

# 2002, 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 past year.)

## January

For the Warm Springs Reservation an important event in early 2002 happened on a cold and foggy morning in the rugged Aldrich Mountains, near the town of John Day.

On that morning a team of tribal and state wildlife specialists met with a helicopter crew at a base camp at the foot of the remote mountain chain. The helicopter crew was skilled at capturing wild sheep. Their technique involved dropping nets on the sheep from the air, then carrying the animals - in nets attached to the bottom of the helicopter - back to the base camp.

In this case the sheep were California bighorns, a species once found in great numbers in the Mutton Mountains of the Warm Springs Reservation. The sheep disappeared from the Muttons decades ago, victims of disease borne by domestic sheep.

The capture operation at the Aldrich Mountains marked the culmination of years of planning and negotiation between the tribes and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In all, 20 sheep were captured, carried to the base camp, then transferred to the Mutton Mountains.

Some of the sheep were pregnant ewes. Others were young rams, as well as some older rams. One of the older rams died a short time after being transferred.

But the population of wild sheep now roaming the Muttons is doing well. Some time in the future the tribes hope to obtain more bighorns from a different location in the state, in order to diversify and strengthen the local population. One day tribal members may be able to obtain permits to hunt bighorns, a species of cultural significance to the tribes.

Other news from January of 2002:  
A second attempt at conducting a tribal adoption election failed for lack of voter participation. The earlier attempt failed in October 2001. There were 76 adoption candidates on both the October and January 2002 ballots.

The elections carried some degree of controversy: Some tribal members opposed to the election pointed out that only one of the 76 candidates on the ballot had one-quarter blood of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The other candidates to varying degrees had less than one-quarter Confederated Tribes blood.

After the January 2002 election failed, tribal officials agreed that it may be some time before the tribes conduct another vote on the adoption candidates. And in other news:

The Board of Directors of The Museum at Warm Springs chose Carol Leone as the new director of the museum. And this:

Plans were under way to expand the tribal Geographic Information System (GIS) office, a department of the Natural Resources Branch. The GIS office, employing seven people, has the ability and opportunity to provide a technology service that is in great demand. The GIS work involves the use of state of the art computer hardware and software. The employees generate information - in the form of computerized maps, including 3-D interactive mapping systems - that is useful in many ways.



In the fall, Bryson and Larry Spino take time for some playground activities before classes begin on the first day of school.

## February

In February tribal leaders initiated a community discussion of gaming expansion, a topic that would dominate the news on the reservation throughout the year.

In early February the Tribal Council and gaming officials began a community outreach effort that would include district and family meetings, where tribal members could share their opinions on gaming expansion. In early February the Tribal Council reviewed and approved a brochure, including a survey questionnaire, to be circulated among tribal members. Questions on the brochure included:

Do you think the tribes should build a new, larger casino? And if so, where? Along Highway 26 at HeHe? Or at the tribes' trust property at Hood River?

HeHe Junction and Hood River were the two locations most often mentioned by tribal members as potential casino sites. Later in the month, two things were made clear at the initial district and family meetings on gaming expansion.

First, tribal members are overwhelmingly in favor of improving the local job market. And second, they are in favor of increasing revenue for the tribes.

For these two reasons, there was strong support among many tribal members for the Columbia Gorge casino proposal. In other news:

Traditional dancer Cory Johnson, age 13, took part in the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. Johnson, with his aunt Julie and uncle David Johnson, appeared on the national television broadcast of the opening ceremonies, which included 500 Native American dancers. And this:

Warm Springs Ventures relocated to a remodeled office area at the Warm Springs Plaza.

Warm Springs Ventures is the business name of the tribal economic development corporation formed by Tribal Council in 2001. Meanwhile:

The Junior Miss Warm Springs pageant drew a large crowd of spectators, as well as

housed at the Plaza.

