

# 2012 Year in Review (part 1)

*(This is part one of the 2012 Year in Review, a look back at some of the notable events on the reservation over the past year.)*

## January

Welcoming the membership to its dedication and open house, the **Warm Springs Telecom** made clear its mission on the reservation: State of the art telecommunications, helping economic development, and improving education, health care and public safety. The Warm Springs Telecom held its grand opening in January 2012.

The Telecom is making available high-speed Internet and telephone service to tribal households and businesses. Also in January:

Chloe Lynn Suppah was crowned **2012 Miss Warm Springs** during the January pageant. Chloe is a student, and the daughter of Erland Suppah and Sally Whiz of Warm Springs. Also in January:

Voters in the Jefferson County School District 509-J will vote this spring on a proposed \$26.6 million bond measure, the school district board decided this month. The school district board of directors agreed to put the bond proposal—which includes funding for a **new k-8 school on the reservation**—on the May ballot. Elsewhere:

A deeply divided debate ended ten years of research, planning and negotiations for an envisioned major national precedent for renewable energy development in Indian Country. The tribes' ten member Council appeared to be evenly split over the merits of the **biomass** project, which was a week away from formal closing of the essential business transaction. Council in January decided not to further pursue the project.



2012 Miss Warm Springs Chloe Lynn Suppah

## February

Dedication day of the new **Indian Head Casino** was a momentous occasion in early February.

The grand opening saw a tremendous public response. The casino was packed during the evening of the dedication. Parking lots at the casino and museum were full, with cars eventually diverted to the parking lots at administration, the community center and longhouse, where shuttles were on hand to bring the visitors to the casino.

Hundreds of people waited as the dedication ribbon was cut and the doors opened. Then, by 6 p.m. when Indian Head opened to the general public, the casino floor was standing room only. Also in February:

For the past several de-

cadecades Kah-Nee-Ta Resort's recipe for fry bread has been unchanged. That is until this month, when resort general manager Carlos Smith heard that the **Fry Bread World Champion** is a Warm Springs tribal member. The resort now serves fry bread prepared with the recipe supplied by Jasmine Caldera, who earned the title Queen of Fry Bread during a recent national competition. In February sporting news:

It was one for the ages inside the Buffalo dome, as the home town Madras White Buffalo varsity boys basketball team was preparing to take on their cross-mountain rivals, the LaSalle Falcons: The two teams came into the game tied for first place in the Tri Valley League standings, but only one would leave with no less than a clinched share of the league title. In a class game Madras held on to win 67-63.

## March

Fisheries workers are looking forward to this summer and fall, when a good

number of adult **salmon and steelhead** are expected to return for spawning in the upper Deschutes, Crooked and Metolius rivers. This would be the first time in several decades that migrating fish go past, and spawn above the Pelton and Round Butte dams. The tribes and the state of Oregon have management responsibility of the fish, and the two entities recently worked out a plan for the upcoming fish runs. Elsewhere:

Portland General Electric is proposing a 215-mile electric **transmission line** project, called the Cascade Crossing Transmission Project. A potential route of the line includes the Warm Springs Reservation. This route would run parallel to an existing Bonneville Power Administration power line corridor through Sidwalter. As with other existing lines on the reservation, the tribes would be compensated for providing the easement to PGE. In other March news:

Tribal Council heard the first gaming report since the opening of **Indian Head Casino** on Highway 26. Revenue from the enterprise was reported as on target, and the first weeks of operation have been successful. And elsewhere:

Warm Springs tribal elder **Bernice T. Mitchell** passed away. Bernice began serving on Tribal Council in 1955, when she replaced James Palmer. She then went on to serve eight more terms spanning 25 years.

## April

The Columbia River treaty tribes gathered to dedicate the **Dallesport Treaty Fishing Access Site**. This is the thirty-first, and last, of the sites to be constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the treaty fishing access site program.

The access sites are to mitigate the loss of fishing caused by construction of dams on the lower Columbia, starting with the Bonneville dam in 1937.

Completing the construction of all the sites has taken several years, as the federal

law mandating their development passed in 1988. Construction of the first site began in 1995. In other April news:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and its member tribes marked their **Thirty-Fifth Anniversary** of service. CRITFC and its member tribes—Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce—are key advocates of treaty-reserved rights to salmon.

## May

The Confederated Tribes conducted a **referendum** in May, while the Jefferson County School District 509-J put a ballot measure proposal to a vote of the district.

The referendum and ballot measure both asked whether the tribes and school district should develop a k-8 school on the reservation.

The school district proposal passed, providing half the funding needed for the

school. The tribal referendum did not pass, as not enough eligible voters cast their ballots.

The referendum asked whether the tribes should share half the cost of the \$20 million proposed new school.

After the referendum failed, Tribal Council determined that the tribes should vote again soon on the matter. During the May referendum, it was not yet known whether the school district ballot measure had passed.

With the district funding in place, tribal members may be more likely to participate in the referendum, tribal officials agreed. Council set July for the next referendum. In other May news:

A stretch of Mill Creek will see major improvement for fish habitat through a plan being developed by the Natural Resources Branch. The scale of the project is similar to that of the Shitike Creek project of 2009. Fish Habitat Program Manager Scott Turo this month presented information on the Mill Creek project to tribal members.

## Fishing Site



Drummers of the Columbia River treaty tribes conclude the April 2012 dedication ceremony at the Dallesport Treaty Fishing Access Site.

## Grand Openings



Grand opening of the Warm Springs Telecom, late January 2012.



Grand opening of the new Indian Head Casino on Highway 26, early February 2012.

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