

Warm Springs News

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APRIL 25, 1986

Referendum issues discussed at meeting

The second of two general council meetings called to discuss the April 29 referendum issues was held April 22 at the Agency Longhouse. Tribal members had numerous questions concerning the proposed western wear apparel factory and basically agreed that the \$6 million scholarship trust fund and the \$5 million senior citizen's trust funds were something that should have been done sooner.

Tribal voters will be asked in the April 29 referendum to decide whether the Tribe can "appropriate the sum of \$400,000 and "borrow not to exceed \$750,000 for the purpose of buying, constructing, equipping and operating a garment manufacturing facility to be located in the former Tektronix building. Total cost of the facility is \$1.1 million. Part of those expenses are expected to be offset by a \$250,000 HUD Community Development Block Grant.

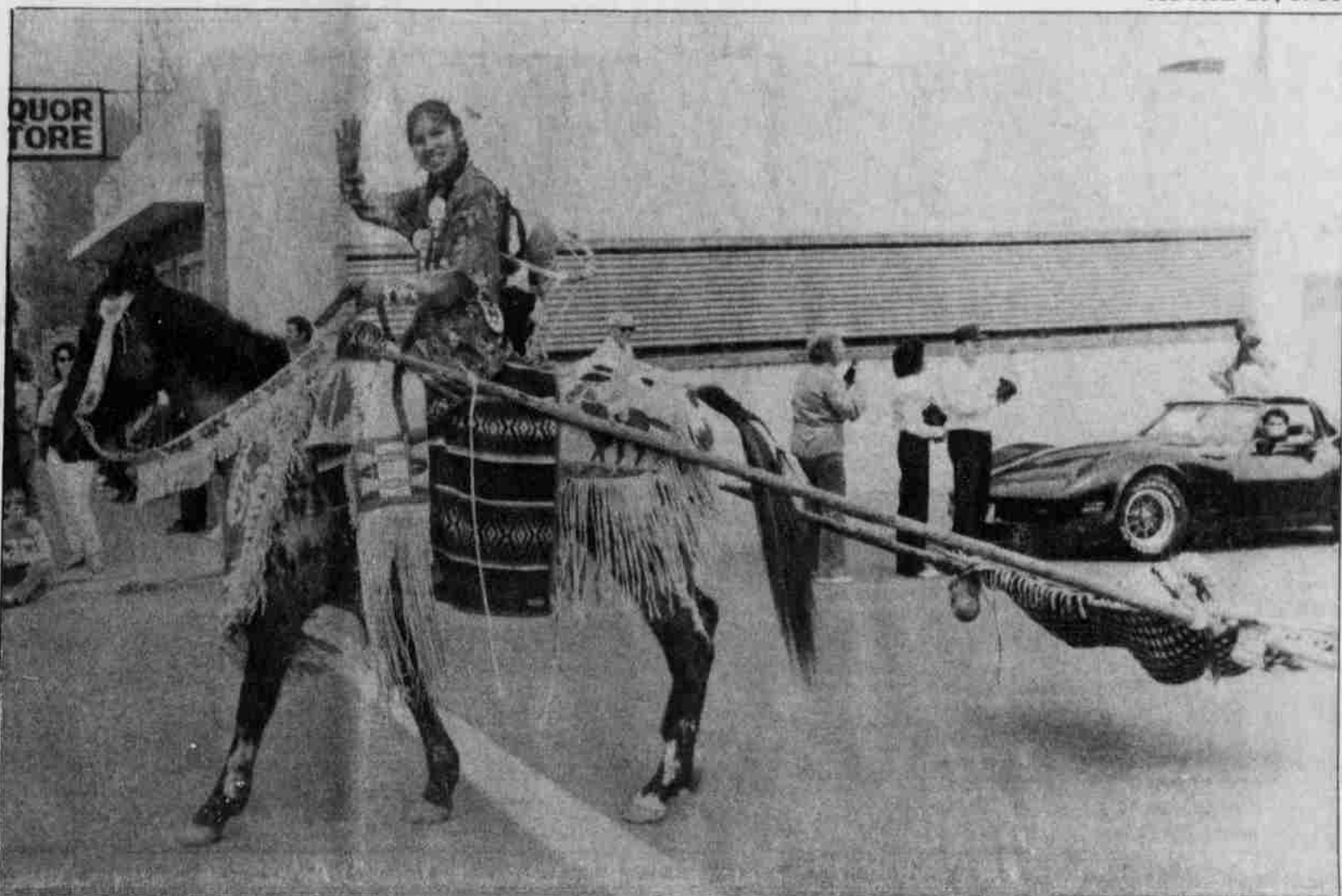
The Western Wear Factory could eventually employ 57 people, 55 of whom would be tribal members or married into the tribe. The plant manager and

mechanic, from Denver Manufacturing, would train two tribal members to take their jobs after two years. Most of the jobs would entail sewing and would offer full-time, year-round employment. After a six-month training period, the base hourly piece-rate would be between \$3.60 and \$4.00 which would be based on a productivity percentage. People producing at a higher rate than the base productivity rate would be paid accordingly.

The proposed agreement between the Tribe and Denver Manufacturing states that the Tribe would provide the labor force, building and equipment. Denver Manufacturing would provide the management, training, sales, design and advertising. The profits would be shared among the Tribe, Denver Manufacturing and the employees. The profit sharing is proposed as a way to increase productivity among the employees and increase the plant's profits.

The reservation unemployment rate ranges between 20 percent in the summer to 40 percent

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Madras' 75th anniversary parade brought back memories from years gone by. Looking back Eliza Greene pulls a travois.

