2012 Year in Review (part 2)

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

June

Warm Springs **Power and Water Enterprises** in June released its 2011 annual report, and the news was not good. Power and Water management and board members then met with Tribal Council to review past performance, and to discuss 2013 projections.

The enterprise is forecasting that the coming year will be a very challenging: For 2013, Power and Water is projecting to have no dividend to contribute to the tribal general fund. This is a major change from previous years. For instance, in 2011 and in 2012, the dividend from the enterprise was $2 million each year. In 2010 the dividend was close to $8 million.

By way of explanation, Power and Water officials said that their revenue is influenced by what happens in the Northwest energy supply market, which is weak. Adding to the problem, the enterprise has large capital requirements due to resource restoration projects required in the federal license.

Meanwhile, the month of June saw an eventful day for the future **salmon and steelhead** of the upper Deschutes River. Six adult spring chinook salmon entered the river just above the Pelton-Round Butte project in early June, the first time adult migrating fish have been above the dams in 45 years.

The fish had been collected below the dams, and then taken by truck to a spot on Lake Billy Chinook just above Round Butte. Officials from the tribes, PGE and state agencies were on hand for the event. Over the past decade, the tribes and PGE have contributed over $100 million for a fish restoration project at Pelton-Round Butte. Elsewhere:

Warm Springs Telecom marked a milestone in June, signing up its one hundredth customer, tribal elder Perthina White. A team of Telecom staff surprised the long-time reservation resident on June 20, arriving at her home to thank her for her business.

The crew then installed Perthina's brand new telephone service. "This is great," said daughter Ina Anderson, thanking the Telecom crew for the service. Ina explained that her mother had been without a landline phone for about one year. In other news:

Tribal officials in June were emphasizing some important facts, as the membership gets ready for the July **k-8 school referendum**. The tribal Senior Pension Fund and per capita will not be affected by the school referendum, officials were emphasizing.

This will be the second referendum on the Warm Springs k-8 proposal, as the referendum earlier in the year failed for insufficient voter participation. In other June 2012 news:

Tribal Council approved two locations on Miller Flat for a possible **travel center** along Highway 26. The travel center would be a new tribal enterprise. A number of other tribes operate profitable travel centers.

July

Tribal members in July passed the Warm Springs **k-8 school referendum.** The $20-million school is now set to l open for the fall term in 2014.

The 20-acre construction site is now sagebrush and juniper; but in the near future, "We'll look on this site and see a new school for our young people," said Laurie Danzuka, chairwoman of the School District 509-J board. "Our kids deserve this," she said. "It's been a long-time coming."

Danzuka spoke during the ground-breaking ceremony last week at the new Warm Springs school site, at East Tenino and Chukar Road. "I truly believe this will benefit our children," said Councilwoman Lola Sohappy. "I can see so many opportunities coming from this for our children."

Middle school students will spend less time on the bus, she said, giving them more time to spend at school, at school sports and with family. Elementary school students will have a new school in a better location, she said.

Lola and husband Don Sohappy gave the invocation at the ground breaking.

"I also want to thank the voters," said tribal secretary-treasurer Jody Calica, adding too that the school has been a long time coming. Elsewhere:

The N'Chi Wanapum Canoe Family this month and into early August is on the 2012 Canoe Journey. The Journey is to Squaxim Island on the Olympic Peninsula, home of the tribal community of Kamilche. The Warm Springs canoe and family left on July 12, and return in early August. Also in July:

The **phase 2 settlement money** is being put to good use in two ways: First, the settlement money is being used for important natural resources restoration work. And second, the phase 2 money is being used for significant employment among tribal members.

The tribes received the phase 2 settlement in 2009. This was compensation from the federal government for past mismanagement of tribal natural resources. About $29 million of the phase 2 settlement was dedicated to natural resource restoration work. Another roughly $5 million was designated for baseline studies of natural resources.

There are now about 100 crew members working on restoration projects made possible through this program,

Spilyay file photo.

Jayden Builder helps get the vote out during the school referendum.

administered by the Branch of Natural Resources.

The tribes and Portland General Electric continue negotiations in regard to the **Cascade Crossing Transmission Project.** A potential route of the line includes the Warm Springs Reservation, on an existing Bonneville Power Administration power line corridor. A cost appraisal for use of the corridor is scheduled for July, when the business negotiations begin, according to the timeline for the project. In other July news:

The tribal Natural Resources Branch is working on the second phase of a three-phase restoration project on the Middle Fork of the John Day River. The area being restored is the **Oxbow Conservation Area**, a 1,022-acre tribally-owned property near the reservation boundary.

