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Agreement signed for new school Tribal Council election sees one change

Agreement signed for new school

The Tribal Council and Jefferson County School District 509-J have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to build an \$8 million elementary school on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The agreement calls for the school, designed to hold up to 600 students, to be built on lands designated by the Tribe and to be owned by the Tribe. The school district then would make lease payments on the school for 20 years, after which time the agreement could be reviewed. In addition to having up to 24 classrooms and other space suitable for a school, the building also would be compatible for use during non-school hours for community events.

The school district also would pay all costs of upkeep and maintenance.

The agreements were signed last week by the 509-J School Board and the Tribal Council; a luncheon and ceremony were held at Kah-Nee-Ta.

Single challenger lands a position

Voters went to the polls to elect a new Tribal Council in Warm Springs on Monday, April 9. Voter turnout was down slightly as 1,034 ballots were cast, which is slightly less than 50 percent of the registered voters. Madeline Queahpama-Spino, Vital Statistics Supervisor, said in the last couple of Tribal Council elections the turnout has been around 60 percent. There were 239 absentee ballots cast and 17 were spoiled. There are 2,092 registered Tribal voters.

The Warm Springs Tribal Council is the central governing authority of the Confederated Tribes. This eleven-member body includes eight elected members, who serve three-year terms, and three traditional chiefs who serve for life. There are three districts on the reservation, with a Chief from each district. The Simnasho and Agency Districts each have three elected representatives, and the Seekseekqua District has two elected representatives.

Tribal Council is responsible for setting policy, and hires a Secretary Treasurer and Chief Operations Officer to carry out the day-to-day operations of the tribal organization.

In the only change brought by the election, Ron Suppah Sr., the manager of The Three Warriors Market in Simnasho, unseated incumbent Earl Squiemphen in the Simnasho District. The top vote getters in the Agency District were Garland Brunoe, 196 votes, Bernice Mitchell, 192 votes, and Zane Jackson, 190.

In the Simnasho District, Raymond Tsumpti garnered 142 votes, followed by Ronald Suppah Sr. with 125 and Olney Patt, Jr. with 109. In the Seekseekqua District Joe Moses had 53 votes and Brenda Scott, 29 votes. There were 35 declared candidates reservation-wide.



Members of the 22nd Tribal Council include (clockwise, beginning at top left) Garland Brunoe, Zane Jackson, Bernice Mitchell, Olney Patt Jr., Ronald Suppah Sr. and Brenda Scott. Election day was a busy one for voters and those who worked at the polls at the Community Wellness Center.



Woman pleads to child death

Tamera A. Coffee of Warm Springs pleaded guilty to a federal murder charge in U.S. District Court in Portland on Tuesday, April 17. A trial had been scheduled for the same morning, but Coffee's guilty plea, which reversed an earlier not-guilty plea, altered the day's proceeding.

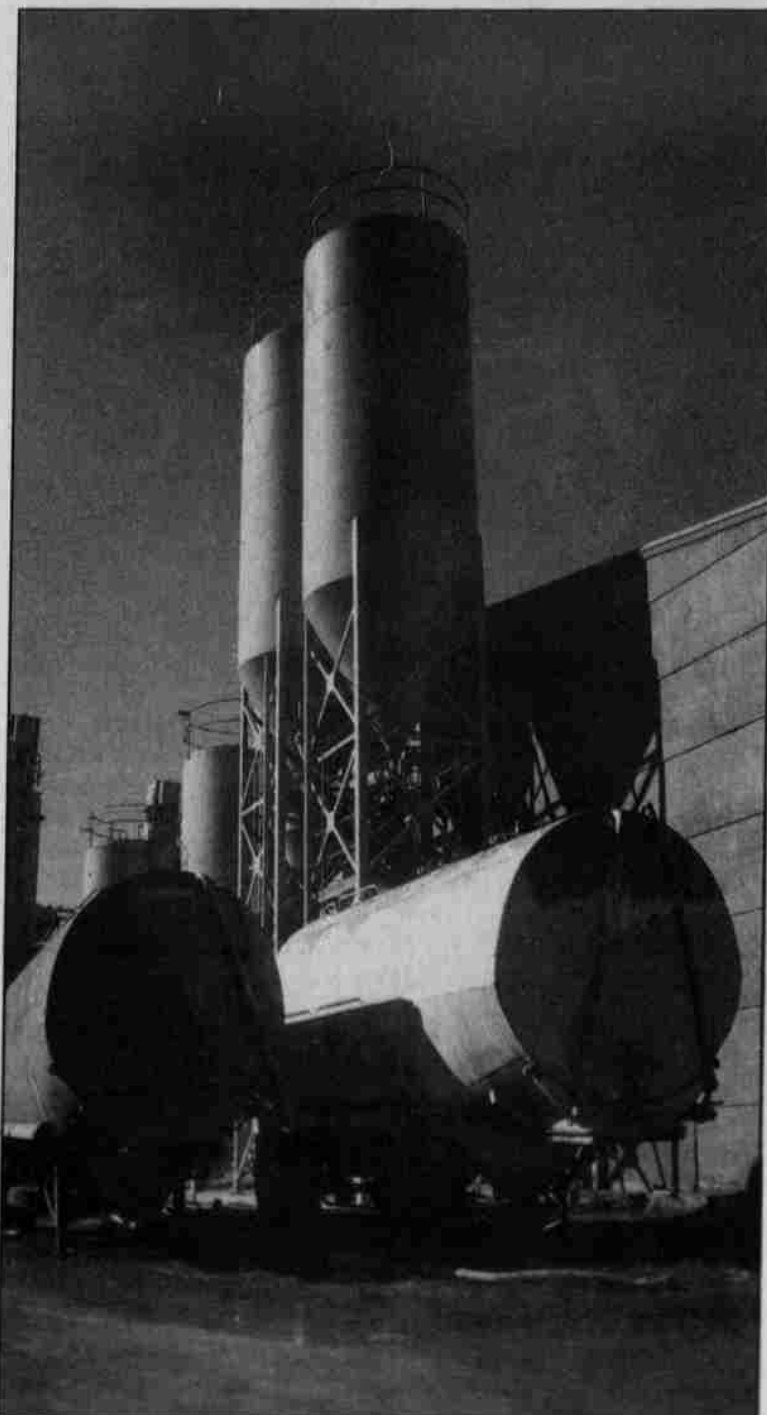
The scheduled trial was stricken and Judge Malcolm F. Marsh set sentencing for 9:30 a.m. July 31. A presentence investigation will be conducted by the U.S. Probation Office and a report will be filed with Marsh (who allowed Coffee's conditional release to continue until the sentencing date) but Coffee's reported agreement with prosecutors includes a multi-year prison sentence.

