



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

June 18, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 13

P.O. Box 870  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

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## Tribes considering pipeline project

### Discussion weighs benefits, impacts

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal Council has formed a team to study the possibility of allowing a gas pipeline to cross the reservation.

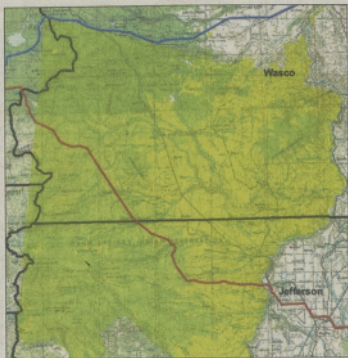
The team will conduct public meetings to gather tribal member input on the idea.

A benefit of the project would be revenue to the tribes for allowing the company, Palomar, to build part of the pipeline on the reservation.

Another possible benefit, in the future, would be access to the pipeline to power a commercial enterprise on the reservation.

Economic development and job creation on the reservation are Council priorities, said Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, Council representative on the study team.

Benefits of the proposal must be weighed against environmental and other impacts, said Robert Brunoe, general manager of the tribal Branch



The red line represents the Warm Springs Reservation alternative pipeline route. The preliminary route is represented by the blue line.

of Natural Resources.

Tribal members can comment on the proposal during the scoping meetings, said Brunoe.

The study team includes Chief Heath, Brunoe, Power and Water Enterprises general manager Jim Manion, and a legal representative from Karnopp Petersen, LLP.

Palomar is a project of the gas utility NW Natural, a Portland based utility, and TransCanada, a utility located in Alberta, Canada.

Palomar is proposing the development of a 220-mile line that would run from an import terminal proposed near Bradwood Landing on the Columbia River west of Portland to an existing trunk line east of Shaniko.

This 220 mile route is sited north of the reservation. This proposed route is overhead and would cross the Deschutes River at an area designated as Wild and Scenic by federal, state and tribal plans.

"The biggest concern (with the current proposed route) is the Wild and Scenic designation, and the overhead crossing," said Brunoe. It would be one of the only high-pressure gas pipelines to cross above a river that is highly used, he said, and the area is considered a significant resource to the Tribes.

The discussion with Palomar began after the tribes determined that an on-reservation crossing could potentially be beneficial to both parties, which includes reducing impacts to the environment.

Please see PIPELINE on 7

## Coalition looks for ways to reduce horse population

The Northwest Tribal Horse Coalition is scheduled to meet this month at Kah-Nee-Ta to discuss the difficult issue of the growing wild horse population on reservations.

The coalition represents five tribal nations of the Northwest: The Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla, Colville and Shoshone.

The tribes formed the coalition last year, as concerns have grown about the number of wild and unbranded horses roaming the Warm Springs and other reservations.

"The problem we're dealing with is the lack of a market for horses," said Jason Smith, the tribes' Range and Agriculture manager.

In the past, Smith said, people would ride the range and manage the horses, because a good market existed.

The horse market is now depressed, he said, in part because people know that horses are increasingly more difficult to get rid of.

The last horse slaughterhouse in the

U.S. shut down two years ago. And there are restrictions on exporting horses to foreign slaughterhouses.

With no market for horses, there is no incentive for people to go out and manage the animals, and the population has grown. So the effort to protect wild horses has created a serious dilemma for reservation tribes, as well as for other land management agencies such as the BLM, said Smith.

The dilemma has existed for some time now. Seven years ago, tribal Range and Ag organized the first public horse sale on the reservation.

"We saw this coming," Smith said, "and we wanted to create at least one way to reduce the horse population on the reservation." This Saturday, June 20, the tribes will host the Seventh Annual Horse Sale.

While Range and Ag managers have known of the wild horse problem for the past several years, they see the potential for more serious consequences.

Please see HORSES on 7

## Powwow marks 154th anniversary of Treaty

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will host the Fortieth Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow next Friday through Sunday, June 26-28.

The three-day powwow commemorates the signing of the Treaty of 1855, signed 154 years ago this month.

The signing date of the Treaty was June 25, 1855. One-hundred and fifty-one tribal leaders signed the document, following a three-day Council of the Wasco and Walla Walla tribes at The Dalles.

