

'Macbeth' production explores cultural ties with Alaska Natives

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)— Battles are waged to the beat of drums, witches as land otters slink across the stage and Banquo's ghost dons a raven mask in a Tlingit language adaptation of Shakespeare's brutal and bloody tale of a murderous Scottish lord.

Sprung from the rain forests of southeast Alaska, this Washington, D.C., bound production of "Macbeth" marries the Elizabethan tragedy with an ancient indigenous culture—an elaborate conceit that its players say brings new life to both worlds.

The idea took root more than 25 years ago when director Anita Maynard-Losh, a San Francisco transplant, came to live in the remote community of Hoonah, Alaska, a largely Tlingit village bounded by

Tongass National Forest and the icy waters of the Inside Passage.

She knew "Macbeth" well, she had taught Shakespeare, and as she began to learn about the Tlingit culture she was struck by certain similarities.

"When I was in Hoonah, I started seeing these connections, the society built on clan systems, the connection with the supernatural, which is very strong and the fierce warfare that the Tlingits were famous for, the Scots also were quite renowned for," Maynard-Losh said.

Northwest native lore also abounds with moral tales of the treacherous host, she said, as when Macbeth murders Duncan in his castle.

But the basic element of what it means to be a tribal society, putting the well-being and

survival of the group over individual liberties, is what really struck her.

"That seemed like a huge piece of this play: What happens when somebody starts not caring about the good of the group and just caring about their own success," she said.

In January 2004 and again on a statewide tour later that year, Maynard-Losh first put her ideas on stage directing Tlingit "Macbeth" in English for Juneau's Perseverance Theatre. Though now Director of Community Engagement at Washington's Arena Stage, she agreed to return to Juneau this winter to restage the Perseverance production for performances March 8-18 at the National Museum of the American Indian.

Gambling compacts head for vote

SANTA FE (AP)—A committee of lawmakers has endorsed proposed changes to state-tribal gambling agreements that critics complain would lock the state in for three decades.

The changes, negotiated between Gov. Bill Richardson and most of New Mexico's tribes with casinos, were endorsed 11-4 by the Committee on Compacts last week.

The package now goes to the House and Senate floors, where lawmakers can vote for or against it but cannot alter it.

Richardson has urged lawmakers to approve the compact changes before the session ends March 17.

The new compact would be effective until 2037. It

would increase the revenue sharing payments from tribes to the state, and limit the number of casinos per tribe and the number of off-reservation race-tracks.

The proposal has the backing of ten of the 13 tribes that are operating casinos. If the other three don't sign the new compact, they would continue to operate under the 2001 agreement, which expires in 2015.

Opponents of the changes worry that once the new agreements are signed, there is no guarantee that any of the terms could be changed until 2037.

Under the law, either the tribes or the governor or the Legislature can seek to have negotiations reopened, but nothing mandates that.

Lawyer Paul Bardacke, one of the governor's negotiators, assured the committee of House and Senate members that if lawmakers want changes to the compacts in the future, "I believe the tribes, and certainly the executive, are going to listen."

But Rep. Larry Larranaga, R-Albuquerque, who voted against the proposed changes, said it was conceivable lawmakers' future concerns could be ignored.

"How many issues are going to be coming up between now and the year 2037? ... It's too long a period," he said.

Tribes want a long term because they say they could get more favorable financing terms for resorts or other big infrastructure projects.

Chilocco Indian School celebrates historic recognition

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP)—About 300 alumni of a tribal school that taught generations of American Indians along the Kansas-Oklahoma border gathered recently to celebrate its recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

The former Chilocco Indian School opened its doors again to former students, employees, tribal leaders and Oklahoma state officials. American Indians were educated at the school just across the Oklahoma border south of Arkansas City from 1884 until it closed in 1980.

Dignitaries on hand included leaders of all five of the Council of Confederated Chilocco Tribes, two Oklahoma legislators and Deputy Director Melvena Heisch, of the Oklahoma State Historical Preservation Office.

A group of Native American singers and drummers performed several traditional songs during the ceremony.

Josephine Wapp, a former arts and crafts teacher at the boarding school who is now 95-year-old, traveled from Lawton, Okla., to attend the

ceremony.

She said she was happy Native American groups plan to renovate the campus where she taught for nearly 30 years, but was sad to see that buildings on the 10,000-acre site are in such disrepair.

"It's going to need a lot of work to fix it all up," Wapp said.

An alliance has been formed between the Confederated Chilocco tribes and the Chilocco Alumni Association to renovate Chilocco, said Ron Rice, president of the Paynee Nation.

