

2011 Year in Review

January

(The following are some of the notable events of 2011 on the reservation.)

The Warm Springs Telecommunication Company was planning in January to remodel the former apparel building at the industrial park. The teleco would use the building for its main office.

"It's an ideal building for our purposes," said Adam Haas, teleco enterprise general manager. The central office area will house electronic equipment, office space for the staff, and the customer service area.

The apparel building has been mostly vacant for several years, with the tribal Construction enterprise currently using only part of the building. Also in January:

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the state of Oregon officially approved the gaming compact for the tribes' proposed Cascade Locks casino. The tribes and the state submitted the compact to the Department of the Interior for approval in November 2010. The agency took no action, resulting in approval. And this January news:

Tamera Rae Moody won the 2011 Miss Warm Springs Pageant. Tamera is a student at Lane Community College. Norene Sampson was runner-up. The pageant started with some words from the outgoing Miss Warm Springs, Jaycelene Frank, and a give-away. And this news:

The Warm Springs Housing Authority announced the department was close to resolving several issues raised in 2010 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Housing Authority employees made their report this month to Tribal Council.

February

Tribal leaders in February said they were hoping to have the temporary highway 26 casino in operation by late this winter or early spring 2012. The temporary casino could provide "a financial shot in the arm," as the tribes face a serious revenue shortage. Elsewhere:

The court-ordered process of notifying individual class members of their right to participate in the Cobell Indian Trust Settlement got underway this month. Notices are being sent to an estimated 500,000 affected class members.

The historic class action settlement concerns Individual Indian Money accounts and land held in trust by the federal government. Many Warm Springs tribal members are entitled to file claims. And this:

Tribal Council in February authorized the removal of several old BIA-owned buildings on the reservation. In consulting with the chief operations officer and director of tribal Utilities, Council determined that buildings cannot be renovated.

Council had the option of accepting title to the buildings



Miss Warm Springs 2011 Tamera Rae Moody.

from the BIA, but rejected the offer. Removal of the buildings, by the BIA at the agency's expense, will provide space for new building development, in accordance with the downtown development plan, said Chief Operations Officer Urbana Ross. Elsewhere:

The LongestWalk 3 team visited Warm Springs in February, on their way to Washington D.C. The walk began in Portland, and is an effort to spread awareness about diabetes and its impact on Native Americans.

March

The N'Chi Wanapam Canoe Family was preparing for its second season on the water. This year the Canoe Journey will be the Paddle to Swinomish 2011. The destination, the Swinomish Indian Reservation, is in northern Washington on Skagit Bay.

The Canoe Family held a canoe dedication in March at Indian Park, with salmon bake and giveaway, canoe heritage and cultural presentations. Muckle-shoot, Puyallup, Nisqually and Tulalip tribal members were on hand. And this news:

At one time Michelle Wells-Elliott wondered if she still had a soul left, as a prisoner of addiction. "I was homeless," she said. "It was that bad. I was doing a lot of jail time. I was running the streets. I just didn't care anymore."

At the height of her addiction, Michelle lost her mother. "That's my biggest regret. I was in full-blown addiction while my mother was on her death bed."

Guidance came to Michelle in the form of a court order, when Heather Crow-Martinez was sent to do an assessment on Michelle in jail. Heather became Michelle's mentor.

Michelle went to treatment at Visions of Hope in Redmond in 2006. The program lasted 28 days, but the lessons for life continue.

"I started COCC in the sum-

mer of 2008, majoring in addiction studies. It was tough. I'm not going to lie."

