

Spilyay Tymoo

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Fire season takes off

Lightning strikes have caused several wild fires on the reservation. Three of the fires took off and grew in size, while many others were contained while still small in size.

Close to 400 personnel from 13 crews had responded, as of earlier this week. Thirteen fire engines, two helicopters and six water tenders were employed in fighting the three larger fires. Fire Management put an order in for a fixed wing aircraft that scoops water while flying.

By Tuesday afternoon, a little over 4,000 had been consumed by the blazes, as follows:

The Biddle Pass fire, the largest of the three, had consumed 2,091 acres.

The Trail fire had consumed close to 1,000 acres. And the Lionshead fire consumed 437 acres.

The fires were ignited by a lightning storm that passed across the reservation on Thursday, July 12. There were a reported 160 lightning strikes on the reservation that afternoon.

The Lionshead and Biddle Pass fires were burning at the base of Mt. Jefferson, at the southwest corner of the reservation. The Lionshead fire was in very difficult terrain, preventing a direct attack by the fire crews.

The Trail fire is located near the Metolius River in the canyon.

The fire camp is located at the Warm Springs Rodoe grounds.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Keeping It Cool

Young people at the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club were keeping cool with a variety of games involving water balloons, such as the Catch the Balloon game, where teams compete to see which pair of players can throw and catch the balloon farthest without breaking it. Another game involved a hula-hoop and water balloons, as demonstrated above by the team of Allysa Culp, Kahne Herkshan and Janaya Brunoe (from left), as Boys and Girls Club staff member Jocelyn Moses looks on.

The Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club is housed in the Vernon Jackson Home on the Campus.

Date set for adoption election

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Confederated Tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Warm Springs Agency have set Thursday, Oct. 11 as the date for the tribal adoption election. There are 231 candidates who will be on the ballot.

Tribal Council determined that those who qualified for the ballot did not have to demonstrate residency on the reservation for the three-year period immediately prior to the election date.

The last successful adoption election, conducted in 1996, also did not require the candidates to demonstrate a three-year residency on the reservation in order to qualify for the ballot.

Two more recent attempted adoption elections – conducted in 2001 and 2002 – did require the demonstration of residency for three years prior to the election. Both of these elections failed for lack of voter participation.

The residency requirement is stated in the tribal Constitution, but Tribal Council determined that the best way to determine the application of the requirement is by a vote of the people in the October election.

A main reason why there is a rela-

tively large number of adoption candidates – 231 compared to 76 during the 2001-02 elections – is the lack of the residency requirement, said Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics.

Voter registration

Tribal members age 18 and over who are eligible to vote will be receiving voter registration forms in the mail. Members may receive them by the end of this month, said Lori Anderson, administrative officer with the BIA Warm Springs Agency.

The registration forms must be returned within 45 days, and then the list is posted for a time. Those who register will be eligible to vote in the adoption election. A turnout of 50 percent of those who register is required for a valid election.

Through this process, the likelihood of the election failing for lack of turnout is reduced, as mainly those people who are interested in casting a ballot will register to do so.

The election may be conducted through the mail, instead of at a polling place, said Anderson.

See ADOPTION ELECTION on 8

Remembering Celilo Falls

(The Celilo Falls exhibit at the Museum at Warm Springs includes an area dedicated to the memory of Chief Tommy Kuni Thompson. The following narrative, reprinted here from the museum exhibition, first appeared in American Environmental Leaders: From Colonial Times to the Present.)

By Cain Allen

Chief Tommy Kuni Thompson, Salmon Chief of the great fishery at Celilo Falls and leader of Celilo Village, was a timeless defender of both Columbia River salmon and Indian fishing rights during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

His life represents an important chapter in the history of Native people's efforts to protect diverse and productive ecosystems across North America.

While ultimately unsuccessful in preventing the damming of the Columbia and the destruction of what was perhaps the most productive inland fishery in the world, his integrity as a leader is recognized to this day by Indians and non-Indians alike.

Kuni, which means "full of knowledge" in the Sahaptin language, was born by the banks of the Nch'I-Wana, later known as the Columbia River, sometime between the mid-1850s and the early 1860s. He was told that his ancestors had always lived and fished at Wyam, which means "the echo of falling water."

His great-uncle was the renowned Chief Stocket-ly, who signed the 1855 Middle Oregon Treaty for the Wyams and was killed nine years later while acting as a scout for the U.S. Army.

Kuni's father died when Kuni was still an infant, and his mother died a few years later while on a berry-picking expedition. Before she died, she urged Kuni to listen carefully at the



photo courtesy of the Museum at Warm Springs

Chief Tommy Kuni Thompson

Councils, so that he might grow up to be a great chief like his uncle Stocket-ly.

His mother's advice came to fruition when, despite his repeated protestations, both the Wyams and the Skinpa, who lived across the river, elected him

their chief. Kuni, whom white playmates had many years earlier named Tommy Thompson, was only about 20 years old, the youngest chief in memory.

See REMEMBERING CELILO on 11

Challenge program makes difference in young lives

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

An alternative school in Bend is providing a solution for troubled teens—including several local youth.

A number of students have turned to the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge as an alternative to conventional school systems.

Clarissa Wolfe, 17, graduated from the program last June.

"I ended up there because I was in jail," Wolfe said. "It was court ordered for me to go there."

It was an order that Wolfe now realizes was in her best interest.

"I needed to change my life and everything," Wolfe explained. "I was into drugs, alcohol, partying, disrespecting my grandparents."

Now Wolfe works at the courthouse, has her own house and a car. Next year she plans to go to boarding school in Oklahoma and will graduate with the class of 2008.

"I got my grades up and I'm on track to graduate and everything," she said.

The Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program is a residential school where students live for five months while attending a military model school.

After leaving the school in Bend, students must complete a 12-month mentor phase in their home community.

The non-traditional school operates in a method similar to that of a military academy.

According to their website, "The program is guided by military principles, structure and discipline. Staff utilizes a hands off, tough love, caring, disciplined approach to instill values, train, and instruct cadets."

Through the program, students can earn a high school diploma, GED or eight certified credits for high school.

With the program, Wolfe said, "I learned discipline, respect and what it

means."

"I got stronger mentally and physically," Wolfe added. "I learned job skills and life coping skills."

The hardest part, Wolfe said, involved homesickness.

In her opinion, the military lifestyle is enjoyable.

"I like the military life. It was fun," Wolfe said. "I just like the structure, and how we do things, and the discipline."

In fact, after she earns her high school diploma, Wolfe plans to enter the Marine Corps.

Larry Demarr, supervisor of one of the platoons, said Clarissa put forth tremendous effort during the program.

"Clarissa was definitely a hard worker, dedicated to the program, displayed a lot of different leadership traits. When you challenged her, she definitely didn't want to give up," Demarr said. "She was one of the cadets that made probably one of the biggest changes."

The school is targeted at students who are labeled as at-risk teens: high school dropouts or those who are failing school or not attending at all.

To be eligible, students must be a high school dropout, 16 to 18 years old, and an Oregon resident.

Students must also be drug free at the time of entrance and may not be on probation or parole or have been convicted of a felony crime.

For Wolfe, it was an experience that she says changed her completely.

"I changed a lot. My grandparents can see it," she said.

Because her grandparents raised her, she said, "I always try to make them proud of me."

The program wasn't without struggles, however.

"All the tears and sweat I went through—it was very hard," Wolfe said.

See YOUTH CHALLENGE on 8