

A look back at an eventful year on the reservation

(The following is a month-by-month account of some of the news events that occurred on the reservation during the year 2001. The information was compiled by Nat Shaw, assistant director of Tribal Public Relations.)

January

The Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery reports a record return of Spring Chinook salmon.

The Tribal Council implements a \$26.1 million budget for 2001. Facing a shortage of revenue, the Council adopts \$1.1 million in budget cuts. The approval 2001 budget includes directives to find new sources of revenue, and to improve efficiency in tribal government services.

Students from the Warm Springs Elementary School spend an afternoon at the opera. The Portland Opera's artist-in-residence program stages a fabulous production of Cinderella at the school.

Mike Clements, general manager of the tribes' Business and Economic Development branch, is elected president of the Intertribal Transportation Association.

The Spilyay Tymoo moves its offices to 1100 Wasco Street.

February

The month of February begins on a disheartening note, as Warm Springs Forest Products lays off 65 mill workers. The cutback had been announced in December 2000. Depressed prices in the lumber industry coupled with high prices for raw logs necessitate the mill's cutback to one shift a day. Later in the month, the Tribal Council approves a \$250,000 expenditure to help laid-off mill workers.

The BIA is recommending a newly aligned road near Wolfe Point between Highway 3 and Culpus Bridge. The current natural-surface road has several drawbacks. It has a number of curves and can be difficult to negotiate when the surface is wet. BIA is proposing the \$2.5 million project to alleviate these problems.

The Tribal Construction Department is given full enterprise status. "We have to act like any other business now," said Del Towell, general manager of Construction Enterprise. In addition to bringing in money, Towell's goal is to increase employment opportunities. "My goal here is to totally employ tribal members," said Towell, "and to keep our people working year-round."

A 200-pound aircraft refueling assembly fell from the sky, plunging onto the roof of a house at 1567 Elk Loop. The incident happened Feb. 7, as an HC-130 tanker aircraft flying out of Portland International was refueling two HH-60G helicopters.

As the pilot of the tanker began to release the 93-foot refueling assembly stored in a pod under the wing, the entire assembly went hurtling through the night sky, landing on house. Residents were left questioning why such an op-

eration was being conducted 2,000 feet above a populated area.

Warm Springs Composite Products continues to build on its reputation as an international leader in the fire door industry. The tribally owned company employs 29 people, with 24 being tribal members, MITs or other Indians. In 2000, the company generated sales of \$3.5 million with a net profit margin of 20 percent. Growth has been so rapid that a business-consulting group has been retained to prepare a three to five year business plan for growth.

The director of The Museum at Warm Springs, Mary Ellen Conaway, resigns. "Mary Ellen had done some fine things for the museum," said Ken Smith, chairman of the museum board of directors, "but some things weren't gelling on the human side. Both Mary Ellen and the board mutually agreed that she should move on." Ed Manion is named acting director until the board can find a permanent replacement.

March

Tribal member Pat Gold is one of four individuals honored by Governor John Kitzhaber. Gold receives the Governor's Arts Award. She has earned widespread acclaim for her intricate Sally Baskets.

Tribal member Jason Smith and his wild horse team win the World Championship in Wild Horse Racing in Denver, Colo. Smith won his fifth consecutive title, and his eighth overall since winning his first title in 1985. Smith has won the Columbia River regional Championship 15 times.

The Museum At Warm Springs hosts a book signing for Jane Kirkpatrick. *All Together in One Place* is her most recent release. Her first work *Sweetness to the Soul* was awarded both the National Cowboy Hall of Fame's "Wrangler Award" and the Western Heritage Center's "Outstanding Western Novel of 1995." Kirkpatrick, a clinical social worker, works as a consultant for the Warm Springs Early Childhood Education Center.

With action by Tribal Council, the newly revised Integrated Resources Management Plan for the Forested Area (IRMP 1) becomes a permanent guide for forest management on the Warm Springs Reservation.

April

Tribal voters go to the polls to elect a new Tribal Council. Voter turnout is down slightly, as 1,034 ballots are cast, somewhat less than 50 percent of the eligible voters. As a result of the election, there is only one change on the Council. Ron Suppah Sr. replaces Earl Squiemphen in the Simnasho District.

