



Spilyay Tymo

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Changes in store at lodge

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

Carol Funk has been hired as the new director of High Lookee Lodge. Funk has a medical background, and also was a manager at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort. Funk, of Culver, will likely start as the new director of High Lookee on Dec. 9.

The current director Amy Carlson has taken another job with Concepts in Community Living, the company the tribes hired to manage High Lookee.

Carlson has been with High Lookee since its opening in 2000. She has taken the job of regional manager for Concepts in Community Living.

The change in directorship is one of a number of changes that are happening at High Lookee. Tribal Council, for instance, is considering a means of having the Indian Health Service (IHS) help in the funding of the lodge.

For the coming budget year, Council meanwhile has appropriated \$250,000 for High Lookee. If IHS comes through with funding, though, it may be possible for the tribes to save some of the \$250,000, said Charles Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer.

When High Lookee opened two years ago, Tribal Council appropriated \$500,000 for operation of the lodge. This money funded the operation through most of this year. The hope of the tribes is one day for High Lookee to be self-funding, said Willy Fuentes, Chief Operations Officer.

The challenge in meeting that goal, he said, is to increase the occupancy rate at High Lookee. There are approximately 20 residents at the lodge, but an occupancy rate of about 30 would help make High Lookee financially independent, said Fuentes.

Construction has new general manager

Glenn Carpenter has been hired as the Warm Springs Construction Enterprise general manager.

Carpenter was hired by Construction in 1999 as superintendent of roads, and has been overseeing all road projects on the reservation. Carpenter has 30 years of professional experience in roads and other construction work.

Warm Springs Ventures, the tribes' economic development corporation, announced last week that Carpenter had been hired as general manager.

Ventures earlier this fall took over management of the Construction Enterprise, and has implemented a number of organizational changes.

Ventures announced last week that the Construction Enterprise would be relocating from the Utilities Department building to the Apparel Factory building, offering more space for Construction. The Apparel Factory has been mostly vacant for some time.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

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Council makes fire hall a priority

Project for Seekseequa had been on hold

The Tribal Council has made the construction and operation of a fire hall in the Seekseequa District a priority for 2003.

The tribal government budget for the coming year includes over half a million dollars for equipping the new fire hall, and for its operation and maintenance.

The Council for the 2001 budget appropriated \$250,000 for construction of the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

The 2003 budget includes \$225,000 for its operation and maintenance, plus \$330,000 for equipment.

The 2003 budget, approved by Council last week, also acknowledges that the Seekseequa Fire Hall has fund-

ing priority over a proposed new fire hall that will serve the Sidwalter area.

The budget includes a provision to reallocate \$200,000 that Council had earlier designated for construction of a Sidwalter Fire Hall.

The \$200,000 instead would be used on the Seekseequa Fire Hall, according to the budget provision.

The \$200,000 figure makes up a good part of the \$330,000 that will be

used for equipment of the Seekseequa hall.

Last week, during discussion of the 2003 budget, Joe Moses, Paiute Chief of the Council, said the Seekseequa Fire Hall has been delayed far too long.

The fire hall project was on track for construction over a year ago, he said, but then the project stalled.

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Wyatt Frank drums during the Native American program at the Jefferson County Middle School. The event last week was part of Native American Appreciation Month.

School district board hears tribal concerns

Warm Springs parents share their ideas on use of Impact Aid funds

By Shannon Keaveny
Spilyay Tymo

The Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors gathered at the Warm Springs Elementary School on Monday night with tribal member parents.

The district encouraged parents to make recommendations concerning the needs of their children in the educational programs assisted by Impact Aid funds.

Julie Quaid, parent and Warm Springs Early Childhood Education director, presented a letter to the 509-J board.

In light of economic strife on the reservation and in the state, Quaid requested the district maintain and improve the strength of the core curriculum at all grade levels, mentioning specifically the importance of strong language arts, math and reading for Native American children.

Quaid recommended that educational services, programs and activities

remain affordable, ensuring Indian families full access and participation.

Finally, she hoped progress towards the completion of the new Warm Springs Elementary School will continue to move forward.

Several tribal members spoke of the new Indian language program, and the importance of language for their culture.

Evaline Patt reiterated the importance of supporting teachers in the language program at the Jefferson County Middle School.

She cited studies that have indicated bilingual students excel.

