

Smith Team first in national standings

The Jason Smith Team took first place at the Professional Team Bronc Riding National Finals, held recently at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. The Jason Smith Team also ranked first in the end of the year National Standings.

At the Team Bronc Riding, or Wild Horse Race, finals, the Spud Smith Jr. Team of Madras took second place; and the Atcity Begay Team took third.

This was the first time the Team Bronc Riding National Finals were held in the region. "I think it went great," said Jason Smith.

Other results from the Finals were: Bill Coporgno Team, fourth; TeamAgin.com Team, fifth; and the James Ferderer Team, sixth.

The Spud Smith Jr. Team was ranked third in the end of year National Standings; and the Atcity Begay Team was fifth.



Jason Smith Team was first in the National Standings.

Photo courtesy of Snap Shots.

One Way Youth event Sunday

There will be a free meal provided by One Way Youth on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Warm Springs Baptist Church, 2230 Elliot Heights.

One Way Youth will also be accepting cash donations, plus soda bottles and cans, to put toward youth events.

This will help the group to

serve the community and raise money for youth events.

There will be a raffle for baked goods and other great items. Raffle tickets are \$1 a piece, or ten for \$8.

Any questions? Please call youth director Kirsten at 503-927-9299.

Howlak Tichum

RITA LEE SQUIEMPHEN (Wa-Thlu-Na)

Rita Squiemphen was born July 8, 1931 in Warm Springs, Oregon and went to be with our Creator January 11, 2012 in Bend, Oregon.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Earl and five children: son, Terry Squiemphen (wife Gladys); daughters Valerie and Earlyne Squiemphen; Sammi O'Reilly (husband Tom), CR Begay (husband Anson) and son-in-law Edison Yazzie, all of Warm Springs.

She has 11 grandchildren, Monica, Gary, Vernon, Phil, Lynn, Amanda Jo, Teri Jo, Chance, Topaz, Blaine & Destry; and 12 great grandchildren, Gary III, Arrita, Jordan, Jeston, Kalynn, Brody, Aurora, Thyrecia, Zachary, Aaron, Scott & Joetta.

She also leaves behind adopted kids Tom Estimo Jr., Lawrence Squiemphen Jr., Shawna Jackson, Marva Meanus and Lois Squiemphen. She leaves brothers Russell, Alfred Jr. and Wissie Smith and sister, Ginger Smith, all of Warm Springs.

Rita was a respected Tribal Member Elder and an outspoken Tribal Council member, having served 24 years on Council; in that time serv-



ing on various committees, including Health and Welfare, Culture and Heritage, Kah-Nee-Ta Board, WSFPI Board, Land Use, and Fish and Wildlife.

She was an outspoken advocate for Education for Tribal Members, Tribal Member employment and economic development for the Tribal Organization. She always expressed a deep passion and concern for The Confederated Tribes.

Although no longer serving as a Council member, many tribal members approached her, seeking advice, guidance or words of encouragement. She never turned anyone away and always had a smile on her face.

Rita mentored a lot of the younger people, giving them advice to help them better themselves, sharing ideas, concerns and just keeping up with everyone she came into contact with.

She had many friends, among our Tribal people, as well as people associated with the Tribe. People always knew where she stood on issues, she was never afraid to tell people what she thought.

She took great pride in her kids, grandkids and great grandkids, always encouraging them to finish school, to always stay active with sports, to always follow their dreams and always work hard.

She was an avid horsewoman in her younger years; she was a jockey, as were the rest of the girls in her family; she could break horses with the best of men and her parents taught her the meaning of "hard work," working on the family ranch.

She was always busy fundraising; her motto was, "Don't take any money that you could raise yourself," and "Don't buy what you can't pay for."

She was a very ambitious lady, always taking classes in the care of horses and other livestock. She organized local clinics for Barrel Racing, Team Roping, and other events. She was always generous in sharing her knowledge of whatever was asked for.

She and Earl took in foster kids, helping and teaching them the meaning of "honest, hard work." She also helped many people that had health issues or

lost a home to fire by doing fund-raising for them. She was always one of those that helped when someone lost a loved one, by baking pies or cakes for their dinner.

Rita was very passionate about her Tribe, always looking for ways to help better our Reservation and help Tribal Members. It didn't matter what district you were from, she was willing to help everyone. She was one of those people that led by example; if she couldn't get results one way, she'd look for another way to get it done. If it was within her power, She'd Get It Done!

Rita was always looking ahead to the future, trying to find ways to make things better for her family; putting them first before herself. She stepped in when someone lost a beloved mother; giving them the comfort and support they needed. She will be greatly missed.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Alfred Sr. and Lucinda Smith, daughter, Priscilla; grandsons Dan and Thurman; brothers, Sylvester, Jonas, Roscoe Smith; sisters, Maxine, Gloria, and Della Smith, Martha Frank and Louise Langley.

Missing



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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 Warm Springs Community Action Team building, 1136 Paiute Ave, Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944 Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (at lunch from noon-1 p.m.)

Interior releases \$1.9B plan to buy Indian land

HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Federal officials have released their proposal on how they plan to spend \$1.9 billion to buy up Native American-owned fractionated land tracts and turn them over to tribes.

The program is part of a \$3.4 billion settlement of a class-action lawsuit over Indian land

royalties mismanaged by the government.

The Interior Department says in its draft plan released Thursday that it will target the most fractionated lands and the most willing landowners to complete the program within 10 years. The proposal is open to public comment for the next 45

days.

Land fractionation was caused by the 1887 Dawes Act, which split tribal lands into individual allotments often inherited by multiple heirs with each generation. The Interior Department has identified 88,638 fractionated land tracts owned by nearly 2.8 million people.

Emotional adoption case may weigh state, fed law

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) - A South Carolina adoption case is pitting the couple who nurtured a 2-year-old girl against the child's biological father, a Cherokee Nation tribal member who took her back to Oklahoma after winning custody of her.

The South Carolina Supreme Court has agreed to hear the

case, and the justices could for the first time be weighing state adoption law against a federal law, little known in South Carolina, meant to protect Native American children. It's not entirely clear why a family court judge granted custody to the girl's father because the case record is confidential.

But a Charleston adoption attorney who has been watching the case closely said the judge may have ruled as he did because of the federal law. Or the judge may also have questioned the validity of a waiver signed by 2-year-old Veronica's father allowing her to be put up for adoption.



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