

High school golfers compete at KNT

The 4A Varsity Boys' District Golf Tournament was held at KNT last week, with five students participating from Madras High School, three of which were from Warm Springs.

Justin Queahpama-Melberg, Devon Thompson, and Cyrus Conner competed against 36 golfers, total.

"They did a good job," Coach Butch David said. "The boys gave it their best shot. We didn't get in there to qualify for state, but I know that they got their best scores."

Madras had 420 for the first time around. On the second day, their score was 377. And on the final day of the tournament, they were at 370.

Schools participating included La Salle, Estacada, North



Devon Thompson (at right) with school golfers at KNT.

Marion, Gladstone, Molalla, Gladstone got first place. La Marshall, and Roosevelt. Austin Landis from — Duran Bobb

Schimmel documentary airs on TLC

The documentary film *Off the Rez*, about college basketball star Shoni Schimmel, premiered last Saturday on TLC (*The Learning Channel*). Check listings for future broadcasts of the film. David Knowles of the *Hollywood Reporter* gave *Off the Rez* a great review, as follows:

Does the anguished history of a people inspire future generations to achieve new heights or is it a millstone around one's neck, ensuring a continued legacy of hardship and despair?

For Shoni Schimmel, a top female high school basketball prospect who grew up on Oregon's Umatilla Indian Reservation, that question is at the center of her quest to make it in a sport with few Native American participants.

Written and directed by Jonathan Hock (*Through the Fire, 30 for 30*), *Off the Rez* paints a deeply affecting portrait of Schimmel and her family as the fledgling star makes the move from the reservation to Portland, where she ascends to national stardom as a junior at Franklin High School.

"Shoni has been taught a lot of the history," Lillian Moses, Shoni's grandmother, says in one of the many one-on-one interviews threaded throughout the engaging film. "So when she plays, it's almost like she plays for the Indian people, and she plays hard."

Ancestral pride is often not a clear-cut matter, however, as the film's most fascinating character, Shoni's fiery mother, Ceci Moses, illustrates.

"The reservation life is a good thing, but it also can be a bad thing," Ceci says. "It can hold you down, it can hold you back, because there are a ton of Indians that have a lot of talent, and they just don't do anything with it."

Once a basketball prodigy in her own right, Ceci is convinced



Shoni Schimmel

she was passed over by college scouts because of her ethnicity, and her reflections about her own career are by turns bitter and defiant.

"People don't usually believe in Native Americans," Ceci says. "But really probably the hardest part is most of the Native Americans don't believe that they have a chance because of what's happened in the past with the Native American people."

Like Steve James' award-winning basketball documentary *Hoop Dreams*, the sport itself serves as a metaphor and the conduit for a story about perseverance, racial politics and inner conflict. It also fills *Off the Rez*, which premiered at this year's Tribeca Film Festival, with an abundance of ready-made drama.

Ceci accepts a coaching job at Franklin so that she can personally foster Shoni's development, and their impact on the formerly flailing team is immediate. It's thrilling to watch Shoni light it up in her first game, scoring a school-record 42 points.

After finishing dead last in the conference the year before, Shoni and her younger sister Jude lead the team to the state tournament, and Shoni is soon ranked as the eighth-best high school player in the nation. But not all of her new neighbors prove so welcoming.

"We've had to endure racial

slurs in the stands," Shoni's white father, Rick, says. "We had a note brought to our door that said, 'Go back to the reservation.'"

After losing his job back on the reservation, Rick struggles to pay the mortgage on the Portland home where Ceci and the couple's seven children now live. The bank threatens foreclosure, and Ceci—having sacrificed so much for Shoni—seems to falter under the pressure.

"They work really hard to mentally defeat the Native American, then the Native American gives up and quits, and a lot of them will go drinking and drugging," Ceci laments, and for a moment you wonder whether that fatalism will send the family back to the reservation once and for all.

