

A Look at the News of 2005

January

Skate park

The new year began with the opening of the Elmer Quinn Skate Park, which quickly became a popular place for young people.

Cougars

The beginning of 2005 also saw concern among some on the reservation that cougars were becoming a potentially serious hazard. In response Tribal Council approved a new management plan allowing tribal members with approved tags to hunt cougars during a 10-month season from August through May. Also, cougars on the reservation can legally be shot them if they are posing a danger to human life or to livestock.

Charter school

Other news from January 2005: Spurred on by efforts at other Indian reservations in Oregon, and by what many tribal members believe is inequitable treatment from the school district that serves students from Warm Springs, the Education Committee of the Confederated Tribes has introduced the idea of opening a charter school. The idea is to have a charter school for middle school and high school-age students. The proposal was brought out by members of the Education Committee at a January meeting of the Jefferson County 509-J School District.



Christine Johnson, 24, was crowned Miss Warm Springs 2005 in a Jan. 24 ceremony at the Agency Longhouse Jan. 24.

\$16.4 million settlement

The \$16.4 million McQuinn blowdown and HeHe fire settlement agreement was the topic of discussion at a gathering in late January 2005. About 150 people attended the hearing. Tribal members commented that at least part of the settlement money should be distributed per capita. Some also commented that the federal government should not have the right to approve or disapprove the tribal plan for use of the settlement money. The \$16.4 million resolved the long-standing lawsuit by the tribes against the federal government regarding mismanagement of the McQuinn blowdown timber sales.

Biomass generation

Geovisions, the tribes' environmental services company, announced the beginning of work on a study to determine how efficiently wood — including fallen trees, unwanted trees like juniper and smaller trees — can be harvested from federal lands outside the reservation and brought to Warm Springs

for processing. Work on the study could begin as soon as February week.

February

New gymnasium

The new Warm Springs Elementary School gymnasium opened in February. The building was officially dedicated with an opening prayer ceremony conducted by Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath. Community members were then invited to see and appreciate the new structure during an open house on Feb. 18. Dawn Smith, principal of school, said the new gym turned out very nicely. "The floor is beautiful. It's maple," Smith said. "We tried to keep basic lines, so it's not cluttered." The school emblem, an eagle, is hand-painted into the jump circle at the center of the floor. The gymnasium has a high-vaulted ceiling with wooden beams. High on the wall is the tribal emblem of three teepees. Besides the spacious main floor, the gym includes a stage and a physical education office.

Cello longhouse

The Celilo Village longhouse was torn down in late February, making way for a new one. Before the old longhouse was torn down, community members, family and guests gathered one last time in the building. "It was sad. Some people were crying. There are a lot of memories in that longhouse," said Celilo resident Delila Heemsah. Heemsah said the Confederated Tribes, Tribal Council and Chairman Ron Suppah are to be thanked for helping supply poles and lumber for the new longhouse. Warm Springs Forest Products Industries also helped, she said.

Meth problem

Whose problem is methamphetamine anyway? The answer, it would seem, is everyone in a community, as the drug has become a scourge to Western states over the past couple decades for its addictive qualities, low price relative to other drugs, and the swath of crime that follows meth use in a community. The problem was the subject of the day-long "Methamphetamine: Whose Problem Is It? Part II" seminar in February at Living Hope Christian Center in Madras. Several hundred people — including many from the reservation — attended the eight-hour seminar, that included panel discussions with law enforcement officials, community activists, business owners helping law enforcement, drug treatment counselors, and those who have personally experienced meth's destructive power.

March

River permits

The month of March saw a legal victory for the tribes, in regard to protection of the Deschutes River. The Deschutes is one of the state's most popular rivers with boaters, and this great popularity led to over-use, the Confederated Tribes had said for years. Protection of the river requires a boater permit system, the tribes have argued, while commercial river guides, nearby municipalities and others took an opposing view. A federal judge sided with the tribes, and created a pre-



At Cascade Locks in April, Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah signed gaming agreements on behalf of the Confederated Tribes.

cedent that could have ramifications for all permitted rivers in the U.S. The judge's ruling provides the Lower Deschutes with the first boater permit system using a "common pool" system to obtain permits. This could not have been accomplished without the participation and influence of the tribes.

Youth center

The doors of the new center opened in March. The Spectrum Youth Center is located in the VFW-Ladies Auxiliary building on Hollywood Boulevard. The building has been remodeled by the group Extraordinary Young People, based in Portland. The model for the youth center, which is working in cooperation with the Recreation Department and others on the reservation, is one that the group developed on the Crow Reservation.

