

## Athletes to play for Team Oregon

A total of 10 athletes and five coaches from Warm Springs signed up to participate for Team Oregon in the North American Indigenous Games, scheduled for July 2-9 in Denver, Colo.

A group of 192 athletes in the 13-19 age group, who make the Youth age group, and 57 adults, along with 87 coaches, are expected to make up Team Oregon, participating in eight of the 16 sports commencing at the Games.

Team Oregon would field teams in Mens and Womens Basketball, Athletics (track and field), mens boxing, mens wrestling, rifle-shooting, and golf. In addition, there is one athlete signed up to participate in canoe.

Athletes from six of the nine tribes in Oregon are participating in the games. Others are from other tribes attending schools in Oregon. One is a Youth volleyball player from the Tlingit tribe in Alaska, and the other, the male canoeer, is from the Makah tribe in Washington.

Athletes have until March

31 to apply for the team, and the first installment of fees is due April 2. Susan Guerin, Team Oregon's representative in Warm Springs, said Team Oregon's leadership is looking for sponsorship to help pay the athletes' fees, as well as for its transportation to, and lodging in, Denver.

Athletes from Warm Springs have competed in two Indigenous Games, in 1995, in Blaine, Minn., and 1997, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Games in Denver are only the second they have been on American soil; the other four times they have been in Canada.

Guerin got involved with the Indigenous Games when she, on spur of the moment, went to the 1995 Games in Blaine, and then went to a meeting for the planning of the 1997 Games in Vancouver. She attends meetings on the Games three times a year, and has received sponsorship for her participation.

Tryouts for spots on Team Oregon are expected, particularly in boxing or wrestling. Mens and womens basketball is by far the most popular sport, as each of the six tribes has a team and

will vie for the right to represent Team Oregon.

Basketball is so popular that athletes who also play softball or volleyball, who may in fact on those teams for Team Oregon, want to try out for the basketball teams first before playing their other sports.

The rifle shooting tryouts are in Warm Springs March 25 at a shooting range on Shitike Creek.

The informational meeting where interested athletes were invited to register included a talk by Billy Mills, the 1964 Olympic 10,000 meter gold medallist who is a Lakota Sioux.

Mills, who resides in Sacramento, agreed to come to Warm Springs on short notice when Guerin, who has known Mills for years, called him. He had originally agreed to grant a telephone to KWSO, but, since he would be in Ashland for another engagement, decided to drive north to Warm Springs for the Saturday night meeting.

## Meth

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"I just read today where Pres. Bush signed a bill to stop the spread of meth," he said. "I don't know how much good that's going to do, but I think everybody needs to get involved. It's a big problem and I don't know if we're going to win it or not, but we're sure going to give it a try."

Mitzi Allen, a pharmacist at the Indian Health Services Wellness Clinic in Warm Springs, said there are tests now available to determine if a new mother is using methamphetamine.

"In the past, if we had a mom who was pregnant and we suspected that she was on methamphetamine, it was very difficult for the doctor to test the mom and also to test the baby. Of course, that would lead to problems because if the baby was positive and we weren't able to test, we weren't able to give the baby the necessary treatment," she said. "We also weren't sure that when the baby left the hospital that it would be in an environment that would be conducive to good care."

She said that beginning two weeks ago, any expecting mother admitted to a hospital would be asked three questions: If she has drunk alcohol or used drugs such as methamphetamine, how often she has drunk in the past six months, and when did she last abuse.

If any of these questions elicits a positive response, the mother is informed a sample of her urine would be taken. The mother can refuse, but a sample of the baby's first stool, called mercurium, would then be taken. The sample would provide a reading of what the mother had ingested the previous five months of the pregnancy, Allen said.

"This is not done as punishment," she said. "This is done to insure that the baby gets proper care, and also to ensure that when the babies leave the hospital they go to an environment where they'll be taken care of."

She said the Jefferson County Health Department is providing instant urine tests, for parents to administer to their children they suspect are using methamphetamine or alcohol. She said the tests are \$5 each.

She said there are now three new drugs that could be used to treat methamphetamine addiction. The drugs are still in the research stage. One of them, she said, is used to control seizures but has, in studies, shown that it should prevent people from using meth even if they

go back to an environment where meth is being used.

Each of the three medications are available at the Warm Springs clinic, but none of them, Allen said, is federally approved to treat methamphetamine abuse yet.

Allen showed a movie called "G," a documentary showing a sobering picture of the devastation created by methamphetamine abuse on the Navajo reservation in Arizona. Allen said "little wars" are won by coming together in meetings such as Friday's, "but I guess I'm not that optimistic. Every time I open the paper, it just seems to be getting worse and worse."

She also revealed she is now taking care of a baby whose mother used methamphetamine.

"Every day that I look at him, I wonder if he'll reach his full potential because someone did something that he had no control over," she said.

She said the baby is developmentally delayed in that he cannot walk as other children his age can.

"I just want to let everyone know this is not something that I want to do, this is something that I need to do," she said. "I want to educate people. I need to let people know that this is a very bad drug, and we need to let people know that they should not start."

