

25¢

# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News



RECEIVED

MAR 26 1981

VOL. 6 NO. 4

WARM SPRINGS, OREGON 97761

March 23, 1981

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Signs of Spring

Cattails are bursting out all over spreading seeds for the fall crop as temperatures rise with approaching springtime.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

## Drought may be due for Warm Springs area

Warm Springs will probably have another long, hot and dry summer this year. According to tribal Water Master Deepak Sehgal, we have "only 30% of the normal snow pack. This is comparable to 1977." 1977 was a record drought year throughout the Northwest.

Flows will be down to a minimum, according to Sehgal. "In streams like Shitike and Mill Creek, water levels may decline to an extent where fish life will be adversely affected."

The tribal natural resources department has been doing snow survey readings since 1973 at four different sites on the reservation. Bald Peter and Racing Creek are surveyed by land and the Lion's Head and White Water Meadow are surveyed from the air. "Lion's Head, on Shitike Creek, has less water content now than in 1977," says Sehgal.

Natural Resources personnel will make another survey at the end of March, and this reading

will determine almost exactly what amount of water Warm Springs will have for the rest of the year.

"Since we don't have large dammed-up reservoirs to store water supplies, the Warm Springs community relies on Shitike Creek for domestic supplies." The existing water tanks will only supply a half-day of water to the Warm Springs community.

A plan for immediate and future conservation is obvious, says Sehgal, "We're going to have to conserve water use as much as possible. Conservation will probably include turning off all taps after use, avoid watering lawns and gardens excessively and watch general waste of water." If the situation gets really bad, he says, the tribal Water Board or Utilities department may have to issue restrictions, possibly leading to "leak detections and an odd-even system for watering."

## Citizens looking for change

by Marsha Shewczyk

"People are asking for a change, why can't you hear it?" was the appeal made to the Law and Order Committee by a concerned citizen. The Law and Order Committee met with community members until 1:00 a.m. the evening of March 9 at the Agency Longhouse in an attempt to understand citizen's concerns for their Law and Order department.

Numerous topics were covered by the attending community members. Committee chairman Daisy Ike encouraged the community input explaining that the meeting was for the people to express their feelings. She stated, "Don't be afraid to go to any committee member and ask them what's going on."

The many comments made throughout the evening indicated that "something just isn't going right," said one citizen. "A change is needed." It was emphasized that people have a right to change laws and "if we can't do this we live in a dictatorship." Verbena Greene commented that "things won't change overnight but some things can be improved."

The meeting allowed little rebuttal. The committee asked only for citizen input. Police Chief Jeff Sanders, who is very much involved in the Law and Order department, felt that many questions were left unanswered because he and others were not given the opportunity to respond to the

Continued on page 6

## Doctor dies in accident

A two-car accident on the Warm Springs grade resulted in the death of Dr. Mary Lou Howbert, 51, of Bend during the early morning hours of Saturday, March 14. Peggy Poitra, 31, of Warm Springs was the driver of the other car. She escaped serious injury.

The accident occurred between mileposts 107 and 108 on Highway 26 at 1:08 a.m. Dr. Howbert's Fiat was headed south when Ms. Poitra's northbound 1979 Ford Bronco crossed the double line and struck the victim's auto head-on, according to Sgt. Hawkins of the Jefferson County

Sheriff's Office.

Dr. Howbert was dead at the scene when Warm Springs police arrived. Ms. Poitra was taken to Mt. View Hospital where she was checked and released.

Since the accident happened just off the reservation, the case was turned over to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. District Attorney Mike Sullivan said that no charges have been made and no citations were issued. But an investigation is being carried out and Sullivan expects it to be completed by the end of this week.

## Mill doing well despite economy woes

by Sandy Rangila

Although 1980 was not as good as year as had been hoped for, Warm Springs Forest Products Industries continues to thrive while many mills across the country are closing down, either temporarily or permanently.

"Amid wild market and interest fluctuations," W.S.F.P.I. also finished "debugging" new machinery installed during the mill's 1979 renovation project, people learned at the Feb. 26 WSFPI general council meeting at the Agency Longhouse.

According to the 1980 annual report distributed at the meeting, net profits were \$1,548,370 which is 36.2 percent better than in the previous year. Sales of nearly \$30 million topped 1979's figure by 9.2 percent.

In line with the Board of Directors recent policy objective of paying a yearly dividend to the Tribes, \$612,907 was turned over for 1980. Ordinarily the dividend is a 25 percent figure which would

have amounted to only \$387,093 for 1980. But after carefully considering cash needs for 1981, the board decided upon the special, larger amount for 1980.

In a letter to the Tribal Council which appears on page 2 of the report, the board noted that 1980 was "a catch-up year. From a \$727,863 loss by June 30, gains climbed to the \$1,548,370 profit, a turnaround of \$2,276,233 in the last six months."

The letter continued, "Improvements attributed directly to the renovation resulted in gains of \$3,893,000 — otherwise 1980 would have been a loss year. Clearly, the renovation project was timely."

Because of the economy (high interest rates and a poor housing market) the annual timber harvest was reduced in 1980. But it is anticipated that the full annual allowable harvest will be resumed in 1981.

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is weathering the current economic situation well,

however. General Manager Ralph DeMoisy explained that because the Tribes own their own timber, their enterprise is not experiencing the problems other mills are facing. Also, the least hurt in 1980 was the Pine market, he said.

In addition, WSFPI initiated "an innovative approach to timber harvest activities" in 1980, according to the annual report booklet written and photographed by Cynthia Stowell. "Logging was limited to 70 percent of normal delivery until August 25, when it was then increased to 130 percent. This timetable prevented an early build-up of inventory in the log yards, delaying the need for long-term high interest loans.

"The later influx of newly-cut logs also reduced the amount of pine blue stain, a condition that greatly affects the market value of lumber."

Employment at WSFPI remained steady through 1980 with 33.7 percent of the work

Continued on page 10

Watch for Spilyay Tymoo's upcoming 5th anniversary issue!