By the terms of the treaty, the tribes gave up ownership claim to 10 million acres of land, known since as the Ceded Lands. In exchange the tribes received the reservation land located between

Mt. Jefferson and the Deschutes River. By the Treaty, the tribes also retained rights to the traditional use of the Ceded Lands.

Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days began in the late 1960s. While commemorating the signing of the Treaty of 1855, Pi-Ume-Sha also traditionally has honored the veterans and service men and women of the Armed Forces.

The powwow begins with the Grand Entry at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26. Grand Entries are also scheduled on Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 2 p.m. The Traditional Dress Parade is at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Dance contests are throughout the weekend.

### Howlak Tichum

## Veteran received medals 50 years after discharge

Tribal elder Chesley Yahtin Sr., a highly decorated Korean War veteran, passed away June 8. He was 78.

Mr. Yahtin was 19 when the Korean Conflict began in 1950. At the time, he was stationed with the U.S. Army in Japan. When the war began in June of that year, he and his unit moved to the southern tip of Japan for intensive combat training.

Mr. Yahtin and his Army unit were then sent to In-chon, South Korea, in the middle of the U.S. military campaign. Mr. Yahtin was an ambulance driver during the war.

He was wounded during combat on Dec. 7, 1950, only a month after he arrived in Korea. He was hit in the right thigh, a wound that would hurt for the rest of his life.

He was wounded a second time by shrapnel on June 2, 1951, when his unit was hit by a mortar attack. Mr. Yahtin was in Korea until 1954, when he was sent back to the U.S.,

to Fort Lewis, Wash.

He was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, which was an undiagnosed ailment at that time. As he explained in a 2005 interview: "It was not regarded as a medical problem. But I had been through so much combat, and seen so many people dying, some of them on me, leaning on me and talking to me, telling me not to let them die."

"All those things bothered me. When I came back, they stationed me at Fort Lewis, and I couldn't deal with being in a barracks with a bunch of other people. The only way out for me was to just go somewhere. And, of course, even I didn't know what was wrong with me. I thought I was crazy. I was seeing people talking to me. I didn't want to be involved with anybody. I didn't want to know anybody. That's the way I was when I came back to the U.S."

Please see VETERAN on 8



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Natalie Moody, curator and exhibits coordinator of the Museum at Warm Springs prepares the Warm Springs regalia display. The exhibit, *The Art of Ceremony: Regalia of Native Oregon*, opens next Thursday, June 25. (See page 12 for more information.)

## \$5 million stimulus for bio-mass

The Warm Springs Biomass project will receive \$5 million in federal Recovery Act funding.

The funds will provide for the construction of a second bio-mass boiler at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Development of the second boiler will allow the tribes to sell electricity from the bio-mass facility. The existing bio-mass boiler at the mill produces electricity that powers the mill operations.

A main benefit and goal of the bio-mass project is forest health. Another benefit is job creation.

The bio-mass power generation facility burns waste wood products from various sources to generate electricity. The wood comes mainly from forest thinning projects, plus saw mills and yard debris collections, among other sources.

"It's healthy-forest driven," Ralph

Minnick, chief executive officer of Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, said of bio-mass.

"The goal is to reduce fuels in the forest so we don't have the catastrophic fires that we've been having."

The Recovery Act funding "is a needed infusion," said Minnick. The hope now, he said, is that the \$5 million will attract other funding to move the project forward.

The existing bio-mass boiler has been in operation since 2006. The long-term plan has called for development of the second boiler, but funding has been an issue.

U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden announced last week that the Recovery Act would provide \$5 million for development of the second boiler.

"I've seen firsthand how biomass projects are creating jobs in our forests," Sen. Merkley said. "This fund-

ing from the Recovery Act will move us towards a clean energy economy and help accomplish the important goal of reducing threats from wildfires."

Sen. Wyden commented, "The promotion of biomass is a key element in two issues vital to Oregonians—jobs and forest health."

Wyden said, "This funding will help breathe new life into our timber-dependent communities and put hardworking Oregonians back to work thinning overstocked forests and pioneering a promising energy source."

Biomass projects receiving funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act were nominated by Forest Service regional offices and selected nationally through a competitive basis on objective criteria.