

Summit: discussion of Ventures

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Discussion turned to the space issue at the mill site, tucked between Highway 26 and the Deschutes River. Though WSFPI and Composite Products currently coexist there, Potts said, "I think for some of the things that Composite has the opportunity to go after, and looking at the things WSFPI is working on today, we have a real land and building space issue that we need to start addressing."

Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises, said the power business is profitable now, but an important task, he said, is to leverage it into stability for the Warm Springs tribal government.

"There are good days in the power business, and there are bad days," Manion said. "We've got good days right now, but anybody who's in the market of selling this product knows bad days are always out there. How do we mitigate, and try to avoid bad days or terrible days?"

Manion said Power Enterprises is working with Portland General Electric, its partner at the Pelton-Round Butte complex, considering ways to expand the value that the dams bring to the tribes.

He said Power Enterprises has considered pump storage units at Lake Billy Chinook. These units, he said, have a "large potential" but could possibly have a heavy environmental impact. The idea could warrant a look, he said, depending on the market and the need.

The Confederated Tribes, he said, also has the oldest water right in the Deschutes-Metolius basin. The tribes could lease out as much as 200 cubic feet per second, about equivalent to the flow of the Warm Springs River during summer months.

"The tribes got this water right through a long negotiation process and would never sell the water right. The water could only be leased under long-term use," Manion said. "What does that mean? Right now, we have municipalities in the Deschutes Basin that are probably going to be interested in talking to us."

Manion also addressed the issues of solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energy. For biomass, he said, the means of generating power through burning waste wood, a steady fuel source, should be available by the end of this year.

Solar is the most expensive means of generation, although the other methods also have costs, he said. Additionally, each method power generation has an aesthetic effect that would have to be acceptable to the tribal membership, whether it's

wind propellers on the north end of the reservation or plumes of steam over Mount Jefferson during cold-weather months.

The tourism group considered ways of keeping Kah-Nee-Ta occupied, even as the Indian Head Casino leaves after development of the Columbia Gorge casino.

Ways to accomplish this could include employing a number of tribal members to provide a variety of tourist activities, both cultural and recreational, for visitors. This venture may include more vigorous marketing of Kah-Nee-Ta, perhaps the sole standout resort between Portland and Bend along Highway 26, and the selling of timeshares at Kah-Nee-Ta.

Another idea, one that would provide more job skills for tribal members, would be to offer training at Kah-Nee-Ta, through Central Oregon Community College, in the hospitality industry.

During the Wednesday session of the economic summit, Clyde Hamstreet, serving as chief restructuring officer during the recent restructuring of Warm Springs Ventures, explained the restructure of an entity that lost \$3.3 million since its establishment in 2001.

"The need for an organization like Ventures to meet the tribes' objectives is even greater now than when it was formed, yet Ventures has failed to meet the five objectives," he said.

Hamstreet, a certified turnaround professional, attached letter grades to five objectives based on Ventures' investments and speculations. Its best grade was a C; its worst was an F.

The most important criterion might have been its duty to be the tribes' trusted financial advisor. Ventures' assessed grade was a D-, according to the report.

As part of the restructure, most of Ventures' board mem-

bers, and its chief executive and financial officers, were replaced by an interim board, including Chairman Ken Smith of Ken Smith and Associates, the tribes' chief financial officer Ray Potter, Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica, and, the sole holdover from the former board, James Fitzhenry, a Portland attorney.

Kibak Tile, a specialty tile company based in Redmond, would be retained, but Cort Software, which creates payroll accounting software and is based in Bend, should be sold within the next year or two, Hamstreet said.

Hamstreet said the restructure would place a mandate on fiscal accountability and a sense of priority.

Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah spoke of a "sense of apathy" among the tribal membership concerning a shrinking tribal budget and a community-wide discouragement over what he described as

40-percent unemployment on the reservation.

"For the last three or four years, we have been fighting a very severe problem of trying to maintain an imbalanced tribal budget for tribal government," he said.

Next year could see additional reductions of another \$2.5 million. "And if you talk to any branch of our government, you knew we're pretty borderline already, to the point of being down to the bone."

Suppah said, "We can't honestly recommend any further cuts, because with that comes consequences, and the consequences really affect our tribal members."

The recommendations from the summit were gathered up to be used as points of discussion for the groups at a future date. The results of those discussions will then be submitted to Calica.

Ace: rare feat at tourney

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She also won a net-skin for the hole, for making the hole in no strokes, based on her handicap.

