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## 509-J cuts may delay new school

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymo

Although statewide school districts have "dodged most of the bullets," said 509-J school district Supt. Philip Riley, there still will be budget cuts.

He said that legal negotiations for the Warm Springs school lease will continue, but a payment cannot be made until March 2003.

With Gov. Kitzhaber's veto on payment shifts overridden, and with the passing of Measure 19, schools in the 509-J district are anticipating cuts amounting to \$77 per student. The total loss will be approximately \$316,000.

The veto override allows the district to borrow money for teachers' summer paychecks next May, and defer that payment until the next year. Measure 19 allows schools to borrow bond money from future tobacco tax revenue.

The passing of Measure 19 on Sept. 17 saved the district \$230 per student in cuts.

Riley said with the present situation no staff will be cut but other projects will be put on hold, such as maintenance projects, technology projects, the roof at the middle school, the purchase of one school bus, and funds for the new school at Warm Springs.

"These financial obligations are frozen or on hold but if we get more money, we'll go ahead with our plans," explained Riley.

In late spring, due to cuts and other financial savings, the district anticipates having \$1.4 million as a financial cushion to use for delayed projects.

"We're keeping the brakes on and being conservative," said Riley.

See **SCHOOL** on page 3

## Two enter guilty pleas in murder case

Two young men charged last year in the death of Michael Saluda have pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. The sentencing date for Angelo Fuentes and Ronald McKinley is set for Nov. 26.

The U.S. Attorney's office is recommending to the federal judge in the case that Fuentes be sentenced to 40 years and McKinley to 30 years.

By entering guilty pleas, rather than going to trial, Fuentes, 23, and McKinley, 24, may avoid being sentenced to life in prison.

A third person involved in the case, Tony Gilbert Jr., 19, earlier pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. He had also agreed to testify, if necessary, at the trials of Fuentes and McKinley.

The sentencing date for Gilbert is also set for Nov. 26. He could receive up to 20 years in prison.

McKinley, Fuentes and Gilbert were arrested in July of last year on allegations of having murdered Michael Saluda, who was 26 at the time of his death.

The murder happened in mid July at the Lower Dry Creek Campground on the reservation.

The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland. The office is not yet able to comment on why the sentencing recommendation for Fuentes is 40 years, and the recommendation for McKinley is 30 years, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Williams.

## Another good run...



Shannon Keaveny/Spilyay

Julian Scott pulls in a fall chinook at Sherar Falls. The salmon turned out to be a native species that Scott, of Warm Springs, threw back. The 500 fish harvest cap for fall Chinook salmon at Sherar Falls is only for hatchery fish. Like last year, the best year since 1938, salmon runs are up on the Deschutes River. See story on page 10.

## Restoring Pine Creek Ranch

In the center of the ceded lands the ranch is an example of stewardship rooted in a people

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymo

Pine Creek Ranch is part of a large effort to improve watershed and wildlife habitat throughout the John Day basin. The ranch's striking canyon setting and budding wetlands will provide valuable resources for tribal members who continue the cultural practices of root digging, hunting and fishing.

The tribes purchased the 34,000-acre ranch two years ago, with funding provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

"A lot of people who visit the ranch are surprised to learn how much work the tribes do to protect natural resources throughout their ceded lands," said Mark Berry, manager of watershed and wildlife restoration at the ranch.

Recently, tribal officials and other employees toured Pine Creek Ranch, located on the John Day River.

Among those on the tour were Tribal Council Chairman Olney Patt Jr., Councilman Ron Suppah, and Secretary-Treasurer Charles Jackson.

Berry was enthusiastic in sharing in-

formation on the ranch restoration project. In the last few years, he said, many tribal members have enjoyed the benefits of this land.

"Lots of tribal members already have taken advantage of the hunting opportunities. This year, alone, we issued 70 elk/deer hunting permits for tribal members."

Future projections foresee summer steelhead eventually recovering to the point where they are no longer listed as threatened.

