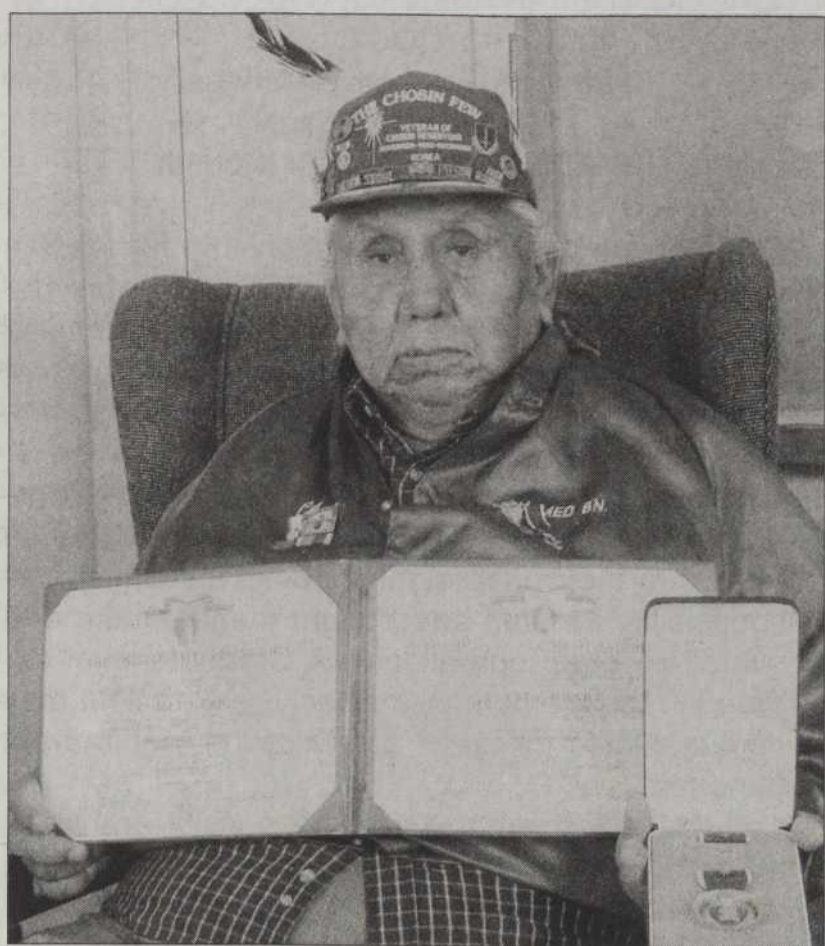


More News from 2005



Brian Mortensen/Spilyay

The year 2005 saw Korean War Veteran Chesley Yahtin receive his long-overdue war medals. He received the medals in August 2005.

December

Dance group

A group of nearly 40 kids, from preschool age to high school, are helping keep alive the culture of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The Warm Springs 4-H Social Dance club meets once a week in the aerobics room at the Community Center to learn dances that have been a part of tribal culture for many generations.

Bighorn herd grows

Between transplants in 2002 and last December, the big horn sheep population on the Warm Springs reservation is now up to around 60 sheep and doing well. The herd of 15 transported from the John Day River canyon near Condon about a year ago has increased to 20, Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife manager Terry Luther said in December. While two adult sheep have been killed in the past year, seven lambs have been born and survived since their birth last April.

Bus system

It was announced that a new bus system could be in place on the Warm Springs reservation in 2006, aimed at helping commuters, the poor, seniors and residents with disabilities.

Family to sue

The family of the teenager who died of alcohol poisoning in a boarding school jail cell has filed a \$24 million lawsuit against Interior Secretary Gale Norton, accusing government officials of torture and conspiracy. The death of Cindy Gilbert Sohappay a little over two years ago resulted in a Senate investigation and claims that Bureau of Indian Affairs officials ignored the risks to children at Indian boarding schools for years.

Membership gathering

A group of just under 50 tribal members met in December to discuss the tribal gaming enterprise, treaty rights, and Tribal Council travel costs. The meeting, attended by two Council members, was at the Agency Longhouse. Members who spoke at the meeting expressed concern over the cost and delay in construction of the Cascade Locks casino. Some at the meeting said that Tribal Council should not only listen to the wishes of members, but should listen and respond.

