

Police remind residents to license dogs

A few weeks ago, after receiving several complaints of people being bit and otherwise threatened by stray dogs, the Warm Springs Police began making an effort to more strictly enforce the tribes' dog control ordinance.

The stricter enforcement began after the public was notified through flyers posted around the community, and announcements over KWSO.

Over the past few weeks, the police have captured a number of stray dogs from various neighborhoods in and around Warm Springs.

The focus has been on dogs that were seen by officers as vicious, or had been reported by residents as dangerous, said Don Courtney, Chief of Police.

There is more awareness of the threat of dangerous dogs, said Courtney, following the recent vicious dog case in Cali-

fornia. In that case, the owners of dogs that killed a woman were convicted of murder.

"We don't want to wait until a tragedy occurs," said Courtney. Because of the more stringent enforcement, dog owners should make an effort to have their pets licensed, after getting the animals the necessary shots. For information, call the tribal sanitarian Nancy Collins at 553-4943.

While providing greater safety to the community, the stricter enforcement of the dog ordinance has had at least one unfortunate consequence. Rose Kirk lost her pet dog because police thought it was a stray.

The dog had been in the yard by her home when it was picked up, said Kirk.

She said that police should compensate her for the loss of the animal, which was still only months old, and was not at all vicious.



Selena Boise/Spilyay

Many dog owners came to the recent pet vaccination clinic at Fire and Safety. Above, a young dog waits his turn for a shot.

Remains to be turned over to tribes

A 100-year-old skull that was found near Alfalfa is to be turned over to the Confederated Tribes, according to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department.

The skull was found in a rock crevice by youths on April 5.

Upon discovering the skull, the youths told a parent, who then contacted the sheriff's department.

The sheriff's department then coordinated a quarter-mile sweep of the area where the skull had been found. Many more bones were found during the

search, but all bones except for the skull were determined to be those of animals, mostly livestock, said Detective Sgt. Gary Decker, of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Department.

The skull was inspected by the State Medical Examiner's Office, which determined the age and ethnicity of the individual, a Native American.

The Medical Examiner's Office was then to contact the BIA, which would then contact the Confederated Tribes for repatriation of the remains.

Investigation brings four arrests

A Warm Springs man was one of four suspects arrested on drug charges, following a year-long investigation.

Eduardo Cuevas, 39, of Warm Springs was charged with delivery, manufacture and possession of a controlled sub-

stance. He was taken into custody on April 16 in Madras, and was held on \$35,000 bail.

Cuevas was arrested along with three non-tribal members, Filiverto Meza-Meza, Marco Perez-Delgado and Ignacio Cruz-Mendoza.

Suspect wanted on warrant

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department has a felony warrant out for Wendell Switzler, 37.

Switzler is a suspect in case involving a woman who allegedly was pushed from a moving vehicle on the Warm Springs grade. The incident happened about 2 a.m. on April 10. The woman who was injured by the fall from the vehicle was treated at St. Charles

Medical Center, and has since been released. The sheriff's department initially had a misdemeanor warrant out for Switzler's arrest, but then added a felony count, meaning Warm Springs police could also act on the warrant.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Warm Springs police at 553-1171, or 553-1172. Information can be reported anonymously.

Vote: need for revenue prompted referendum

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Revenue can be invested in the reservation, creating jobs and growing the local economy.

Regarding the issue of whether to build at the Gorge or on the reservation, Councilman Raymond Tsumpti said, "You have to ask yourself, Do you want to make a large investment with the chance to make a lot of money, or do you make a smaller investment and make less money?"

A casino at the Gorge would cost about \$165 million to construct. That is a large investment, but estimates indi-

cate that a Gorge casino would generate as much as \$15 million during the first full year of operation. The \$15 million would be profit, after operating expenses and debt payment, for the tribes. The annual profit is expected to increase after the first year.

Because of the potential for serious profit, financing the construction phase would likely not be a problem. Clements said that financial institutions already are contacting the tribes.

The Tribal Council voted 5-2 on Monday of this week to hold the gaming expansion ref-

erendum on May 21, 2002, which is a Tuesday.

