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News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

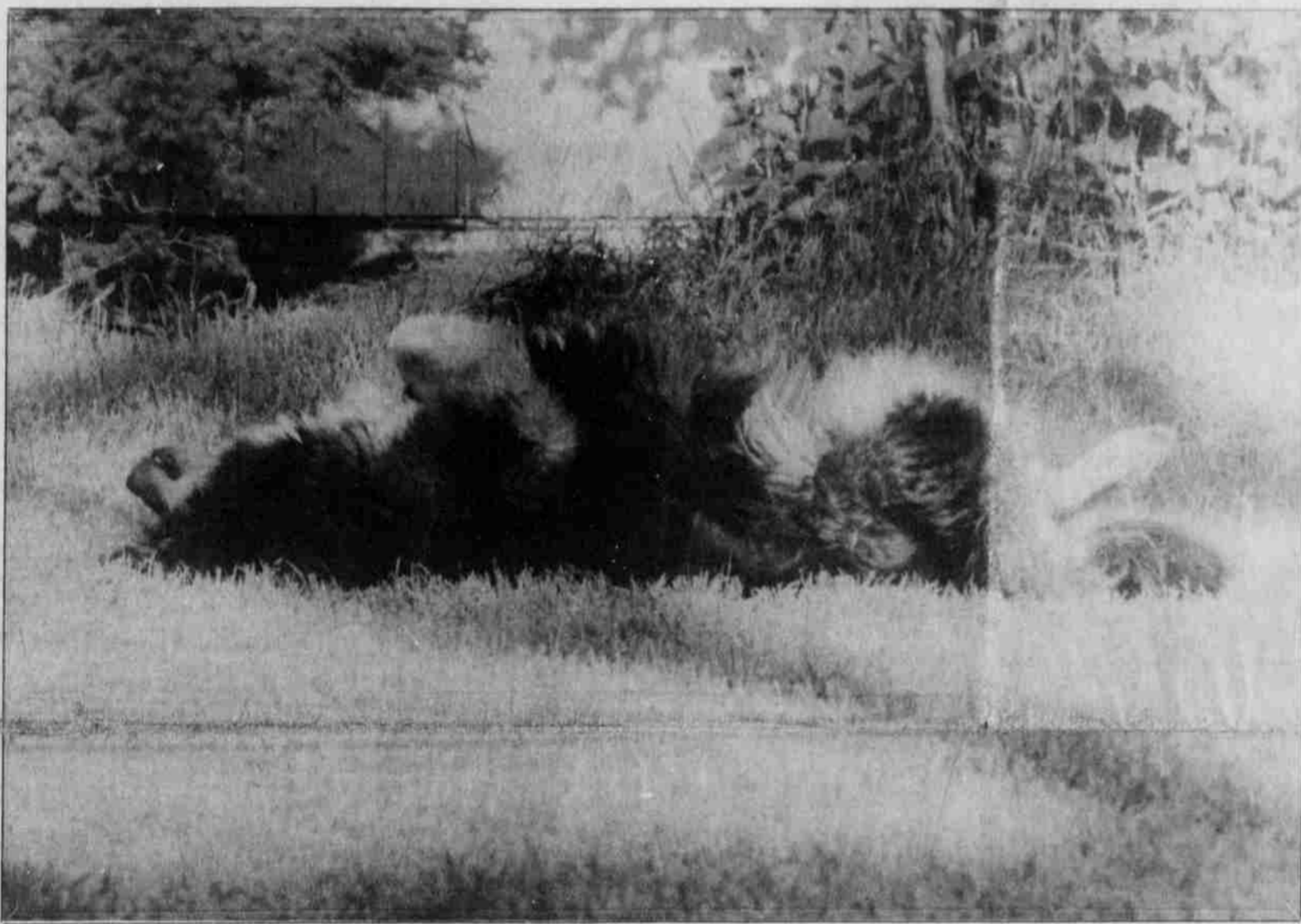


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VOL. 12 NO. 15

WARM SPRINGS, OREGON 97761

JULY 17, 1987



Basking in the sun

Council reiterates disapproval of proposed initiative

In their continued struggle to halt the trust fund initiative proposed by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Swimmer, the Warm Springs Tribal Council has once again reiterated their strong disapproval of Swimmer's efforts in a letter to Warm Springs Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent Bernard Topash. Topash forwarded the letter to Swimmer earlier this week.

