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Spilyay Tymoo

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First signs of spring

Crocuses indicate that spring is just around the corner. It won't be long before the few hours of sunshine seen daily will be extended into days of warmth with even more flowers popping up.
Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Voters approve referendum items

Tribal voters overwhelmingly approved the credit and housing referendums presented February 25. A total of 448 votes were counted. 146 of those were absentee ballots.

The credit referendum drew 387 yes votes and 58 no votes. The housing referendum had 355 yes votes and 89 no votes.

Two million dollars have been appropriated to the tribal credit department for the purpose of lending to eligible tribal members for auto, business, personal or housing loans.

The last referendum to allocate funds to credit was in 1978. The department is not broke but funds have been committed to a variety of projects, primarily homes and business loans.

Prior to the referendum it was explained that credit collects \$200,000 monthly in payment which are relented to borrowers. Interest income is used to pay all credit salaries and expenses. Just under 4% of the total amount of loans are

past due.

The housing referendum appropriated a \$2 million revolving housing and subdivision fund. The purpose of such a fund will create an on-going program to allow money from the sales of tribally built homes to be re-used for new home construction and to develop subdivision homesites when federal funds aren't available.

The revolving housing fund is not to be used for mobile homes, however, started homes (small two-bedroom homes) can be built through the revolving fund. Mobile homes and individually built homes will still be financed through tribal credit.

The proposed location of the first 20-home subdivision will be near Wolf Point east of Eagle Butte and Kah-Nee-Ta. Each homesite will be two acres or larger and will be supplied by the new domestic water system. It is proposed that 10 starter homes will also be built in 1982.

Delays plague water project, ASC under \$500/day penalty

by Sandy Rangila

Although Deschutes water is now flowing from the treatment plant at Dry Creek, through the line and into Tewee Butte reservoir, there is little promise of it reaching local homes until possibly late April.

The Deschutes Domestic Water System project has been bedeviled with delays and it is unclear just exactly where the problem lies. It was supposed to have been completed by February 4, but revised schedule revisions continue to be revised, according to Ed Manion, Community Services Manager for the Tribes.

Manion reported this week that, since Feb. 4, the contractor, A.S.C. Constructors, has been under a \$500 a day penalty for not completing the project on time.

It was impossible to pin project manager Ron Hall down as to when he thought the system would be in operation. "You just can't foresee all the little unknown problems that might come up on such a big project as this," he said in a phone interview.

One of those problems occurred last week when the

line to the Tewee Butte reservoir "blew out." The line separated and water leaked out.

Hall claimed it was a design flaw. He said that those are restrained lines and that they don't call for thrust blocks (big hunks of concrete poured where the pipes form corners). After the blow out, two thrust blocks were added at a four-day loss in time and at considerable expense.

Manion agreed that the lines don't require thrust blocks, but he said A.S.C. welded the lines "and it didn't hold. They didn't trust their weld so they put in thrust blocks. We're (the Tribes) not going to pay for those blocks," he said.

The whole system is designed to operate at high pressure, 375 pounds per square inch, and the lines are designed for that type of system, Manion explained.

Hall said that what's really holding things up is that they're waiting on the telephone and power company to install their lines so that A.S.C. can hook up their monitoring systems. (The monitoring system lets you know the water level in the tanks. It signals the plant when

more water needs to be pumped).

"That's baloney," Manion said. "If that's a problem they should have told us about it before. I first heard it today (Mar. 10) and the engineer only two weeks ago." Although the Tribes won't accept anything less than the automatic system they ordered and are paying for, the system can be operated manually.

Further, Manion said he had just learned on Wednesday, March 10, after talking with Bob Grace of STRAAM Engineers, Inc. and Ron Hall, that two of the component control parts for the automatic control system are not here, one of which was just ordered the past day or so. He said it would probably take three to four weeks to get to the site, then it has to be installed and tested.

Generally, Hall blames the delays "on extenuating circumstances;" factory shortages, inclement weather and design changes.

Manion said he no longer holds out any hopes of the project being completed this month. His best guess, at this point, is late April.



Atiyeh visits Central Oregon

Governor Victor Atiyeh greets Irene Towe at a luncheon held in Madras during Atiyeh's visit to Central Oregon. Related story on page 2.
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