The murder charge was filed in connection with the death of Coffee's 4-year-old foster son, Andres Estaban Saragos. Andres died July 13, 2000, of heat stroke, after being left in a car for several hours with outside temperatures exceeding 90 degrees. According to federal prosecutors, the boy had lived with Coffee and her husband as a foster child for about two and a half years.

The federal statute for second-degree murder says the 34-year-old Coffee showed an extreme disregard for human life. Reports state that Coffee was angry with Andres and left him in the car while she was working.

Shortly after the death was reported she said she was keeping track of the boy and the car windows were cracked. However, Coffee's story changed several times during the weeks following Andres' death, and prosecutors from the U.S. Attorney's office said they had a witness who would testify the windows were rolled up while Andres was in the car. Reports also indicate Andres was left in the car from approximately 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Coffee never checked to see how he was doing.

Federal law enforcement and prosecutors say they and Coffee agreed to a sentencing recommendation of 78 months. The final sentencing decision remains up to the judge. The guilty plea waives Coffee's right to an appeal.



Holding tanks are part of the enterprise's large operation.

Tectonics International continues to develop innovative products

By Nat Shaw
Tribal Relations

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has long been considered a leader in economic development among Indian tribes in the United States.

In the early 1940s the Tribe paid out its first per-capita payment from revenue generated by timber sales. In the 50s, Tribal leadership negotiated with Portland General Electric on two dams PGE wanted to build on the Deschutes River. In the 60s the Tribe repurchased the hot springs from the Smith, Maxine, and Taylor Corporation for \$165,000 and built Kah-Nee-Ta Village. It was during this decade, with the purchase of the Jefferson Plywood Company and Warm Springs Lumber Company, that the Tribe started processing its own timber. In the 1970s the Tribe completed phase II of the Kah-Nee-Ta project. In the negotiations with PGE back in the 1950s, the Tribe reserved the right to install a turbine in the reregulation dam at sometime in the future. The future arrived in 1981 when Warm Springs Power Enterprise installed that turbine and started generating and selling electricity.

In the 1990s, at a time when the Tribe was downsizing Warm Springs Forest Products, John Henning, the Tribe's Chief Financial Officer, was talking to representatives from Struc-

tural Technology Incorporated (STI). STI was developing a fireproof panel, and was in the early stages of creating Tectonite TM. The Tribe had a facility (the old plywood mill), manpower and finances. STI had the technology and market savvy. An agreement was reached and Tectonics International (TI) was founded. The evolution of Tectonics International since then is well documented. The company is a joint venture in which the Tribes have a 51% interest and Structural Technology Incorporated (STI) a 49% interest.

Tectonics International primarily performs two tasks. They do research and development on new products, and they license companies to use their technology. TI then collects royalties for the use of that technology. Warm Springs Composite Products, Sci-Tech Building Systems of Cortland, Ill, and Cascade Fence and Barrier, Inc. (CFB, Inc) of Warm Springs are all licensees of TI. TI relies solely on money that is generated through royalties and is not included in the annual Tribal Budget.

Tectonite TM is the technology that Phil Rodda and Terry Turner have developed that is at the core of a number of projects. Warm Springs Composite Products uses it for manufacturing stiles and rails for fireproof doors. Ted Brunoe, of CFB, Inc., markets a form of Tectonite TM rapid strength poly-

meric cement to repair a wide array of cement structures, including highways and bridge decks. Sci-Tech Building Systems uses a variation of Tectonite TM cement to produce a decorative face for concrete tilt-up panels.

Now, Tectonics International may have developed a revolutionary technology with Tectonite TM cement that could rock the nuclear industry. Turner and Rodda have been working with scientists at the Hanford Reservation in Richland, Washington for the last four years. Hanford is reputed to be one of the most contaminated sites in the world. The manufacture of Plutonium for use in nuclear weapons in the early 1940s, and subsequently three nuclear power plants in the early 1970s resulted in the generation of tremendous quantities of hazardous by-products.

The neutralization and storage of these hazardous effluents at this site, and others around the world, have proven to be incredibly expensive and in a large part, ineffective. Over the years, increasing amounts of liquid waste have permeated some of the site's 28 concrete waste repository tanks and have found its way into subterranean groundwater networks.

Tectonite TM is versatile, fast-setting, high early strength magnesium-phosphate cement.

Continued on Page 2