

Mystery novel has local connection

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

The fourth novel in the popular McAllister Files series, by Patricia Rushford and Harrison James, is titled *She Who Watches*, taking its name from the petroglyph along the Columbia River.

Rushford says she chose *She Who Watches* as the title after she did some research on the petroglyph.

"My co-author suggested it," Rushford said, "and I am fascinated with petroglyphs and other artifacts."

Much of the novel is set in Portland and Vancouver. However, some events take place in Warm Springs.

Rushford says that she and her family have been to the res-



Book cover of *She Who Watches*

Rushford said. "He is my expert."

The two main characters of the novel take over an FBI investigation after the body of a senator's niece is found just off the reservation. Does the murder have something to do with the state senator's opposition to the Gorge casino?

"With this novel, as well as with the first three in the series," Rushford says, "James and I based the stories on real cases he had worked on. Since they are novels, they are fiction. But we used much of the same CSI details and techniques that my OSP detective friend has used or has knowledge of."

Rushford says that she has much respect when it comes to Native American tradition and the petroglyph *She Who Watches*,

and she looks forward to visiting the Gorge casino when it becomes a reality.

Rushford's first book, *Have You Hugged Your Teenager Today*, was published in 1983. Her novel, *Silent Witness*, was nominated for an Edgar Allen Poe Award.

Her advice to people who would like to become a writer? "Write something every day, whether it's a story or a poem or a journal entry... and read voraciously, many different books."

The Christian mystery McAllister Files series includes *Secrets, Lies and Alibis, Deadfall, and Terminal 9*.

For more information on the McAllister Files, visit the author's Web site: www.patricia.rushford.com.

Births

LaRose Marie Hoptowit
Lance Hunter Boise and Dawn Jacquelyn Hoptowit of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter LaRose Marie Hoptowit, born on November 18, 2009.

LaRose joins three sisters, Danielle, Ikeana and Tamera. Grandparent on the father's side is Elizabeth Ann Yaw of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the

mother's side are Tamera Jay Kalama of Warm Springs, and Dondi Jay Hoptowit of Warm Springs.

Samuel Alexander Kauffman
Eric Thomas Kauffman Sr. and Sherry Lynn Saunders of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their son Samuel Alexander Kauffman, born on November 17, 2009.

Christmas stocking raffle

Prizes in the Christmas stocking raffle are 3-by-3-foot Christmas stockings. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Need not be present to win. Drawing

on Dec. 24. See these people to get your tickets: Rita Squiempfen, Shawna Jackson, Ina Schuster, CR Begay, Val Squiempfen.

Probate public administrator explains estate settlement process

By Maria Godines
Public Administrator
Tribal Court Probate

It is a great honor and a privilege to work for our people within our tribe.

It has been 11 months since I started work here in Tribal Court Probate. Through this time I have learned professionally as well as personally about our rights, tribal code, our people and the legalities that consist in a probate estate.

Currently, Tribal Court Probate staff are Stevie Hicks, probate assistant, and myself.

At this time we would like the community to be aware of funds that are held by the state(s) and the Department of Interior that you may be entitled to.

Through the probate process, we have searched on the state sites and obtained funds on behalf of the decedent's estate.

For Oregon there is Department State Lands at:

www.oregonstatelands.us
Go to the site and click on "Unclaimed Property Name Search" under Agency Services and follow their instructions for a claim. This is not land, it is money.

If you lived in other states

you may go to:

www.claimyourcash.org
You do not have to join or have an account to enter this Web site, just click on "Heir Finder/Asset Locator" at the left hand side. Also on this Web site are other agencies a person may check to see if there are unclaimed funds.

Since probate does not have jurisdiction over any asset under the Department of Interior, we have not submitted any claims. But as an heir to an estate you may be interested to see if your name or someone you know is listed at www.doi.gov/ost/iim/index.html, the DOI Office of Special Trustee, to make a claim follow their contact information.

The probate process

Many people have asked why does it take so long to complete the probate process.

Well, there are several steps, and it takes months to complete a probated estate.

The following are steps that are taken. Please keep in mind this is just a list of steps and that there is work to be done for each step:

1) Enter the person's death information in the probate

book.

2) Research if there is a will.
3) Obtain death certificate and family history chart from tribal Vital Statistics or other tribal department if not enrolled here.

4) Enter information in database.
5) Open a file, insert tabs, and secure any documents received.

6) Petition to Probate and Petition to Change Mailing Address to judge; obtain from judge Order to Probate, Letter of Administration, and Order to Change Mailing Address; complete Notice to Creditors; and post in Spilyay and in the community Notice to Creditors and Order to Probate.

7) Fill out Change of Address Form from U.S. Postal Service and give a copy of the order to change mailing address.

8) If there is a will, send a true copy to the heirs with a time frame set to object to the will.

If an objection is received schedule a court date and send notification to heirs.

9) Post second Notice to Creditors in Spilyay and the community.

