

Holiday Pageants



Warm Springs Elementary students (above) perform their Holiday Music Program, which aired on KWSO 91.9 FM. *Peace Came In a Cradle*, written by Carol Allison and directed by Lucinda Green, was performed at the Agency Longhouse this year (right). Children in attendance were able to visit with Santa as well.



News from Indian Country

Singer's Navajo blankets set for auction

NEW YORK (AP) — The late American crooner Andy Williams, famous for easy-listening hits such as "Moon River" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" from his beloved Christmas TV specials, had a passion for Navajo blankets. He assembled a museum-quality collection that's slated to be auctioned for more than \$1 million next year. The bold, colorful wool blankets decorated his home and office and also the Moon River Theater in Branson, Mo., where they hung alongside large photographs of Mr. Williams with other musical legends of the 20th century like Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand," said David Roche, Sotheby's consultant on American Indian art. The sale is scheduled for

late May. Williams began acquiring the blankets in the 1950s, when only a handful of people were collecting them. The top lot is a rare Navajo Man's Wearing Blanket, woven in a "chief's first phase design" characterized by the addition of fine red stripes. Only about 50 are known to exist. Its pre-sale estimate is \$200,000 to \$300,000. "The red cloth was a very rare commodity and the effort to produce this yarn was painstaking," said Roche, Sotheby's consultant on American Indian art who knew Williams personally. The collection numbers about 80 blankets, most woven from handspun wool. "The early blankets are woven in limited palettes of natural brown and ivory, indigo blue and crimson red," said Roche. After 1870, there was an explosion of color because dyes from the East Coast became available through trade to the Navajo, he said. Williams' blankets were featured at the St. Louis Art Museum in 1997-1998 in an exhibition titled "Navajo Weavings from the Collection of Andy Williams." He died in September at age 84. The baritone was known for his wholesome, middle-America appeal and easy-listening hits including the theme to the Oscar-winning tearjerker "Love Story." He outlasted many of the decade's rock stars and fellow crooners such as Sinatra and Perry Como. He remained on the charts into the 1970s and continued to perform into his 80s.

Around the Region

Locksmith returns \$50,000 found in safe

BEND (AP) — A thank-you note to a Central Oregon locksmith was addressed to "the most honest man in Bend" after he returned \$50,000 he found in a safe's secret compartment. Bryan Donnell retrieved a customer's 1,000-pound safe last week. He's used to find-

ing jewels and some cash, but nothing like the stacks of \$100 bills wrapped in rubber bands. The safe's former owner, 57-year-old Dale Parkinson, tells The Bulletin of Bend, Ore., that he and his wife pulled the money from their life savings in 2007, fearing a

potential financial collapse. They also bought a safe, and snuck \$50,000 into a secret compartment. Then, apparently, they forgot about it. Parkinson decided to put the money back in the bank this year and sold the safe to Donnell.

Glacier park looks to influence Blackfeet drilling

BROWNING, Mont. (AP) — On the edge of the Blackfeet Indian reservation, oil exploration companies are drilling wells as the tribe dreams of a strike that will lift its people out of poverty. Not much oil has been found, but beneath the reservation is a rock formation that some believe could unleash a mini boom. That potential has raised concerns at Glacier National Park, where officials warn about potential impact on grizzly bear habitat and wilderness views.

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Deer Ridge prison cells may remain empty

(AP) — Gov. John Kitzhaber's bid to limit the growth in spending on Oregon prisons likely means that a large part of a Central Oregon lockup will remain unused. The Deer Ridge Correctional Institution near Madras was opened in 2007 with a minimum-security section for

644 inmates — although populations have exceeded that as the state used double bunks and other measures to increase capacity. A medium-security section, where the stated capacity was 1,224, was completed a year later, but as the economy slumped into the Great Recession and state

revenue faltered, it was mothballed. If lawmakers in the upcoming session agree to cap Oregon's inmate population at 14,600, it could mean the medium-security portion of Deer Ridge will remain shuttered another 10 years. Department of Corrections Director Colette Peters

said the current 14-prison system "can absorb 300 inmates," which is the cap the governor has proposed. Minimum-security prisons generally have dormitory-style living spaces with greater freedom of movement for inmates who often are using treatment and education programs.

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