A new playground next to the Community Wellness Center is completed. The playground and nearby walking path were made possible by a grant from the Indian Health Service, Diabetes Grant Team and hard work of a group of



During 2001, Warm Springs Elementary School students were happy to learn that tribal voters had approved a referendum for a new school.

Indian Health Service and Tribal employees. The next project, which is another playground and basketball court, is underway next to the Simnasho Longhouse.

Charles "Jody" Calica is appointed to the 12-member advisory group for the new Oregon State University branch campus in Bend. Calica is the Tribe's Chief Operations Officer and has worked with OSU advisory boards under three college presidents. "My hope is that this will make educational services more responsive," Calica said. "I also look to the branch campus bringing in talent that may aid the reservation in education, economics, community development and natural resource management."

The Housing Department and Credit Department initiate the 2000 Demo/Buy Down Project that will assist 10 qualified tribal member families purchase a home. The project provides a \$10,000 grant that is used as a down payment, and the Credit Department provides financing for the balance of the purchase price.

May

A Tribal Referendum on whether to build a new elementary school on the reservation falls 45 votes short of being a valid election. The proposed new school would be designed to accommodate up to 600 students. The Tribe would borrow up to \$8 million for design and construction of a K-5 elementary school, with Jefferson County School District 509-J reimbursing one half of the total cost.

After the referendum fails for lack of voter participation, the Tribal Council sets a re-vote for June 21.

The Oregon Indian Education Association names tribal member Luanne Foltz as Teacher of the Year. Foltz is a math teacher for the Jefferson County Middle School in Madras. Foltz is a 1992 graduate of Madras High School and received her teaching degree from Arizona State University.

A \$1.5 million land deal that furthers plans to build a gaming facility just east of Hood River closes.

Tribal attorney Dennis

current energy shortage, Warm Springs Power Enterprises has been exploring other generating opportunities. Gas turbine development could be a positive contribution to the tribes' annual revenue needs. The enterprise had a net profit in the year 2000 of \$5,038,123. The profit was transferred to the tribes' general fund.

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino awards its biggest prize ever, when Robert Wilson of Portland hits a jackpot worth \$206,171.25.

June

By a ratio of more than 4-1, tribal members approve the referendum that will result in a new elementary school being built in Warm Springs. The school will open in the fall of 2003.

Officers and detectives of the Warm Springs Police Department work throughout the day and night to recover approximately \$100,000 of stolen property related to several cases throughout the Central Oregon area, including Warm Springs. Recovered items included a flatbed trailer, all terrain vehicle, snowmobiles, electric and pneumatic tools, hand tools, welding equipment, jewelry, Native American regalia and heirlooms, lawn mowers, stereo equipment, firearms and miscellaneous items.

A fire breaks out inside the juvenile section of the Warm Springs Jail. Forty-six inmates are evacuated, with four juveniles and one adult female transported to Mountain View Hospital, where they are treated for smoke inhalation. One of the juveniles has to be kept in intensive care for several days.

The Confederated Tribes and Indian Health Service receive word from the State of Oregon that the state will supply IHS with Oregon Health Plan eligibility packets. Patients can now apply for OHP coverage in the Health and Wellness Center on a walk-in basis. The agreement between the IHS and the State of Oregon will be advantageous for the Tribe. The use of alternate resources enables the Managed Care Program to provide more and better care for Native Americans by stretching its budget.

The Oregon Legislature passes Senate Bill 488, which Governor Kitzhaber signs into law. The bill will require re-

moval of the name "Squaw" from public places in Oregon. Getting the bill passed was a project of Governmental Affairs staffers Colleen Roba and Olivia Wallulatum.

July

A one-car accident claims the life of Paiute Chief Vernon Henry. The accident happened the evening of July 11. Chief Henry died at the scene of the accident, on Highway 3 near Red Lake. Henry, 66, was elected Paiute Chief in 1987.

Later in the month, in a controversial move among Paiute tribal members, Joe Moses is sworn in as the new Paiute Chief. The action, Moses said, was made pursuant to a 1986 district resolution, providing for the designation by the Paiute Chief of a sub-chief. Some Paiute tribal members welcomed Moses' swearing-in. Some others, though, voiced strong criticism of the action.