The hope is that this change will help in bringing businesses to the empty space at the Plaza and the information center. In other news:

The Confederated Tribes filed an appeal to the state Land Use Board, challenging five new Jefferson County zoning ordinances. The new ordinances would loosen the reigns on rural development and potentially affect resources the tribes view as extremely valuable. And this:

The tribes again took part in Eagle Watch at Round Butte Overlook. The tribal participation included a Grand Entry and flag song followed by traditional dancing.

Also in March, traffic on Highway 26 through the reservation was re-routed during week days.

The re-routing to Route 3 and 9 lasted into May, necessary as the Oregon Department of Transportation began working on the Mill Creek Bridge.

## April

Indian Health Services in Warm Springs presented plans to expand the Health and Wellness Clinic. Expansion of the existing building would add 12 new examination rooms, and provide more space for health and wellness departments that are overcrowded.

The reason for the expansion is simple. "When we opened in 1993, we had 29,000 outpatient visits per year," said Russ Alger, clinic director. "Now we have over 50,000 outpatient visits per year."

The clinic expansion will have an estimated cost of \$1.5 million. And in other news:

She is only 23 years old, but tribal member Lynn Fluhr has already achieved some unique goals in the field of fire-fighting and emergency response.

Recently, Fluhr became the first woman to serve as fire chief of the South Sherman County Rural Fire Protection District. She is also the first tribal member to serve in the job, and the youngest person ever to hold the position. And this:

The large volume of rafting traffic on the Lower Deschutes River has led river management agencies in recent years to consider the possibility of adopting a rafting permit system. In April the Tribal Council met to discuss the issue.

A key point under discussion is whether a rafting permit system should be adopted for the Lower Deschutes in the year 2003. River guides and representatives of the towns of Maupin and Madras have voiced opposition to a permit system.

Tribal officials, and officials of federal and state managing agencies, have said that a permit system may be necessary to maintain the good qualities of the river. "From the tribal perspective, this is a quality of life issue," said Council Chairman Olney Part Jr. In other news:

About 270 tribal members responded to a survey questionnaire regarding gaming expansion. Of those who responded 90 percent were in favor of development of a Gorge casino. In recent weeks, during a dozen or more family home-base meetings on gaming, the response has also been in favor of the Gorge.

Meanwhile, the Confederated Tribes celebrated the annual Root Feast, held at the Simnasho Longhouse and at the Agency Longhouse. In other news during the month



Deidra Johnson was crowned Pi-Ume-Sha Court Queen in 2002.

of April:

Jim Manion has been on the School District 509-J board of directors for seven years. This year is the first time, during his tenure, that the school district is facing a reduced budget. To a large extent, how far the reduction will go is to be determined during the upcoming May primary.

In May, voters in the state will consider the controversial Ballot Measure 13. This measure would allow spending money from the state's Education Endowment Fund, for K-12 funding in 2002-2004. And this:

Warm Springs Ventures announced some good news regarding the Plaza. Three new tenants are moving into spaces at the Plaza that previously were vacant.

The new tenants are Quits & More, the Warm Springs Community Action Team, and the Central Oregon Partnership. Meanwhile:

Columbia River tribes celebrated the Celilo Wyam Salmon Feast, an event marking the return of the salmon. Ceremonies began with Washut Service at the Celilo Longhouse, followed by the feast. And this:

A group of Warm Springs tribal members, including Tribal Council members, attended a groundbreaking event at Portland State University. The groundbreaking was for the new Native American Center at the college. And in other news:

The Tribal Council set May 21 for the gaming expansion referendum.

## May

Close to 1,000 tribal members went to the polls on the gaming expansion question. More than three-fourths cast their ballots in favor of building a new casino at the Columbia River Gorge.

Of the 940 total votes cast, 720 votes - or nearly 76 percent - were in favor of building a new tribal casino at the Gorge. The no votes totaled 210, or roughly 22 percent. Ten ballots were spoiled.

For the referendum the turnout of voters was strong. The total number of voters was close to the number who participated in the most recent Tribal Council election, early in 2001.

