

Warm Springs News

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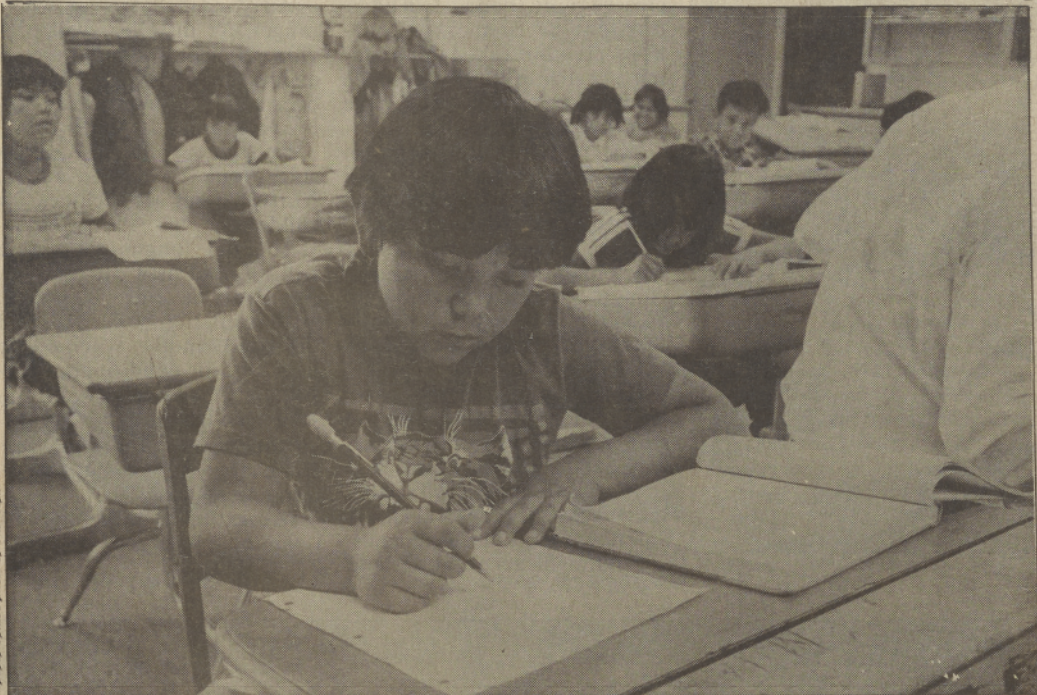
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OCTOBER 25, 1985



Fifth grader Frank Reese is one of 2,230 students attending 509-J District schools.

Operating budget subject of meetings

As a prelude to the general council meeting, scheduled for November 12, district meetings were held October 17 at the Simnasho elementary school and the Agency Longhouse to discuss the 1986 operating budget. District representatives were present at each meeting to answer questions posed on the multi-million dollar budget.

Of particular concern mentioned at the Agency meeting were Kah-Nee-Ta, the cost-of-living increases to employees, the activity bus, the new preschool program and the possibility of any new enterprises on the reservation.

Chairman of the Kah-Nee-Ta Board of Directors, Mike Clements, explained that Kah-Nee-Ta expects to bring in \$4 million next year and that expenses will equal the revenue, showing a zero cash loss. A total of \$900,000 has been appropriated for capital improvements at the resort, however, Clements stressed that the entire amount may not be used. Major repairs and upkeep have been delayed over the past few years because there was no money. "This year, the board encouraged Tribal Council to invest," said Clements.

Additionally, Tribal Council approved Kah-Nee-Ta borrowing a sum not to exceed \$500,000 for operating expenses. The \$500,000 is a "safety mechanism," said Clements. "Hopefully we won't have to use it."

Finance manager Jim Sizemore explained that all tribal employees, except those at group three level and above, will receive

a three percent cost-of-living increase effective January 1. From revenue sharing monies will come "one-time salary adjustments" to approximately 100 employees whose salaries have been frozen since 1981. These raises will be over and above the cost-of-living increases. There are currently 395 people working in the tribal organization.

