



Spilyay Tymoo

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Tribes, school district agree to 5-year plan

Fifty years ago the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the BIA, and Jefferson County School District 509-J signed a lease agreement.

This agreement has allowed the district to provide educational services to Warm Springs Elementary School children on tribal property.

As the agreement comes to a close this year, the Tribal Council and the school district board of directors have been discussing options and opportunities.

As a result of these discussions, the parties have agreed to partner on a short-term plan to create a K-8 education system in Warm Springs, with a long-term goal of expanding to a K-12 system.

"It is important that we have the pieces in place to provide a good edu-

cation system that also honors our history and our values," said Tribal Councilman Scott Moses. "We believe that we can build a stronger education system in Warm Springs if we partner with the school district over the next several years."

The tribal and school district leaders say they are not satisfied with the existing education system serving the reservation, and they want to ensure success for all students at a higher level.

With this in mind, the tribes, the school district and BIA this week came to the agreement to work towards a short-term goal of creating a K-8 system for Warm Springs' families.

Eventually K-12

The long-term goal would be to

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eventually create a K-12 system on the reservation. This system would better meet the needs and desires of all students and families of the 509-J school district, the leaders agree.

The parties agreed to a more collaborative plan in which they will work together to design a gradual transition that ensures the success of all students throughout the district.

"This is a very positive step in the

partnership between the tribes and the district," said Brad Holliday, school board chair. "We know we can do more for all of our students if we work together to make this happen."

The first priority will be to obtain funding for a new K-8 building in Warm Springs at a cost of approximately \$18 million.

The goal is for the tribes, the district and the BIA to each contribute towards the new building.

Once funding is in place, the groups plan to work together to design a K-8 education system that meets federal, state and local education requirements and needs.

Then the long-term goal of building a new system to eventually include grades 9-12 can begin.

Housing is back on track

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs Housing Authority has closed nine of ten findings identified last year by the Northwest Office of Native American Programs, and expects the one remaining finding to be resolved in a matter of weeks.

Back in September 2010, HUD said in a letter of intent that it would adjust some of or all of the tribes' future Indian housing block grants if the findings were not remedied.

HUD also intended to limit the tribes' availability of IHBG payments, and the tribes would only be allowed to access funds for projects or activities not affected by its failure to comply with program requirements.

The findings revealed showed travel expense reports that were not submitted in accordance to travel policy, the self-monitoring system was not in compliance with regulations, the inspection and maintenance systems were in non-compliance, the admissions and occupancy policy was not being enforced, contracts were not adequately managed, documents were not on file to confirm that units were tested for lead-based paint, and the labor system was not in compliance.

The one remaining finding to be closed deals with inspection and maintenance systems. "The last finding will be closed in the next few weeks after an agreement with HUD," Moses said. "Tribal attorneys are working in cooperation with their attorneys. Basically, it's going to be closed with an agreement between them."

With the findings resolved, WSHA is in no danger of losing any funding.

"Really, the only thing that is going to change now is how often a tenant will see us in and out of their homes. It's been that way for the last six months. They might be upset, but maintenance of the units is our responsibility."

Moses took over the Housing Director position in November of 2009, when it was known that the department had issues which needed to be resolved.

"Nobody was working on these findings when I got here," Moses said. "Since then we've submitted a ton of documents. My tribal member employees, they did a great job of stepping up."

(See HOUSING on page 5)

Parade, BBQ fireworks on Monday

The Confederated Tribes and Warm Springs Market are presenting fireworks, a parade and barbecue, canoe races and other games on Monday, the Fourth of July. The July 4 activities this year are in honor of Vietnam veterans.

The parade preparation starts at 9 a.m. at the parking lot area of the Warm Springs Elementary School. The parade line-up and judging are at 10 a.m. (See page 4 for more information)

Truck wreck closes highway

Highway 26 was shut down for two hours yesterday after a truck veered off the road and burst into flames at milepost 109, on the grade between Warm Springs and Madras. A column of black smoke was visible for miles and OSP issued an advisory around 8:45 a.m. The driver was killed in the accident, according to report.

Police began stopping traffic just before 9 a.m., telling motorists that the highway would be closed for at least two hours. Some drivers with business in Warm Springs were escorted over the river on back roads.

Witnesses said Tuesday morning that there were no skid marks on the pavement leading up to the crash site.



The tribes hosted the 42nd Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, June 24-26. See pages 8 and 9 for more pictures.



Relatives of the late Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum rode in the powwow parade.

Fire damages 6 resort rooms

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Hot embers from a barbecue were the cause of a fire that damaged six rooms at Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge last Thursday, June 22.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000.

Guests in room 408 were cooking when hot embers caught the balcony on fire around 8:15 p.m., Warm Springs Fire & Safety Chief Dan Martinez said.

"Several attempts were made by the guest to control the spread," Martinez said.

"Embers caused the exterior walls to catch fire. That spread rapidly to the upper deck and caused

extensive damage to the exterior walls of three rooms and the balcony."

Rooms on that level were evacuated, as security used a fire extinguisher to control the fire.

Five fire fighters and two engines from Warm Springs arrived within five minutes, and the blaze was declared under control at 8:45 p.m.

Jefferson County Fire District responded as mutual aid. Also responding were two ambulances with Jefferson County ambulance standing by.

Two rooms were declared unsafe and will remain closed. Four other rooms were smoke damaged.

Guests were allowed to return to their rooms at 9 p.m.

Fish return a hopeful sign for restoration

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Adult spring chinook salmon, released as juveniles in 2008, returned this year to the Pelton Round Butte Dam—a good sign that could mean more fish returning in 2012.

In 2008, before operation of the fish tower at the Round Butte dam, biologists with the tribes and Portland General Electric released several hundred juvenile spring chinook.

A small percentage of these fish—three of them—made the three-year journey downriver to the ocean, and then back again.

The tribes and PGE began operating the juvenile fish collection tower at

Round Butte dam in 2009.

Through the tower, many more juvenile fish were trapped and then released downstream.

This time next year will be an interesting time for the upper Deschutes fish restoration program, said Jim Manion, general manager Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

It is possible that the number of returning adults will be higher, he said.

A next step in the process will be the release of the returning adults upstream past the dam, he said.

As part of fisheries restoration on the upper Deschutes, the tribes and PGE have implemented various programs, including habitat restoration and release of the juvenile fish. The single

largest part of the restoration—physically and cost-wise—is the water intake tower at the Round Butte dam. The tower, 273-feet tall, draws in water at the surface while allowing the operation of the hydro-electric portion of the dam. The surface current guides the juveniles downstream in the lake. Before, there was no surface current and the juveniles did not migrate downstream.

There have been no migrating fish spawning above the Round Butte dam in decades.

Operation of the intake and collection system could reopen 226 upstream miles to salmon and steelhead migration, which has been blocked since 1972. Total cost of this project has been over \$100 million.