Winter snow

Several inches of snow fell this month on the reservation. And in keeping with holiday season, the second annual Warm Springs Christmas Tree Lighting and Light Parade helped brighten the long winter evening.

dorsed by the state and the Confederated Tribes through a gaming compact. Congressman Greg Walden, of Oregon's Second Congressional District, is a supporter of the tribes in regard to the Pombo bill. The local communities that would be impacted the casino - mainly Cascade Locks and Hood River County - are also largely in favor of the tribes' proposal.

Acclaimed artist

An exhibit of work by acclaimed artist Lillian Pitt went on display at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. The exhibit, "Building on the Frames of My Ancestors," features new work by Pitt based on the forms of the Longhouse and salmon drying racks, both elemental structures in the traditional life of the Columbia River Plateau people.



November

Looming budget cuts

In November 2005 the tribal budget became a main focus of funding, as major cuts, including jobs, were contemplated. And until the Confederated Tribes have some significant new source of revenue, then the focus during future budget planning has to be on reducing expenditures. "Clearly, I'm concerned, because our available funds have dropped by \$15 million over the past three years," said Ray Potter, the tribes' chief financial officer. In the short run of the next three to four years, he said, the tribes are not expecting to see any new major source of revenue. After that time the plan is to begin seeing revenue from the new casino at the Columbia. "Until then we can only concentrate on reducing expenditures," said Potter.

All-around cowboy

Clint Bruised Head finished out another successful year in Indian circuit rodeo last month, repeating his title in the steer wrestling at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in San Carlos, Ariz., and winning the year-end all-around cowboy title in the Western States Indian Rodeo Cowboy Association.

Gaming law

Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah testified in Washington, D.C. before a House of Representatives committee regarding a draft bill that could affect the tribes' gaming expansion plan. Suppah said the draft bill being circulated by Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif., could hurt the Confederated Tribes' chance of building a casino at Cascade Locks. Tribal leaders say, though, that the Cascade Locks proposal is unique among Indian gaming proposals, and for this reason should be exempt from the proposed bill. The Cascade Locks proposal, for instance, is en-

Addressing drug problem

The Warm Springs tribal government's tolerance for methamphetamine abuse on the reservation has run out, a tribal judge said in November. Stiffer jail sentences, restrictions on work release programs, and proposed measures to protect children in homes affected by meth abuse are steps being taken by the Warm Springs tribal court and law enforcement, said Chief Judge Anita Jackson. She spoke during a presentation at the Conference on Methamphetamine Prevention at the Warm Springs Community Center Social Hall Nov. 14.

School coaches

There are seven tribal members this year who are coaching either at Madras High School or Jefferson County Middle School. "It's the most I've seen since I've been here - the most Indian coaches I've seen in a school district," said Butch David, Warm Springs liaison at the middle school.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Seven tribal members from Warm Springs were coaching at the 509-J school district in the fall of 2005. They are Butch David, Luanne Foltz, T.J. Foltz, Mackey Begay, Lana Leonard and Andy Leonard (from left; Gorkey Mitchell was not available for the picture).

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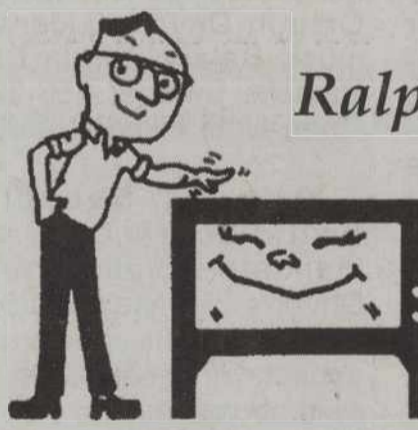
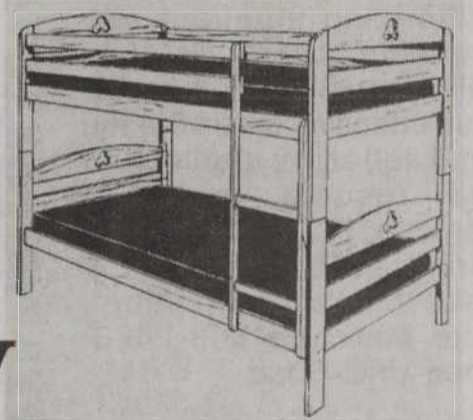
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