One tribal member asked that Tribal Council reconsider the increases, stating that they are not equal to the inflation rate. Zelma Smith felt that the increases should not be limited to employees, but that all tribal members should receive an increase. "Some people have to live on \$75 a month."

The activity bus, which at one time was to be cut, was included in the 1986 budget. Approximately \$10,000 has been appropriated for the bus which transports junior and senior high school students to Warm Springs following after-school activities.

Due to overcrowding, 60

Warm Springs youngsters were turned away from Head Start this fall. To accommodate those children, Tribal Council appropriated \$50,000 for the remainder of this year and an additional \$190,000 in 1986 for a preschool program. The new program will run like the Head Start program but breakfast and lunch will not be served. However, there will be mid-morning snacks.

Tribal Council chairman Zane Jackson stated the new enterprises on the reservation were "being investigated."

Alvis Smith, Sr. questioned the \$18.5 million received in the PGE settlement. Jackson explained that it is on deposit with the treasury. Smith suggested that maybe some of the money could be disbursed among tribal members. "It's something to think about," he said.

Signs will be posted concerning the general council meeting scheduled for November 12. All tribal members are encouraged to attend.

**SCHOOL LEVY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 5
BE SURE TO VOTE!**

Power outage hits area

The Warm Springs area experienced a power outage Tuesday, October 22 which occurred when a pole, located north of Madras, caught fire and burned through the main 69,000 volt transmission line. The outage began at 5 a.m. and lasted, in Warm Springs, until approximately 11 a.m.

According to Pacific Power and Light (PP and L) district manager, Dick Laudahl, it is suspected that the pole caught fire due to accumulated dust which caused rain water to puddle which in turn caused an arch of electricity on the pole. This is a common occurrence following dry, dusty periods, said Laudahl.

Initially, the outage hit Culver, Metolius, Madras, Warm

Springs Kah-Nee-Ta and the north end of the reservation. Madras and Culver areas had restored power within ten minutes after the outage due to a remote system that switched the area on.

Since the main transmission line for points north had burned, PP and L was unable to restore power to those areas until arrangements were made with the Pelton reregulating dam. Warm Springs was supplied power through the dam until the line was permanently repaired at 3:30 p.m.

Tribal employees were in the dark for nearly three hours until power was restored. It was recommended that computers not be used until the line was repaired. Bureau clerical and office staff was released at 8:30 a.m.

Budget discussed at forum

Favorable and opposing opinions have been presented at recent public forums held throughout the 509-J school district regarding the school levy to be presented to voters for the third time November 5. Those participating agree that a good education for children is essential but not all agree on how expenditures should be made to achieve that goal.

After failing in previous elections cuts have been made to the levy to lower it to \$2,823,502, reduced from the September 17 election by \$83,416. This levy would present taxpayers with a tax rate of \$9.54 per thousand dollars assessed valuation. The previous levy was presented with the state sales tax which also failed to pass.

The defeat of the school budget is one way to bring about much needed change feels former school board member Ken Harris, speaking at the October 21 Chamber of Commerce forum. Voting down the budget, he explained, is one way to regain control of schools and the government. "The whole philosophy of government has to change somehow. If it isn't changed we're in for some rough times."

Twenty years ago, Harris commented, it didn't take 12 people to administer the district's schools, "something is wrong if it takes that many more people."

But 509-J school superintendent Darrell Wright and school board members do not agree. Schools are much more complex today, Wright explained. More time and more administrators are needed to deal with the expanded programs that are part of a progressive school system.

More time is spent in student rights hearings and activities, in collective bargaining with teachers, in teacher evaluation and classroom observation, in handicapped education and the education of the mentally retarded, now a public school responsibility.

