

2009 Year in Review

Here is a brief look back at some of the news events on the reservation during the past 12 months.

January

Telecommunications

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is exploring the possibility of creating a telecommunications enterprise that would serve the reservation.

The people working on the project see great potential for economic development and local job creation through the telecommunications enterprise.

There are currently nine other tribes in the U.S. that have developed telecommunications companies, or enterprises on their reservations.

Tragic house fire

A house fire on Jan. 14 took the lives of a young child and his father, who died trying to save his son. Rolando Campuzano Sr., 26, and Rolando Campuzano Jr., 4, died in the West Hills house fire. Mr. Campuzano's wife, and four other children in the home, escaped without injury.

February

Miss Warm Springs

Asked about some of the things she likes to do, Sisiley Scott says, "I like to make new friends, and I like to smile."

These days Sisiley, 20, has a lot to smile about. She has her job at the clinic, and many interesting hobbies and interests.

She sews and does beadwork, takes photographs, draws with pastels, travels and attends rodeos. Last year, she attended a powwow nearly every weekend, from large tribal powwows to smaller ones at community colleges.

Sisiley is the new Miss Warm Springs, having won the pageant.

Fish passage

Tribal Council toured the new intake tower and fish passage facility that is under construction at the Round Butte Dam on the Deschutes River. The facility includes a 273-foot tall underwater tower, and a fish collection station. Successful operation of this project will reopen 226 upstream miles to salmon and steelhead migration, which has been blocked since 1972. Total cost of the fish passage project is \$108 million, including \$83 million for construction.

Metolius protection

Tribal officials are in support of a proposed state law that would declare the Metolius River basin an Area of Critical State Concern.

The designation, which has the support of Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and some state lawmakers, would prohibit large-scale development projects, such as destination resorts in the basin.

The proposed law could affect two development proposals, one in the Metolius basin and one on the border of the basin. The tribes are concerned that housing and related development in and adjacent to the basin could affect wildlife, fisheries, water and cultural resources.

March

New restaurant owners

The Deschutes Crossing Restaurant came under new ownership. The new owners are Randy and Brenda Nathan, and Charles Nathan, owners of Nathan's Business Services.

The Nathans are asking the community for help in renaming the restaurant. The person who comes up with the new name receives 10 free meals.

Processing facility

The Off-Reservation Fish and Wild-

life Committee has been developing a plan for a fish and meat processing facility. Committee Chairman Bruce Jim discussed the project at a Tribal Council-Executive Committee meeting.

There have been times, he said, when meat and fish arriving at longhouses from the Natural Resources freezer have been in bad condition.

Fish have been bruised in areas, and unthawing the large pieces of meat is difficult. Sometimes meat or fish had to be thrown away, he said.

"Storage practices have been wasteful," Jim said.

Sesquicentennial plan

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs announced plans to help commemorate the Oregon sesquicentennial—the state's 150th birthday—in May at Celilo.

Events that are being planned include a tribal canoe arrival from the river, a horse parade and salmon bake, among other activities, said Doris Teeney Miller, special projects manager, who is helping to organize the event.

The tribes chose Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, for the occasion. Oregon became a state in 1859. To mark the anniversary, the Oregon 150 partners are hosting events around the state throughout the year.

April

Fish passage setback

Tribal and PGE officials remain committed to fish passage at the Round Butte dam, despite a setback.

On April 11, a large piece of the passage facility—a conduit measuring 40 feet and weighing 573,000 pounds—broke apart. Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, estimates the delay in completing the project could be between four to 10 months.

Museum news

The Museum at Warm Springs has completed the improvements to the museum audio and visual systems.

Former U.S. Senator Gordon Smith and Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath were honored at the annual Museum At Warm Springs Honor Dinner.

50-year milestone

For 50 years, the Confederated Tribes and Oregon State University have worked together on education and planning projects on the reservation.

The partnership began, explained Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah, "when the federal government built The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River.

Celilo Falls was a major fishing area, and when they closed the gates on The Dalles, we lost that fishing site, and the tribes demanded compensation for that."

Leaders of the Confederated Tribes at the time realized the need for long-term economic planning to help the future generations of the tribes. Toward that goal, the tribes used some of the dam compensation money to develop an economic plan.

They commissioned Oregon State College, now Oregon State University, to develop the plan.

During the years the tribes and OSU have renewed their cooperative agreement, this year marking the 50th anniversary of the original document.

May

Oregon 150

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 ca-



Canoes arrive at Celilo as part of the tribes' Oregon 150 celebration.

noe 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.

Health services

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Indian Health Services reached a new agreement for providing health care services to the membership.

The agreement represents a hopeful change in the relationship between the tribes and IHS, which in recent years had grown troublesome.

The new agreement provides for the creation of a seven-member Joint Health Commission that will oversee health care services, as provided by the tribes and IHS.

