

Tower work

Work has been progressing nicely on the new tribal media center on Miller Flats.

Recently, a tribal Construction crew (right) poured the concrete base and raised the new signal tower for KWSO.

The radio station and the Spilyay Tymoo will be housed in the media center.

The building is expected to be ready for occupancy by early summer.



Bill Rhoades/Spilyay

Spring karaoke contest coming to Kah-Nee-Ta

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino will host a spring karaoke contest.

The contest runs every Thursday through May 21.

The contest will be held on Thursday nights in the Appaloosa Lounge from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Each week, a finalist will be chosen for the Kah-Nee-

Ta Karaoke Finals to be held on May 28 at 8 p.m.

Each weekly winner will win \$50 and an invitation back to the finals for a chance at the \$500 top prize.

Participants must be 21 and over and not hold a professional recording contract.

More information is available at www.kahneeta.com.

Minors Trust Fund Spring 2009 distribution

To qualify to receive your spring Trust Fund, please submit your official transcripts from your high school, or your grades from one quarter of college, or GED cer-

tificate, to the Workforce Education and Development Department (WEDD), or Vital Statistics.

Further information available after April 15.

New weatherization program accepting applications

By Bruce Engle
Tribal Credit Enterprise

Every day we hear of people who are being billed up to \$400 and \$500 for electricity during the winter months.

That is a budget killer and often that heat doesn't keep the occupants very warm.

Most of those bills would be much smaller if only the homes were better weatherized. The

tribes now have a program that can help.

Warm Springs Tribal Credit Enterprise, the Workforce Development Program, Warm Springs Housing and the Vocational Rehabilitation program are working together with NeighborImpact of Redmond to provide a weatherization program for low income tribal members.

Our goal is to provide a safe and healthful home environment

for all occupants. All jobs are planned with that in mind. Repairs can often include floor, wall, and attic insulation, as well as door, window, water heater and furnace repair or replacements.

Funding comes from both state of Oregon and federal government. It appears there will be sufficient funding to weatherize many of the homes on the reservation that need this kind of help.

The weatherization crew is in training and will be ready to work soon.

Applications can be submitted now. We plan to have approved jobs ready for work when the crew has completed their training.

Applications are available at all of the above named tribal offices. Completed applications should be submitted to the Credit Enterprise office.

Some push for new talks on Columbia River treaty

(AP) – The buzz of an electric alarm clock, the sweet heat of the shower, steam rising from a coffee mug. All over the Northwest, people start their day with energy from Columbia River dams.

From its headwaters in British Columbia to its outlet at the Pacific Ocean, the 1,200-mile Columbia is an electrical powerhouse, generating more kilowatts than any other North American river. The prodigious output is a result of 14 dams and international teamwork.

A 1964 treaty signed by the United States and Canada created the framework for joint operation of the Columbia River's dams, and divides the power benefits.

The treaty led to the construction of three storage dams in British Columbia, which provided flood control and ramped up electrical output at downstream dams.

For 45 years, the treaty has been hailed as a model of U.S.-Canadian cooperation. But some policymakers and academics say the technocratic document, which doesn't address endangered salmon or climate change, is due for a rewrite.

The possibility of a renegotiated treaty is stirring interest on both sides of the border.

Although the Columbia River Treaty doesn't have an expiration date, either country can cancel most of its provisions after September 2024 with a 10-year minimum notice. If either the U.S. or Canada wants changes, treaty discussions could begin as early as 2014.

"This is a really big deal, an opportunity for the two countries to rethink Columbia River operations," said John Harrison, a spokesman for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council in Portland, whose mission includes environmental mitigation for the dams.

"The treaty was primarily concerned with flood control and hydropower generation,"

Harrison said. "As we know in the 21st century, that's not enough."

Tribes want to see salmon addressed in the treaty. Scientists say that climate change, which is melting British Columbia's glaciers, diminishing mountain snowpacks and altering spring runoff in the Columbia Basin, is a crucial consideration. In British Columbia, where the construction of treaty dams flooded farms and displaced more than 2,000 residents, some lingering hard feelings remain.

The dams' operators, meanwhile, hope for a straightforward document like the original 20-page treaty.

About 64 percent of the Northwest's electricity comes from hydropower. At certain times of the year, the region also sells surplus electricity to California and Arizona.

"If you talk to people who are close to the operation of the treaty, it's doing what it should be doing, and it's working fine," said Barb Cosens, an associate professor at University of Idaho's School of Law. Others, she said, "see an opportunity to address some of the issues that weren't dealt with in the original treaty."

Starting this month, professors and researchers from five universities – including the University of British Columbia – are gathering at the Coeur d'Alene Resort for a Columbia River Treaty symposium.

"We want to build knowledge of the history of the treaty and the politics behind it," said Cosens, one of the organizers.

The talks will launch research to help inform future treaty negotiations, including ongoing climate studies.

Demands on the Columbia River system will only increase as weather patterns shift, Cosens said.

She predicts that conflicts will intensify over flows for power generation versus water

spilled over the dams to help young salmon migrate to the ocean.

Since the treaty was signed, 13 salmon runs in the Columbia Basin have been listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

"Unlike some heavily diverted rivers, such as the Colorado, the conflict in the Columbia isn't over too many people wanting to take water out of the river," Cosens said. "It's over in-stream demands for hydropower and for fish."

The Columbia River Treaty was negotiated and signed in a much different era, said Anthony White, who works on treaty issues for the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal marketing arm for electricity produced at the dams.

North America was in a recession during the late 1950s. Both the U.S. and Canada wanted cheap electricity to attract new industry to the Northwest and British Columbia, where local economies relied on timber, mining and agriculture jobs.

Flood control was also vital. In 1948, spring floods caused major damage from Trail, B.C., to Portland. More than 50 people were killed, and 30,000 lost their homes.

While some see the treaty as focusing on electricity and flood control, others take a different view.

The treaty is a water management plan, said Bob Heinith, of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. It should address flows for salmon and other wildlife needs, said Heinith, the commission's dam coordinator.

The Warm Springs, Nez Perce, Yakama Umatilla Indian tribes, which make up the inter-tribal fish commission, retained the rights to harvest salmon from the Columbia River and its tributaries when they signed treaties with the U.S. government in the 1850s.

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