Changes in tribal scholarship program proposed

Proposed changes in the current tribal scholarship program were recently presented to Tribal Council by Education, Training and Employment Manager Charles "Jody" Calica. The changes are intended to "stretch our money to meet as many needs of our people as possible," said Calica.

Through research it was discovered that there are currently 1,002 tribal members between the ages of 19 and 37. Seventy of those are currently enrolled in either college or vocational education programs. The students' average age is 26.5. The average scholarship award is approximately \$2,000 per student per term.

The tribal education committee, said Calica, has, for a number of years, tried "to resolve issues concerning the scholarship program." One issue in particular is that of determining if higher education is a "privilege" and that "students are expected to contribute funds to their education."

Currently, the Tribes cover all books, tuition and fees for each student. The Tribes cover 60 percent of each student's living costs after grants and other need-based awards are received. Students are required to pay 40 percent of their living

costs, earned scholarships or awards will be counted towards the students contribution.

Calica said that very little has been done to assess students' capabilities to determine their interests, aptitude or academic skills. As a result, it (higher education program) has been a very high risk, high cost operation. "An assessment center has been developed through Central Oregon Community College and is now being used to screen students and help plan their academic programs.

To reduce those costs, it has been proposed to "incorporate higher academic standards for automatic eligibility." A student will be required to have a 3.0 grade point average (GPA). The current average GPA among Warm Springs students is below 1.80. If a student is not able to meet this requirement and shows that basic skills are deficient, the student will be referred to the Basic Skills Development Program arranged through Central Oregon Community College. Students will have the choice of completing this program in Warm Springs or on the COCC campus in Bend.

"This will get the student on a college entry level so they are able to succeed in a college program," said Calica. He added in the past 80 percent to 85 percent of college students get into academic difficulties in the first year of study.

Another change proposed for the program is the way in which scholarships are awarded. If the proposal is adopted by Tribal Council, the Tribes will not subsidize a student's choice of out-of-state or private school. The Tribes will base the amount of scholarship awards on the average cost of public, in-state schools. The student will be required to pay for the difference.

One-half of the current students attend private or out-of-state schools, and these schools, says Calica, cost two or three times more than public or in-state schools. By reducing the

out-of-state and private school appropriations, the Tribes will be able to save money and will eventually be able to return to the system of the Tribes paying 80 percent of the living costs and the students paying 20 percent.

Through these savings, the Tribes will be able to create a reserve to initiate a fellowship program which will be aimed at trying to encourage students to go into fields of "high tribal needs," such as forestry, natural resources management areas, law and medicine. This program would allow students to go to private or out-of-state schools to "secure the highest and best training possible," said Calica.

Of major concern said Calica, is the reduction in federal appropriations education. The Bureau of Indian Affairs no longer pro-

vides Warm Springs with college and vocational education funding. "Education has dropped too low on their list of priorities," said Calica. In 1980, the Tribes appropriated \$35,000 for higher education. In 1986, \$385,000 was allocated. The increase is due to the lack of federal funds, more students and escalating costs.

Also, the Tribes are interested in returning to the original concept of ordinance #26 which outlines and gives specific guidelines as to how financial assistance is handled should a student not successfully complete school. "All monies are considered loans until successful completion, of a course of study," said Calica.

A final draft of the recommended program changes is expected to be presented to Tribal Council by the end of April.

Letters of protest received

Warm Springs Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent Bernard Topash received three letters of protest and objection from tribal members April 9 concerning the validity of the April 3 Tribal Council elections.

One tribal member stated that an elected Tribal Council member must live on the reservation in order to serve. In the same letter, the tribal member questioned the eligibility of a person(s) due to a "conviction of a major crime."

Another tribal member stated that one candidate was "ineligible" to run for office because of residency.

In yet another letter, tribal

members stated that the "territory of the Tribe includes just the reservation, not ceded lands," and that it is the "prevailing custom to have elected officials living in their own district." There were 20 signatures on the letter.

Topash ruled that because the Constitution does not clearly state that an elected official must live on the reservation, the protests/objections were disallowed. As for the "alleged criminals," Topash stated that he had not received documented evidence that the candidates(s) were in fact felons, thus invalidating that claim also.

Kindergarten registration May 19

Kindergarten registration will take place May 19 at Warm Springs Elementary in the gymnasium. Incoming students must

be five years of age on or before September 1, 1986. A birth certificate and updated immunizations are required for registration.

Be sure to vote

- April 29** —Special run-off election. Simnasho District.
—Referendum for Scholarship Trust fund, Senior Citizens, Trust fund and Western Wear Factory.
- May 15** —Secretarial election on apportionment
- May 20** —Adoption referendum

Burning permits required

All burning permits will be issued at the BIA Fire Management office on Holliday Lane in the Warm Springs Industrial Park. Burning permits are required on a year-round basis.

Permits must be obtained 24 hours prior to burning. This gives Fire Management a chance to look at the area and assist or give advice on methods to use to do the job safely. Burning permits can be obtained during regular working hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For further information contact Fire Management Office, 553-1121, ext. 413 or 553-1146.

Educational meeting for the community on the issue of APPORTIONMENT
April 24, 1986
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.
at the
Agency Longhouse

By invitation of Tribal Council Attorney Charles Wilkinson will provide legal background on APPORTIONMENT

WEATHER

APRIL	HI	LOW
11	55	31
12	52	31
13	58	30
14	62	30
15	59	45
16	57	38
17	59	31
18	65	32
19		
20		
21	80	49
22	50	48
23	52	30