

Study: Hood River site OK for building

Trust land is focus of plan for gaming expansion

The tribes' trust property at Hood River is suitable for building, according to preliminary results of a geologic study.

Tribal officials are focusing on the Hood River site as the best option for future expansion of gaming.

Tribal members are expected to consider a referendum on this issue next year.

Before putting the question to a referendum, tribal officials wanted to make sure that the site can in fact be built upon.

The slope of the land, and composition of the ground, had raised a question about the property's suitability for construction.

A crew from a geologic consulting company based in Portland has been studying the Hood River trust property site.

This week the crew, from the company Cornforth Consultants, performed some final testing, including inspection of the composition of the hillside through use of a small camera.

The camera, equipped with lighting, was sent down test holes that had been drilled 95



Geo-technical crews this week were testing the ground of the tribes' Hood River trust property.

feet into the ground.

The image from the camera was recorded on video. By analyzing the video, geologists can determine the make-up of the ground, and how the land

might support a building.

Cornforth is providing a preliminary analysis this week to tribal officials. A final report to Tribal Council is expected in January.

The geologic testing indicates that the property is suitable for building, said Terry Angle, an engineering consultant working for the tribes. "There are no fatal flaws," he said.

Rather than if the property can support a building, the question now becomes how to go about building, considering the slope of the land and makeup of the ground.

There are various construction options available, with cost being a major factor, said Angle.

The Tribal Council has determined that gaming expansion to the Gorge would best address the tribes' long-term economic needs. Large reductions in timber revenue are the reason why gaming expansion has taken a position of primary importance for tribal leaders.

A casino at Hood River could generate up to \$20 million per year in net revenue. For comparison, Warm Springs Power Enterprises in the coming year is expected to provide approximately \$15 million in tribal revenue, nearly half of all tribal revenue.

Timber will provide another \$4.17 million, and gaming, \$2 million, according to the 2002 budget resolution.

Council adopts budget resolution

Following district and general council meetings, the Tribal Council on Nov. 16 finalized the 2002 budget resolution.

Estimated revenue for the budget is a little over \$31 million, nearly half from hydroelectric operations.

Timber will provide approximately \$4.2 million, and gaming \$2 million.

Total expenditures will be just short of \$25.4 million. This includes the tribal operating budget, economic development, capital projects, interest on debt, and community assistance.

Total revenue minus the total expenditures leaves \$5.14 million for per capita payments, plus \$500,000 in budget surplus.

Proposed increases in programs for 2002 were largely eliminated, due to the need to cut the budget.

Of the \$119,611 in program increases proposed by Tribal Council, a total of \$75,000 will be allocated.

Other proposed program increases, totaling \$600,000, were eliminated.

In summarizing some of the issues involved in developing the upcoming 2002 budget, the budget resolution states in part:

"The Tribal Council feels that tribal program managers need to be more innovative, more efficient and more effective in operating tribal government programs to deliver services to the community." Also:

"It is the direction of the Tribal Council that the tribal government organization improve efficiency through gradual and permanent downsizing of tribal

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2002 Budget Resolution

government operations to better match anticipated revenues with expenditures during the fiscal year 2002..." And:

"The Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to coordinate with the Chief Operations Officer to achieve an overall permanent base budget reduction of 4 percent in an amount no less than \$720,642, including a reduction in government programs and services."

Declining timber revenue is a main reason why the tribes are facing budget restrictions. The 2002 allowable timber cut on the reservation will be the lowest in 40 years. At the same time the tribes need to find new sources of future revenue. Toward this goal, the 2002 budget includes \$2 million to be used for economic development.

An allocation of \$1 million will go toward infrastructure projects. The budget, under economic development, also includes an allocation of \$259,392 for the Museum at Warm Springs.

Tribal public relations meets at Madras chamber

Hope is improve business relations

A group representing tribal public relations met recently with business people from the Madras area.

The meeting at the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce was a chance for tribal public relations and Madras business people to become better acquainted.

Eventually, the Spilyay Tymoo newspaper is hoping to increase paid advertising, as a means of better serving readers and also to bring in revenue.

Tribal members provide a significant amount of the business activity in Madras. The

hope is that businesses will recognize this and seek better communication through advertising in the tribes' paper, said Rudy Clements, director of Warm Springs Public Relations.

