

2010 Year in Review

Here is a look at some of the news that happened on the reservation during the second half of the year.

June

At Culture & Heritage

Valerie Switzler is happy to be back living and working on the Warm Springs Reservation after a lengthy stay in the Midwest for her education.

Switzler, 49, now heads the tribal Culture and Heritage Department, the job formerly held by Myra Johnson-Orange.

"Myra wanted us to succeed in everything we did," Switzler said fondly of her predecessor, who retired several weeks ago.

Switzler recently completed her master's degree at the University of Kansas in Global Indigenous Nations Studies, specifically language revitalization and documentation.

Language Bowl

The Warm Springs language team received the Sportsmanship Award recently from the organizers of Language Bowl 2010.

"This was the second Language Bowl," Roberta Kirk said. "It's made up of all of the tribes that speak the *Sahaptin* language, so a lot of different reservations are involved."

Arlita Rhoan, *Ichishkiin Sahaptin* instructor for the Language Program, said that the team, *Melittama*, was invited to participate this year by Modesta Minthorn from Pendleton.

The girls who make up the team are Tashina Eastman, 9, Inez Queahpama, 9, and Keeyana Yellowman, 12.

Suzie Slockish also had a team participating which included Billy Joe Berry Jr., Billy Joe Berry Sr., Jacob Berry, Mercedes Mitchell, April Rose, and Faith Berry.

July

Canoe Journey

The Warm Springs canoe team traveled from Celilo to Neah Bay on the Olympic Peninsula, following a weeklong journey from Celilo Park on the Columbia.

This was historic an historic event for the tribes, marking the first time the Confederated



Canoe family leaving in July for Makah from Celilo Park.

Spilyay picture.

Tribes participated in the Tribal Journeys canoe gathering, which brought together 50 tribes and hundreds of tribal canoe families of the Northwest.

The teams met at the Makah Reservation on Neah Bay. An estimated 10,000 people attended the celebration, which lasted through week.

The Warm Springs canoe team paddled the *N'Chi Wanapam* canoe of the Confederated Tribes. The journey was a great accomplishment for those who participated and represented the tribes.

Memorial Wall

The Traveling Wall, a tribute to veterans, will be in Warm Springs for two hours on Wednesday, August 11. The wall initially was a replica of the Vietnam Memorial wall, and now includes names of those killed in all wars from World War II through the present-day wars in the Middle East.

August

Telecommunications

The tribes have been awarded \$5.5 million for development of a telecommunications enterprise on the reservation. The funds will allow the company, wholly owned by the tribes, to bring high-speed broadband Internet and telephone service to the reservation. The funds came through the Department of Agriculture, as part of the Recovery Act economic stimulus program.

Half of the money is a grant, and the other half is a loan. Warm Springs Ventures, the tribes' economic develop-

ment corporation, has been leading the tribal effort in pursuing the telecommunications project.

Huckleberry Feast

The tribes celebrated Huckleberry Feast at both the Agency and HeHe Longhouses on Sunday, August 8. The feast marks the beginning of the huckleberry gathering season for tribal members. Traditionally celebrated in

late summer or early fall, the feast give thanks to the Creator for providing for the people.

Casino FEIS published

The Department of the Interior last week published the final environmental impact statement regarding the tribes' Cascade Locks casino proposal. In the final EIS, published in the Federal Register last Friday, the BIA names Cascade Locks as

the preferred alternative site for a new tribal casino.

The publication marks the end of the environmental review and assessment process, which has been going on for about five years, or twice as long as expected.

Officers cross-deputized

Thirteen tribal officers, along with Public Safety general manager Jim Soules and police chief Carmen Smith, were sworn in as special officers of the Wasco County Sheriff's Department. Being cross-deputized allows tribal officers to arrest non-Indians who commit state crimes on the reservation. Earlier this year, officers were sworn in as special officers of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.

Law and Order

Tribal council decided to create a task force to determine the immediate course of action and weigh future options in response to the Tribal Law and Order Act. Signed by President Obama earlier this summer, the law says a person cannot serve longer than one year in the tribal jail following a conviction, unless the jail is approved for long-term incarceration and tribes meet other procedural requirements.

The Warm Springs Jail is not currently approved for long-term incarceration.

Fire still burning

Seven fires that make up the White Lightning Complex grew quickly due to gusty winds. The fire is centered 15 miles north of Warm Springs and has burned more than 27,000 acres.

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Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on

the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call 385-6944 Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (at lunch from noon-1 p.m.)

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