

Emerson 'Chief' Smith (crossing the finish line, right) won the Senior division of the Pi-Ume-Sha Endurance Horse Race, followed by Terry Isadore.

Winning the Junior Division was Avan Rhoan (in front below), followed by Isaiah Cochran; and Lesi Hisatake.



Photos courtesy Emily Cureton/OPB



Saturday afternoon at Pi-Ume-Sha, with Court Royalty (below).



Jayson Smith photos

Thirty-Five Years as Warm Springs Chief

Chief Delvis Heath Sr. joined the Tribal Council in 1984. Family and friends in June marked the 35-year anniversary of the occasion with a celebration at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Chief Heath is the hereditary Chief of the Warm Springs Tribe, his fathering being the late Chief Nathan Heath, who passed away in 1969.

At that time, Chief Delvis felt he was not ready to assume the Chieftainship, and declined. The Sahaptin people decided that Amos Simtustus Sr. would become Chief, with the agreement that Delvis would become Warm Springs Chief upon Chief Simtustus' passing.

This happened in 1984, and Chief Heath has been on Council ever since. Tribal fishing rights and natural resources, the Treaty, sovereignty and tribal health issues are some of the Chief's areas of expertise.

He is the tribes' foremost goodwill ambassador, and a leading figure at ceremonial functions, being a speaker of the Native Sahaptin.

He was born on the family ranch near Simnasho in 1938. He is the son of Nathan and Lilly Heath. Since his youth Chief Heath has also been known as 'Bullneck.'

His grandfather William McBride raced horses, and it was not long before young Delvis was riding his grandfather's horses in races around the area.



Warm Springs Tribes photos

Davis Washines, Yakama General Council, Chief Heath, and Virgil Lewis of the Yakama Council, at the anniversary celebration in June at the Simnasho Longhouse.

The late Martinez Heath, one of Delvis' younger brothers, became one of the top jockeys in the United States in the 1960s and '70s.

Delvis married Shirley Stahi, of Celilo Village, in 1960, and they are still married. For many years the family ran the Chief Heath horse stables at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

Besides horsemanship, he is known for his golf and bowling skills.



Chief Heath with family at the 35-Year Anniversary Celebration.



Levi Blackwolf at Saturday Pi-Ume-Sha.

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July

Pt'akpt'akni

Ichishkiin snwit (Sahaptin Language)

Ichaxwdemalal Akłmin

"ATTACKING MONTH" REFERRING TO FISH ADVANCING - COMING UP THE RIVERS IN SCHOOLS
Kikshat awawat (Wasco Language)

Tatza

Numu (Paiute)

SUMMER

Shatm

Ichishkiin snwit (Sahaptin Language)

Chagwaix

Kikshat awawat (Wasco Language)

Tatzea

Numu (Paiute)

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