Councilmen Zane Jackson and Raymond Tsumpti voted against the proposal, while council members Ron Suppah, Bernice Mitchell, Brenda Scott, Carol Wewa and Chief Joe Moses voted in favor. Council Chairman Olney Patt Jr. did not vote, as the chair votes only in case of a tie. Patt is a supporter of the Gorge proposal, as are the council members who were not in attendance for the vote on the referendum.

Councilman Jackson has spoken against the idea of building at Hood River,

though he has spoken favorably of Cascade Locks. Jackson also has advocated building a new casino on the reservation.

Councilman Tsumpti said he is in favor of building at the Gorge, but did not approve of some wording, regarding construction financing, of the resolution and referendum proposal. After the vote to hold the referendum, Councilwoman Bernice Mitchell said, "Whatever we decide, I hope that we all are thinking of the future of our children, and what would be best for them."

Events: district meetings next week

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Meanwhile, Simnasho will be holding a district meeting on gaming the evening of Monday, May 6. Seekseequa will hold a gaming district meeting the evening of Tuesday, May 7. And a general council meeting on gaming is set for May 16.

Agency District had not yet set a date.

By the time of the May 21 tribal referendum vote, tribal officials will have conducted dozens of meetings on the gaming question. "There has been a comprehensive effort to involve and inform the membership," said Council Chairman Olney Patt Jr.

"In the past there have been people who have felt they

would be voting on a done-deal," said Patt. "In these meetings they are finding out that is not the case. The question is still very much up to the people."

In the May 21 referendum, there will be approximately 2,100 eligible tribal member voters. Of the total, about 600 - nearly a third - are off-reservation absentee voters.

Secretary-Treasurer Charles Jackson emphasized that the absentee voters need to be a part of the gaming expansion discussion.

Toward this goal, the tribes are planning to hold meetings on gaming expansion in Portland, and possibly in Eugene, towns where a number of tribal members are living.

The hope is that the absentee ballots will be mailed on Friday of this week. These ballots must be returned by election day, May 21, 2002.

Resolution explains need for referendum

The Tribal Council on Monday, April 29, adopted Resolution No. 10,170, regarding the referendum on gaming expansion. The resolution providing for the May 21 referendum reads as follows:

Whereas, revenues produced from timber and hydroelectric power have been the main sources of revenue for the support of tribal government services by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; and,

Whereas, those sources of revenue can no longer provide sufficient funds to support essential tribal government services; and,

Whereas, the expansion of gaming operations is required, in order to produce revenues necessary for the continuation of essential tribal government services; and,

Whereas, the eligible voters of the Tribe have twice before voted in favor of tribal gaming; and,

Whereas, in order to produce sufficient revenue, it is necessary that a new tribal casino be built off of the Warm Springs Reservation, closer to the Portland Metropolitan Area; and,

Whereas, revenues generated at a casino operation off of the reservation can be uti-

lized to fund essential tribal governmental services and fund activities that will provide continued and expanded employment on the reservation; and,

Whereas, these circumstances have been explained to the tribal members at a series of meetings, in order to fully inform the tribal members so that they may vote on the question of casino expansion off of the reservation, at a referendum election currently scheduled for May 21, 2002, now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the twenty-second Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, pursuant to Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws, that a tribal referendum shall be held on May 21, 2002, and that the following question shall be submitted to the eligible voters:

Shall the Tribe be authorized to finance, construct and operate a gaming casino on Tribal trust lands in the Columbia River Gorge, on such terms as the Tribal Council shall determine; provided, that any borrowing shall be the obligation only of the casino enterprise and shall not risk any other tribal assets? Yes or no.

Housing: proposal would clarify Authority's role

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That is not a new idea, said Fuentes, but it is one that so far has been very difficult to achieve.

In recent weeks, Fuentes and the Tribal Council have discussed changes that should help in addressing some initial housing issues.

For instance, Fuentes has proposed a resolution that would clarify the roles of the Warm Springs Housing Authority, and the executive director of the Housing Authority.

