genitalia – and the etymology has since become accepted by many tribal leaders.

## Legal battle over Redskins name continues

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)** – Major American Indian groups went to court last week trying to revoke the Washington Redskins' trademark name, calling it a disparaging reference to millions of people.

Four national organizations joined a District of Columbia resident who filed suit in 1992 to pressure the team to drop the Redskins moniker because they consider it offensive. But a team

lawyer argued that the appeal should be dismissed because the legal complaints weren't filed until decades after the name was first adopted in 1933.

"This football team has been on actual notice from 1972 that Native Americans found this name offensive," attorney Thomas Morrison, who represents the American Indian groups, told the U.S. Court of Appeals. "I don't think we'd be hearing

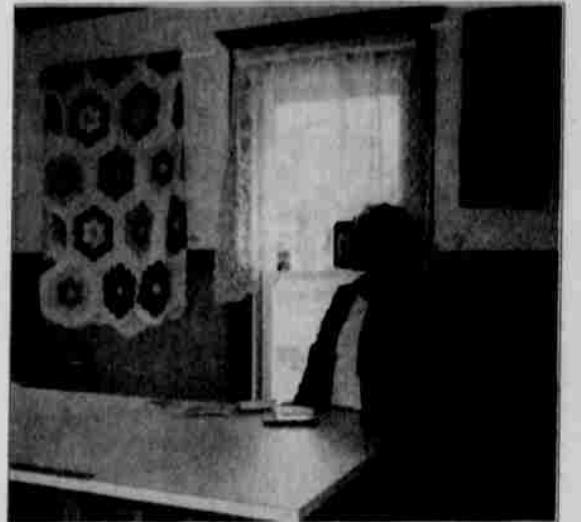
this debate if it were a different ethnic group."

Terms such as "blackies" or "spics" would clearly be unacceptable for any team name, Morrison said in court.

Suzan Shown Harjo, one of the original plaintiffs, won the first round in 1999 when a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office panel canceled the Redskins' trademarks. But a federal judge reversed that decision last year.

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## Annual mini marathon set for May 1 at Kah-Nee-Ta

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has scheduled the annual Mini Marathon for Sunday, May 1.

The four events scheduled are the 14.5-mile, 10K, three mile, and the one-mile. The top three winners of each division will receive medals for each event.

Pre-registration will be accepted until April 29 at a rate of \$12, which includes t-shirt. Day of the race registration rate

will be \$20, which includes t-shirt. If you prefer to pay a rate without a t-shirt the rate is \$8.

Day of race registration will open at 8 a.m. at the Kah-Nee-Ta Village front gate. The 14.5-mile run will load runners and leave the Kah-Nee-Ta Village front gate at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

The 14.5-mile run begins at 9 a.m. from Simnasho, and all other race events begin at 10 a.m.

## Scramble to help golf team

An 18-hole, four-person golf scramble to benefit the Madras High School golf team is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, at Eagle Crest Resort. Players of all ages and single players are welcome. A shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. The fee to play \$55 per player. Fee includes use of a golf cart, eligibility for awards and an auction, and lunch.

First prize is four round of 18 holes of golf at one of Central Oregon's finest courses, and prizes for second and third prize are available. The tournament also has competitions for long drive, KP, and a \$3 mulligan.

For more information, contact Dan Hiatt (548-7140), Debbie Olson (475-6538), or Diane Ringering (475-2184).

## Young Achiever Una Johnson

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Una Johnson, daughter of Delford and Marita Johnson, is the manager of Jo's Coffee Corral. She is also a student at Central Oregon Community College, where she studies business administration. Working at the Coffee Corral and studying business at COCC go well together, she said. "I get to apply the concepts I'm learning in school to the real world," said Una.

Jo's Coffee Corral is located by the Shell station



on Highway 26. On weekdays the Coffee Corral is open from 7 a.m. till 4 p.m., and on the weekends from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

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