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Ventures requests study of Bear Springs project

By Maren Cohn
Warm Springs Ventures

In its ongoing effort to inject new life into the reservation economy, Warm Springs Ventures is asking Tribal Council to fund further research into the feasibility and impact of a resort development near Bear Springs. Council was scheduled to hear the proposal on Wednesday of this week (after the deadline for this publication).

Located in the McQuinn strip on the north edge of the reservation, about three miles south of the Bear Springs

campground, the resort would consist of second homes built on about 2,400 acres of land leased from the tribes.

The initial plan provides for 900 home sites, a large golf course, trails for walking, biking, and horseback riding, swimming pools, and scenic ponds within the golf course. When fully built out, the project would have a value in excess of \$800 million.

Performing the feasibility research would be the first of several steps leading to the tribes' ultimate approval or rejection of the resort. If Ventures gets the requested funding, it would report

back to Council later this fall. Council would then decide whether to call a referendum asking the membership for approval to proceed.

Benefits of resort development

The resort would be a "use and occupancy" project in which the general public is invited to use or occupy designated portions of the reservation for a fee.

Use and occupancy projects can take different forms and are very common. Kah-Nee-Ta offers a local example, in which non-tribal members are invited

to the reservation on a short-term basis.

The Bear Springs project differs from Kah-Nee-Ta by contemplating a long-term invitation. The tribes would offer home sites on 99-year leases, a widely-used structure that has brought significant benefits to other landowners, including Indian tribes.

Preliminary research on Bear Springs was done as part of an effort to identify promising economic opportunities for the tribes. A committee of representatives from Ventures, Kah-Nee-Ta, Natural Resources, Land Use Planning,

the Secretary-Treasurer's office, and Oregon State University prepared a report that evaluated several use and occupancy possibilities, including the resort at Bear Springs.

According to the report, "use and occupancy projects stand out as a uniquely beneficial way to improve the tribal economy through job and revenue creation. No other tribal enterprise can create so many on-reservation jobs, and no other tribal investment generates comparable financial returns."

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Fire fighters continue work on wildland blazes

Fire fighters hope next week to contain the wildland fires burning on the reservation.

Crews last week made significant progress toward containment of the fires, but high winds over the weekend caused the fires to grow again.

The containment date now for the fires, called the WSA Lightning Complex, is Monday, Aug. 20.

The largest of the fires is the Biddle Pass fire, which has burned across more than 9,000 acres. The Trail 3 fire has burned close to 1,400 acres.

The Lionshead fire has combined with the Biddle Pass blaze.

The fires have been burning for over a month: The lightning storm that ignited them passed over the area on July 12. The fires are located 12 miles west-southwest of Warm Springs.

Containment of the Biddle Pass fire has been especially difficult because of steep and rugged terrain.

Close to 900 personnel have arrived on the reservation in response to blazes, in addition to the local response. The main fire camp is at the rodeo grounds.

Forty-two engines, eight helicopters, eight bulldozers, and 20 water tenders have been employed in the response.

A fixed-wing aircraft, which scoops water from Lake Billy Chinook, has also been used scooping water from the Metolius Arm of Lake Billy Chinook. Part of the lake was off-limits to boaters during the time when the plane was in use.

The WSA Lightning Complex has been at the top of the list in terms



The 4-H Culture Camp, usually held at Peter's Pasture, was held in Warm Springs last week.

Officials with the Washington Incident Management Team praised camp crews by awarding them with certificates of appreciation before the Central Oregon Incident Management Team assumed responsibilities of the WSA Lightning Complex earlier this month.

"The cache operation ran smoothly due to your positive attitude, initiative and willingness to work," a letter to the camp crews from the incident commanders said. "As a team, we try to support all the fire personnel and your contributions made a positive difference in meeting that objective. We would be proud to work with you anytime."

Cooperating agencies include the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, BIA, the Deschutes National Forest, Jefferson County and Oregon Department of Forestry.

A smoke advisory is in effect for some areas of the reservation. Sensitive persons are advised to limit their outdoor time and activities.

The Shitike Butte lookout tower was threatened by fire, but retardant drops and helicopter bucket work helped protect the structure.



Crystal Gomez and Irvin Paul (photo at top) have stayed at the fire camp, working as members of the camp crew, since mid July, when the fires first broke out. The fire fighters pitched their tents at various locations around the camp.

of getting fire-fighting resources in Oregon.

Road closures (as of earlier this

week) included part of the Tenino Road; and the P-400 Road, or Peter's Pasture.

Student conference a great success

By Ashley Aguilar
Spilyay Tymoo

The Youth Leadership Conference held last week at the Kah-Nee-Ta proved to be a great success, as over 90 students, speakers, committee members and chaperones attended.

Sixty-two students registered from Warm Springs, Yakama, Bend, Madras and Eugene.

The conference was titled "Preparing Students for College and Careers," and focused on education, leadership, tribal government, and health and substance abuse prevention.

"What do you want to accomplish in life?" asked Wendell Jim, Education general manager. As the head of the tribal Education Department, Jim had reassuring words, aiming to send the students in the direction of success.

"How do you know if you're successful, unless you know what you want to accomplish in life?" Jim asked.

His presentation touched on his own educational experience, and his speech emphasized that education is one key that will lead the tribes forward.

The college panel consisted of five students: Angela Anderson from Central Oregon Community College; Melinda Polk, Valerie Switzler, Gordon Scott and myself, attending Haskell Indian Nations University.

We conveyed our college experience "Do's and Don'ts." We shared the challenges we faced, and what helped us overcome those obstacles.

With everything said, two powerful points in each presentation came across: study hard and go to class.

During the conference, Tribal Council vice-chairwoman Aurolyn Stwyer gave encouragement to the youth.

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Powwow at High Lookee celebrates 7th anniversary

The residents of High Lookee Lodge are inviting the community to join them in celebrating the Seventh Anniversary of the opening of High Lookee.

The powwow begins at 10: a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, with a performance by the Early Childhood Education Center dancers.

Lunch is at noon, followed by a performance by the 4-H Dancers.

There will also be flute music and games. For information call the lodge at 553-1182.

A pile of wood caught fire at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries last week.

Fire crews were on the scene for several hours extinguishing the blaze.

A helicopter was called in to drop water onto the flames.

The wood pile was going kept on the site because it was going to be used as fuel before.

The cause of the blaze was not known at press time.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay