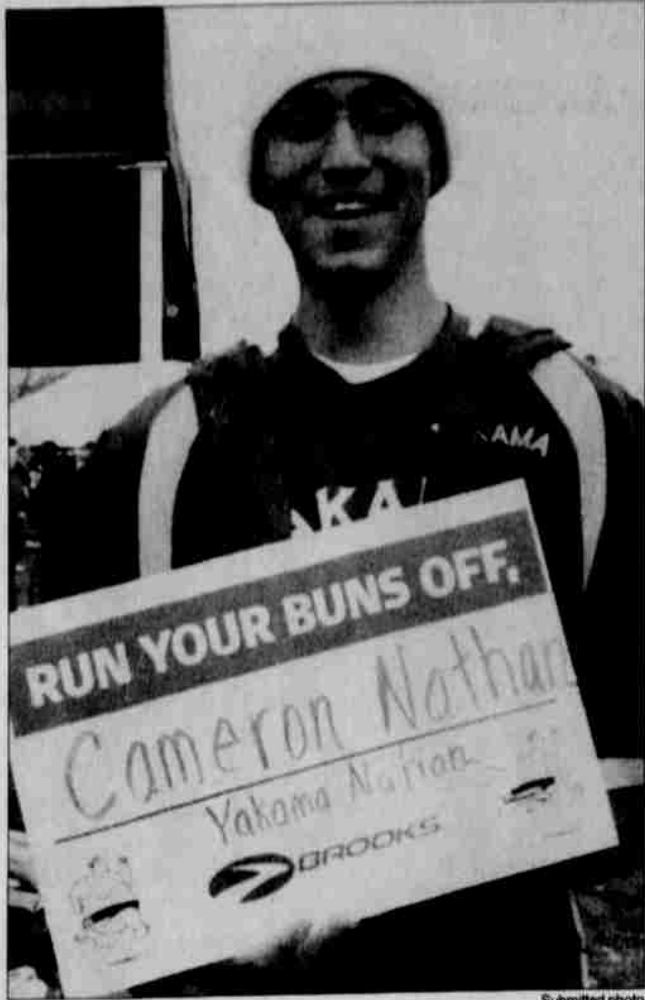


Nathan runs at state

Cameron Nathan, a Warm Springs tribal member who lives Toppenish, Wash., finished 35th at the Washington high school state cross country meet Nov. 5.

Nathan, a senior at the Yakama Tribal High School, also in Toppenish, ran the 3.1-mile course at Sun Willows Golf Course in Pasco, Wash., in a time of 19 minutes, 29 seconds. Nathan, who qualified for his first Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association state cross country meet, finished 35th out of 67 runners.

Nathan was the only runner from Yakama Tribal High School, a Class B (60 students or less in grades 10-12) school in the Columbia League. His parents are Randy Nathan and Carolyn Winishut, and his grandmother is Yvonne Nathan of Warm Springs. Nathan's traditional name is Tanan Aswan, which translates to "Indian Boy," in the Wasco language.



Cameron Nathan at state cross country meet.

First-team selection for Begay

Madras High School senior Blaine Begay of Simnasho was named as a first-team selection on offense and defense in the Tri-Valley League 2006 all-league football team last week.

Begay was a first-team pick as an offensive tackle and a defensive tackle.

Begay, a second-year starter for the White Buffaloes, was one of four Madras players named to the first-team offense and one of four on the all-league defense.

Senior Rodney Katchia, also from Madras High, was an Honorable Mention selection at center.

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WSFPI boiler moving forward

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

The steam-generating boiler at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries that will dry lumber at the mill, and eventually pay dividends in electrical power sales for the tribes, will be operational by the end of this year, WSPFI's energy manager said last week.

The completion of the state-of-the-art boiler, which will replace an 87-year-old lumber-drying boiler, had been pushed back from its original completion date in September, because of negotiations with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and because of a lack of the skilled workers needed to finish the project.

Darrel Kelly, energy manager for WSPFI, said there is no cause for concern, nor will there be additional costs due to the delay.

"Although everybody likes to see things start up on schedule, there are a lot of reasons why that didn't happen," he said.

Along with delays in gaining permission from the EPA earlier in the year, Wellons Inc., the manufacturer of the boiler unit based in Sherwood, has been hard-pressed to find enough skilled welders to complete the network of metal tanks, cham-

bers and piping. "Wellons has a lot of welders that work for their company, and they've got so many projects going on that they haven't been able to get good qualified pressure-vessel welders," Kelly said. "It takes a special skill and special certification in order to do this kind of work."

"It's not just like going down to the local blacksmith's shop and getting a guy that builds boat trailers and say, 'Go put some boilers together.' They've had difficulty getting good qualified welders for all of their projects."

Under its agreement with the Confederated Tribes, Wellons owns the boiler currently being built, and another companion unit that would subsequently be built and accompanying turbine generator, for 10 years while the tribes pay for it over time.

"It really didn't cost the tribes any extra money to go beyond the scheduled startup date because we have the old boilers running," Kelly said. "Wellons doesn't get paid until this unit is running, so we haven't really been pushing hard for them to meet an unrealistic schedule."

Construction began on the boiler unit in January.

WSFPI received its federal operating permit from the EPA, which allows the mill to start

using the boiler when it is finished. Before the license is issued, the mill had to prove that the emissions the boiler generates are at levels acceptable to the EPA.

When it begins running, the boiler will be an improvement over its current boiler system, generating more energy more efficiently, and cleaner.

The boilers would run on waste wood, which heats a drum half-full of water to create steam for power generation. Kelly said sources of waste wood, or biomass, have been identified, and that there is a great enough supply from sources both on the reservation and off to keep the boiler running when it is built.

Construction of the second boiler and the turbine generator, expected to generate 18 to 20 megawatts of electrical power, will begin once WSPFI enters a power-sales agreement with Pacific Power. The mill would sell all of the power it generates through its cogeneration plant and then buy back enough power to operate the mill.

Kelly said negotiations with Pacific Power have begun.

"The fuel availability to feed a big plant, like an 18-20 megawatt plant, has been established," he said. "All of the pieces have been put together."

Helicopters dropping salmon carcasses into national forest

ESTACADA (AP) - Helicopters are dropping thousands of salmon carcasses in the Mount Hood National Forest this week, part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife-funded attempt to enhance the food chain for fish and wildlife in the upper Clackamas and Sandy river basins.

Most of the carcasses are from the fall coho run.

The fish drop zones total about 10 stream miles.

The Forest Service and partners began the drops five years ago to supplement the aquatic food chain, part of the strategy to rebuild depleted fish runs. However, the forested environment prevents all the drops from reaching their intended targets; some of the carcasses

fall on land to be consumed by animals.

The decaying fish replace some of the nutrients that came from wild salmon after they spawned and died in past generations.

After a post-drop survey in 2004 found no significant gain in the simplest forms of aquatic life, the amount dropped for each stream mile was increased, said Burke Strobel, a Forest Service fish biologist based in Estacada.

Future drops will depend on funding and success in boosting the fish food chain, he said. The 2004 drops cost \$23,000. Strobel said he did not know this year's cost.

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