In 2010, Michelle tested at the state level, and became a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Today, Michelle is reminded of her soul. "Every day, there comes a reminder of spirituality. I still have my soul and I understand why God protects it now. I know my mom is proud of me in heaven"

The Madras White Buffalo girls varsity basketball team went to the Oregon School Activities Association 4A Girls Basketball State Tournament, finishing third in the tourney. Elsewhere:

After interviewing three firms, the Temporary Casino Planning Team hired the Worth Group out of Nevada as the architects for the new casino. The architectural firm, with offices in Las Vegas, Reno and Denver, specializes in Native American casinos. The board will also meet with four general contractors for the project. And this:

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries felt the impact of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan. WSFPI is a leading exporter of lumber to Japan. About 80 percent of the housing construction wood product from the WSFPI mill goes to Japan. In other March news:

Tribal Council passed a resolution to address the Simnasho drinking water problem. Through the resolution, the tribes are now pursuing up to \$450,000 in Housing and Urban Development grant money for work on the Simnasho-Schoolie Flat water system. And this:

The Oregon legislature held a hearing on Senate Bill 412, an effort by Warm Springs and the other Oregon tribes to make changes to state law regarding the definition of "police officer."

One provision of the bill states that it would provide tribal police officers in Oregon with the same powers and protections

provided by Oregon law to state and local law enforcement officers. This would allow tribal officers to cite non-Indians, over whom the tribe lacks criminal jurisdiction, into state court for state law violations.

The company LNG withdrew its application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a gas pipeline that would have been partly on reservation. The 220-mile-long Palomar pipeline would have run down the Willamette Valley, crossing over to Molalla, making its way through the Cascades, and over reservation lands on its way to join a larger pipeline near Shaniko.

Palomar General Manager Michael Burke gave a number of reasons for withdrawing the application, originally filed in 2008. First, the partner company, NorthStar, filed for bankruptcy in the spring of 2010. Then, demand for compressed liquefied natural gas has dropped during the recession.

April

Northwest Energy Systems Company out of Bellevue, Wash., is proposing a biomass plant to be located just south of the Warm Springs landfill. Biomass renewable energy is produced by burning wood waste in a boiler, creating steam that powers a turbine which generates electricity.

The wood material to be burned in the plant would come from reservation and off-reser-

vation lands. The 38-megawatt plant would produce enough electricity for 35,000 homes. Construction would cost an estimated \$150 million.

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Co. began work on remodeling the old apparel building. The building will be the main office of the telecommunications company, housing electronic equipment, offices and customer service area. The Warm Springs Telecommunications Company last year received \$5.3 million—half by grant and half as a loan—from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Representatives of Oregon's tribes met at Kah-Nee-Ta in April to discuss matters of concern to all tribes. The Cobell settlement process was a key item on the agenda.

A Head Start review team was in Warm Springs in April, observing the operation of the Warm Springs Head Start program. The five-person review team arrived at the request of Tribal Council.

About 75 tribal members gathered in April to discuss their ideas of the role of the next Wasco chief. "There are so many people who want to represent us," Wana Calica said. "And they're all good people. We need to hear what everybody has to say."

May

Levi Blackwolf won the Outstanding Calendar Award at the 2011 North American Indigenous Image Awards.

The awards ceremony was held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Blackwolf, owner of Wolfn Photographies, won the award for his Powwow Model Calendar.

With Gov. Kitzhaber standing at his side, Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath gave the invocation at the ceremony on May 13 in Salem, recognizing American Indian Week throughout the state of Oregon.

Tribal Council met with the Natural Resources Branch in May to discuss the timber harvest on the reservation, and the possible impact on the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill. Tribal Council faces a difficult decision regarding forestry, as the annual timber cut from the reservation may have to be reduced.

Council members and Natural Resources agreed that a workshop of two or three days is needed for further discussion. The difficulty of the situation can be explained as follows:

To operate year-round, the WSFPI mill would require an annual cut of at least 45 million board feet. However, Natural Resources studies show that an annual cut of 45 million board feet is not sustainable. Natural Resources said to Council that an annual cut of about 30 million board feet from the reservation is a maximum sustainable number.

(Continued in the next Spilyay)



Tribal members and guests gathered in early May for the ground-breaking at the new casino building site.



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