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Spilyay Tymoo

News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation



VOL. 18 NO. 10

P.O. BOX 870, WARM SPRINGS, OR 97761

MAY 14, 1993

Coyote news in brief

Group tours forest projects
Areas of forest activity received the scrutiny of tribal members during one of planned timber tours. **Page 2**

Alcohol plays role in neglect, abuse
Children are often affected in a harmful way by their parent's alcohol consumption. **Page 2**

Career Fair entrances Warm Springs students

Warm Springs Elementary students visited many professions involving natural resources during Career Fair, May 7. **Page 3**

Bond levy answers provided
Voters are mailing in ballots to decide whether or not middle school will be built in the District. Questioning and answers provide information. **Page 3**

Physicals and immunizations scheduled
Children entering Head Start must have physicals and immunizations before they can register. **Page 5**

Tygh Valley Rodeo set for May 15 and 16
The Annual All-Indian Tygh Valley Rodeo will attract contestants and crowds this weekend. **Page 6**

Kah-Nee-Ta Mini-marathon results listed
Dave Peterson and Jane Cleavenger took first place in the men's and women's 14.5 mile division April 24. **Page 6**

Protect children in yard
Safety for children while outside in the yard demands attention by parents and babysitter. Yard childproofing techniques are suggested. **Page 7**

Deadline for the next issue of Spilyay Tymoo is May 21, 1993

Remember to Vote! Mail-in ballots are due at the Jefferson County Court House May 18 by 8 p.m.



Besides warmer weather, colorful flowers make it clear that spring is finally here.

Symposium looks at water quality in Deschutes basin

Water related problems and solutions on the Deschutes River Basin was the focus of a one-day symposium May 4 at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, The Environmental Defense Fund and the Deschutes Basin Resources Committee, the meeting was organized to discuss ways to coordinate activities of the Tribe, government agencies and other entities interested in protecting the Central Oregon basin.

It also interested tribal representatives to provide information regarding a joint Warm Springs Tribe/EDF project to investigate water pollution and instream flow depletion on the river bordering the Reservation.

The project, which was started in October 1992 with grant funding, is nearing the end of phase I which includes data gathering and the re-

porting of existing conditions. Phase II involves solutions and ways to implement water protection and conservation measures.

The project is expected to take three years to complete, according to tribal liaison Dale Hile. Demonstration activities will be included as part of the project in an effort to encourage landowners to protect water through conservation methods, changing grazing and irrigation practices and by providing economic incentives to keep water in the stream.

Participants contributing information at the symposium included: The Department of Land Conservation and Development, National Forest Supervisors of Oregon, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Congress, Oregon Water Resources De-

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Elk calf study planned on reservation in May, June

In 1991 the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs entered an agreement with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service, Clackamas and Bear Springs districts, to work cooperatively on a study which would promote elk management in the Cascade Mountains.

The objectives of the study were to determine the numbers, habitats and migration patterns of elk herds using this area.

Twelve elk, mostly females, were tranquilized and fitted with radio collars in the spring of 1991. These animals and the herds they associate with have been closely monitored over the past two years.

Shortly after the project began, biologists discovered a disturbing problem. It appeared as though elk calves were not surviving at the expected rate. A winter helicopter survey was conducted in December 1991 and a much lower number of calves

were observed than during the spring when the initial collaring was completed. It was estimated that approximately half the calves were missing, however an accurate assessment could not be made since the number of calves were not enumerated in the spring.

To get a better handle on whether there was a calf loss problem, calves were carefully counted during spring 1992 helicopter surveys. These surveys revealed there were 56 calves per 100 cow elk, a normal number. The following December a flight was made and again the number of calves were counted. The December 1992 flight produced a count of only 26 calves per 100 cows, or 30 less than what was seen 5 months earlier.

So, what is causing this high mortality rate? Disease, predation, poisoning, poaching, starvation?

To answer this question a team of biologists and assistants from the three agencies will attempt to put out 20 radio collars on calf elk this coming spring. The project will begin the last week of May and continue into the third week of June. State, Tribal and Federal government vehicles will be used to transport people and letters of authorization will accompany the vehicles and participants. Long hours of searching will be necessary to locate young calves and it is expected that most daylight hours will be utilized for this effort.

Once collared, the calves will be monitored continuously from U.S. Forest Service Fire lookouts. If a calf dies, the transmitter signal will change, thus alerting the fire lookout. A small team of biologists will then quickly locate the animal and attempt to determine the cause of death. If necessary, the carcass will be sent to Oregon State University for a full necropsy.

Hopefully, this effort will provide us with the cause(s) of calf loss and we can take steps to cure the problem.

So, if you see some ODFW or Forest Service vehicles and people in the high country of the Reservation in May or June, they are probably working on the elk calf project and they will be carrying an authorization letter. Help them out and let them know if you have seen any elk recently.

Questions regarding middle school bond levy answered

District superintendent Phil Riley answered some commonly asked questions about the bond proposal.