By any measure the support at the polls for expansion of gaming to the Gorge was overwhelming. Elsewhere:

*In May the tribal Victims of Crime office announced plans for a \$525,000 transitional housing construction project, called the Circle of Life.*

*The new housing units will be available to victims of domestic violence.*

Tribal members gathered at Government Rock at Cascade Locks for a ceremony and celebration marking the tribal return to the Gorge. The event included tours of tribal trust land at Hood River, as well as tribal property at Cascade Locks. Meanwhile in the month of May:

The tribal Victims of Crime office announced plans for a \$525,000 transitional housing construction project, called the Circle of Life. The new housing units will be available to victims of domestic violence. The housing will provide victims with a safe place to stay, and the chance to start a new and better life outside the cycle of domestic violence. And in other news:

The new Simnasho rodeo grounds were the scene of the Simnasho Jackpot Rodeo. During the same eventful weekend the Collage of Culture in Madras celebrated the diversity of people who live in the region. Another popular event - Honor Seniors Day - also happened in mid May. Meanwhile:

The Kah-Nee-Ta board of directors approved a \$250,000 tribal member employment program. The purpose of this new program is to recruit and employ tribal members at Kah-Nee-Ta, and to provide training for work in the gaming and hospitality industry. The program is available only to tribal members. In other news:

Easton Aguilar was named the supervisor of Warm Springs Environmental Services, a

new business venture of the tribes. Elsewhere:

The Tribal Council endorsed candidates for the Democrat and Republican party nominations for governor of Oregon. The tribes endorsed Ted Kulongoski as the Democrat, and Jack Roberts as the Republican candidate.

## June

The Confederated Tribes received good news this month, regarding a long-standing tribal lawsuit against the federal government. The trial judge in the McQuinn Strip blow-down timber lawsuit awarded the tribes \$13.8 million.

The money is to compensate the tribes for BIA mismanagement of the sale of timber harvested from the McQuinn Strip in 1990. The \$13.8 million award is a great deal larger than the judge's initial award in 1999 of less than a quarter million dollars. Tribal officials said they expected the federal government to appeal the judge's ruling. Elsewhere:

The tribes in June celebrated the 33rd Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days. Also in June: Tribal members gathered to discuss the challenges the Confederated Tribes face in preserving the native languages. As the fluent speakers of the languages are growing older, the tribes face the real possibility of some day losing the languages.

"In 20 years our languages could be gone," said Myra Shawaway, director of the Culture and Heritage Department, which sponsored the Tribal Language Summit. Discussion during the summit included suggestions from community members and Language staff regarding how to preserve the languages of the tribes. Two suggestions that were mentioned often were that of language immersion, and summer language camp.

Construction of a new road - one day likely to be a main route to Kah-Nee-Ta - is about halfway complete. Phase one of the project is now complete, except for painting the stripes on the road pavement. Surveyors in June were preparing for phase two. The new road, called Webster Flat Road, should be finished by late summer.

## July

Tribal power and timber revenue are down from previous years, and the new budget of the Confederated Tribes will suffer the consequences. The bleak news came this month during a meeting of the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chief Operations Officer, and general managers and directors of the tribal branches and departments.

The budget will likely see an overall cut between 10 and 20 percent from the current year's budget, said Secretary-Treasurer Charles Jackson. A big part of the revenue problem is the power market, he said.

In the long-term, said Jackson, the new casino at the Columbia Gorge will provide added revenue. However, he said, the opening of the new casino is still a few years away. Elsewhere:

Mary Sando-Emhoolah, director of KWSO, the Station on the Reservation, was recognized nationally for her years of experience in and dedication to community radio. The recognition came from the National Association of Community Broadcasters. Sando-Emhoolah was one of two Native Americans named to the association board. Elsewhere:

The weather was perfect for the 33rd Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Celebration. And this:

In her new job Marcia Soliz has a large task ahead of her. The good news is that she is well qualified to meet the challenge.