John Webb, a detective with the Warm Springs Police Department, echoed this when he said that meth's rush is so powerful, users become hooked the first time they use it.

"That's why it's so important to be educating our children and everyone else," he said. "People try it one time and that's all it takes. It's about 99 percent (effective). It's evil and I hate it. The people involved in it really don't like it. They don't want to be around it, but they're stuck in it."

He and colleague Greg Stinson addressed what they've seen "on the street" in Warm Springs. Stinson said a common dose of meth on the street is a fourth of a gram, sold for about \$20. He said that was about half the size of one of the small candies served in the Kah-Nee-Ta banquet room. What's common practice, he said, is for a dealer to buy a 3.5 gram rock, called an eight-ball, for \$120, break it down and sell the pieces for what could be a \$200 profit.

"I learned all this while talking to people who actually sell this drug," he said. "What I see, mostly around here, is people sell it because of the hard economic times we're having here."

"I don't think I've met a drug dealer yet who's profited to buy

a new car or buy a new house or something like that. It's always mixed into their regular funds to pay their bills."

But most who sell, he said, also use, with only a couple exceptions.

Most search warrants on the reservation, he said, turn up methamphetamine, although some turn up marijuana and cocaine. Stinson said the formerly popular party drug ecstasy has been spotted on the reservation.

Stinson said ecstasy is in some ways worse even than meth because ecstasy dehydrates users, sometimes to the point of death.

He said that even as pervasive as meth is on the reservation, "there's about just a dozen people here who are really the big-name people who put fear in this community because of what they can do and who they're associated with," he said.

He said most of these people are in their 30s.

He said he does realize people's fear of retaliation and hesitance to report what they know.

Webb provided he and Stinson's direct line at the police department, which bypasses dispatch and receptionists and is password protected.

Stinson said that the police department can protect people who inform by keeping their identities confidential.

"It's important for me to let you know that if it was not for you guys telling us this information, we wouldn't be having these cases," he said. "We're not going to be able to combat this situation until people tell."

Caroline Cruz, the state prevention coordinator and tribal and minority liaison for the Oregon Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services, said the key to mobilizing Native American communities in confronting methamphetamine abuse is through readiness as a community, in law enforcement, treatment and prevention. And in prevention, she said, there is no "magic answer."

As the only Native American member of the state meth task force, she said the task force fought to get medicines with pseudofed, a known ingredient in making methamphetamine, off drug store shelves.

Dennis Sigo, a drug and alcohol counselor from Klamath Falls, also spoke, as did Joe Law, the Health Promotions Coordinator from IHS in Portland, and Joyce Oberly, a public health educator from the Community Health Education Team, who spoke on mothers and babies and how they are affected by the drug.

## Group traveling to California for parade

For the second year in a row, a group from Warm Springs take a trip to San Juan Capistrano, Calif., for the Swallows Day Parade. The group, led by Chris Buller, director of Faith Trails Association, includes 12 youths and three chaperones besides Buller.

They will leave just before the March 25 parade. They will bring along several horses. The youths will ride in the parade, which will include about 750

horses. The group returns March 26.

Last year, the Warm Springs group took home two first-place, and two second-place, plaques.

Like last year, the group will enjoy Southern California, with a half-day cruise on the Pacific Ocean and a stay on a beach at the private Three Arch Bay in South Laguna.

This year, the group will stay with host families, Buller said,

which will cut down on expenses.

While in Southern California, the group will receive a letter of commendation from the San Juan Capistrano City Council, addressed to Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Sappah.

The group is raffling off a horse and a saddle Saturday, March 17. The tickets are available at the Warm Springs Shell Station.

## Baseball clinic this Saturday

There will be a baseball clinic at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 at the Warm Springs Full Gospel Church.

Areas of instruction include proper catching and throwing, proper pitching and catching techniques.

Make sure to bring baseball or softball glove, sweatshirt, windbreaker or jacket and athletic shoes.

## Youth hoops tourney April 14-16

The Second Annual Squiemphen-Yazzie Co-Ed Youth Basketball Tournament will be held April 14-16 at Warm Springs.

Divisions of the all-Indian tournament are sixth and seventh grades; eighth and ninth grades; and tenth through twelfth grades.

Awards for all age divisions are: first place, windbreaker jackets; second place, hooded sweatshirts; and third place, crew sweatshirts. Other awards are MVP, Mr. and Ms. Hustle, and sportsmanship for all age divisions.

Entry fee for all divisions is \$125. Limit of eight players per

team, all divisions. Players must show proof of enrollment in school.

For more information contact Priscilla Yazzie at (541) 553-5817, or (451) 980-9060. E-mail: tyazzie@bendnet.com. Mail address is Priscilla Yazzie, P.O. Box 734, Warm Springs OR 97761.

## Hospital

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Jay Henry became the Mountain View chief executive officer about six months ago.

"One of the first things I did was sit down the board of directors and asked where we could strengthen the hospital, and where we wanted to grow," said Henry. "We decided we were not serving the tribes as

well as we could." Offering the discount to the tribes was the first step, followed by the additional health-care services the hospital plans to extend to the tribes.

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