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Native nations host Oregon 150 festival

The two-day Oregon 150 festival at Celilo and The Dalles saw a great turnout of tribal members and guests. The weather was perfect, and the gathering was a reunion of many friends.

The two-day festival included a canoe arrival and salmon bake at Celilo Park, and a powwow and parade at The Dalles. Nearly 100 tribal members rode and walked in the parade.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs hosted the event, with the other tribes of the Columbia River joining Warm Springs for the celebration.

The canoe arrival on Friday was met by Warm Springs and other tribal leaders with the traditional welcoming. The canoe paddlers, including Warm Springs members, were welcomed ashore to take part in the salmon feast at the park.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

At right, the canoes arrive at Celilo Park. Below left, the traditional parade in downtown The Dalles; and below right, dancers at the powwow at The Dalles Fairgrounds.



Greg Leo for the Spilyay



Selena Boise/Spilyay

Parties mark first year of Fish Accords

The partners who developed the landmark Columbia Basin Fish Accords returned to the river to mark the one-year anniversary of the signing of the agreement. Close to 400 people attended the event, held at the historic fishing village at Dallesport on the banks of the Columbia River.

Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah attended on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Suppah has been a key advocate in the development and implementation of the landmark Accords.

The Columbia Basin Fish Accords replace the decades of divisiveness over salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia Basin.

The Accords provide specific, science-based improvements for the region's fish, said N. Kathryn Brigham, chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"It was a year ago that the tribes, as sovereign nations, and the federal action agencies reached an agreement to restore habitat for the Columbia Basin's salmon populations," said Brigham.

"Today we are working together, combining our experience and expertise and solving problems."

The Accords supplement biological opinions for salmon and steelhead listed as endangered through firm commitments to improvements in the hydro system, habitat and hatcheries. The Accords include clear benchmarks for biological benefits, and secure funding for ten years.

Tribal, state and federal partners have launched new projects and expanded existing projects throughout the Columbia River Basin during the first year of the Accords.

Projects underway through the Accords include: improvements in passage and assurance of sufficient water for the Walla Walla River's salmon populations; restoration of sockeye runs in Redfish Lake; installation of lamprey passage systems at the Bonneville Dam; and several other projects designed to restore critical habitat from the estuary to the tributaries.

Tribal and federal leaders signed the Accords on May 2, 2008 at Columbia Hills State Park, under the watchful eye of Tsagaglalal, or *She Who Watches*.

The Accords are the direct result of two years of extensive negotiations between tribes, states and federal action agencies that have responsibilities for operating and maintaining the federal Columbia River power system.

Departments state goals, accomplishments

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The department directors and staff of the Chief Operations Officer met last week with tribal members at the Agency Longhouse.

The meeting provided the departments a forum to present accomplishments so far this year and to outline upcoming projects and priorities.

At the longhouse the departments had charts and handouts explaining their various roles in serving the membership of the Confederated Tribes.

The department directors and their lead staff made brief presentations regarding their goals and accomplishments. Tribal members then had a chance to make comments and suggestions, and to ask questions.

Chief Operations Officer Gerald Smith explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the departments and himself to hear from the membership about tribal services.

During the annual budget meetings in the fall, Smith said, "We hear people say, 'Why even have the meetings? The budget is already done. Why ask us now?'"

The hope is to avoid this scenario when the 2010 budget process begins, Smith said.

Earlier, Smith provided his department directors with minutes of the budget meetings from last year. "We have to listen to the people," he said. "We have to learn, and hope that next year we do better."

Smith introduced his own staff, secretary Laurel Wheeler, and newly-hired grant writer Jolene Estimo.

The department directors and staff then gave presentations outlining their services to the community.

Don Courtney, the general manager of the Utilities Department, said a main message he wishes to convey is that, while his department continues to provide vital services to the membership, the department also needs the help of the community.

"We need your help in letting us know what needs to be done," he said. "And we need your help in letting Tribal Council know that we need funding to meet our goals."

June Smith, director of the Boys and Girls Club, spoke of her group. "We serve between 50 and 70 kids on an average day," she said. The club is funded partly by a grant and partly by

the tribes, she said.

The Human Services departments then provided information on their services. Andy Leonard, director of the Recreation Department, gave an update about the activities and programs at the community center, including the new workout equipment, and the plan for International League Basketball to come to Warm Springs.

Rebekah Main, director of Childrens Protective Services, introduced her staff, and explained the services and programs of CPS.

The main message of CPS, she said, "is that the future rests with our children."

Dave Conroy, director Vocational Rehabilitation and other social service programs, discussed a critical funding issue of his programs. John Brown, director of Commodities, talked about the food services that his department provides.

Community Counseling director Jolene Waters presented her department services, and then Roberta Queahpama introduced herself as the newly-hired director of Community Health. Judy Charley discussed her program, Community Health Education.

Walter Langnese, chief prosecutor

and acting general manager of public safety, discussed his branch.

An issue facing public safety, he said, is that a growing population leads to more crime incidents, while funding has not kept up with that increase.

Police chief Carmen Smith introduced his staff, and his division supervisors gave brief presentations.

Dan Martinez, chief of Fire and Safety, discussed his department, followed by Myra Orange, director of Culture and Heritage and representative of the Education Branch. Corey Clements discussed Workforce Development, followed by Mark Matthews, director of Victims of Crime Services, and Lawrence Macy, director of High Lookie Lodge.

Members' comments

During the public comment period, tribal elder Neda Wesley said there should have been more public notice of the meeting. Otherwise, she said, "the department presentations were wonderful."

See DEPARTMENTS on 11

Request to upcoming graduates

The Education Committee is preparing for the 2009 Graduation Banquet, which will be June.

If you will be graduating soon, please bring your diploma or GED to Joelden Surface, Education Committee secretary, at the Tribal Council office.

He will make a copy, and your name will be added to the banquet guest list.