



Spilyay Tymoo

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2008 Miss Warm Springs



Cyrille Mitchell addresses the gathering at the Miss Warm Springs Pageant.

Cyrille Mitchell began her year as Miss Warm Springs after being crowned recently.

"I wanted to run for Miss Warm Springs because I believe that I am a positive role model," Mitchell told the audience during the pageant earlier this month.

After being awarded the position of Miss Warm Springs, she received a beaded crown and banner made by Sandra Danzuka.

Mitchell graduated from Madras High School in 2004. From there she went on to Haskell University in Kansas for three years.

She played volleyball in college for all three years, earning a letter each year and serving as the team cap-

tain for two years.

Mitchell earned her associate's degree in physical education and sports medicine in 2007. She is currently employed at Early Childhood Education.

Through her job at Early Childhood Education, Mitchell is learning Sahaptin with Arlita Rhoan, and said learning Native languages is something she views as very important.

For the talent portion of the competition, Mitchell performed the butterfly dance, which she said they are also teaching to the girls at ECE.

During the Miss Warm Springs Pageant, Mitchell was judged in the areas of public speaking, talent, and congeniality, which included aspects like

knowledge, overall presence and overall appearance.

Mitchell was also judged on her ability during a slow war dance.

Several former Miss Warm Springs as well as various community members judged the 2008 Miss Warm Springs pageant.

The Eagle Thunder drumming group provided drumming for the event. Sallie Polk-Adams ended her reign as the 2007 Miss Warm Springs by passing on the title to Mitchell. Mitchell officially began her duties as Miss Warm Springs last week at an event for the affiliated tribes.

— by Leslie Mitts

Tribes again consider conducting adoption election

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The tribal adoption election may be conducted after all by the Confederated Tribes, rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The issue is tentatively set to go before Tribal Council within the next few months, perhaps during a Council meeting in April, said Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics.

There are currently about 240 candidates on the list of potential adoptees, she said.

The BIA last year was in the process of preparing to conduct the adoption election. However, issues arose indicating that a tribal, rather than BIA election may be more appropriate, said Queahpama-Spino.

She mentioned the issue of the "residency requirement" for adoption candidates, and the issue of the minimum voting age.

Regarding residency, the tribal Constitution says that "any person adopted into membership must have resided at least three years upon the Warm Springs Reservation immediately prior to the date of his application for adoption..."

An election conducted by the BIA

would have required excluding all candidates who did not meet the requirement, said Queahpama-Spino.

The Tribal Council will consider the residency question at the meeting tentatively set for April, she said.

Also, an election conducted by the BIA might have required ballots for all eligible tribal members over the age of 18, while the tribal standard is age 21 or older, or married. The discrepancy was another issue requiring further consideration of how best to proceed, said Queahpama-Spino.

The residency requirement over the years has been applied to adoption elections, but on some occasions was not applied.

For instance, the last successful adoption election — the last one that did not fail for lack of voter participation — occurred in 1996, and did not require the showing of three years residency.

More recently, the tribes attempted to conduct adoption election in 2001 and then in 2002. These elections did require that the candidates demonstrate compliance with the residency standard. Both of these elections failed for lack of 50-percent voter turnout.

One reason why the tribes were considering having the BIA conduct the next election was to avoid having the vote again fail due to lack of turnout.

3 compete at International Indian Finals Rodeo

Three local men competed in the 2007 International Indian Finals Rodeo last month.

Glendon Smith, Trevor Hurtado and Anthony Blueback all traveled to the event in Chandler, Arizona, after previously qualifying in other events.

The rodeo featured nine contestants from the Columbia River region, including the three men from Warm Springs.

According to Glendon Smith, he competed in team roping with Trevor Hurtado as his partner.

They originally qualified for the event through the Columbia River Regional Finals.

Smith has been team roping for about nine years after getting involved because of the involvement of fellow friends and family members in rodeo events.

"I just grew up on a ranch," Smith said. "My dad owned cattle, he owned horses and we just had a lot of Angus cows we used to take care of. My best

friend got me into rodeo."

As for team roping, Smith said, it involves a lot of concentration and practice.

"You've got to have a good horse to compete with," Smith said, in addition to a positive attitude.

Smith has only competed with Hurtado twice before, but traveled to the event as his team roping partner at Hurtado's suggestion.

Smith, 27, said they did several fundraisers around town in order to travel to the rodeo. For instance, they sold Christmas trees, and had Indian taco sales and spaghetti feeds.

It was Smith's first time traveling to the event.

Contestants traveled from places as far away as Canada, Smith said.

"There were about 400 contestants total," Smith said. "There was a combination of 8 standard events plus junior events."

See FINALS RODEO on 6

Youth excels at wrestling

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Wrestling is helping one local student reach new levels of success.

Byron Patt, 7, has been wrestling with the Culver Mat Club for the past two years.

He traveled to Culver two times per week for wrestling practice and participated in meets nearly every weekend. So far he has won 4 medals during various meets.

Patt first started to take interest in wrestling after seeing two of his cousins wrestle. Both cousins won several state championships during their high school years, according to Byron's father, William "Hobo" Patt.

"That's where he kind of got interested," Patt said. "He just watched



Byron Patt

them growing up and then that was the thing to do, I guess."

He started wrestling in Madras when he was five. After that, Bryon began

wrestling with the Culver Mat Club after participating in a wrestling camp there during winter break.

"They've got a great wrestling program here," Patt said.

In fact, Patt encourages other students from Warm Springs to try wrestling. In his opinion, his children's involvement in athletics is one way to keep them from getting involved in activities that won't help them succeed in life.

According to Patt, "It's a little bit of a drive, but heck, it's worth it."

Byron said his favorite part of wrestling is just spending time with his friends—like his four-year-old cousin who also wrestles.

Byron is a first-grade student at Warm Springs Elementary School.

Simnasho to host 31st Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow

The Thirty-First Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow will be Friday-Sunday, Feb. 8-10 at the Simnasho Longhouse.

The powwow activities will begin with a memorial dinner, and opening and blessing at the Simnasho Longhouse this Saturday evening, Feb. 2.

The Memorial is for anyone who is rejoining after the loss of a loved one, and returning to the dancing circle. Also, New Joiners will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8.

Please notify Anna Clements at the Culture and Heritage Department, 553-3290, if you are planning to participate in the memorial on February 2.

Note: Queen Candidates are Tahmara Clements, Mileena Edwards, Soraya Mendez and Arlene David. Please support the girls in our powwow fundraising effort by purchasing raffle tickets.

Thank you.
2008 Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee.