

More tribal news of 2004

(The following is the rest of the month-by-month account of some of the news events that occurred on and around the reservation during the past year.)

August

Tribal members traveled to Mount Hood Meadows ski area for a day of huckleberry picking. The ski area posted signs around 30 acres of the best potential huckleberry lands, requesting the public to honor the traditional gathering rights of tribal members. Elsewhere:

The Oregon Association of Broadcasters honored the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' public radio station KWSO as the 2004 public or non-commercial Radio Station of the Year at its annual fall conference in Bend.

The Jefferson County School District 509-J received a \$350,000 grant to improve student reading skills. The grant helps school libraries, including the ones at Warm Springs Elementary School, Jefferson County Middle School, and Madras High School.

September

The month of September brought some good financial news to the tribes. At this point in the 2005 budgeting process, there was cause for optimism, at least in comparison to the past few years, said secretary-treasurer Jody Calica.

"We're feeling more optimistic because of market conditions affecting Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and Warm Springs Power Enterprises, and with the recent settlement of the HeHe and McQuinn lawsuits," said Calica. The tribes filed the lawsuits against the federal government over lost timber revenue. Settlement of the cases gives the tribal budget additional revenue.

The Confederated Tribes were well represented at the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. There were more than 50 members of the Confederated Tribes at the event. Among those who attended were 44 elders. They were among more than 20,000 Indians who were part of the procession that marked the opening of the Museum of the American Indian. And this news from September:

Warm Springs Composite Products was recognized recently by the Portland District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The regional director of the SBA wrote to Robert Macy, chairman of the Composite Products board, that the enterprise had been named the SBA Minority Small Business Firm of the Year.

October

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries announced a new energy-saving program that serves as a model in the state. Through the recent improvement, Forest Products Industries will save about \$80,000 per year in electricity costs. The improvement work - costing about \$294,000 - was paid for almost entirely through state energy efficiency incentives and a tax credit. Forest Products Industries will end up paying only about two percent of the total cost of the improvements.

Diabetes prevention on the reservation received a large boost through a grant in the amount of \$404,000 per year

for the next five years.

Clint Bruised Head won the 2004 Indian All-Around World Champion cowboy and Indian World Champion Steer Wrestler awards. He won two of Indian rodeo's most coveted titles in San Jacinto, Calif., where he and seven other members of the Bruised Head clan competed in the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

The tribal enterprise GeoVisions was recognized for business development by the Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. Long-time GeoVisions crew leader Easton Aguilar accepted the award on behalf of the enterprise at the Chamber of Commerce awards banquet. The banquet this year was at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

One of the main things GeoVisions does is provide support to fire agencies during wildfires. The support involves specialized computer technology that tracks the course of the fires. The mapping allows the fire crews to know precisely where the fire lines are.

Construction of the new Culpus Bridge over the Warm Springs River near Kah-Nee-Ta is moving forward at a steady pace. Eight pre-cast concrete girders were recently placed on the two-lane bridge, which will set higher than the existing bridge. The concrete girders are in place, and the road on each side of the bridge now is being filled to even up the road with the bridge.

November

Gangs steal the lives of young people, and the Warm Springs Police Department will take unprecedented steps to stop gang activity on the reservation, police chief Jim Soules said. Soules was among the speakers at the Imperative Gang Intervention seminar at the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center Nov. 16-17. Soules, who became police chief in July, said a four-officer task force of Warm Springs Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation officers has been formed to combat a group of "30 to 40 known gang members" who may be part of one of at least five different gangs on the Warm Springs reservation. Soules said the aggressive stance his department takes may be at issue with some residents of Warm Springs. "As we become more aggressive, people will accuse us of harassment," he said. "I've told Tribal Council, 'You will be overwhelmed with complaints about us.'" The gangs can recruit members as young as elementary-school age. The gangs are armed, and they are tied into the drug trade, particularly methamphetamine, along with alcohol and marijuana, he said.

Veterans Day in Warm Springs saw the unveiling of a bronze plaque at the museum, honoring veterans of the Korean War.

Residents of many areas of the reservation could have wireless broadband Internet in early 2005 - but it won't be free. Access will be available to residents and businesses within view of the radio tower on Eagle Butte soon after the start of the new year. If expected funding comes through, businesses and residents in the Dry Creek, Sunnyside, and Wolf Point ar-



Elders of the Confederated Tribes and staff of the Senior Department traveled in September 2004 to the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of the American Indian.

reas, along with Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, will have access in the spring of 2005. The Internet access has been made possible thanks to a \$695,832 grant the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In other news:

Three people, including two juveniles, were arrested in connection with the Nov. 8 break-in and burglary of the Warm Springs Market. About \$8,000 in product was taken from the market the morning of Nov. 8. Among the items missing were packs of name-brand cigarettes and chewing tobacco, BBs, and binoculars.

Veterans Day in Warm Springs saw the unveiling of a bronze plaque at the museum, honoring veterans of the Korean War. The plaque is located by a grove of Ponderosa pine trees the Lions Club planted 10 years ago, also honoring Korean War veterans. The Lions Club also donated the plaque. Warm Springs Color Guard and other veterans were on hand for the dedication of the plaque. Washut Ceremony opened the occasion.

December

The 30 California bighorn sheep making their home in the Mutton Mountains of the Warm Springs Reservation got some company. Through a joint effort between three state agencies and one private organization, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received 15 out of 110 sheep rounded up

from the lower John Day River canyon. The sheep Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife received were lifted by helicopter into the Eagle Creek Canyon area of the Mutton Mountains, about 12 miles south of Maupin and about a mile inside reservation land near the community of Dant on the Deschutes River. They join a group of sheep that were introduced to reservation land in January 2002, at Antoken Creek, about two air miles south of where the sheep were delivered. That group has since expanded to 30 sheep, with five lambs produced in 2002, seven in 2003 and six this year.

The five-day (Nov. 30 to Dec. 4) round-up yielded 110 sheep, which were transported via livestock trailers to locations in Idaho, Wyoming, and North Dakota, as well as to Steens Mountain in Harney County and to the Mutton Mountains. In other news:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to review whether four species of lamprey found on the West Coast should

"This is our sacred food. We will never let it go."

Bernice Mitchell
Councilwoman, regarding protection of the lamprey

be protected by the Endangered Species Act. Under the settlement of a lawsuit filed earlier this year in U.S. District Court in Portland, the agency agreed to make an initial decision by Dec. 20 on whether a yearlong review should be done on the status of Pacific lamprey, river lamprey, western brook lamprey, and kern brook lamprey.

The lamprey is an important species to the Confederated Tribes.

"This is our sacred food," said Tribal Councilwoman Bernice Mitchell. "We will never let it go."

Jeff Sanders, a Warm Springs tribal member and a member of the Jefferson County 509-J School Board, was elected to the Oregon School Boards Association as its secretary/treasurer. After a year, Sanders will become the board's vice-president, and then eventually president.

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