April

CASCADE LOCKS — The Confederated Tribes signed an agreement with the state that could lead to the most important economic development program in the tribes' history. The agreement, or gaming compact, provides the necessary state approval for development of a tribal casino at Cascade Locks on the Columbia River. The approval process now moves to the federal level. State approval is vital and influential during the federal process.

Howlak Tichum

In April Warm Springs mourned the loss of one of its premier leaders. Zane Jackson, 81, passed away the morning of April 18. Mr. Jackson's health had been declining for a few years. He had resigned from the Tribal Council because of health reasons. Zane Jackson served longer than any other elected member of Tribal Council. He was first elected to Council in 1971. Before politics, Mr. Jackson had a career in the timber business. He was a veteran of World War II.

May

Unexpected decision

The tribes learned this month that federal approval of the gaming compact for Cascade Locks has to wait until the casino site is in federal trust. The process of putting the property into trust may take about a year. This was an unexpected development, and a disappointing one for the tribes. But in the end the goal of building a casino at Cascade Locks can still be accomplished, said Ken Smith, who is working on the project. "It's a bump in the road, and we'll move on," he said. "I don't think it slows the process."

At the mill

Workers continue to put together the towering red steel structure that is taking shape at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries. As this work continues, the promise of electricity generated and sold from the facility is beginning to take shape.

June

When the River Ran Wild!

The way it was long ago, when the river ran wild! It is a great and sweeping subject,

sometimes controversial, always fascinating. Ten years ago George Aguilar set about documenting a history of Indian names of his family. At first he used information from tribal Vital Statistics, Bureau of Indian Affairs Realty, and old census information, some dating back to the 1880s. The research grew over time, until Aguilar had written a book of great interest to many readers. His book is *When the River Ran Wild! Indian Traditions on the Mid-Columbia and the Warm Springs Reservation*. The 272-page book was published in June by the University of Washington Press and the Oregon Historical Society.

Hydro license

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in June made the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric the joint license holders for the Pelton-Round Butte project. This is the first hydroelectric license held jointly by a tribe and a utility. Pelton-Round is the largest hydroelectric project within the boundaries of Oregon.

Treaty celebration

A highlight at Pi-Ume-Sha this year was the re-enactment of the signing of the Treaty of 1855. The re-enactment took place on Saturday, June 25, 150 years to the day of the actual



At the Agency Longhouse in March, Louise Jackson helps prepare servings for the Root Feast.

treaty council gathering and signing. Many people volunteered their time and effort to make the re-enactment a success. Duran Bobb wrote the script, using the treaty council minutes, and he also contributed in many ways throughout the production. Tribal members who are descendants of the signers were recruited to play the parts of the Indians at the council. Many members of the community also volunteered to play the extras.

July

New longhouse

July saw the opening and blessing of the new longhouse at Celilo Village. Tribal leaders from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, Umatilla and Nez Perce nations will be on hand. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has been of great help in developing the new longhouse, said Delilah Heemsah, life-long resident of Celilo.

Ventures reorganized

Warm Springs Ventures, the business and economic development corporation of the tribes, is being restructured. The tribes contracted with Hamstreet and Associates to do an assessment of Ventures and its businesses, said Jody Calica, secretary-treasurer. Hamstreet and Associates is a firm that helps in turning around businesses. Meanwhile, Tribal Council meanwhile has appointed an interim board of directors of Ventures. "We anticipate operating under this arrangement for about six months," said Calica.

August

New judges

Tribal Council has appointed three new trial judges to the Tribal Court. The new chief judge is Anita Jackson, and the associate judges are Marie Calica and Barbara Jim. The previous Chief Judge was Lola Sohapp, who has retired. The previous associate judges were Walter Langnese and Wilma Smith. The associate judges' terms had expired, and Tribal Council earlier this year directed staff to advertise the positions.

Governor's support

Gov. Ted Kulongoski sent a letter to the BIA stating that a tribal casino at Cascade Locks would not be a detriment and would benefit the local community, the tribes and the state. The casino proposal, the letter states, "is a winning deal for the tribes and for all stakeholders in Oregon, but mostly the proposal is a winning deal for the tribes and the people in and around Cascade Locks." The letter from the governor is in response to several questions from the BIA regarding various aspects of signing a casino at Cascade Locks.

EIS process

Meanwhile in August, the Confederated Tribes began the evaluation of how a casino at Cascade Locks would impact the environment. The evaluation process will result in an environmental impact statement, or EIS. The EIS process is a large, necessary step toward bringing the 25-acre development site into trust.

(The year in review will continue in the next paper.)