



Spilyay Tym

Coyote News, est. 1976

P.O. Box 870
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Warm Springs, OR 97761
35 cents

News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

Dec. 13, 2001 Vol. 26, No. 25



Photo by Dave McMechan

HoHo

Many young tribal members enjoyed a visit from Santa last week at the Community Wellness Center. People sang carols in English and Indian languages. The event was the annual tree-lighting ceremony.

Spirit of condor still alive

Giant bird used to inhabit the Columbia Gorge

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Staff

For thousands of years the bird lived along the river. Indian people there would see it perched in the alder trees along the shore.

In flight the bird would soar to great heights. It could spot its food – carrion on the ground – from high up in the air.

The bird – called the California condor, or to some the Thunderbird – used to live at the Columbia River Gorge.

The condor disappeared from Oregon and the Gorge several decades ago. It was a large and powerful bird, but sensitive and vulnerable to changes in the environment.

The condor lived at the Gorge for thousands of years, but became extinct there not too long after white people arrived.

It is not clear when the last of the condors in Oregon disappeared. Some say they saw them in the Gorge area as recently as the 1950s.

The condor is no longer there, but memories of the bird still remain. Some tribal elders remember stories of the condor. And the image of the bird appears on Indian bags and baskets, and in beadwork designs.

The bird was important spiritually to Indian people who lived along the river. Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum talks of the significance that the condor had for his tribe.

The condor, he says, was the Thunderbird. Wasco people kept young condors in their villages for protection from thunderstorms, said Chief Wallulatum.

The idea may have been that a storm would not harm a village where its own young – the baby condors – were living. Or the storm may have shown sympathy for a village where the people were caring for young condors.



Photo by Dave McMechan

Chief Wallulatum wears condor badge; bag features bird.



The adult condor was the biggest of all birds. It had a wingspan of nine feet. Some Indian stories tell of the condor flying away with a person.

Cyrus Katchia remembers a story about a young boy who told a lie to his grandfather. The condor carried the child away to the south. The boy did not return for 11 years.

“You learned not to tell a lie,” said Cy Katchia.

Condors were in the news recently

when the Oregon Zoo in Portland announced its participation in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife California condor restoration program.

The Oregon Zoo will help in the raising of young condors that later will be released into the wild on the southern California coast and at the Grand Canyon.

This announcement drew attention to the fact that condors used to live in Oregon at the Columbia River Gorge.

Some people then asked the question: Could the condor be restored to its native habitat in the Columbia River Gorge? The answer to this question seems to be, Maybe, but it would take quite a few years, if not decades.

When the Oregon Zoo announced its participation in the California condor program, on hand for the event were Chief Wallulatum; Patricia Courtney Gold, who is a Wasco basket artist; and Louis Pitt, director of Government Affairs of the Confederated Tribes.

Asked recently for his thoughts on the subject, Pitt said that re-introduction of the condor to its traditional areas in Oregon would be a serious challenge.

The condor, he said, relies on a large expanse of territory for searching and scavenging of food.

The natural environment in Oregon has been altered to the point where it may no longer be able to support a population of condors, said Pitt.

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Police continue work on burglary probe

By Selena Boise
Spilyay Staff

In the months of November and December there has been an increase in the number of burglaries, and the Warm Springs Police Department continues to investigate.

There are individual suspects who have been arrested for the burglaries, and officers are gathering information that may lead to an arrest of more suspects.

During the holiday season, when you or your neighbor are out shopping, your homes become a target for burglaries, unless precautions are taken.

The community can be of assistance to the Police Department by reporting any suspicious activity at a neighbor's house, or if a person tries

to sell property that is possibly stolen.

The sooner you make that call the sooner a burglar can be arrested.

If a person sells you an item that is stolen, you as the new owner can be charged with possession of stolen property.

Items in the home should be marked with a serial number, driver's license number, social security number, or easily remembered numbers for easy identification if stolen items were recovered. Keep a written log of serial numbers identifying your property.

Keep your home well lit at night. Lock the doors.

Contact the police department and your neighbor if you are going to be away from home for a long period.



Photo by Tina Aguilar

Firefighters were able to use abandoned home for training purposes.

Fire department busy with string of blazes

By Tina Aguilar
Spilyay Staff

In the last two weeks Warm Springs Fire and Safety has responded to seven fires.

According to Fire Chief Danny Martinez, last year there were three to four structure fires all season long.

In the several fires that were responded this winter, most were structural. One is under investigation as possible arson, as three fires were set in this house in one day.

Fire Chief Danny Martinez then received permission from the family to burn this abandoned house because it was hazardous.

The others were caused by:

- A stove fire where a pot of water was left on the stove with nobody home. This fire caused approximately \$2,500 worth of damage and sent two people to the hospital for smoke inhalation.

- Leaving a pot of chili unsupervised, melting the pot, which started the mobile home on fire. This was a total loss leaving the owner misplaced. One person was sent to the

hospital for smoke inhalation.

- Candles being used in this mobile home. The only accident reported was a firefighter stepping on a nail that went completely through his boot into his foot.

- A chimney fire caused by a plugged up chimney, which was caused by burning pizza (cardboard) containers. The family is back in the residence.

Fire Chief Danny Martinez advises never use wrapping paper or cardboard in woodstoves. It is okay to start a fire with newspaper but never use the other to feed the fire. This causes the chimney to clog leading to a potential fire. He also stresses that mobile (trailer) homes can burn within minutes after it catches fire so it is very important to be extra careful if you live in a mobile home.

The Fire & Safety department sent the following information:
One in three accidental deaths are caused by fire. But there are several things that can be done to keep this from happening in the community.

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Lincoln's junior court introduced

This week we are featuring the two tribal members who are the Junior Court of the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow.

The candidates are Jolene Ora Charley and Ada Julia Polk. They are selling Lincoln's Birthday Powwow raffle tickets for \$1 apiece, or six for \$5.

The powwow is Feb. 8, 9 and 10 at the Simnasho Longhouse. For more information, contact Trudee Queaphama-Clements at 553-3274 (work) or 553-1245 (home), or Anna Clements, 553-3290, Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee for 2002-03.

Jolene Charley

My name is Jolene Ora Charley. My mother and dad is Nikki and Robert Charley Sr.

My grandmother is the late Jane Whitefoot Charley and my grandpa is Wesly Riggs Charley.

I am a Simnasho Warm Springs Tribal Member and Sioux. I was born here and grew up here on the rez. I like to play basketball and football and jump on my trampoline and play music on my clarinet.

I like going to help mom at the longhouse cutting fish and deer meat and going fishing and hunting with my dad and digging roots with my family.

I'll be in the community selling



Ada Julia Polk



Jolene Ora Charley

raffle tickets. So with your help I can be the next Junior Queen of the Simnasho, Pow Wow. Thank you.

Ada Polk

Hi, my name is Ada Julia Polk, and I am 8 years old.

I am the daughter of Angela Polk, and granddaughter of Vicki Polk and Great Grand daughter of the Late Ada Walsey (Polk).

I am selling Raffle Tickets for Lincoln's Pow-Wow which is the sec-

ond weekend in February at Simnasho, Oregon. My hobbies are Indian Dancing, basketball, cheerleading, and traveling to powwows.

I will be going all over the community to approach you and introduce myself to you so you will know me by sight, to see if you'll be interested in purchasing any tickets. The tickets are \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5. Thank you.