Currently, the fishing season on the John Day is catch and release for all wild, native steelhead. Some hatchery strays from other rivers can be kept. Through current restoration efforts, the John Day basin may some day support a native fishery.

The property arrangement between BPA and Warm Springs is at no cost to the tribes. This is true because federal law requires entities (such as BPA) responsible for fish and wildlife loss due to dams to compensate.

BPA paid the original purchase price of \$5.6 million. Today, the agency continues to provide operation and management funds for the project. A grant, known as the CREP Riparian Buffer Project, covers the property taxes.

The project is moving along in accordance to the management plan agreed upon between Warm Springs tribes and BPA in 1999.

See **RANCH** on page 3

## Proposed budget calls for 7 percent cut

The Tribal Council has approved the posting of a proposed budget for 2003. The proposal includes a 7-percent overall decrease in expenditures from the current year's approved budget levels.

Tribal operations would see an overall reduction of about \$1 million under the proposed 2003 budget.

Nearly all departments of the tribal government would see reduced budgets under this proposal.

The 7-percent decrease falls about in the middle of the two scenarios - a 5-percent reduction and a 10-percent reduction - that department di-

rectors and branch managers presented to Tribal Council last month.

District meetings on the 2003 budget are tentatively set as follows:

Monday, Oct. 21, Simnasho District Meeting, Simnasho Longhouse; Tuesday, Oct. 22, Agency District Meeting at the Agency Longhouse; and Wednesday, Oct. 23, Seekseequa District Meeting at the Agency Longhouse.

The proposed 2003 budget is posted at the Administration building, the Post Office, Warm Springs Market, the Community Wellness Center, and at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Tribal members will receive a copy

of the proposal in the mail during the middle part of this month. More detailed information on the budget will be provided at the district meetings.

The 2003 budget proposal includes a slight increase in the per capita fund: From \$5.144 million this year to \$5.272 million next year, an increase of \$128,000.

High Lookee Lodge would also see an increase in funding by \$250,000 under the proposal. Tribal funding for K-5 school would see an increase of \$250,000, to \$450,000, in order to cover the tribes' anticipated annual share of building the new elementary

school.

Most other tribal entities - from public safety and utilities, to natural resources and human resources - would see budget reductions.

The primary reason why the reductions are needed is the weak market for electric power. Revenue from power is being adjusted downward by \$4 million, based on the weak power market. Meanwhile, the tribes' Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer are reviewing all potential new sources of revenue, including existing enterprise reserves, as well as additional grants.

## Crew refurbishing administration building

By Selena Boise  
Spilyay Tymo

The Tribal Administration building is being refurbished and repainted on the exterior, because the last 13 years have left it weather-beaten.

It has been that long since the building, located at 1233 Veterans Street, was last refurbished.

And the last time, the work was not done professionally, as the nails have not been holding, and water has soaked through the wood, causing it to rot.

The current work includes painting as well as re-nailing the exterior wood siding.

Herb Graybael, Warm Springs Public Utilities Branch Manager, included this project in his 2002 budget.

Warm Springs Construction was contracted to do the work, which is near completion.

"What was thought to be a one-month project turned out to be six weeks," said Alvis Smith Jr., of



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Adrian Smith works on the east wall of the Administration Building.

Warm Springs Construction.

"The work done thirteen years ago was done shabbily," Smith said.

The nails were driven clear through some boards and were not holding.

There were also a lot of missed nails not driven in completely.

The rain throughout the years has soaked through the wood causing it to rot, so boards had to be replaced.

"What was thought to be a one-month project turned out to be six weeks."

Alvis Smith Jr.

The intention was to put two coats of paint on the building, but to assist in the preservation the construction crew will be applying three coats.

Their projected completion date is October 4. The administration building is the work place of many tribal employees.

The building houses most tribal governmental departments.

Offices in the administration building include Personnel, Compensation and Benefits, Finance, Payroll, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, Vital Statistics, Office of Information Systems, Credit, Realty, Governmental Affairs, Management, Tribal Council chambers, Mail and Reception, and the office of the BIA superintendent.