Swimmer proposes that \$1.7 billion in Indian trust funds be transferred to a private financial institution and that management of the funds be handled by the bank. Currently trust funds are deposited in the U.S. Treasury by the BIA, who serves as administrator of the fund.

The five-page letter, signed by Tribal Council Chairman Zane Jackson, cites Council's "grave concerns" relating to the entire process. The letter also states that "it is clear that the decision to proceed was made before any meaningful consultation with tribal leadership and that the implementation is proceeding regardless of the concerns that our tribe has."

There are many questions that have yet to be answered and the Tribes' requests for information have received no response. The tribe also submitted comments, but they were never acknowledged, says the letter. "We are extremely disturbed about the course upon which the Assistant Secretary seems set and,

as always, will take whatever steps we believe are necessary to protect the interests of our people."

Most disturbing is that implementation of the proposal will ultimately result in a decrease and erosion of the trust responsibility, a responsibility the Tribe holds "very dear." The Tribe has been reassured several times by the Assistant Secretary and others that the Tribe's relationship would not be diminished. But the Tribe doesn't feel that to be true. "The Assistant Secretary proposed dismantling the entire Bureau program all at once and we believe it would be very difficult to retreat from that position if this experiment should fail... such a course" is "reckless and not in the best interest of Indian people."

Another concern is that rather than the Bureau continuing to manage these resources, the Assistant Secretary will see it as a "subsidy." They fear that it "won't be long before he will propose to do away with satisfying this obligation with appropriate dollars and suggest that the cost (for management) be withheld from the trust funds themselves."

Also, there are many concerns about the mechanics of the proposal. The Tribe asked many questions which the Bureau could not answer and were told that some of the details had not yet been worked out. "How can we evaluate the advisability of a proposal when we do not know what that proposal contains" the letter asks.

Tribal Council met with Topash, James Parris and John Vale June 18 in Warm Springs. Parris is the BIA Chief of the Branch of Investments in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Vale is retired from that same position. Council requested to have all questions pertaining to the issues asked and that those questions be answered. The Council also asked for materials, documents and further information concerning the proposal.

The Request For Proposal (RFP) was subject to many questions including specifics concerning cash collection and concentration, investment management services, potential problems, disbursements, data systems processing, custodial services and reporting. (Please refer to page 2 for specific questions).

The letter also states that the Tribe recognizes "as well as anyone that the Bureau's accounting is "

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Man drowns at Washington fishing site

Following a five-day search of the Klickitat River north of Lyle, Washington, the body of Warm Springs man, David Yazzie, 25, was sighted by a sports fishermen nearly a mile down river from here. Yazzie was reported to have slid in, according to Klickitat County Sheriff's deputy Lt. Elmer Kinder of Lyle.

According to Kinder, Yazzie and two companions Olsen Meanus, Jr., 27 and Francis Spino, 30, drove up from Oregon to fish "the falls" an Indian fishing site on the Klickitat River. The men arrived July 8 at the site. Meanus and Yazzie stood on the bank of the river while Meanus fished. Spino who was upstream from the two fell asleep. Meanus moved downstream and continued to fish. Meanus returned to find Spino asleep and Yazzie was not in sight. Meanus and Spino at first thought that Yazzie had walked off, and when Yazzie failed to return the men began to look for him in the area he was last seen. After 12 hours of searching and waiting, the men contacted the Klickitat County Sheriff's substation in Lyle.

The Klickitat County Sheriff's department began an initial search in the area. From past experiences of drownings in that area, no person has ever survived passing through the rapid flowing waters and usually the body turns up in a pool

area downstream, according to Kinder. Customarily, searchers go to that area once a person has been reported missing.

According to Warm Springs Chief of Police Ray Calica, through the combined efforts of Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission law enforcement officers, Warm Springs Police department and Fire and Safety personnel the search was continued after Klickitat County sheriff's department withdrew.