Soliz recently became manager of the Confederated Tribes Community Employment Liaison Services, a new tribal employment program. And elsewhere:

Indians of the Columbia River tribes gathered 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. In other news:

One hundred people from Warm Springs Fire Management were hard at work over the



Tribal elder Nettie Shawaway celebrated her 102nd birthday during the year 2002. Shawaway is the eldest member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The community helped her celebrate her birthday in November at the Agency Longhouse.

past two weeks in helping contain the Eyerly Fire. In all, over 1,000 fire fighters from around the country have helped in battling the blaze, which destroyed 18 homes in rural Jefferson County.

The fire broke out July 9 on the reservation, and has been on the larger fires in recent years in Central Oregon.

While bringing destruction, the Eyerly Fire provided a testing opportunity for Geo Visions, a new tribal enterprise. Geo Visions provides high-tech computer imaging information, and is a part of the tribes' GIS office, a branch of Natural Resources. Elsewhere:

After 25 years of service to the Warm Springs tribes, Antoinette Pamperien decided to retire as Probate Administrator.

## August

The Warm Springs Library celebrated its grand opening in August. The library is in the Family Resources Building.

And this news item: A man turned himself in to the police in Arizona, confessing to the murders in 1987 of tribal member Margaret Still and her friend Gabriel Sanchez. Elsewhere:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a controversial study suggesting that high rates of pollutants could be threatening the health of members of the four treaty tribes of the Columbia River Basin. The native groups surveyed include members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, Nez Perce and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla.

Members of these tribes who consume large amounts of Columbia River fish could have a higher risk of cancer and other diseases, according to the EPA report. And this:

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Jefferson County 509-J are continuing negotiations toward a lease agreement for the new Warm Springs Elementary School. Despite some delays, one thing is certain, said Julie Quaid, manager of Warm Springs Essential Education. "Both sides agree we need a new school." And this news item:

The Treaty of 1855 provides the Confederated Tribes with the earliest water right in the Deschutes River Basin. The treaty established the tribes' water priority date, but did not specify the quantity of water. The uncertainty as to the quantity of the tribal right meant also that uncertainty existed in the Deschutes basin as a whole, mainly because the tribal right is first.

Tribal, federal and state agencies, with extensive public input, have been negotiating for 20 years to resolve this issue. An historic agreement was signed among the agencies in 1997. And the time has now come to render the agreement binding to all water rights holders in the Deschutes River Basin.

There are approximately 27,000 such rights holders in the basin, and this month each will receive notice of a court action regarding the 1997 agreement.

The notice will state that the agreement may be incorporated into a court decree, rendering the terms binding on all water rights holders in the basin. Meanwhile:

The Confederated Tribes are seeking proposals from firms interested in providing architectural services for the construction of the planned casino at the Columbia River Gorge. Elsewhere:

The federal government indicated that it will appeal the \$13.8 million judgement in the McQuinn blow-down case. And this:

Warm Springs Power Enterprises received a grant in the amount of \$460,000 to study the possibility of developing wind power generation facilities.

(The 2002 Year in Review continues on page 8.)

The Museum at Warm Springs invites you to join us to honor aspiring youth artists at the opening reception of:

**Celebrate Our Youth, Celebrate the Vision**  
The 10th Annual Warm Springs Tribal Youth Art Exhibit

Thursday, Jan. 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Changing Exhibits Gallery

Along with refreshments, the opening will feature flute music by James Greeley and storytelling at 7 p.m. by Adeline Miller

This exhibit is sponsored by Warm Springs Power Enterprises and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Credit Board

WHEN IT'S TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MOUNTAIN...  
Work IS WHAT WE DO ON THE MOUNTAINS

A good, strong pair of hands is all you need to work out the kinks and melt away the stress. So relax. Get a massage in our world-class spa. Immerse yourself in our soothing, natural mineral baths. Or spend the day exploring all the attractions of this high desert oasis. Whatever you do, work will be the furthest thing from your mind.

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