



Spilyay Tymoo

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Tribes remain dedicated to fish project

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The construction team at the Round Butte dam is in the process of retrieving and rebuilding the large conduit that will be part of the fish passage facility at the hydro dam.

The conduit—measuring 40 feet in length and weighing 573,000 pounds—broke apart in April. Part of the conduit sank to the bottom of the reservoir.

Workers are expected to have recovered the pieces by the end of next week, said Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

The setback in April is expected to delay the project by an estimated six to 12 months, said Manion.

The construction contractor's insurance is paying for the rebuilding and replacement, he said.

The hope is to have the fish-passage facility in operation by the next spring

chinook run out of Lake Billy Chinook, he said.

The juvenile fish that came down the Metolius this spring were transported past the dam after been captured at the mouth of the river, said Manion.

Biologists have monitored the progress of these fish, and reported that some of the smolts were detected at Bonneville dam, on their way to the ocean.

An engineering investigation is un-

der way to determine the cause of why the conduit broke apart, said Manion.

No conclusions have yet been drawn as to the cause of the structural failure, he said.

The tribes and PGE, co-owners and operators of the dam, intend to fully understand what happened, and ensure that the structure is sound, said Manion.

See FISH PASSAGE on 12

Settlement hearing this week

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is conducting a public hearing this Thursday evening, June 4, in regard to the trust lawsuit settlement agreement reached between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the U.S. government.

The settlement is in the amount of \$68 million. The hearing on the distribution of the funds will begin at 7 p.m. at the Agency Longhouse.

The settlement agreement "shall settle the tribes' claim that the U.S. government breached its trust duties in regard to the management of the tribes' non-monetary assets from 1855 to the present..."

The \$68 million settlement is the second phase of the case that the tribes originally filed in 2002. Of the total settlement amount, \$32 million "shall be used by the tribe as it decides in its sole discretion for tribal operations and purposes," according to the meeting notice. Also: "\$29 million shall be used in implementation of the Strategic Restoration Plan for the Natural Resources on the Warm Spring Reservation."

Six million dollars, and income from investment, "shall be used by the tribe to pay for a baseline assessment of the current conditions of the tribes' natural resources on its reservation," the notice states.

Graduation banquet June 17

The Graduation Banquet is set for the evening of Wednesday, June 17 at the Agency Longhouse.

The banquet is for all recent graduates, including high school, college, graduate school, trade school and GED.

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.



The Madras High School Class of 2009 will graduate at 3 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 6. Graduation ceremonies will be outside at the high school stadium. Thirty-eight tribal members (some of them above) are among the graduates.

Chief reflects on 50 years of service

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum has reached a remarkable milestone in his career in tribal government.

On May 23 he marked the 50th anniversary of his Chieftainship. He joined the Tribal Council a week after becoming Chief, on June 2, 1959.

Chief Wallulatum is now the living history of the modern tribal government, and tribal tradition.

Chief Wallulatum was a tribal leader during the major events that have shaped the current Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

About the time he became Chief, the Confederated Tribes received payment from the federal government for the destruction of Celilo Falls.

"We decided to put the money to work for the tribes," said Chief Wallulatum.

The tribes commissioned an economic development plan from Oregon State University. Implementing the plan took years, he said.

For instance, the plan called for the acquisition by the tribes of the mill,



Chief Nelson Wallulatum was at Kah-Nee-Ta last week with Tribal Council.

now Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, and Kah-Nee-Ta Resort.

Fisheries have always been a main focus for Chief Wallulatum. He was on the tribal Fish Committee before becoming Chief and joining the Coun-

cil.

Then as Chief, he continued to serve on the committee. "I was on the fish committee for most of my life," he said.

Chief Wallulatum worked with the

tribal attorneys during many years of fisheries litigation, which eventually led to the creation of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Before becoming Chief and joining Tribal Council, Chief Wallulatum served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46.

Chief Wallulatum, now almost 84, is a descendant of Chief Billy Chinook, and lived next door to him on Miller Flat.

Chief Wallulatum has an early memory of the 1934 dedication of the Duc-Sa-Hi Bridge, named for the Wasco Chief. At the time of the dedication, there were no paved roads or other bridges on the reservation; so just getting to the dedication was a journey in itself, he said.

Through his years serving the tribes, Chief Wallulatum has kept tribal sovereignty at the forefront of his priorities.

He carries a copy of the tribal Constitution and By-Laws with him at all times, and refers to the documents often.

Vital statistics director passes

The longtime director of tribal Vital Statistics, Madeline Queahpama-Spino, passed away on May 20 following a long battle with cancer. She was 58.

Through her years of working at Vital Statistics, Mrs. Queahpama-Spino was the expert on issues and information regarding tribal enrollments and genealogy. She will be greatly missed in the department and the community, said Louie Pitt, director of tribal Government Affairs. (See *Howlak Tichum* on page 8).

Accident by Kah-Nee-Ta claims 1

A single-vehicle motor vehicle accident on May 27 took the life of Florene Isabell (Johnson) Wolfe. She was 54.

Ms. Wolfe was near Kah-Nee-Ta, by the horse corrals at approximately 5:50 p.m., when her vehicle rolled.

She was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, but passed away due to injuries. (See *Howlak Tichum* on page 8).