

Greg Leo photo for the Spilyay.

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah, and Joeinne Caldwell, Port of Cascade Locks commissioner, sign an option agreement for property at the tribes' proposed casino site at Cascade Locks. The agreement, signed last week, gives the tribes the option to purchase the 25-acre casino site, plus surrounding acreage for parking. The tribes would exercise the option if the casino proposal is approved by the Department of the Interior.

Plea entered in artifact case

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A Selby man pleaded guilty last week to excavating and trafficking American Indian artifacts found along the Missouri River. Brian E. Ekrem faces up to two years in federal prison and

a \$250,000 fine at his sentencing in August. The 28-year-old Ekrem admitted that he sold, bought and exchanged artifacts or offered to do so. They included beads, stone

points, knives and blades, bone tools, cannonballs, copper bracelets and pottery. He's one of five men indicted in a federal case. Two others also have pleaded guilty.

CAR STEREO

SOUNDZ UNLIMITED



1225 SW Hwy. 97
Madras, OR 97741
475-7123

Car Audio - CB Radios

Committee backs EchoHawk for BIA job

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A U.S. Senate Committee has given the nod to making Larry EchoHawk the next head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. EchoHawk, a former Idaho Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate, was nominated to be the next Assistant Secretary for In-

dian Affairs by President Barack Obama last month. The nomination was approved by a voice vote Thursday by the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs and now goes to the full Senate for consideration. The nomination also has the support of Sen. Mike Crapo. The Idaho Republican says

EchoHawk has a diverse background and experience that make him a qualified candidate for the job. EchoHawk, a member of the Pawnee tribe and law professor at Brigham Young University, served as Idaho's Attorney General from 1991 through 1995.

Collection of Native crafts donated

MOCLIPS, Wash. (AP) — A stout, cylindrical basket of cedar bark and bear grass sits in a glass display case in the Ocean Crest Resort lounge. It has intricate, tightly-woven patterns: a black canoe silhouette, purple birds and a thin border of geometric shapes around the rim. The Quinault basket is one of about two dozen on display at the resort. The baskets were recently donated to the Museum of

the North Beach by Barbara Topete, founder of the Ocean Crest Resort. Her donation includes baskets, dolls and beadwork. The majority of her collection is made up of Quinault baskets, but it contains pieces from all over Washington and Canada. "I just feel it's beautiful workmanship and it's a practice that very little is being done now," said Topete, who is 89. "They're something that should be shared."

A handful are on display at the resort and the museum, but most are in storage because the museum neither has the room nor the proper cases to show the collection and keep it from deteriorating. The museum is planning on moving into a replica of the Northern Pacific Railroad depot that served as a center of commerce in Moclips until it was torn down in the 1950s.

Study looks at early use of Navajo smoke signals

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Armed with special flares, archaeologists and a team of volunteers are fanning out over part of the Four Corners region to send out smoke signals as part of an experiment designed to learn more about how early Navajos may have defended their territory. There are more than 200 pueblitos — usually high on rock outcroppings overlooking the San Juan Basin — that archaeologists believe were built by Navajos three centuries ago to protect themselves from Spanish explorers and neighboring tribes. The sites feature the remains of what were once formidable structures made of stacked sandstone. The theory is that Navajos bunkered down inside the pueblitos and possibly used smoke to signal to other sites, said Jim Copeland, an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Farmington. Copeland said previous experiments in the early 1990s verified the general concept, but scores of new sites have been identified since then and improved computer modeling and analysis has refined the idea of an "early warning system." "We're still trying to confirm

long distance and questionable views," Copeland said. "A lot of them are kind of no-brainers. You can pretty much see from A to B, but A to C was sort of questionable and that's the kind of thing we want to test." The volunteers planned to head out to some of the remote defensive sites on Saturday. Their mission: Get there by noon, set off their smoke signals and scan the horizon for other columns of smoke. Much of the area where New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah meet is known as Dinetah, the ancestral homeland of the Navajos. The tribe's traditional creation story centers on the area. "The Dinetah essentially is the emergence place of the Navajo," said Ron Maldonado, program manager of the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department. He said Navajo ancestors spread out from here to occupy much of the Four Corners region. Because of pressure from the Spanish and other tribes, he said they retreated to Dinetah and built defensive structures. "If you hear an enemy approaching, you climb into these things and pull up the ladder and you can seal yourself in for a

while," he said. Tree ring dating shows most of the sites are from the early 1700s, said Patrick Hogan, associate director of the University of New Mexico's Office of Contract Archaeology.

IRA'S SALES & SERVICE, INC.

Junk Cars - Call Tiger at 419-7379



Scrap Metal, Used Auto & Truck Parts, Wrecking Service, Diesel Trucks, Pick-ups & Cars


475-3861

181 SW Merritt Lane, Madras



Black Bear Diner

Grrreat Family Food



BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

• Senior Menu • Children's Menu • Daily Specials

237 S.W. 4th Street, Madras • 475-6632 OPEN 6 am - 10 pm DAILY

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Served All Day

No Foolin - The Best Food In Town!