August

Over 500 fire fighters and support crew personnel were deployed in August in response to the **Waterfalls 2 fire.** The blaze burned across more than 6,000 acres on the reservation. The fire was located 3.5 miles northeast of the summit of Mt. Jefferson, about 22 miles west of Warm Springs. Windy conditions and rough terrain made Waterfalls 2 a problem for responders. In other news:

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources released more **Rocky Mountain goats** recently at Mt. Jefferson on the reservation. The tribes worked on the release project with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.The tribes and Fish and Wildlife released 24 of the wild goats in late July. The 24 new releases joined the goats and offspring that were released on the mountain in 2010. Also in August:

The Warm Springs canoe team completed the **2012 Journey**, arriving at Squaxim Island on the Olympic Peninsula, home of the tribal community of Kamilche. This is the third year that the N'Chi Wanapam Canoe Family has participated in the Tribal Journeys canoe gathering. Meanwhile:

The Confederated Tribes and Jefferson County School District 509-J are moving forward now with the financing aspects of the new **Warm Springs school**. For their part, the tribes will be seeking a loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said chief operations officer Urbana Ross. The guarantee would make it easier for the tribes to secure funding for the $20 million project. And this:

The **Museum at Warm Springs** is a busier place these days. The extra visitors are due mainly to the nearby Indian Head Casino and Cottonwood Restaurant. Since the casino and restaurant opened, as many as 20 more people each day are visiting the museum.

September

Many gathered in September at Tom, Dick and Harry, known today as Skibowl, to celebrate the return to "**Wiwnu Wash**" or the huckleberry field. The ceremony began as riders on horseback traveled from the Warm Springs Reservation's northern boundary, camping each night until they reached Government Camp. The riders emerged from the tree line followed by walkers in traditional regalia to end the 35 mile journey to the Wiwnu Wash Cultural Center at Mt. Hood Ski Bowl. Elsewhere:

John Halliday returned to work in Warm Springs in September. Some may remember that he worked here years ago, at jobs quite different from his new one. Halliday is now the Superintendent for the BIA Warm Springs Agency. His first day back on the job in Warm Springs was last Thursday. About 30 tribal members were on hand for a welcoming party at the administration building. He then met with Tribal Council for the first time. Also in September:

Tribal Council posted the proposed **2013 tribal budget** on Sept. 21. The proposal includes a projected decrease of nearly $2.29 million from the 2012 tribal budget. Elsewhere:

The Warm Springs **Telecom** is nearing the completion of project involving installation fiber optic cable. The cable will provide for much stronger Internet and voice service, said Telecom manager Jose Matanane. And this:

Road work began at the Hollywood intersection area. The project is expected to be finished in early November.

The Hollywood-Tenino paving project has a budget of close to $600,000, with funding through tribal shares of the BIA infrastructure budget. Details of the project are as follows: The section of road on East Tenino-Tenino from Elliot Heights to the administration building-West Hills intersection will receive a 2-inch asphalt overlay. The 2-inch overlay will also be applied from Kot-num road to the Hollywood-Tenino intersection. Sidewalks and concrete curbs will be repaired or replaced in various sections of the project. In other news:

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha will be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in October. Members of the Blessed Kateri Catholic Indian Mission of Warm Springs in September were preparing for a pilgrimage to the Vatican to witness the canonization. Those making the pilgrimage are Father Luis Flores-Alva and tribal members Marcela Hall, Ursula Gibson, Colleen Reed, Nancy Seyler and Leslie Cochran-Davis.

Blessed Kateri, whose father was Mohawk and mother was Algonquin, will be the first Native American to become a saint. She was born in 1656 and died at the age of 24 in 1680. The process of her sainthood began in 1884, followed by her veneration in 1943 and two certified miracles in 1943 and 2006.

October

Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Sr. joined Tribal Council in October, following an election by the Wasco people. Chief Smith took the oath of office during a ceremony outside Council chambers, with many supporters on hand for the historic occasion. Chief Smith is now the fourth Wasco Chief to serve his people since the formation of the modern tribal government in 1938.

Chief Smith won the recent election conducted among the Wasco people, although he was not a supporter of the election process. The successor to atwai Chief Nelson Wallulatum, who served for over 50 years, should have been chosen by tribal tradition, rather than by election, Chief Smith said. Still, the election process appeared to be the only way to bring about a consensus on the matter.

The Wasco Chieftainship position on Council had been vacant for almost two and a half years, while at least five other people claimed a right as successor. In the end Chief Smith received the most votes in the election process, and Tribal Council acknowledged the result by resolution. In other October news:

Warm Springs **Composite Products** gave a positive report to Tribal Council earlier this week. The year so far has been good, thanks in large part to the overseas market that Composite Products has developed. There have been no layoffs in 2012 among the approximately 40 employees at Composite, said Duane Darnell, chief executive officer. He reported that Composite Products is now producing its own fire-proof door cores, along with the protective fire-proof Tectonite. Meanwhile:

Warm Springs hosted a farmers market in early October at the campus park. The market included farm stand products. Community members were also selling arts and crafts. The hope is for the market to become a regular feature at the park. Elsewhere:

(Continued on page 9)

OSCAR'S EXPERT AUTO REPAIR
Complete Service Foreign & Domestic

CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE SUBARU TOYOTA HONDA SUZUKI CHEVROLET
Serving Central Oregon Community ~ Warm Springs
You need to get back on the road call Oscar's Expert Auto Repair. Towing available...If you fix the car with us, we give you the towing for half price. Call Oscar or Byron for more info
541-390-1008 541-923-3554
821 SW 11th St. ~ Redmond www.autorepairredmond.com