One tribal member said to the board, "Help us recognize our identity. The Indian community wants it."

Impact Aid money is designed to reimburse public school systems that have lost a part of their tax base due to a federal or other sovereign presence in their district.

Through its sovereignty, the reservation is not subject to the school district taxing authority.

According to school district supt. Phil Riley, the 509-J district receives about \$2.9 million in Impact Aid funding annually, amounting to about \$2,000 per Indian student.

Budget forces difficult choices

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

Tribal Council has decided to use \$1.5 million from the Credit Enterprise as a source of funds for the 2003 tribal government budget.

The Council also decided to use approximately \$2 million from the tribes' revenue reserve, or rainy day fund, but only if the tribal general fund working capital reserve drops below \$6 million, which is the minimum balance needed to pay current payroll and other essential expenditures.

These decisions by Council help to demonstrate the seriousness of the budget situation facing the Con-

federated Tribes.

To maintain an adequate level of government service, and also to lessen the need for employee layoffs, the Council decided to withdraw \$1.5 million of "Interest Earnings from Idle Cash" accumulated in Credit's retained earnings, leaving approximately \$6 million of such accumulated earnings on Credit's books.

In the same spirit the Council decided for the first time to use accumulated prior years' earnings of the tribal rainy day fund.

Over the past two years the tribes have utilized current year interest from the \$33 million fund, established in 1988.

The coming budget year will be the

first in which part of the prior year earnings of the rainy day fund will be spent on tribal government operations, if the working capital drops below \$6 million.

In adopting the 2003 budget, the Council last week appropriated just over \$22 million for the annual operation of the tribal government.

The revenue for the budget comes from a variety of sources, with tribal enterprise dividends accounting for almost \$12.4 million.

Warm Springs Power Enterprises is expected to pay a dividend of \$8 million, and gaming is expected to add another \$2.5 million.

Please see BUDGET on page 3

Middle school now offering Native language

The Culture and Heritage Department, Education Committee and School District 509-J have developed a schedule for teaching the Ichishkeen language to fifth-graders at Jefferson County Middle School.

The classes begin with the next trimester, Dec. 2.

This will be the first time that a Native language course will be offered at the middle school. This has been a long-term goal of Culture and Heritage, said Myra Shawaway, department director.

Teachers will be Arlita Rhoan and Dallas Winishut Jr.

Board will consider river permit system

By Bill Rhoades
Spilyay Tymo

Tribal efforts to impose a boater permit system on the Deschutes River drew a standing room only crowd, but little support during a meeting of the Lower Deschutes River Managers held Nov. 14 at Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

State and federal representatives opposed a tribal proposal to start limiting boater numbers on busy summer weekends, favoring an approach that would continue to pursue non-permit measures as a means of controlling boater access.

The impasse will leave a decision on whether or not to initiate a permit system up to a five-member ex-

ecutive review board, made up of tribal, state and federal representatives. They are expected to meet on the issue sometime after the first of the year.

At an earlier meeting, Natural Resources General Manager Robert Brunoe, who chairs the managers group, had proposed implementing a one-year, trial permit system on Segment 1 (Warm Springs to the Deschutes Club Locked Gate) of the river beginning in 2004. The eight-member managers group was supposed to consider the proposal and offer opinions on Nov. 14.

Most federal and state representatives spoke against the permit system during the meeting at Power Enterprises. They cited a downward trend in

boater use as evidence that non-permit measures are working to achieve target levels established under the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan, which was adopted in 1993.

Brunoe and BIA representative Gerald Henrickson said targets have consistently been exceeded for the past 10 years and the time to implement a permit system is long overdue.

"From Tribal Council's perspective it (permit system) should have been implemented a long time ago," said Brunoe.

"We've been very patient. We've been trying the non-permit measures, but we haven't reached the target numbers."

The Deschutes plan establishes

boater use targets for Segment 1 adjacent to the reservation at 220 people per day (Warm Springs to Trout Creek) and 330 people per day (Trout Creek to the Deschutes Club Locked Gate) during the primary use season, May 15 through Sept. 15.

One objective is to manage boater use at approximately 1990 seasonal levels while redistributing daily peak weekend use to weekdays or other weekend periods when daily boating use is less than targets levels.

In 2002, target levels were exceeded on all river segments, but targets were surpassed on Segment 1B more than any other stretch of the river.

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