

# A Look at the News of 2006

## January

As the year 2006 began the Confederated Tribes were mourning the loss a valued member of tribal government with the passing of Warren Rudy Clements, who died Dec. 28, 2005 due to complications of diabetes.

Later in the month Mr. Clements, a leader in the tribes' gaming expansion program, was remembered in Cascade Locks as a "human being" in the truest sense of the word: Former Cascade Locks mayor Rogers Wheatley said Clements had once portrayed "a human being as someone who was honest and unselfish." In other news:

In the past, three of Nicola Stwyer's relatives had achieved the title of Miss Warm Springs. So it was only natural that Stwyer should vie for the honor of representing the Confederated Tribes. In January 2006 at the Miss Warm Springs Pageant, Stwyer was chosen to succeed Christina Johnson as Miss Warm Springs.



Nicola Stwyer

Also in January: The federal board in charge of place names gave its blessing to changing the names of 16 places in Central Oregon. The previous names of the places included a word that is widely considered offensive among American Indians.

## February

The possible benefits of the biomass power project to the Warm Springs community are such that it could be its most profitable venture besides the proposed Cascade Locks casino, the manager of Warm Springs' sawmill said at a workshop this month. In other February news:

The Coquille Indian Tribe recently expressed its support for the Cascade Locks gaming expansion plan of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Also in February, the tribes hosted the 29th Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow at the Simnasho Longhouse.



Roy Heath was among the drummers at Lincoln's powwow.

It was announced in February that, as part of budget reductions for 2006, the tribal Education Branch would not renew the contract that provided for operation of the Warm Springs office of Central Oregon Community College.

## March

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Mountain View Hospital reached an agreement of cooperation. The agreement benefits tribal members because they will be able to obtain quality services at a reasonable cost close to home. The agreement benefits the tribal organization because the tribes are provided a discount for medical services at Mountain View. In other news:

The Confederated Tribes' proposed Cascade Locks casino was a central point of discussion during a March hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The committee chairman is Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., sponsor of a bill that would amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988. McCain is proposing the elimination of the "two-part determination test," a section of IGRA that has become controversial. Also in March:

Sixteen leaders from African nations visited the reservation. The delegates had been in Portland as part of their trip to the U.S. Earlier, they had also been to Washington, D.C. When asked what they would like to do while in the Northwest, the delegates said they would like to visit an Indian reservation.

## April

Hundreds of people visited the traveling history exhibition, Corps of Discovery II, at the Museum at Warm Springs. On a Monday in late April 20 busloads of students arrived for the exhibition. The same number arrived again on Tuesday. Along with the many young people who enjoyed the exhibit, many adults did the same.

Methamphetamine use in Indian Country has reached crisis levels, an Indian Health Service official told a congressional panel in April. An administration survey found that 1.7 percent of the American Indian population was using meth, said Robert McSwain, deputy director of the agency. In a related local item:

The Warm Springs Housing Authority has adopted a new policy to help fight against drug and alcohol abuse on the reservation. Under the new policy a person can be evicted from housing in the jurisdiction of the Housing Authority, if the person engages in illegal drug use or alcohol abuse. Meanwhile:

The U.S. Senate and the House continued the consideration of bills that would amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988. The Senate bill is sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif.

## May

The Nez Perce Tribe has expressed its support for the Cascade Locks casino proposal of the Confederated Tribes of

Warm Springs. Meanwhile:

Tribal Council has set aside funding for construction of a media center that will house KWSO and the Spilyay Tymoo.

Twenty-five students from Madras High School and Jefferson County Middle School helped with this year's Honor Serniors Day, which saw another great turnout of local residents and many visitors. And in other news:

A Bend company will pay \$585,000 as a result of a 1999 motor vehicle accident on the Warm Springs Reservation. The accident spilled more than 5,000 gallons of gasoline into a creek, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## June

The tribes unveiled a name and logo for the proposed casino in Cascade Locks during a special ceremony in June. The Bridge of the Gods Columbia River Resort Casino is the proposed name, and refers to a Wasco legend. In other news:

Tribal Council gave Warm Springs Power Enterprises authority to explore water marketing opportunities. To reflect the expanded role of the enterprise, the name will change to Warm Springs Power and Water. Examples of potential water marketing opportunities are water bottling, or the leasing of water for municipal or commercial use, said Jim Manion, manager of the enterprise.

Six old houses that were beyond repair were torn down in the campus area. Eventually, all the houses on the north side of Wasco Street are to be demolished, making way for a large park area.

Tribal members from across the state came together for a regional methamphetamine conference last week at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

## July

In the past the tribes worked together, which is why the current controversy is such a disappointment. "I guess they don't look at history," said Ken Smith, chairman of the Kah-Nee-Ta board of directors. In an interview for the KWSO Warm Springs show, Smith shared his views on the casino controversy that exists between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. And this:

Legislation that would block Indian tribes from building casinos off their reservations contains a grandfather clause that could help the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in their proposal for a casino in the Columbia River Gorge. The House Resources Committee, which includes U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., in July approved a bill by committee Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Calif., aimed at halting further development of off-reservation gambling. Elsewhere:

Eagle-Tech Systems has encountered its share of setbacks, ranging from a temporary work stoppage on the new Community Technology Center to slower-than-hoped-for financial progress. But with a solid business plan and two recent grants under its belt from the Kellogg Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Warm Springs Ventures information

technology subsidiary feels confident of its direction and ability to thrive.

## August

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries is struggling with one of the weakest lumber markets in recent years. As a result, the 136 full-time regular WSFPI mill workers will see significant cost-saving changes this year and in 2007. Because of the seriousness of the situation, the WSFPI board and management reported this month to Tribal Council regard-

ing the financial condition of the enterprise. In other news:

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were recognized recently as a national "Success Story" in the effort to combat alcohol and other drugs on the reservation. The tribe received the award in Baltimore last weekend at the concluding luncheon of the Seventh Annual leadership conference of the Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center. And this from the language program:

Val Switzler heard "happy birthday" sung to her four times, and each time it was sung in a different language. That's not uncommon with the tribes' language program, where Switzler

and many other employees are working to revive languages that are slipping away from tribes—some more quickly than others. With the recent passing of Madeline McInturff, at age 91, only two fluent speakers of Kiksh (the Wasco language) remain: Gladys Thompson, of Warm Springs, and a man on the Yakama reservation.

## September

The Confederated Tribe's Managed Care program is facing a severe shortage of dollars for healthcare services off the reservation. The Managed Care program is currently dependent upon funding from the federal government through Indian Health Services. The funding is increasingly inadequate, said Mike Marcotte, director of Managed Care. In other news:

A former director of the Warm Springs Housing Authority is facing charges of theft, and making false or fraudulent claims. Elsewhere:

Results are in from the opinion survey conducted in Warm Springs earlier this summer, and they speak to several important areas of interest to the Confederated Tribes. With tribal membership responding to questions about values, politics, and the economy, the survey offers a wealth of information and guidance to tribal leaders and policy makers. WSFPI board chairman Mike Clements told Council that the mill is not about to close, "but we have some concerns that we want to share," said Clements.

(Continued in the next Spilyay.)



Wes and Meg Tucker are greeted by Chesley Yahtin and other veterans following the Saturday Pi-Ume-Sha Parade. Wes and Meg Tucker are the parents of U.S. Army Pfc. Tom Tucker, who was killed in June in Iraq. The Tuckers were the guests of honor at the 2006 Pi-Ume-Sha.

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