"As long as I win enough to get me to the next tournament and cover my entry fees, I'm happy," she said.

Dawn Smith of Warm Springs, who just started a new school year as principal at Warm Springs Elementary School, won the tournament.

"She shot her best round," Chase said. "I was happy for her because she's actually a new golfer."

Smith shot a 91 on Sunday. Chase said her handicap has been increasing this summer as she has been shooting rounds in the 100s, and she's missed more tournaments than she's played.

"In prior years, I'd pretty much placed every time I'd played," she said.

Chase has played competitively for seven years, starting only one year after she started playing at all.

"I got bored," she said. "I had a friend who played in tournaments, and I went along and watched, and then that got boring."

Her friend was left-handed, and while he and his group would putt out of a hole, she'd practice chipping with his clubs.

"And finally, I just started playing, and I thought, 'Y'know, when I go to these tournaments, I just need to get in them,' she said.

Golf was also a good way to take her mind off health problems she was experiencing at the time. She was going through chemotherapy and radiation.

She said she averages about eight tournaments a season and has been to as many as 14 tournaments in a season that can extend into December, including tournaments in the Phoenix area and Palm Springs, Calif. In fact, she helps put on a tournament in Palm Springs.

Chase plans to play in the Northwest Indian Invitational Tournament at Kah-Nee-Ta Oct. 8-9.

"Each year we gain a little. I think we've been averaging 60

to 70 players," she said. The field may be diminished somewhat this fall, as several players usually drive from Canada but may be discouraged by the recent high fuel prices.

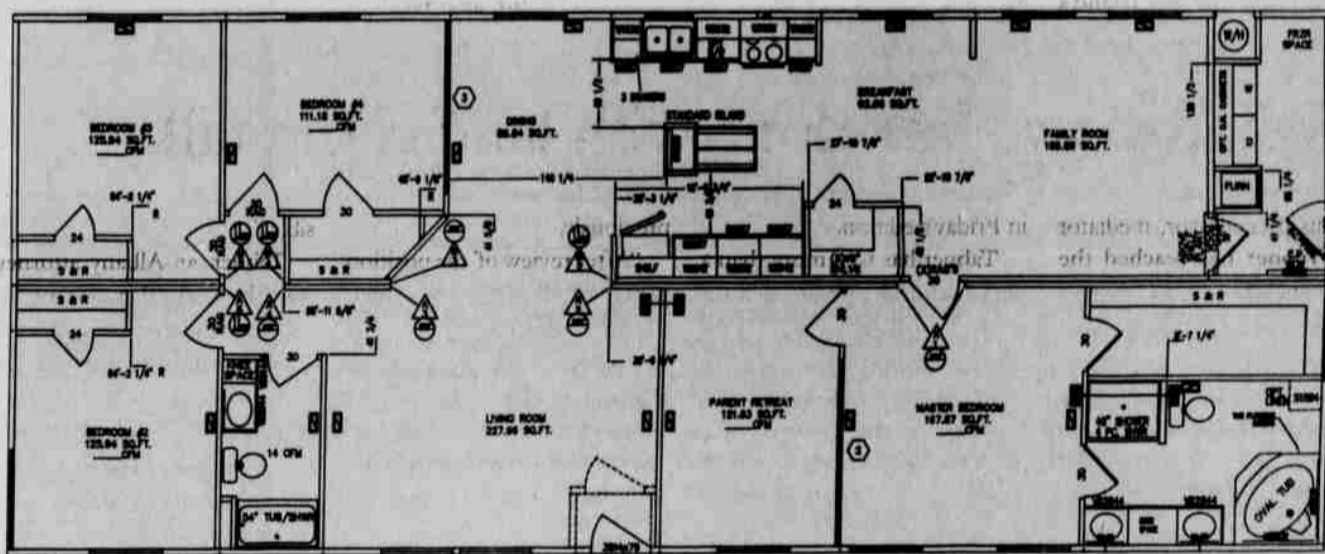
Chase is the purchasing contracting manager for the Warm Springs tribal government. Her biggest current project is the replacement of the roof of the Warm Springs Clinic. Her job includes overseeing the bidding process.

Oh, and that yelling from the course at Circling Raven? Chase said it wasn't her that fellow tournament players heard celebrating from the course, but a player who found his own kind of success that day.

"It was an eight-handicapper named Tom Rodriguez, who finally hit his first par on his eighth hole," she said.



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