10) Complete Final Account (a listing of assets and liabilities and distribution of assets). Pe-

tion to the judge for an Order Setting a Time for Objections to the Final Account; Mail Final Account to heirs, CTWS Tribal Credit, and BIA Probate.

If an objection is received schedule a court date and send notification to heirs.

11) Petition to the judge for an Order Allowing Final Account and Distribution

12) Make a copy of Order Allowing Final Account and Distribution and submit it to Cash Management along with payment authorization forms. Cash Management then sends it to Accounts Payable to write a check.

13) Pick up the check(s) from Accounts Payable; complete a receipt for claims and notify heirs that checks are ready to pick up and have the receipt for claims signed by heir.

14) Have paper work done for a quit claim deed for homes and/or bill of sale for vehicles.

15) Petition to the judge for an Order to Close the Estate.

Instead of opening estates as a death occurs, we have been opening estates quarterly: January, April, July, and October.

By opening the probate estates quarterly it sets a precedent for appropriately scheduling time needed for preparing the estate file and legal documents.

Between opening quarterly probate estates we have been reviewing files in the cabinets and entering pertinent information in a electronic database in order to keep a more efficient filing of estates, to be able to extract information for the probate process and to know how far probate is back logged; and

we have been working on the estates that have funds with cash management, as well as when people are coming forth.

If you have questions regarding Tribal Probate please contact me or Stevie Hicks at 553-3264, CTWS Tribal Probate, PO Box 850, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

If you have questions about trust funds or land held by BIA Department of Interior, you may contact Cheri Johnson at 503-736-4710, Probate, BIA NW Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday

of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call us at 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Opal Day Spa



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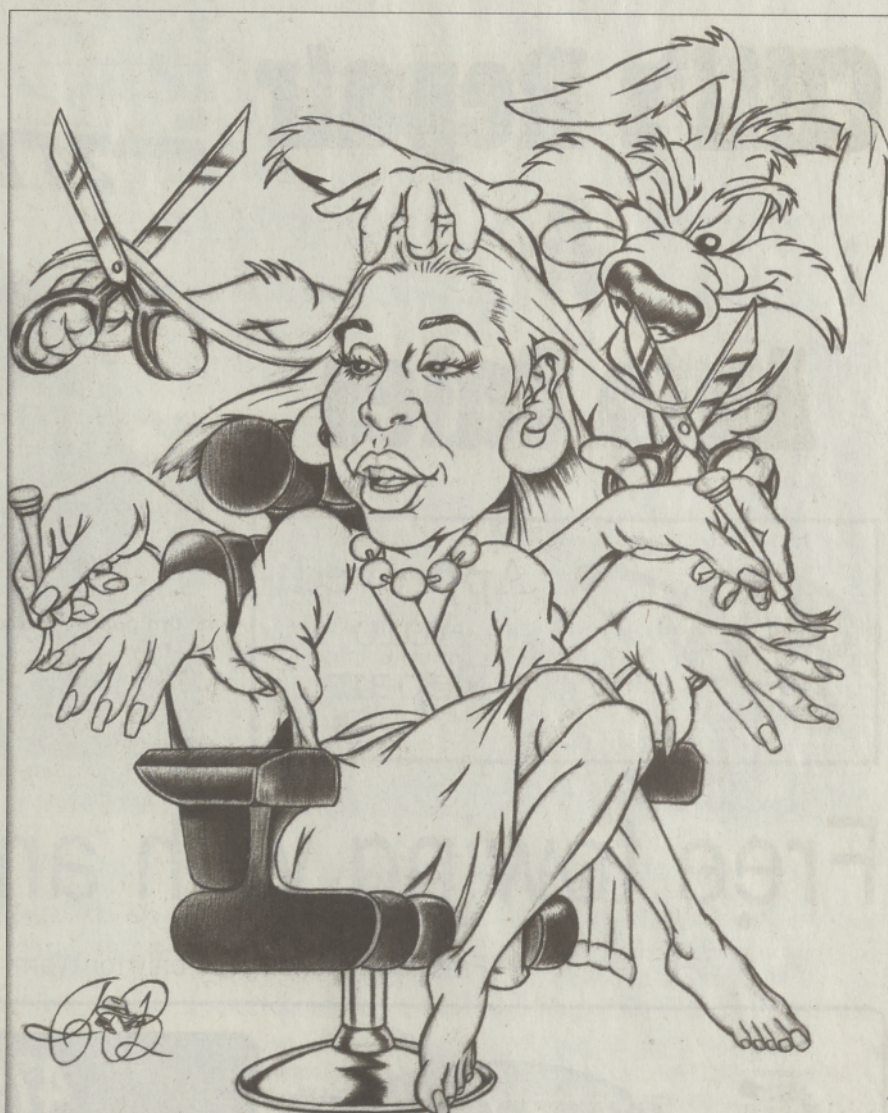
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Opal Day Spa Coloring Contest



Hey, kids, want to win a free haircut and facial for your mom for Christmas? Color in the drawing and bring it to the Spilyay at the media center, or send it to P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761. The contest is open to kids up to age 12.