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Change in 2013 at Utilities

The tribes' solid waste program in 2013 will see an important change, due to the financial challenge facing the tribes.

Because of the loss of a garbage truck driver position, the department will no longer be able to serve residential routes at no cost to the customer.

This change is to take place at the start of the new year.

Garbage pickup will continue on the existing commercial routes where customers pay for the service. Commercial customers who do not pay for pickup can pay for the service, but otherwise will no longer be served, said Nancy Collins, tribal Sanitarian.

Also, residents who wish to pay for garbage pickup service should call the Sanitarian's office at 541-553-4943.

Starting in January, there will be ten additional dumpsters placed around the reservation. People who do not wish to pay for garbage



Tony Wergen and Gordon Scott check out a new sanitation truck.

pickup can use these dumpsters; or take garbage to the landfill or transfer station, which is free to tribal

members. This also applies to all departments that do not currently pay for service.

The following are the commercial rates that will apply:

\$49.50 a month for a three-yard container with once a week service.

\$85.50 a month for a 10-yard container with once a week service

\$24.75 a month for a 96-gallon tote with once a week service.

Each additional pickup is \$10 per service.

Existing commercial accounts do not need to do anything to continue service, unless they would like to stop service.

Residential rates are as follows, according to the Sanitarian:

\$18.50 a month for a 96-gallon tote with once a week service.

Collins commented that eliminating the driver position was the only way her department could reach the budget reductions required for 2013.

School safety increases

Jefferson County School District 509-J took immediate safety precautions last week following the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Jefferson County schools were cancelled on Friday, Dec. 21, as a precaution; and there will be a two-hour late start when students return on Monday, Jan. 7.

"The school closure allowed students, staff and families some added peace-of-mind during this difficult time," said district superintendent Rick Molitor.

District leaders then met with the schools safety team for careful review of the current school safety plans. Over the break, school district staff will meet with law enforcement and fire departments to make any plan adjustments that may be needed to ensure student and school staff safety.

During the two-hour late start on Jan. 7, school officials will update teachers on new and existing safety protocol.

School closure last Friday was prompted in part by rumors that proved to be unfounded. Nevertheless, "These rumors created a significant interruption to our schools and made it difficult to have an appropriate educational setting," Molitor said.

As safety is a priority for the district, school was cancelled that Friday, the last day before Christmas break.

— Dave McMechan

Priority items on Council Jan. agenda

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal Council in January will meet for consideration of several important matters.

With the Tribal Council election coming up in the spring, the current Council needs to consider the transition from the Twenty-Fifth to the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council:

"We need to put some strategies in place, as a kind of recovery plan," said secretary-treasurer Jody Calica. "We can't continue the way we have been operating. We are potentially going to deplete all reserves by 2014."

Tribal enterprises for the most part are providing no dividend. Eventually, the per capita fund would be depleted, which would have a domino effect at tribal Credit,

among other repercussions.

Council set the Jan. 24-25 meeting dates aside for consideration of the tribes' finances and the organization structure. There will also be consideration of the idea of having the Tribal Council positions as paid positions.

Currently, members who are elected to Council keep their previous jobs, while still serving on Council. The decisions facing the tribes

will require the undivided attention of the leadership, Calica said. A possible way to achieve that would be by having the Council positions as paid employees of the tribes. Also in January:

The tribal Appeals Court, and recommendations from the judicial selection committee, is on the Tribal Council agenda on Jan. 14.

See COUNCIL on page 5

2012 Year in Review

K-8 school, casino, Telecom among top news

The Wasco people chose a new chief in 2012, Chief Alfred Smith.

The tribes dedicated a new in-lieu fishing site at Dallesport in 2012. This was the thirty-first, and last, of the sites to be constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the treaty fishing access site program.

Over the summer, tribal Natural Resources released more Rocky Mountain goats at Mt. Jefferson. Meanwhile, the N'Chi Wanapum Canoe Family made the 2012 Canoe Journey, to Squaxim Island on the Olympic Peninsula.

In 2012 migrating fish made their way up past the Pelton-Round Butte dams, the first time the fish had migrated up there in generations. This was the work mainly of Power and Water Enterprises, PGE and tribal Natural Resources.

The year 2012 saw roadway improvement work around the Hollywood-Tenino intersection area. And



Students and tribal leaders break ground during a July ceremony at the new school building site.

the Community Counseling building was renovated, ready now for staff to move back in.

Early in 2012, two tribal enterprises held grand openings.

First, in January, the Warm Springs Telecom welcomed the community to its new offices at the industrial park. The Telecom is making available high-speed Internet and

telephone service to tribal households and businesses.

Then in February, the new Indian Head Casino held its grand opening. This was the busiest day and evening in Warm Springs in recent memory, as the grand opening saw a tremendous public response. Parking lots at the casino and museum were full, with cars eventually diverted to the parking lots at administration, the community center and longhouse.

Still, the single biggest news event of 2012 for many in the community was not the casino or the Telecom, despite their obvious significance. Instead, 2012 may be remembered most as the year when the tribes moved forward with a new school.

The idea had been around for decades. The current Warm Springs Elementary School is a great place for the students, but the location by the highway is not ideal. And the local

student population is outgrowing the current elementary school.

The school district was aware of the situation, and asked district voters to fund half of the construction of a \$20-million kindergarten through eighth-grade school in Warm Springs. This measure passed district-wide, and the membership agreed by referendum.

The school will be located on Tenino Road at the intersection with Chukar. The school is scheduled to open at the start of the 2014 school year. The tribes currently are working to secure the funding, and helping to finalize the design. Construction is expected to start in the spring.

When the new school opens, Warm Springs middle school students will no longer have the long bus ride to school. And all the Warm Springs k-8 students and family will have new school facilities located in the local community.

— Dave McMechan

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