A fire burns 360 acres of rangeland along Highway 3. The blaze, the first on the reservation for the 2001 fire season, is one of 18 that crews respond to during the evening of July 4 and early morning hours of July 5.

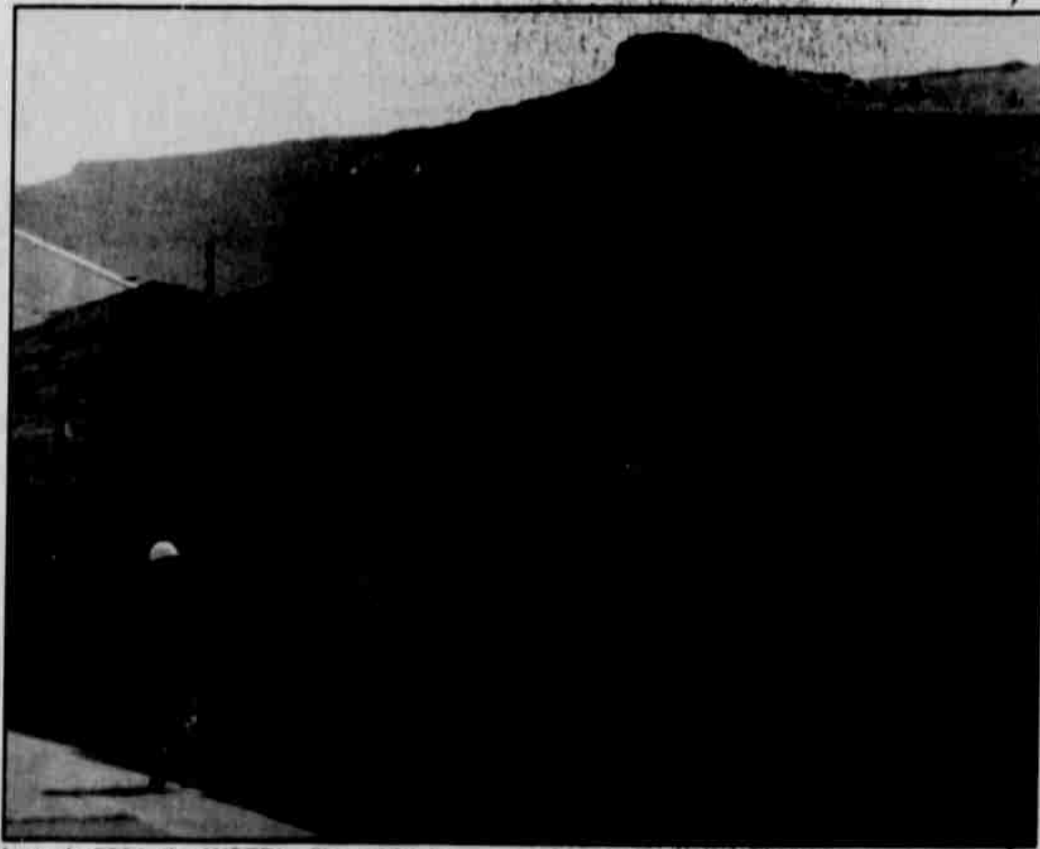
Meanwhile, between parades, water slides and sack races, there was plenty to keep the kids busy on the Fourth of July. There was a balloon race, fireworks and other activities that filled the holiday with warmth and brightness.

The tribes succeed in lobbying the state legislature to pass a bill allowing fluent speakers of traditional languages to teach in public schools. Under the new law a traditional language speaker can obtain a special certificate to teach the language to public school students. Wasco elders Gladys Thompson and Madeline McInturff testified during the legislative process.

Approximately 200 people gather at the new Natural Resources complex to dedicate the building in memory of the late Eugene "Cougar" Greene.

The Bald Peter fire burns on the reservation from July 12 to July 19. The blaze consumes sub-alpine fir, lodge pole pine and brush. Many of the trees burned were already dead from insect infestation.

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In early 2001, the WSFPI mill cut 65 jobs.

Spilyay file photos