

COCC branch opens

Central Oregon Community College opened its Madras branch this month.

Taking part in the opening ceremonies were Marjorie Smith, Jefferson Greene, Kobe Baez-Figueroa, Joseph Smith and Jose Alvarez (from left), who are of the N'chi Wanapum and the Palouse Canoe families.



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Chieftainship: members hold different views

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"I feel we just need three Council people to be nominated into Tribal Council instead of a chief," said Geraldine Jim. "Our Council people need to sit there and do their job. I hope we pick a chief that will get out there and help all the people, no matter what tribe they are. I hope to hear men that are running for

the chief to speak tonight and have their say. I feel the need to pick the chief now. A chief that we feel is going to do the best job for all of us, not just his own family."

"Why don't we have the people come up and give their reason for their nomination?" Mary Tohet said. "Prove to me that you're worthy of this posi-

tion. I am Wasco, I'm all three tribes. What are you going to do for our people?"

"We never had a chief," Demus Martinez said. "We had leaders. I'm wondering why we're having this debate if we never had a chief anyway. The first chief was Queahpama. He was selected. I've talked with a lot of younger people over the

Internet, people my age or younger. They're not happy. They're not being included."

At the meeting Daisy Ike and Cassie Katchia presented their family history. Derek Tasymp told of his qualifications.

Last week's meeting was sponsored by the Katchia family. George Clements was nominated by Terry Courtney.

Letter regarding Chieftainship

I remember back when Chief Queahpama passed away. A year afterwards, the longhouse elders got together at HeHe and talked for about ten days, deciding what to do about the chieftainship.

At that time, the longhouse elders had the say, because they were the ones who helped the head chief decide the right thing to do for the people.

The longhouse people were five in numbers. The chief alone did not, by himself, make decisions without his advisors.

At the meeting they chose some men until they narrowed the candidates down,

by election, to my uncle and foster-father, Charley McKinley's brother.

Charley was an eagle-whistle blower at all the gatherings. The elders chose Isaac McKinley by vote to become the chief. He did not choose this on his own.

The longhouse elders then chose and named those who would become successors.

Delvis Heath did not become chief by any chosen people, but by the choice of the old longhouse elders. Yet, he says my uncle, Isaak McKinley, was not a recognized chief. My uncle, Isaak, was one of the first Council members. He traveled to Washington D.C. several times with George Meacham

and O.B. Kalama, who were never recognized by the big shots at D.C.

Isaak alone had to conduct business in D.C. on the dams. He came back and said that anyone who owned a home at Celilo would get a home built for them on the reservation, which never came to be. The Rock Creek people came and claimed all the houses that are built at Celilo now.

I remember there were Indian/French people from Idaho that had houses built. But those of us that were born in Celilo and owned homes there didn't have houses built.

This is a bit of history that I remember, from back when I

was around 13 years old. The elders at that time told the people that no longer would the chieftainship be hereditary, but it would be decided on by the people by a vote.

After my uncle was elected chief, they had a big giveaway at HeHe. They didn't have the kind that you see today—these were items of real traditional value to the people, items that the family worked hard to gather. There were Pendleton blankets, horse saddles. The family didn't depend on the tribes for support at this time, the way it seems to be done today. This was all a family effort.

Maxine McKinley.

Teleco beta testing

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"These towers would be tall enough to supplement the Sidwalter tower. Once we get those in place, we'll get the fiber running in."

Bandwidth on the reservation is expected to more than quadruple in capacity, which many broadband customers should notice right away.

Some of the fiber optic lines have been buried on the reservation. However, there's more work to do, more fiber to lay. "When we applied for funds, we didn't think the casino would be right down the road. So we have to change some thing around. This project is constantly moving"

But so far, the project is entirely on budget and within the

expected timeline.

When the telco begins providing residential customers with service in November, the broadband connection will be on a fixed loop.

Customers will receive a wireless router which will connect to a canopy antenna on the roof of their home. This antenna will be aimed at one of the towers.

"This is going to deliver the telephone line dial tone and also the broadband through the same little antenna. That's the quick and easy way to deploy broadband."

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Co. plans to get the service into place this year and then cover the reservation entirely next year.

Wild-fish groups to sue over Elwha River hatchery

SEATTLE (AP) — Wild-fish advocates say they plan to sue federal and Washington state agencies over a fish hatchery built as part of the Elwha River restoration project.

Wild Fish Conservancy and others say the hatchery threatens the recovery of salmon and other threatened fish. They say the process did not go through proper review.



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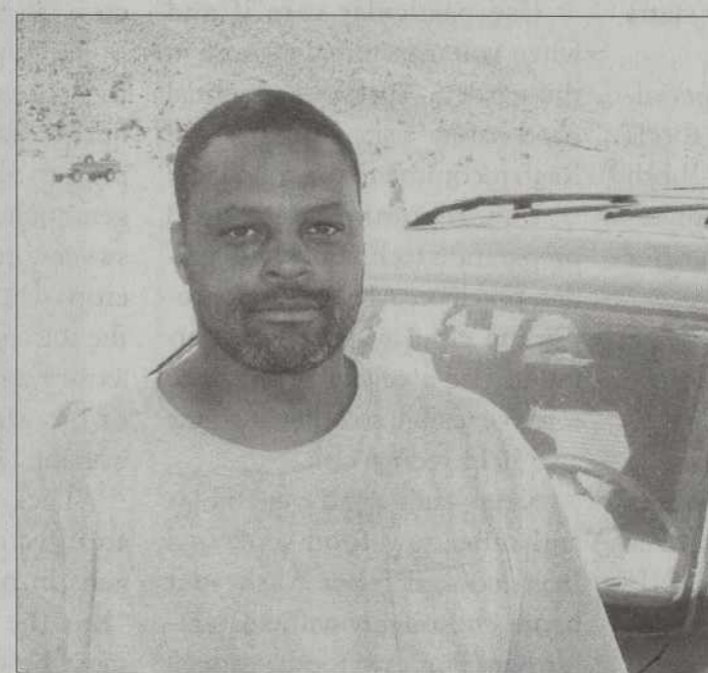
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