Chamber of Commerce Director Parrish Van Wert said, "There is no doubt of the importance of supporting each other. The business climate in the city of Madras and Jefferson County is well-served through the expenditures made by tribal members, as well as the tribal government."

Van Wert also spoke of the importance of the reservation to the regional tourist economy.

"With the summer tourist

season ending, we begin to realize the critical role that Kah-Nee-Ta, as well as the Museum, play in drawing attention to the area."

During the summer, over one-third of the contacts made to the Chamber of Commerce office were in regard to Kah-Nee-Ta or the Museum, said Van Wert. Along with department director Clements, and staff of the Spilyay, Mary Sando-Emhoolah, director of KWSO, was also on hand for the chamber meeting.

From Madras, those in attendance included Susan McGough, director of Mt. View Hospital; Bob McConnell, of Pacific Power & Light; as well as representatives

"With the summer tourist season ending, we begin to realize the critical role that Kah-Nee-Ta, as well as the Museum, play in drawing attention to the area."

Parrish Van Wert
Chamber director

of various Madras businesses.

The meeting was during the chamber of commerce regular Friday morning Coffee Cuppers business relations gathering.

Please return stolen baskets

The person who took the huckleberry baskets from the house of Delphine Scott is asked to please return the baskets.

No charges will be brought in court.

The baskets were taken this summer from Ms. Scott's residence in Warm Springs. The baskets mean very much to her, and she was hoping to pass them down to her children.

Meetings set on retirement accounts

Current and former tribal employees 54 years of age and over, effective Jan. 1, you will be self-directing your retirement account. Mandatory meetings are as follows:

Dec. 11, at 9 a.m., at the Fire Management Training Room, Bldg. T-51. At 2:15 p.m., at Forest Products; and at 4 p.m., at Kah-Nee-Ta. On Dec. 13, starting at 9 a.m., at the Fire Management Training Room.

At 2:30 p.m., and at 4 p.m., at the Fire Management Training Room. If it is impossible for you to attend these meetings, please call immediately at 553-3327, or 553-3498.

Police investigating burglaries

The Warm Springs Police Department is investigating a rash of burglaries that have occurred over the past couple of weeks in Warm Springs. The burglaries appear to be related, said Detective Jim Cole.

In one of the more disturbing of the burglary incidents, the suspect or suspects broke into the home of the late Norma Smith, and robbed the house of numerous items.

Ms. Smith had just recently passed away. The robbery appears to have occurred while family members were attending services.

Entry was made through a door that was kicked in. This incident was reported early Wednesday morning to police.

Det. Cole advised people to take precautions against burglary. This can involve using extra lighting around the home, and making sure that valuable items are marked with serial numbers.

For valuable items without serial numbers, a person can engrave a Social Security number or Driver's license number. This allows police to track the true owner when stolen goods are recovered, said Cole.

He said that the police department is also emphasizing the fact that charges can be brought against a person who purchases stolen property.

You can often tell by the nature of the transaction whether you are purchasing

stolen items, said Cole.

For instance, if a person offers to sell an item of value for an extremely low price, the item very likely could be stolen. Purchase and possession of the item could lead to prosecution, said Cole.

School carnival Dec. 13

The ninth annual Warm Springs Elementary School Carnival is coming up.

The carnival will be held in the WSE gym on Thursday, December 13, 2001 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. All proceeds from the carnival will go toward funding for fieldtrips and the Accelerated Reader Program. A cakewalk will be one of the many attractions.

Donated cakes, cookies,

cupcakes, pies, etc. will be accepted in the school office on Wednesday, December 12th and on Thursday, December 13th.

Donations will be greatly appreciated. The carnival will include many, many exciting games, prizes, food and lots of fun.

Please join us on Thursday, December 13th from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for another terrific Warm Springs Elementary Carnival.

Pastors invited to conference

All Pastors are welcome to join in the Second Pastor's Conference to be held at Seattle, Washington on November 30.

For more information contact Pastor Merle Williams Sr. at PO Box 1424, Marysville, WA 98270 or telephone (360) 658-2395.

Mini powwow Dec. 15 at Toppenish

The Status Longhouse Mini Powwow nad Flea mart will be held Dec. 15 at the Toppenish

Community Center, Toppenish, Wash. Call (509) 941-2351; or (509) 941-1575.

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