



Spilyay Tymoo

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Plan is to hold adoption election in '09

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

An on-going issue that likely will see final resolution in 2009 is the tribal adoption election.

The hope is that the election will be conducted by March 2009, according to tribal Vital Statistics.

The adoption election has been a pending issue for several years: The Confederated Tribes' last successful adoption election occurred in 1996.

The tribes attempted to conduct an adoption election in 2001 and then in 2002, but these elections failed for lack

of voter participation.

The Tribal Council last year adopted resolutions that addressed two aspects of the adoption question, and helped narrow the large list of candidates. The Council action came after extensive discussion with the membership.

One of the resolutions adopted a 1960 base roll that operates in addition to the 1940 base roll.

Through this resolution, siblings of any persons showing on the 1960 base roll are eligible to assert the same blood quantum based upon the same parentage.

Over 80 people on the initial adop-

tion election list then qualified under this provision.

A second Council resolution last year included a provision recognizing the ancestral and traditional affiliation of the Confederated Tribes membership to other Ichiskin, Kiksht and Numu speaking people.

Close to 70 people on the initial list of 284 adoption candidates qualified for automatic enrollment under this resolution.

Following Council action on these resolutions, the tribes have enrolled several people from the initial adoption list.

In October, there were 79 new en-

rollments; in October, 38 new enrollments; and in December, 34, according to Vital Statistics. (These figures include new-born enrollments.)

These enrollments will reduce the number of candidates on the adoption election list.

The large number of candidates was one of the reasons why tribal members were hesitant about, or against, conducting an adoption election, according to member comments last year at meetings on the issue.

Buy a tile to support Sidwalter fire hall

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Supporters of the Sidwalter fire hall are selling tiles as a way to raise money to help cover construction costs.

Each tile will display the name of the person or organization that made a contribution. The tiles will then become a permanent part of the new fire hall.

A full tile can be purchased for a \$100 contribution. A half-tile can be purchased for \$50.

Tiles can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one.

"This could be a great gift for any occasion, from graduation to weddings and anniversaries," said Buffy Hurtado, an organizer of the Sidwalter Fire Hall Tile Campaign.

The two-story Sidwalter fire hall will be built off Highway 26 on Sidwalter Flat. The fire hall will serve the 81 homes in the Sidwalter and Miller flats areas.

These homes are in a high-risk area for fire. The fire hall will also be a part of the regional fire response network.

On the reservation the tribes operate the Agency Fire and Safety station in Warm Springs, as well as fire halls at Simnasho and Seekseequa.

In the future, there are plans to develop fire halls at Kah-Nee-Ta and HeHe, according to the tribes' comprehensive plan.

Part of the funding for the Sidwalter fire hall comes from the Confederated Tribes and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The hope is that the additional money needed for the project will come from the sale of the tiles, said Corey Clements, project leader.

Tile sponsorships are 100 percent deductible, she said.

For more information, call Clements or Hurtado at Workforce Development, 553-3324.

Winter storm blanketed the reservation



Snow piled up around the teepee at the Warm Springs Plaza.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The heavy snow that fell on the reservation caused many motor vehicle accidents, and made transportation difficult for elders and other residents.

Warm Springs Fire and Safety responded to over 35 accidents during the days after the storm.

One of the accidents involved

eight vehicles on Highway 3 near the Wolfe Point turnoff. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries, said Danny Martinez, fire chief. Highway 3 was closed for nearly three hours after this wreck, said Martinez.

He said that Fire and Safety kept personnel at the Simnasho and Seekseequa fire halls throughout the

week, including the holidays.

Many residents, including elders, were not able to leave their homes for a few days because they could not get out of their driveways due to snow, he said. This was particularly true in the areas of Seekseequa, Simnasho and Sidwalter.

The heavy snow also created con-

cern for a possible building collapse, said Martinez. His department did an assessment of several buildings during the week.

He said that the tribal administration building had developed significant leaks that could cause problems to the building's electrical system.

A look back at eventful year for the tribes

There were many noteworthy events for the Confederated Tribes over the past 12 months. The following is a month by month summary of the main news events that happened during 2008.

January

Miss Warm Springs

At the beginning of 2008, Cyrille Mitchell began her year as Miss Warm Springs. "I wanted to run for Miss Warm Springs because I believe that I am a positive role model," Mitchell told the audience during the Miss Warm Springs Pageant.

After being awarded the position of Miss Warm Springs, Mitchell received a beaded crown and banner made by Sandra Danzuka. Mitchell graduated from Madras High School in 2004. She then went on to Haskell University in Kansas for three years.

Fish passage project

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises and Portland General Electric are constructing a large tower at Round Butte dam that will address the migrating fish passage problem at the dam.

The 273-foot tall selective water withdrawal tower is scheduled to be completed in 2009.

Artistic tiles

Kibak Tile, a Warm Springs Ventures subsidiary, is selling tiles designed by Warm Springs artist Lillian Pitt.

The collection is the result of a project that began in 2006 when Susan Kibak-Redfield, the president of Kibak Tile, worked with Pitt to create the collection of tiles.

The Lillian Pitt collection includes the mask collection: 8 inch square tiles including "She Who Watches," "Coyote," "Spiderwoman," and "Featherwoman." The collection also includes tiles created in the summer of 2007, the stick people collection, featuring six designs.

Casino hearings

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received word from the federal government that the BIA can proceed with the environmental review process that could lead to the tribe building a casino resort at Cascade Locks. Word from the Interior Department was that the BIA would proceed with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process, which evaluates the impact of developing the project at the Cascade Locks site.

The next step in the DEIS process will involve a series of public hearings on the DEIS.

Adoption election news

The tribal adoption election may be conducted after all by the Confederated Tribes, rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The issue is tentatively set to go before Tribal Council within the next few months, perhaps during a Council meeting in April, said Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics.

February

Partial mill closure

Tribal Council directed the initiation of steps necessary for a conditional closure of the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries lumber mill.

The mill closure is necessary because of sagging timber and lumber prices, and by years of unprofitable operations, tribal officials said.

In the years since 2000, the mill was able to make a profit only at the high point of the lumber market.

Losses at the mill over a recent seven-year period, from 2000-2006, totaled \$9.8 million.

Students see Trailblazers

Several tribal member students received a special prize for good attendance—a trip to a basketball game in Portland.

A total of 24 students from

Jefferson County Middle School traveled to Portland last week to attend a Portland Trail Blazers game against the Denver Nuggets.

The students were being rewarded for having excellent attendance during the first trimester this year.

31st annual powwow

The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee, and the community of Simnasho hosted the Thirty-First Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow. The powwow has been held each year since 1977 in the Simnasho Longhouse.

Casino document released

The draft of the BIA's Official Study of potential Environmental Impacts, called the DEIS, was released for public review and comment.

In addition, five public hearings are scheduled in March—with the first meeting held at Kah-Nee-Ta—the first week in March.

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