Chairman Michael Harwell, of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, said the effort to renovate Chilocco will be a national one.

"The national historical designation does something for us. It's a tool to make this place into something like what we remember it used to be," Harwell said. "But it also is a chance to make it into a place that is a national draw for the American Indian. We want people to come from all over not just the United States but the world."

Tribe attaches massive steel bridge at edge of canyon

PHOENIX (AP)—An Indian tribe will fasten a massive glass-bottomed walkway to the edge of the Grand Canyon on Wednesday as part of an ambitious \$30 million tourism center that has angered environmentalists and some tribal members.

The Hualapai (pronounced WALL-uh-pie), an impoverished tribe of about 2,200 people at the canyon's remote western edge, allowed a private developer to construct the "Skywalk" in hopes of luring tourists to the region.

The tribe will open it to the public later this month, charging \$25 per person in addition to other entry fees. Organizers expect the Skywalk to become the main draw in a community of tribal attractions that includes

a cowboy town, an Indian village, helicopter tours and Hummer rides through the outback.

"The Grand Canyon has name appeal, and since part of the reservation lies in that, it only seems natural that we use the attraction to the benefit of the tribe," Hualapai Chairman Charlie Vaughn said.

At 1.07 million pounds, the Skywalk is about as heavy as four Boeing 757 jets stacked on top of each other. It'll be perched over the canyon and fastened to the rock using an elaborate system of pulleys connected to four tractor trailers.

Underneath, hydraulic "shoes" will lift the Skywalk above a cement track and roll it across a bed of metal rods.

As the trucks push it out, the

walkway will not be anchored to the canyon wall. To keep it from tipping over the side, engineers have loaded the bridge end with a half-million pounds of steel cubes as counterweight.

"It would take something horrific" to tip the bridge, said Mark Johnson, a Las Vegas architect who worked on the Skywalk. "It's not going anywhere."

When the move is complete, the Skywalk will extend about 75 feet over the rim, almost a mile over the canyon floor. It's designed to withstand 100 mph winds and is loaded shock absorbers to keep the walkway from wobbling as people walk through. Construction began in April 2005.

David Jin, a Las Vegas developer, came up with the idea for

the Skywalk a decade ago. He approached the Hualapai in 1996 with a plan to build it using his own money.

The tribe agreed on the condition that it will own the walkway. Jin will get a cut of the profits.

As it was being built this year, some Hualapai elders said they began to question the wisdom of the project. The tribe considers the canyon sacred ground, and the construction cut into land scattered with Hualapai burial sites.

"You have to be real gentle with the land," said Hualapai spiritual leader Frank Mapatis. "It's a living being, and it can feel those things."

Environmentalists also have criticized the project for diminishing the canyon's majesty.

Descendants of freed slaves to challenge special election

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—Descendants of people the Cherokee once owned as slaves said they will challenge a special election that kicked them out of the tribe.

They also promised to lobby the U.S. government to cut federal ties to tribe, a move that

could cost the Cherokee Nation millions of dollars.

"We're not going to go away," said Marilyn Vann, president of the Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes. "We are calling on the American people to bombard Congress,

the Bureau of Indian Affairs, all media outlets, that justice be done."

But one Cherokee Nation official called those threats a scare tactic brought by people more interested in seeing the Cherokee Nation lose funding than seeing

the will of the people done.

For decades, descendants of freed Cherokee slaves fought to reclaim their citizenship, even though they were adopted into the tribe in 1866 under a treaty with the U.S. government.

Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay is Friday, March 23. Thank you.

Great AMERICAN Home Furnishings

732 SW 6th St., at the "Y" in Redmond

Desks, Living Room, Dining Room, Tables, Lamps, Recliners, Mattresses, Bedroom, Daybeds, Sleepers, Bunk Beds, Leather, Entertainment Centers, and MORE!



FREE DELIVERY to MOST Central Oregon areas.

Major credit cards accepted



Open 7 Days a week 10-6 Mon.-Sat. 11-5 Sun.

HOME FURNISHINGS - REDMOND Locally Owned & Operated since 1980

923-4155

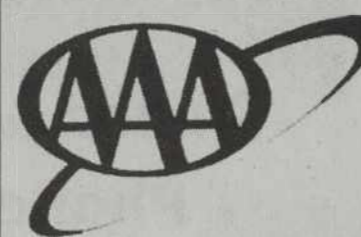
Your Favorite Home Furnishings For Less

Prince's Automotive & Towing



since 1975

755 S.W. Hwy 97, Madras, OR 97741 CALL 475-6663 or stop by for an appointment



-Approved Auto Repair -Approved Towing



24-Hour Towing