



Spilyay Tymoc

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Budget woes deepen

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

The Confederated Tribes' budget for the current year is expected to see a significant reduction in revenues. To compensate for the revenue shortfall, a number of "belt tightening" measures are under consideration, primarily expenditure cuts that could reach as high as \$6 million.

The tribes' annual budget is an authorization from the Tribal Council to spend funds for various governmental programs based on revenue estimates for the year.

The current year budget is seeing a shortfall mainly because revenue from Warm Springs Power Enterprises is well below the amount that had earlier been projected.

The current revenue projection for Power Enterprises is about \$6.8 million less than projected in November of last year.

"This has nothing to do with the effort that Power Enterprises is making," said Willy Fuentes, the tribes' Chief Operations Officer.

The problem, he said, is that the power market is not performing the way people had expected.

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Snake bite incident harrowing

At first Dondi Foster did not realize he had been bitten by a rattlesnake.

The snake had been a young one, and did not yet have a rattle to warn people to stay away.

It was Pi-Ume-Sha weekend, and Foster had been out in his yard.

When he went inside, he began feeling a pain shooting through his left hand and up his arm.

Soon the muscles in his arm contracted.

His arm became stiff and immovable against his chest. From the house Pearl Wyman called 9-1-1 and the ambulance arrived.

"At first we thought it was a spider bite," said Wyman.

Warm Springs Emergency Medical Services arrived and examined Foster. Still not aware that he had been bitten by a rattlesnake, the EMS team rushed Foster to Mountain View Hospital.

"I was in unbelievable pain. My whole body hurt," said Foster.

At the hospital, the Emergency Room workers determined that Foster had been bitten by a rattlesnake. They found two small puncture wounds on his left middle finger.

The doctor tested Foster to see if he could take the anti-venom. He tested okay, so they gave him the anti-venom.

He finally stabilized at 3:30 in the morning.

He was unconscious for the next three days. "When I woke up I didn't know where I was," said Foster. He continued to rest up at home, but last week he was finally able to do daily activity. The snakebite damaged the nerves in his finger and hand. The venom also killed the skin and some tissue on his hand.

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Elders remember Celilo

12th annual elders picnic a chance to revisit site of falls



Freda Wallulatum enjoys lunch with friends and family at the Tribal Elders Celilo Picnic.

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

Indians of the Columbia River tribes gathered recently at Celilo Park.

Some of the elder people who were present remembered Celilo before the construction of The Dalles Dam.

The dam flooded Celilo Falls and many other nearby fishing sites that Indians had used from time immemorial.

This was the 50th anniversary of the flooding of the mighty Celilo Falls. Celilo Park is located near the small Celilo community, and just above the area where the falls used to be.

"You hear the trains and the cars going by, but there is one sound you don't hear," said William Burke, a chief of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.

"You don't hear the sound of the falls. But for some of us, that sound will always remain."

Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum told of the history of the Celilo area, and the importance the site has for his people. Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath also addressed the gathering of several hundred people.

On hand for the event were people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce — the four treaty tribes of the Columbia River.

The event was coordinated by the seniors programs of the tribes. There was a strong feeling of unity and of being together.

The reservation system did not separate the Columbia River tribes, which have always had close ties, said Rudy Clements, master of ceremonies for the picnic.

The day's activities were initiated by the introduction of the colors by the veterans of foreign wars.

The food was plentiful, served by many volunteers, including youths from the different tribes.

The meal was prepared at the Celilo Longhouse.

Suspects arrested in burglary spree

U.S. Attorney may file charges

Warm Springs police made several arrests in connection with a string of burglaries that have happened on the reservation over the past several months.

Six juveniles and three adults were arrested, and more arrests are expected, according to a report by Warm Springs police.

In addition to the arrests, police recovered approximately \$37,000 worth of items believed to have been stolen from local residences, the police report says.

One of the more recent burglaries

attributed to the suspects was particularly disturbing.

In this case, a tribal elder had been hospitalized for a time.

Taking advantage of the situation, the juveniles broke into the elder person's home, and stole several items. Total value of property taken during this one burglary was \$30,000.

The youth suspected of this crime show a complete lack of respect even for elders, said Don Courtney, Chief of Warm Springs Police.

The case is so serious that the U.S. Attorney's Office is considering filing federal charges against the suspects, according to the police report.

Courtney also reminded people that the purchase of stolen items can

lead to the arrest of the person in possession.

In other recent Warm Springs police news:

Over the course of the Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days celebration, 144 people were arrested and processed through the Warm Springs Jail.

The good news is that no one was killed or seriously injured during event, said Police Chief Courtney.

During Pi-Ume-Sha, police established three sobriety check-points, resulting in eight drivers being charged with being under the influence, according to the police report.

Also, ten people were charged with drug-related violations during the event.

Fire season off to very busy start

One hundred people from Warm Springs Fire Management have been at work over the past two weeks in helping contain the Eyerly Fire. In all, over 1,000 firefighters from around the country have helped in battling the blaze, which destroyed 18 homes in rural Jefferson County.

The fire, which broke out July 9 on the south end of the reservation, has been one of the larger fires in recent years in Central Oregon.

The Eyerly Fire also came toward the start of the fire season, meaning that local crews will likely be busy for quite a while.

"I think we're looking at hotter and dryer conditions as we get more into summer," said Gary Cooke, Warm Springs Fire Management Officer.

The region will see increasingly higher fire danger probably until early October, said Cooke.

The Eyerly Fire burned approximately 23,000 acres.

The fire, named for the Eyerly property on the Metolius, burned about 2,000 acres on the reservation, and another 21,000 off.

The fire began on the reservation in a timberland area, but then



Air tanker makes a retardant drop on the Eyerly Fire

Photo by Doug Calvin for Spilyay

burned mainly into rangeland.

The fire broke out at about 2 p.m. on July 9, a Tuesday. At that time, Warm Springs Fire Management responded with a helicopter and two engines. Twenty-six personnel were on the scene. After the initial response, Fire Management, a branch of BIA, sent an additional engine and six additional personnel.

Meanwhile, a seven-person crew arrived from the Forestry Department. Prineville BLM also sent a helicopter, and a five-person crew arrived by boat from the Sister's District of the U.S. Forest Service.

A 20-person crew was on the scene during the night of July 9, while two additional 20-person crews and another helicopter were ordered for the following day.

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Eyerly Fire first big test for GeoVisions

In a trailer at the Culver base camp of the Eyerly Fire, you find some of the most sophisticated and high-tech mapping equipment in the nation.

The personnel operating the equipment specialize in digital mapping systems. They use a satellite hook-up, and state-of-the-art mapping software. The trailer is the key element of GeoVisions, a new enterprise of the Confederated Tribes.

GeoVisions was formed early this year. The technology and personnel of the enterprise are a part of the tribes' Geographic Information System, or GIS office, a department of the Natural Resources Branch.

The Eyerly Fire has been the first real test of the new GeoVisions mobile trailer, made operational just 10 days before the fire broke. By all standards, GeoVisions has passed the test.

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