

Spilyay Tymoo

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Use of body nets essential

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

During the recent tragic drowning of a Warm Springs man in the Deschutes River, the tribal rescue team placed nets downstream in order to recover the body.

The tribes have used such nets for many years in cases requiring the recovery of a body from the river. The goal is to retrieve the body as soon as possible, out of respect for the deceased person and the person's loved ones.

The tribes will continue using the body nets in cases requiring the recovery of a body from the river, said Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah.

"Historically we've always used the nets when we've lost a person to the river," said Suppah. "Our standard has been to find the body as quickly as possible to help put the family at peace."

Following the recent loss of Wallace LeClaire in the Deschutes River, the tribes used nets in order to recover the body. Flags were used to clearly indicate the presence of the nets, and at the Rainbow boat launch there was a reader-board sign alerting rafters to the presence of the nets and the reason for their presence.

The tribes also alerted law enforcement agencies off the reservation that the nets were in the river, said Danny Martinez, Chief of Warm Springs Fire and Safety.

While the nets were in the water, a river guide from Seattle complained publicly that his raft flipped over in the Deschutes when he came upon one of the nets.

The complaint showed a lack of understanding and a lack of respect on the part of the rafter, said Suppah. Recovering the body as quickly as possible from the river, he said, is done out of respect for the deceased person and the family.

"We are respectful of our tribal members, especially for the surviving family, and we will continue to be respectful in the future," said Suppah.

Rafters who are experienced should have no problem going over the nets, said Tribal Council Raymond Tsumpti, director of the tribal Public Safety Branch.

He said if the rafter approaches the net with the boat facing forward, then there should be no problem. If the raft is sideways then there may be a problem, he said.

Tsumpti said that in the future the tribes would use the body nets when a person has drowned in the river, as an expedient way of recovering the body.

"As Indian people we respect the dead," he said.

The Confederated Tribes have disagreed with river guides in the past regarding use of the Deschutes River.

In recent years the river guides opposed the implementation of a permit system on the river, which the tribes and state government agencies supported.

The permit system went into effect last year, and the results seem to be positive so far.

"I think the reduction in boaters is helping the resource," said Suppah.

Tsumpti said there have been fewer reported complaints of problems among the rafters themselves, probably because the river is less crowded on the peak days.

So the permit system, he said, would seem to be working from that perspective.

New casino is topic of June gatherings

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino will be hosting several Gorge casino open houses this month. The open houses will provide updated information regarding the Confederated Tribes' proposal to build a casino at Cascade Locks, and will feature architectural designs of the casino.

The open houses will also include updated information on the tribes' gaming compact with the state, and two DVD presentations. The DVD presentations include testimonials from Warm Springs and Cascade

Locks leaders, as well video design layout of the facility. The schedule for the open houses is as follows:

Thursday, June 8 at the tribal administration building, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 15 at the Indian Health Services atrium from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 22 at the Warm Springs Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27 at the Three Warriors Market from noon to closing.

There will also be open houses at the Forestry/Fire Management Training Room, and the Museum at Warm,

time and dates to be announced.