Q: Why is the District bringing this issue up now?

A: Students, like adults, do their best work when they are in an environment that is suitable to the tasks at hand. Performance suffers when we work in crowded, noisy, or otherwise uncomfortable settings. Because the District has not built a school in 30 years, our buildings are not only crowded but many rooms are not suited to their current use.

Q: Couldn't we get by with modular classrooms?

A: Of course, but modulars are only a temporary solution. If the District gains 450 students in the next 5 years like it did between 1987 and 1992, that's a lot of modulars. We could spend a lot of money, wiring and plumbing modulars and forestall construction, but it might not be cheapest in the long run especially with interest rates as low as they are currently.

Q: Why not add on to our old buildings?

A: The Facilities Committee discussed additions but decided to recommend a new school. With every building being overcrowded, we'd be adding on at six locations. They simply didn't think that additions would be cost effective on structures built in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's.

Q: Why did the Facilities Committee recommend a Middle School? Don't we have other needs?

A: The Committee actually recommended a 2-part solution to the District's building needs. You have to remember that major portions of four of our buildings were built in the 1930's and 40's so we're talking about facilities that have been used going on 50 or 60 years. The Committee reasoned that building a grades 5-8 middle school would solve the District's immediate problems. That's because the Buff and Junior High students would have a new school, the High School would be able to begin filling Buff, and the "overflow" from the elementary schools would be housed at the old Junior High. But you're right about other needs. The committee also recommended replacing Warm Springs Elementary school and Madras Elementary school within 3-5 years of building the new middle school. The Committee's assignment by the Board was to develop a long-range plan so they understood that one building wouldn't solve all the crowding problems.

Q: Why not build south of Buff Elementary?

A: That location was considered. In fact the Site Committee looked at most 25 acre locations within a reasonable distance from population centers. The Ashwood site won out because it's close to town, it would relieve traffic congestion around the High School, utilities are close to the property, and it's a quiet, accessible location outside the flood-plain. Having Middle School age students next to a growing High School is not the best situation for either group of students. Part of the middle school concept is allowing young adolescents to grow at their own rate and not be pushed into expectations

or situations that are beyond their maturity and experience. Frankly, our principals like the idea of a separate campus. The Bean Foundation's donation of the 30-plus acre site, which will include irrigation water, helped tilt the Board's decision in that direction.

Q: How will we use the Junior High and Buff?

A: As I mentioned, we'd move elementary students and special programs out of crowded situations into the Junior High. Of course, even if the voters approve the new school we're looking at moving in the fall of 1995 so our plans will be adjusted as needed to meet the needs of shifting enrollment. Right now we'd be able to use about 75% of the Junior High to house the elementary "overflow," migrant education, library processing, speech therapy, early intervention, and a variety of specialists' offices. In addition, we'd gain much needed gym space which would let us get our High School students home at a reasonable hour after practices.

Madras High may someday have around 850 students. We've got classes of 230 and 240 coming through the lower grades. In fact, from the 7th grade down, 203 is the smallest class and one group has 250 students. So, you can see what the Facility Committee was thinking when they said Buff can become part of the High School. Buff was built to house about 250 and M.H.S. does pretty well at 600. We could use about two-thirds of Buff for High School programs by next fall. Another thing to remember is that schools are required to offer a tremendous number of programs that didn't exist when our

facilities were built. All of these new programs take equipment, staff, supplies, and space. At the present time we're simply running at capacity.

Q: How will Measure #5 affect this project?

A: Bonded debt for construction is not covered by Measure #5. If the voters approve this project, they'll be paying about \$1.97 per thousand each year for 20 years. Hopefully this will be more than offset by the \$7.50 per thousand reduction they'll see over the next three years. This reduction is based on the Measure #5 requirement that tax rates for schools be cut by \$2.50 each year until they reach \$5 per thousand.

Q: In case anyone had more questions, who are some of the people that served on the committees you mentioned and who are our Board members?

A: Committee members included Kyle Jones, Bill Martin, Janet Brown, Paul Barnes, Dave Green, Julie Mitchell Quaid, Wanda Buslach, and Mike Aherm. Jeff Sanders, Tom Norton, Bette Wallan, Don Aitken, and chairman Steve Earment are members of the Board.

RSVP seeking yard sale donations

The Rescue Search Volunteer Program (RSVP) will be holding a yard sale the weekend of May 29-31, 1993 at the Warm Springs Fire and Safety Firehall. The organization will be selling donated items to raise money for future training and equipment needs for the volunteers and staff.

The volunteers are asking for donations from the community as far as clothing, household, hardware, fur-

niture items, etc.; anything you may have lying around your house that you would like to get rid of. We will be collecting the items at the Agency Firehall.

If you are interested in donating any items to the cause, please contact Karla Tias or Sharon Orr at 553-1634, or drop the items off at the Firehall yourself. We appreciate your support in getting our organization up and running.