"I commend the Council for getting us here," secretary-treasurer Jody Calica said at the signing ceremony at the clinic.

There had been major disagreements between the tribes and IHS about health care on the reservation, "but we have worked beyond that for the benefit of the people," Calica said.

June

Trust settlement

Tribal members were invited to a hearing regarding the trust lawsuit settlement agreement reached between the Confederated Tribes and the U.S. government. The settlement is in the amount of \$68 million.

The notice states:

"The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the United States have entered into a settlement agreement for \$68 million which shall settle the Tribes' claim that the United States government breached its trust duties in regard to the management of the Tribes' non-monetary assets from 1855 to the present. ..."

Of the total \$68 million, \$32 million "shall be used by the Tribe as it decides in its sole discretion for tribal operations and purposes. ..."

July

Park dedication

The park that overlooks the reservoir of the Re-regulating dam was once a tribal outpost from time immemorial. Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum

explained that the park was one of many such outposts located throughout the Ceded Lands. Tribal bands would travel from one outpost to another, leaving their tools at the site to be used when they returned. They would leave food caches at the site to be used in the winter, said Chief Wallulatum.

He told this history of the park area at a dedication ceremony, when Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises unveiled a plaque dedicated to Chief Wallulatum.

Metolius protection

Gov. Kulongoski signed the Metolius River basin protection bill at a ceremony at the Metolius. The Confederated Tribes supported the legislation, which passed the Oregon Senate and then narrowly passed the House.

The new law designates the Metolius basin an Area of Critical State Concern, a designation used only one other time in the state.

Human Services

More than 20 years later, life in some ways has come full circle for Caroline Cruz. She's working again in Warm Springs, and she's even in the same building where she worked 22 years ago.

But much has changed for her. Her last job in Warm Springs, before she left in 1987, was prevention coordinator at the Community Counseling Center. Her job now is that of general manager of tribal Human Services.

Creek realignment

Better fish habitat is just one of the benefits of the Shitike Creek realignment project.

The new course of the creek will also make it safer in case of flooding. The realignment, for instance, takes the course away from downstream wastewater treatment areas, and also better protects the Museum at Warm Springs and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Work on the creek, downstream from the community center, should be substantially complete within a few weeks, said Scott Turo, habitat biologist with tribal Natural Resources.

August

Gorge Act change?

The four treaty tribes of the Columbia River announced their opposition to a bill that would add the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The Gorge Act recognizes the four treaty tribes of the Columbia River: Warm Springs, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Yakama.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act specifically recognizes the treaty and other rights of the four tribes in the gorge area; and the act rec-

ognizes the tribes' role in the management of the gorge. U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader, whose district includes the Grand Ronde community, has introduced a bill to add the Grand Ronde tribe to the act.

The Grand Ronde tribe has been a main opponent of the Warm Springs and Cascade Locks proposal to build a tribal casino at Cascade Locks at the Columbia.

Celilo restoration

The historic Celilo Village at the Columbia River has new homes, paved roads, a new drinking water system, a playground and basketball court. The new Celilo administration and school building is a great addition to the community.

The improvements to the village, including a longhouse with kitchen, happened over the past four years. The Celilo Restoration Project was a cooperative effort of the Columbia River tribes, the people of Celilo, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Warm Springs and other tribal officials traveled to Celilo Village to mark the official completion of the project.

September

Mid Oregon Credit Union

The Mid Oregon Credit Union is partnering with the Confederated Tribes to bring banking services to the reservation. Tribal and credit union officials met at tribal Credit Enterprise to sign a financial services and support agreement.

The first phase of the agreement is to bring an automatic teller machine and check cashing machine to the Credit building.

Through the agreement, the credit union will in the future open a drive-up banking window. In time, the plan is to have full-service banking service through Mid Oregon Credit at the tribal Credit Enterprise building.

New school funding possible

A long-standing plan to build a new school in Warm Springs could benefit from the federal Stimulus program.

"We put in a grant application that would fully fund the school construction," said Rick Molitor, superintendent of Jefferson County School District 509-J.

The district and the tribes worked together to get the application completed in time to meet the deadline, said Molitor.

Two perish at river

Two Warm Springs men, Thane Colwash and Pete Good Lance, passed away in a boating accident on the Columbia River.

The men were fishing in a boat with three other fishermen, who were able to survive the ordeal.

October

Composite Products

Warm Springs Composite Products received statewide recognition from the Small Business Association.

The association made award presentations during Minority Enterprise Development Week.

As a tribally-owned enterprise, Composite Products was recognized as Manufacturer of the Year for Oregon.

Big savings

The federal Stimulus program has provided the Confederated Tribes with the opportunity to save as much as \$20 million in debt interest.

The tribes now have IRS approval to borrow money for the fish passage project at Round Butte dam, and for improvements to Indian Park.

Through the Stimulus program, the expenditures for the project can be financed with tax exempt bonds.

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