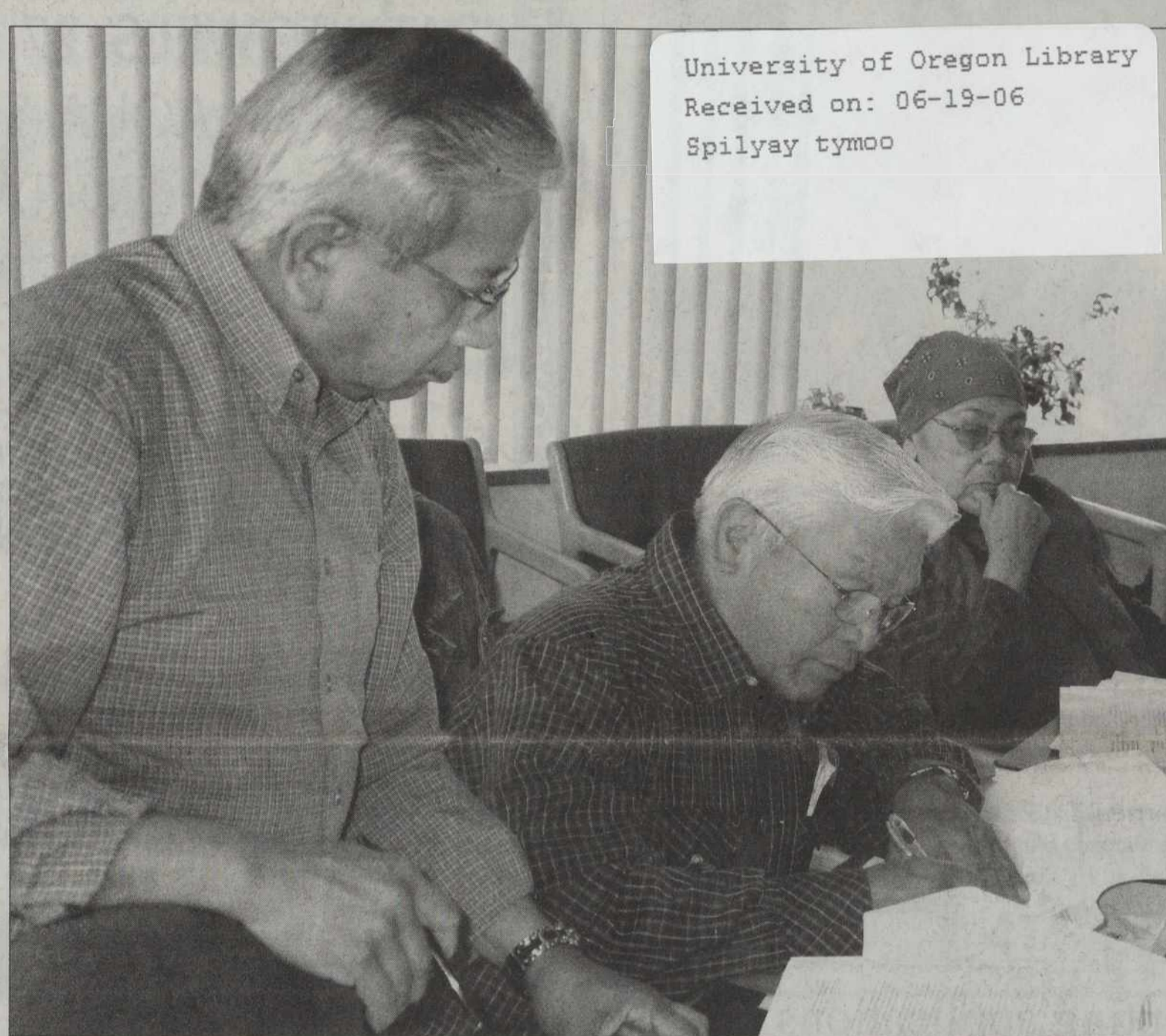
In addition to the Gorge casino open houses, the gaming expansion team has been conducting family home-base meetings throughout the reservation with various families. The home-base meetings provide a relaxed open atmosphere for tribal members to talk to and ask questions of the expansion team regarding the Cascade Locks casino proposal.

For more information on the open houses, or if you are interested in hosting a Gorge casino family home-base meeting, contact one of the following

casino expansion team members: director Margie Tuckta, 553-4883; coordinator Floyd Calica, 553-1112, ext. 3420; or administrative coordinator Lena Ike, 553-1112, ext. 3492.

The expansion team also wants to remind tribal members to be watching the mail for the next edition of the "Head of Household" mailing. The next edition will feature an update of progress from the new gaming board of directors chairman Ken Smith.

Please stay tuned to KWSO and the Spilyay for information regarding the tribes' casino proposal.



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Tribal Council Vice-Chairman last week signed a government-to-government agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as presented by the tribes' Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica (left). Councilwoman Rita Squiemphen (at right) was among the Council members who discussed the agreement with representatives from FEMA.

The agency will provide funding to the tribes to repair damage caused by winter flooding. The idea is to have tribal workers make the needed repairs

through the FEMA program, said Dan Martinez, chief of Fire and Safety. Chief Operations Lauraina Hintsala and Martinez, along with the FEMA team, made the presentation to Council. FEMA is proposing to provide the tribes with close to \$40,000 to make the repairs. The money became available when Pres. Bush declared a disaster in Oregon as a result of the flooding. The government-to-government agreement was needed, as the funding would otherwise be allocated to the state or to counties.