Kinder stated that there was an

eyewitness to Yazzie's sliding into the river. Apparently a man camped on the other side of the river was awakened during the night of July 8 and saw a person slide into the river. At the time the man thought he had been dreaming and it was not until search efforts had been started the next day did the man realize it was not a dream.

Kinder stated the drowning has been determined to be accidental. There is no further investigation on the drowning.

Local woman abducted from job

On Tuesday, July 14, a Warm Springs woman, Melissa Wainan-wit George, 26, was forcibly taken from her place of employment, the Warm Springs Garment Factory, by her estranged husband, Tim George, 20, according to Warm Springs Chief of Police Ray Calica.

According to police, the incident began when Mr. George appeared in the factory shortly after Mrs. George arrived at her job. The man put her in his car and headed north on highway 3. Police were called and the police pursued the car. Later in the day the police found Mrs. George at a Simnasho residence, unharmed. Mr. George was

placed in the custody of the police and transported to the Warm Springs Correction facility where he was lodged for detox.

Calica stated that, on July 8, Mrs. George filed an assault and battery charge against Mr. George following a physical confrontation between the couple. Calica said that at the time she also filed for a restraint order. At the time of the latest incident the papers for assault and battery and the restraint order were misplaced and had not yet been served. Calica stated that until the papers have been located, George will be held for detox. The matter is under investigation.

Police offering free films

In a continuing effort to make Warm Springs a better, safer place to live, the Warm Springs Police department has purchased six audio-visual films. These award-winning films were developed for the Department in its fight against child abuse. The programs may be obtained through the department's Investigative division and are available for showing, free of charge, to schools, churches, and parent groups and tribal departments that deal primarily with youth and family relations.

As an overview of the child abuse problem, The Silent Epidemic explains types of child abuse, how to recognize abuse and how to report it.

America's Heartache is an alert to adults everywhere of the missing child dilemma. It outlines measures used to prevent abduction and molestation.

In The Power Kit, a brother and sister meet the "Powertime Kids" and learn how to stay safe from abduction and molestation.

Preventing sexual abuse in young people is the goal of Speaking Out, when a young school newspaper reporter uncovers sexual abuse in students and encourages them to "Speak Out."

The Safety Net trains teachers, day care workers and other child care professionals to recognize and report suspected cases of child abuse to law enforcement.

Making the case provides guidelines for identifying child abuse, gathering evidence and establishing the case for the officer.

For additional information, or to schedule a free showing of any of these films, contact Investigator Rob Moran, BIA law enforcement, 553-1257.

Tentative date set for annual Berry Feast & rodeo

The annual Huckleberry Feast held at the HeHe Longhouse has been tentatively set for Sunday, August 2. Related activities planned are a Cowdeo in the afternoon, dancing in the evening and stick games. Raffle tickets are on sale with the proceeds to be used to offset expenses.

Sometime in the later part of July or the first part of August when the Huckleberries are ripe the feast is held at He He Longhouse, and during that time there is a rodeo held especially for the kids. The rodeo is for them to have fun, said Warm Springs Chief, Delves "Bullneck" Heath.

This year there will be a special attraction added to the affair and that will be a horse race around He

Butte. This race will require a team of four riders. The riders must carry a baton to pass to the next rider where the final rider will cross the finish line with the baton. Bullneck said there is a team of four already to challenge anyone and they are Cassie Rhoan, Joyce Suppah, Lucinda Heath, and Sonia Heath. The race is open to anyone who feels he can enter with a team.

There is something new added to the fun event, in the past the wild colt race was added to the program, this year it will be the race around the He He Butte, for a prize of two big ones, two (2) bills. So be watching for posters or other advertisements for the huckleberry feast rodeo.



Mill Creek Crossing

Protection of fragile wetlands and old growth forest has made Passage Way a controversial timber sale. The sale is located in the upper Mill Creek drainage. A road would be constructed over this portion of Mill Creek for accessibility to the old growth forest. (Please see Page 3 for related story).

WEATHER		
JULY	HIGH	LOW
1	96	66
2	88	65
3	89	50
4	79	61
5	74	50
6	79	47
7	81	52
8	76	56
9	72	50
10	80	55
11	87	55
12	95	54
13	98	59
14	104	60