

Rural Fire Protection Supported

by Sandy Rangila

The first of two public hearings to discuss the location of a rural fire station was held March 20 at the Simnasho Longhouse. And, not surprisingly, the Simnasho area was the favored site by those at the meeting.

The three proposed locations under consideration are West Island Road, the Simnasho-Highway 26 Junction, and Simnasho. A need for fire protection at Kah-Nee-Ta has already been identified.

Tribal planner Uren Leonard explained that, if approved by HUD (Housing and Urban Development), a maximum grant in the amount of \$250,000 would be allocated for the development of a rural fire station and alarm system. But before the final application can be sent to HUD, two public hearings and Tribal Council review must be completed.

Before discussion of the sites began, Leonard outlined the positive and negative points of each proposed location. A fire and safety committee task force, appointed by the Tribal Council, had visited and evaluated each of the sites earlier in the month.

In opening the discussion as to where people would like to see a rural fire station, housing manager Elton Greeley said that when evaluating the proposed sites, he felt the most important considerations should be: (1) human life (2) property values, and (3) response times of the fire equipment.

The general concensus was, "Let's get this thing going!" Olney Patt, Sr. said that all of the North End is a high risk area. "This thing is serious," he stressed. "If one of my two homes caught fire, I might as well walk off."

Patt suggested a mobile unit for home protection be stationed in each unprotected area. Fire and safety committee chairman Elmer Quinn said that he had already suggested that a forestry fire suppression crew station a pumper at Simnasho or Sidwaller.

Assistant fire chief Dave Williams noted that the water pressure from a pumper is not adequate for a house fire. "It puts out a little bit of water for a long time, but it could buy a lot of time," he admitted.

Others felt that the Simnasho location would be best because of

the school being up there and because of the growing population of the area.

Task force spokesman Art Tassie then briefed those present on some of the findings included in the committee report presented to council March 16. He also announced that Council had okayed the concept of a full-time paid fire department that same day.

Data from the 1978 records of the police and fire department indicates that most home fires occur from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (after lunch and before supper), and during the months of October and November.

The breakdown as to type of fire showed that auto fires topped the list here, and that fires caused by smoking materials — matches, lighters and cigarettes — ran a close second. Electrical fires were a very low third, according to the report.

Only 20 people showed up for the hearing, and Sidwaller residents were conspicuously absent. Special task force spokesman Art Tassie hopes more people will turn out for the second public hearing scheduled for April 16 at the Agency Longhouse.



BLIND LEADING THE BLIND — Two volunteer firemen crawled through a rescue drill during a recent class at the Warm Springs fire hall. The 10-week firefighting course being taught by Redmond fireman Wayne Grimes covers every aspect of basic fire protection, from prevention to hose lays. Thirty-four volunteers from Kah-Nee-Ta and Warm Springs are enrolled in the class.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS

Root Feast
Agency Simnasho
Sunday, April 8

Community Calendar

APRIL

- 1 Family Life Film Series continues with "Worthy of Honor" and a cartoon feature "The Man Who Brought Happiness" will be held at the Community Center beginning at 7 p.m.
- 7 Dinner and Pageant for the selection of "Miss Warm Springs" Event begins at 5 p.m. at the Agency Longhouse.
- 8 Annual Root Feast at Agency and Simnasho Longhouse
- 8 Film Feature "Gospel Road" begins at 4 p.m. at Community Center.
- 8 Family Life Film Series "Freedom of Boundaries" 7 p.m. at Community Center
- 9 Public review of proposed 1979-80 District 509-J budget. Support Services Building, Madras, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Kah-Nee-Ta Powwow in Confederated Room 8-10 p.m.
- 14, 15 Agency Root Feast Rodeo begins at 1 p.m. both days. Warm Springs Rodeo Arena
- 15 Tygh Valley All-Indian Rodeo Queen's selection. To be held at the Warm Springs Rodeo Arena
- 16 Rural Fire Protection meeting to discuss site selection for fire sub-station. Agency Longhouse, 7 p.m.
- 23 GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING - WSFPI ANNUAL REPORT

Tribes Awarded Fire Prevention Grant

The Confederated Tribes have received a Community Action Grant in the amount of \$500 under the Public Fire-Prevention Education Assistance Program, announced the State Fire Standards and Accreditation Board.

The money is being used for educational materials for the Spilyay Tymoo and the newsletter, said grantsman Art Tassie. "We are also supplying suggested curriculum materials to the schools," he said.

The tribes are also looking at putting together a packet to be delivered to each home on the reservation. The packets will hopefully be delivered by CETA youth workers this summer, said

Tassie.

He noted that the objective is to provide money for the examination of community fire education needs which is something the tribes have already put together.

The objective of the program is to stimulate local fire protection planning through a 5 step process.

Step One:

Identification involves identifying the most important local fire problems so that the fire education effort can focus on those specific problems.

Step Two:

Selection is an inventory of community resources available

to meet those needs and selection of achievable objectives.

Step Three:

Design moves the fire education process from planning toward implementation.

Step Four:

Implementation is implementing the education program designed for your community's specific needs and resources.

Step Five:

Evaluation is measuring the impact of the fire education program.

The funds are disbursed primarily to initiate cohesive community research and planning activities to implement an education program.

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News



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IN BEHALF OF HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS — Smokey the Bear visited a Warm Springs kindergarten classroom recently to make a pitch for the safety of his Forest Friends. Co-sponsored by the Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative and The Extension Service, Smokey's visit stressed the dangers of playing with fire. Kids received buttons and pamphlets along with the advice.

Spilyay Tymoo Photo by CDS