Grand Ronde to run more casino ads

(AP) — In the just-ended primary election season, the tribe that runs Oregon's largest casino spent \$850,000 to blanket the airwaves with TV ads blasting Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Republican Kevin Mannix.

Despite the ad blitz, Kulongoski won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in his contest with two challengers. But Mannix went down to defeat in the May 16 GOP primary, a loss he blames in large part on TV ads the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde ran against him.

Now the Grand Ronde is prepared to bankroll a new round of TV ads targeting Kulongoski in the general election, if he persists in backing the Cascade Locks casino plan of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The dispute centers on Kulongoski's decision in 2005 to approve the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs proposal to build an off-reservation casino in Cascade Locks, located within the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and about 40 miles east of the lucrative Portland market.

The region that includes Cascade Locks is part of the Ceded Lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Despite the Grand Ronde's TV ads that ran almost constantly in the weeks leading up to the May 16 primary election, Kulongoski won the Democratic primary by a sizable margin over his two challengers.

"Voters are smart; they proved during the Democratic primary that they are going to reject those kinds of special interest ads," said Kulongoski's campaign spokesman, Cameron Johnson. "Oregonians don't want their elections to be hijacked by special interests."

Kulongoski, as the incumbent, was considered the favorite to defeat challengers Jim Hill and Peter Sorenson in the Democratic primary.

The GOP primary was considered a close race up until the end, when Portland lawyer Ron Saxton vanquished Mannix to become the Republican standard-bearer for the fall election.

In that contest, the Grand Ronde's TV ads praised Saxton for opposing the gorge casino and criticized Mannix for refusing to say he would block it.

The ads also suggested that Mannix had backed numerous tax

hikes during his years as a state legislator.

Mannix, in a recent interview, said he thinks the Grand Ronde ads were a decisive factor in his defeat. "The most significant event was the body blow we suffered early on from the massive TV advertising campaign by the Grand Ronde casino interests," the Salem Republican said.

"They defined me for voters before I had a chance to define myself."

Johnson, Kulongoski's re-election campaign spokesman, says the Democratic governor intends to allow the Warm Springs tribe to put a casino in Cascade Locks because otherwise the tribe might build a casino on a far less desirable site on tribal land upstream in Hood River.

There's no chance Kulongoski will change his mind — even if that means the Grand Ronde will run another TV ad blitz against him in the fall, Johnson said.

"He based his decision on what's in the best interests of the entire state, not just on what one special interest wants," Kulongoski's spokesman said.

Old houses demolished on campus

Six old houses that were beyond repair have been torn down in the campus area.

Eventually, all the houses on the north side of Wasco Street are to be demolished, making way for a large park area.

The park area will be the site of a community outdoor market. Eventually, there will be drinking fountains and a public restroom available to the people at the market, and the people using the nearby ball fields, said Jeff Sanders, director of the Housing Department.

The idea for removal of the old buildings and development of the market is included in the recent downtown development plan for Warm Springs.

Sanders said the buildings that were removed were over 70 years old. To bring the structures up to safety code, and to modernize the plumbing and electrical wiring would be cost prohibitive, he said. There was also some structural damage, and basement mold in the old buildings, he said.

The solution was to demolish the buildings, which is in accordance with the downtown development plan, said Sanders.

The first houses to come down were used as practice burns by Fire and Safety. After people complained about the smoke, the demolished buildings were hauled away rather than burned.

Man dies in fall

(AP) — A man fleeing a traffic stop in Madras last Wednesday, May 31, plunged to his death from a 30-foot cliff, authorities said.

Charles Yallup, 27, of White Swan, Wash., was driving a pickup on U.S. Highway 97 west of Madras when a sheriff's deputy tried to stop him because the truck had one functioning headlight, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

Yallup avoided the stop by driving through two fences and onto roads where the patrol car could not follow, the sheriff's office said.

The deputy soon spotted the pickup and found two people inside. Undersheriff Jim Adkins said they told deputies that Yallup got out of the pickup and fled on foot.

Relatives living in Warm Springs organized a search for Yallup and found him deceased, roughly two hours after the attempted traffic stop. He apparently fell over a cliff in the dark.

An autopsy has been scheduled, Adkins said.