

Ancient petroglyphs moving closer home

Two petroglyphs located outside the historic Grant House near Fort Vancouver will soon return closer to their place of origin. The petroglyphs are believed to be up to 10,000 years old.

The ancient works were carved by artists from the Native American tribes who lived by the Columbia River Gorge, in an area near what is now The Dalles—Ceded homelands of the Wasco and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The relocation project will see that the two petroglyphs move to the Columbia Hills Historical State Park this fall. The project is a partnership among the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Nez Perce Tribe, plus the city of Vancouver, Clark County Historical Society, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The petroglyphs for now sit covered in lichen, and surrounded by foliage on the lawn of the Grant House



The petroglyphs show heads, though the underlying interpretation remains a mystery lost to time.

Eatery. “They don’t belong to us. They belong to the tribes,” said Kerry Peck, a support specialist for Vancouver’s Art, Culture and Heritage Commission.

In the 1950s the U.S. government approved construction of the Dalles Dam. This would flood

tribal sites and the tribal art. At the time an excavation effort led by the tribes, in conjunction with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, recovered around 40 petroglyphs before the dam flooded the area in 1957.

Most of the recovered works are already gathered

at Columbia Hills Historical State Park in a permanent outdoor display called ‘Tamani Pesh-Wa, or ‘Written on the Rock.’

Weighing in at about 2 and one-half tons apiece, the two petroglyphs at the Grant House arrived in Vancouver in 1957 as a donation.

The petroglyphs depict a head—but the exact meaning remains a mystery, lost to time.

Both of these works came from Spedis Valley, just upstream of what would eventually be The Dalles Dam.

According to Liz Oliver, an archaeologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, representatives from the city and the Clark County Historical Society a few years ago approached the Corps with a request to return the petroglyphs to their place of origin.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission approved the project application in July. The petroglyphs will join the other works on display as part of Tamani Pesh-Wa, along with a new 200-foot dry-stack wall to protect the installation.

W.S. Covid update

For the health and safety of the tribal community, Tribal Council has ordered the closure of the organization at least through this week.

Reservation testing numbers

The following are the updated Covid-19 testing figures for the reservation and membership, as of earlier this week:

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center has sent in or tested 2,266 total samples. Of the total, there were 1,997 negative results, with 42 tests pending, as of Tuesday morning.

There have been 212 total positive cases. Twenty-two people have been hospitalized due to the virus. Seventeen were discharged. One-hundred seventy-six people have recovered.

There have been four deaths directly attributed to the virus.

The testing lab is taking one- to two days to provide the results. The maximum daily capacity for rapid tests is 20 to 22.

As of earlier this week, five members remained hospitalized, with two on ventilators.

Most recently there were an estimated 36 active cases on the reservation, done from more than 70 two weeks ago.

Since Health and Wellness began testing in March, the positivity rate has been an average of 9.3 percent. The center has tested approximately 40.1 percent of the total user population.

An critical reminder from the Tribal Council: If you are positive with the coronavirus, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs expects you to be responsible and isolate yourself.

If a person on the reservation does not comply with the tribal quarantine, isolation, community health and safety laws—thereby putting the safety of others in jeopardy—then tribal Ordinance 101 allows the detention of that person.

The Tribal Council and the Warm Springs Covid-19 Response team ask you to please continue the use of face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene.

Talk to your family about refraining from gatherings, especially with non-immediate family who live outside of your immediate household.

‘Coming Home’ blog with KWSO

by Travis Gilmour

Coming Home—Warm Springs

You have likely heard the folks at KWSO talking about a new project called *Coming Home—Warm Springs*.

This is a part of a nationwide grant, funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The aim is to tell stories in our country’s rural areas.

Sue Matters at KWSO and I have been working together for a few years to find a project like this that would be a good fit for Warm Springs. And, being who we are, we wanted to do it a little differently.

Our “pitch” to the funders, and now to you, is maybe deceptively simple: What if—rather than bringing in folks from other places to tell the stories in Warm Springs—we invested our energies into you the people who call this home?

What if we worked to give you the skills, the tools, and the space to tell your own stories? And what if we could identify the group of people with stories to tell, and let them take the lead?

The way we’re moving forward with our plan, for now at least, will take place on the KWSO website.

I’ll be writing a series of articles that describe many of the key elements of the ‘how to’ in learning and growing as a filmmaker and digital storyteller.

Many of the essential qualities you need to be successful at this—curiosity, a desire to know and learn and help your community, deep knowledge of the place you call home—you already have.

As folks start to get interested and engaged, we’ll work to expand it in a more interactive way. We’ll find a path together to learn the tools, skills and techniques you can use to build your ability to identify stories, plan how you can tell the story, and actually produce a finished product.



My hope is that by putting this information together in one place—online at kwsu.org—we can create a roadmap for expanding this project together.

I believe we can produce some of your story ideas into meaningful professional quality videos for you, your family, the community, and people who may never even

visit Warm Springs.

There may even be opportunities to expand what we do, and help a project like this grow in other communities.

In the meantime, stay tuned. As we publish material at kwsu.org, we’ll also create ways for you to stay up-to-date on when new posts are published, ask questions,

share your experiences and have fun with it.

Also in the meantime if you have questions, or want to connect with me directly, feel free to email travis@videodads.com



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