

Districts to discuss adoption

District meetings are scheduled next week on the long-standing issue of the tribal adoption election.

The meetings will also be a chance for tribal members to comment on a supplemental budget for 2008. The supplemental budget would cover expenses related to the partial closure of the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries lumber mill.

The tribes last year considered having the Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct the adoption election, but this plan did not work out, and the Confederated Tribes are now planning to conduct the election.

The list of candidates is at about 230 people, said Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics. The standards to qualify for the ballot are that the person have one-eighth Indian blood, and have at least one ancestor who is or was a member of the Confed-

erated Tribes of Warm Springs. Also, a person cannot already be a member of another recognized tribe.

A three-year reservation residency requirement was not applied while developing the current list of candidates.

The tribes conducted adoption elections in 2001 and 2002, but the elections failed for lack of voter participation. The last successful adoption election was conducted in 1996. There was no residency requirement for that election.

The district meetings are scheduled as follows:

Agency District: Monday, April 14 at the Agency Longhouse.

Seekseequa District: Wednesday, April 16 at the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

Simmasho District: Thursday, April 17 at the Simmasho Longhouse.

Dinner is at 6 p.m. with the meetings to follow at 7 p.m.

Mill closure

There are a number of costs that might reasonably be expected as the WSFPI mill is partially closed, said Ray Potter, the tribes chief financial officer. Examples of these costs include employment training and relocation costs, stumpage costs that the mill cannot pay, credit extensions, to name a few.

"There are ten to 15 different things that might have to be paid, as part of the closure, that WSFPI can't pay," said Potter. "It's hard to say which one or ones will actually happen, but it's safe to say there will certainly be some."

The limit on the expenditures is \$2.75 million. This expenditure would not affect the working capital of the tribes or the rainy day fund. Any expenditure beyond the \$2.75 million would affect either the working capital or the rainy day fund, said Potter.



photo courtesy of Saphronia Katchia

The Northwest Ballers basketball team won the Warm Springs Cougars All-Indian High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, April 4-6. They received new leather jackets for the victory. Team members are (back row) Chance Squiemphen, Albert Adams, Robert Main, Justin Queahpama-Mehlberg and Coach Rodney Estimo; (front row) Raymond Torres, Travis VanPelt and Lex Anguiano. Tournament director was Austin Greene.

Salmon collapse could lead to shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The stunning collapse of one of the West Coast's biggest wild salmon runs has prompted even cash-strapped fishermen to call for an unprecedented shutdown of salmon fishing off the coasts of California and Oregon.

"There's likely no fish, so what are you going to be fishing for?" asked Duncan MacLean, a fisherman from Half Moon Bay. "I have no problem sitting out to rebuild this resource if that's what's necessary."

The Pacific Fishery Management Council meets in Seattle this week and will likely vote to impose the most severe restrictions ever on West Coast salmon fishing to protect California's dwindling chinook stocks.

The Sacramento River chinook run is usually one of the most productive on the Pacific Coast, providing the bulk of the salmon caught by sport and commercial trollers off California and Oregon.



Ty Eaglespeaker recently played in the National Six Foot and Under Basketball Tournament at Ft. Hall, Idaho. Eaglespeaker, son of Councilwoman Aurolyn Stwyer, won the All Tournament All-Star jacket. Eaglespeaker (above in light shirt going at basket) also played at the Yakama Nation All Indian Basketball tournament, and was named All Tournament All-Star, and received a large bronze basketball trophy.

Dams

(Continued from page 1)

The agreements are the result of two years of extensive negotiations between Indian tribes and the federal agencies. The proposed Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) are with the federal "action agencies" that have a responsibility for operating and maintaining the Federal Columbia River Power System as well as for selling the power from these facilities: the Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Under the agreements, the federal agencies would make available approximately \$900 million over 10 years to con-

tinue existing programs and to implement new priority fish projects with the tribes.

Most of this money would be provided by BPA. The tribes commit to accomplishing biological objectives with the funds, linked to meeting the agencies' statutory requirements.

These agreements would promote a collaborative relationship between the parties for 10 years.

The parties agree that the federal government's requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Northwest Power Act are satisfied for the next 10 years and that they will work together to support these agreements in all appropriate venues. The

agreements would specifically resolve, for these parties, Endangered Species Act litigation pending before Judge James Redden of the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

The announcement also begins a BPA-led public process that seeks input on the proposal to enter into these agreements as negotiated and potential environmental effects of these proposed agreements. The comment period will close April 23. A decision on whether to proceed with the agreements will follow the public comment period. For more information on the public process, please visit www.bpa.gov/comment.

Casino

(Continued from page 1)

After unsuccessful efforts to have the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs administratively add the land to the reservation, the Grand Ronde were successful in appealing to Congress to pass a statute in 1994 (Public Law 103-263) taking the Spirit Mountain Casino site into trust and making it part of the restored Grand Ronde Reserva-

tion."

He concludes, "In view of the circumstances of how six of Oregon's casinos came to be established on land that was not part of an established Indian reservation in 1988, the Warm Springs Casino at Cascade Locks will not be Oregon's 'first off-reservation casino.' Rather, it will be Oregon's seventh off-reservation casino."

Anyone who wishes to comment on the Cascade Locks casino draft environmental impact statement may submit comments up to May 15. Comment by writing to Stanley Speaks, Northwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232; or fax: 503-231-2275.

Or at www.gorgecasinois.com.

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