Wright pointed out that the annual cost to educate a student in the 509-J district is estimated to be \$3,875. Statewide, he added, the cost is slightly lower due to a higher teacher/student ratio as compared to the 509-J district. Both administrators' and teachers' salaries are average as compared with the remainder of the state, says Wright. Average salary for teachers in the district is \$22,700. In addition,

benefits total one-third of a teacher's salary and include full family group medical and dental insurance, family vision coverage and a \$10,000 life insurance policy.

Budget cuts for the November 5 election have been given careful consideration, explained school board member Guff Thorpe. The cuts were made in areas which would not hurt educational services for students. Thorpe emphasized, more difficult economic times for a community make it more important to have quality education for youth.

Also encouraging support for the levy, school board member Don Aitken stated, "I don't think our community can afford to have our schools close. I don't think our students can afford to have a gap in their education."

Failure of the levy would necessitate an emergency election. Funds are not available to carry the schools through the year, explained Wright. Closure of schools would still cost taxpayers \$45,000 weekly for employment compensation and building and equipment maintenance.

509-J budget serves 2,230 students

The proposed budget levy submitted to the Budget Committee February 26, 1985 for the 1985-86 school year was \$3,361,948 creating a tax rate of \$11.95/thousand.

A levy of \$3,152,227 was submitted to taxpayers June 25, 1985 which produced a tax rate of \$11.00/thousand.

The levy to be presented to voters November 5, 1985 calls for a levy of \$2,823,502 producing a tax rate of \$9.54/thousand.

Staff members of the 509-J district teach 2,230 students, clean 270,000 square feet of buildings, cook and serve 1,360 lunches, transports 1,500 bus riders.

The budget in brief includes: salaries and related costs, \$7,154,155; contracted services, \$733,146; supplies, textbooks, library materials, equipment and repair parts, \$691,843; liability insurance, dues and fees, awards, \$34,842; cafeteria and bus transfers, contingency, \$112,044. The total budget is \$8,726,030.

Estimated school tax rates for 1985-86 in other Central Oregon school districts are: Bend, \$10.58; Culver, \$13.63;

Prineville, \$11.67; Redmond, \$12.82; Madras, \$9.54.

Q. How much was cut from the budget after the September 17th levy defeat?

A. \$83,416.

Q. What was cut from the budget?

A. \$18,173 from Food Services; \$33,122 from Transportation; \$4,121 from athletics; \$28,000 from teacher aides.

Q. After the staff reduction resulting from the budget cut, how many people will the District employ?

A. On November 1 the District will have 189 full time and

62 part time employees.

Q. If the levy passes on November 5 how much would school taxes be on a home with an assessed value of \$60,000?

A. The estimated rate of \$9.54 per thousand, the owner would pay \$572.40 in property taxes for the schools.

Q. What happens if the November 5 levy fails?

A. The District will request to hold a special election as soon as possible because there would be inadequate funds to complete the school year.

Tags being issued

The Natural Resources Department will be issuing state ceded elk tags beginning October 25.

Requirements for the tags include: Must be an enrolled Warm Springs tribal member; Must possess and show a Columbia River hunting and fishing card; Must be at least 14 years of age.

Individuals between 14 and 18 years of age must possess and show a Hunter's Safety certi-

cate and must be accompanied by an adult while hunting.

The Natural Resources office will issue tags October 25 and 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and October 29, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tribal elk tags will be issued to tribal members on October 30 and 31. The season opens November 1 for reservation hunting.



All aboard

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Junior and senior high school students continue to ride the tribal activity bus which brings them back to Warm Springs following after-school activities.

WEATHER

OCT.	HI	LOW	PRCP.
9	55	12	0
10	70	29	0
11	60	42	.18
12	57	29	0
13	62	26	0
14	70	35	0
15	65	30	0
16	61	42	0
17	65	30	0
18	75	30	0
19	61	30	0
20			0
21	57	32	0
22	50	37	.15
23	57	39	.19