Despite scholarship offers from many of the nation's top colleges, Shoni puts off making a decision as to which she'll attend, and the film invites us to think she might opt out of school altogether to stay close to her family.

"We have been conditioned to fail," an elder back on the reservation says. "But Shoni has caught a chance. This whole history of athletes not making it is riding on Shoni's shoulders. Everybody is watching her."

Shoni does persevere, of course, as a human being and as a player. Despite its hard dose of reality, there's plenty of uplifting payoff in *Off the Rez*, and viewers who are not basketball fans will be riveted by the film's tightly edited, climactic scenes of conference playoff games.

Without giving away what happens to Shoni and her family, the most satisfying part of *Off the Rez* is entering the lives of characters seldom seen on American television screens. Their struggles, self-doubt and, yes, triumphs make for an engrossing film, whatever one's race, gender or tribe.

Youth hoops tourney this weekend

The Seventh Annual Squiemphen-Yazzie Youth Basketball Tournament happens this Friday and Saturday, May 21-22 in Warm Springs.

This is a boys 19 and under tourney, 10-team limit, 8-man roster. Double elimination.

Contact Amanda Squiemphen Yazzie for information: 541-325-1572. Secondary contact: Val Squiemphen, 541-325-6412.

Special award: "For Love of the Game" Award. This award is presented to the one special person who demonstrates a commitment to the youth of our reservation. Previous winners are Earl and Rita Squiemphen, Rosa Graybael and Tony Holliday.

Tourney awards include leather sleeve jackets (first-place), hooded sweatshirts (second), crewneck sweatshirts (third), All-Stars, MVP and Sportsmanship.

Players must show proof of age (birth certificate and/or photo identification) in order to play, no exceptions.

Entry fee is \$250. Money orders may be made payable and mailed to: Squiemphen-Yazzie Youth Basketball Tournament, PO Box 734, Warm Springs, 97761.

Must be paid in full before the first game, no exceptions. No personal checks—money orders or cash accepted.

In Training for Pi-Ume-Sha



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Warm Springs boxers are training for the Pi-Ume-Sha bouts, held on the Saturday of the powwow. Pi-Ume-Sha this year will be Friday through Sunday, June 24-26.

Fry Bread golf tourney to tee off

The Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Association will present the Fry Bread Open Golf Tournament, in conjunction with Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, on June 25-26. Here is the schedule of Fry Bread Open events:

Friday, June 24: After 10 a.m., schedule your practice round. Call the pro shop for tee times, 541-553-4971.

Saturday, June 25: 8 a.m., driving range and registration. 9-11:30 a.m., tee times (call Janell Smith at 541-325-2167). As part of Pi-Ume-Sha, the

horse race is at 4 p.m. on this day, followed by dinner at the lodge at 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 26: 8 a.m., driving range; shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Awards following the final round—cash payouts!

Flights: ladies, seniors, championship and first-flight. Handicap: maximum for men is 24 and ladies is 36. Handicap must be current and verifiable, no exceptions. Please be prepared to show your current handicap card.

Special events: KPs, long-

putt, skins, long-drive, deuces, blind-draw and best ball. Entry fees: \$150 per person includes: tournament entry, Saturday and Sunday green fees, tee prize, Saturday barbecue dinner.

For tournament information, call Janell Smith of the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Association at 541-325-2167. You can email her at:

nativglfr@yahoo.com
The pro shop number is 541-553-4971; or 800-831-0100 ext. 3371.

Rialto hosting Schjoll memorial tourney in June

The Rialto Tavern will present the Wayne Schjoll 8-Ball Tournament on June 3-5, mixed doubles, two-man two-woman.

Fifteen dollars per person,

no free subs. First-place: 50 percent, trophy, jackets; second, 30 percent, trophy jackets; third, 20 percent, trophy, jackets. Sportsmanship, top-shooter awards. Winners race to seven, losers

race to five. Limited to first 24 paid teams. For information call Karla Bagley at 541-325-3315; or Clint Smith at 541-419-8675. The Rialto number is 475-6341.

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