The resolution clarifies that the Warm Springs Housing Authority is designated as representative of the tribes in housing matters before federal and other housing agencies.

Currently, there is a question whether the Housing Authority is designated as fully

representative, with authority to receive funds on behalf of the tribes.

The proposed resolution also states that the Housing Authority, as the Tribally Designated Housing Entity, "will administer all housing funds appropriated within the Warm Springs Housing Authority budget, establish policy guidelines for the executive director to follow, and will be the sole responsible party for performance of the executive director."

Another provision of the proposed resolution says: "The executive director of the Housing Authority should be responsible for the development of appropriate policies, procedures, supervision of staff, budget management of the daily operations of the Housing Authority and report directly

Bridge work done ahead of schedule

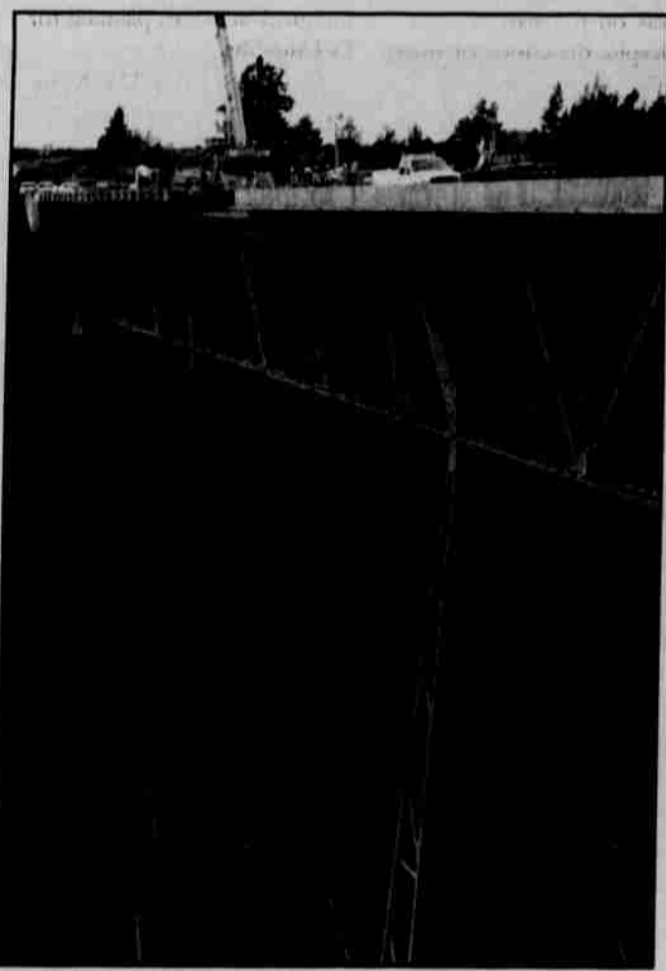
The Mill Creek Bridge project finished ahead of schedule last week, allowing the re-opening of Highway 26 through the reservation.

The bridge renovation project was initially scheduled for completion on May 3, but the workers completed the job on April 25.

The project began on April 1. From that date through April 25, the highway was closed during the weekdays from Warm Springs up to the Simnasho turnoff. The bridge was open on the weekends.

During the closure time, passenger vehicle traffic used routes 3 and 9 through Simnasho. Truck traffic used the route over highways 97, 197 and 216, through the Maupin area.

The work that ODOT did on the bridge involved replacement of the deck of the bridge.



The Mill Creek Bridge, under repair last week.

Other problems, the summary states, include "the non-payment of rent by a significant number of renters, and a diminishing pool of qualified members who can attain a housing loan from credit."

If you don't have money coming in from renters and buyers of homes, then you have less funding to work with in maintenance of existing homes and construction of new ones, said Fuentes.

As a result, federal funding for new housing construction is two years behind, "and because not enough homes are built on an annual basis, this situation will continue to get worse until something is done to correct core deficits."

These are just some of the many aspects of the housing situation, said Fuentes.