

A look back at the year 2008

March

Casino hearings

The proposed Bridge of the Gods Casino drew mostly supportive comments at the public hearings this month.

For instance, Nearly 40 people testified at the hearing in front of a crowd of more than 200 people at Kah-Nee-Ta. Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah spoke of support for the casino that he has seen coming from various outlets, including Governor Kulongoski. Suppah also said he believes the casino is necessary due to recent economic problems.

"I cannot overstate the significance of this project to our tribes' future," Suppah said.

At another gorge casino hearings, members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs spoke of the need for the project.

"Our people are in poverty, even while they work," said Tribal Councilman Austin Greene, during the hearing at Hood River. "There are too many sub-standard homes housing multiple families. There are health problems without adequate care."

Calica joins firm

Tribal member Dorelle Calica has joined the law offices of Schaff & Clark-Deschene, a firm that specializes in Indian law throughout the West.

April

Big new slide

Kah-Nee-Ta is hoping to slide in some new business with an addition to the Village Pool. They recently completed construction on a new water slide, and hosted a grand opening for the slide on April 5, in addition to a prior opening of the slide for tribal members.

School budget cuts

Nearly 11 percent of the 509-J school district budget will be cut for the 2008-09 year, according to the proposal made by the superintendent to the budget committee.



Ron Suppah, chairman of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes, signed the Columbia River Fish Accords in May 2008, during the ceremony last week at Horsethief Park.

Spilyay file photo.

The upcoming golf season will see a number of changes at the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course. Some of the changes are to the area around the clubhouse and putting green. There is a new fountain nearby, for instance, which lights up at night. Construction workers are also building a new snack bar by the pro shop.

There is a new PGA head golf professional at Kah-Nee-Ta, Ryan Davis. And a new teaching pro, Austin Maki, who also tours professionally.

Youth conference plan

Plans are in full swing for the upcoming Northwest Indian Youth Conference in Warm Springs. The event will take place from May 27 through May 31, and features the theme "The ancestors will be our strength for the future."

Columbia River basin ended for tribes and federal agencies.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, along with three other tribes, federal agencies and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, signed the historic agreement on Friday, May 2, at Columbia Hills State Park.

"These fish accords respect the sovereignty of the tribes," said Ron Suppah, Tribal Council Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. "They break from the history of federal agencies developing a plan themselves, then telling the tribes what they would or could provide for salmon."

The earlier approach did not work, said Suppah: "Misunderstandings, hard feelings and litigation are what we produced."

The foundation of the new agreement, he said, is respect among sovereigns, and respect for the expertise and authority of the tribes.

The Columbia River Basin Fish Accords are a 10-year agreement, focusing tribal and federal resources on improving fish habitat instead of on costly and prolonged litigation.

The agreement commits fed-

eral agencies to provide tribes with \$900 million over ten years to spend toward salmon recovery. In exchange, the tribes are dropping out of a lawsuit challenging dam operations.

Strict attendance policy

Middle school and high school students with a history of repeated absences might have seen a surprise in their driveway recently: a school bus.

It's part of a new attendance program that aims to stop the problem of repeated absences by sending liaisons to the houses

of students who show up on the absent list too often.

Composite lands big contract

Warm Springs Composite Products has won the contract to supply fire-resistant components that will be used in the tallest building in the world, the Burj Dubai in the Middle East. Composite Products will supply fire-rated components for architectural doors and frames to be used in the \$4 billion Burj Dubai skyscraper, located in Burj, United Arab Emirates.

Youth conference

Shouts of "Native pride!" rang out in the community center gymnasium last week, as Clayton Small spoke to the crowd at the Northwest Indian Youth Conference.

"You have to—in your heart of hearts—always be proud to be an Indian," Small told the youth attending the conference. He encouraged them to voice their pride by standing in the bleachers and yelling it out.

Small was one of various speakers at the Northwest Indian Youth Conference, held in Warm Springs last week.

As the keynote speaker during the final day of the conference, Small gave a presentation to the youth called "Step Up—We Need Your Voices."

"That's the responsibility of every young leader in this house—you have to step up; you have to find your voice," Small said.

He spoke of the challenges Native youth are faced with throughout their lives, and of his own challenges growing up surrounded by violence and alcoholism.

From learning Native crafts to learning about health and social issues, youth attended workshops throughout the four-day concert aimed to enlighten them and give them a chance to interact with youth from other tribes.

The conference also featured a hip-hop dance, basketball tournament, 5K run or walk, round dance, art show, fashion show and ended with a powwow on Friday night.

Local youth, coordinated by Jaylyn Suppah, organized the event and held weekly planning meetings for several months prior to the concert.

May

The Fish Accords

Decades of divisiveness over salmon recovery in the

CASINO • GOLF • LODGE • SPA

COME GET ALL SHOOK UP AT KAH•NEE•TA!

#1 MALE REVUE IN THE WORLD

SATURDAY, JAN. 17TH

Join us for our 4th annual birthday tribute to the King. Justin Shandor from Las Vegas returns with his incredible portrayal of the King of Rock and Roll! Show is \$5. Doors open at 8:00pm. Show begins at 8:30pm. Enjoy Buddy Holly music during intermission. Ages 21 and older.

SUNDAY, JAN. 18TH

They've been buffed, trained, worked on, worked out, choreographed, staged and are presented for the sole purpose of entertaining. Get ready ladies! The Chippendales are going to pump you up! Doors open at 6:30pm. Show begins at 7:00pm. Tickets \$10 and \$15. Ages 21 and older.

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