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Plan outlines financial options

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal management last week presented Tribal Council members an initial planning framework regarding future finances of the Confederated Tribes.

The "Waterfall Plan" is a preliminary conceptual framework to a financial solution, developed after consulting the Tribal Council in a workshop setting on priorities and potential financial pathways forward for a minimum of the next five years.

The waterfall image represents the different streams of expenditures flowing from the tribal general fund. Following this imagery, the plan makes the observation:

"Without new revenue and/or decreased expenditures, the waterfall will dry up."

Five tiers

The plan categorizes the expenditures from the general fund into five tiers. Each tier has various departments, services or expenditure items. The five tiers are as follows:

Tier one: Constitutionally required expenditures. Tier two: Essential services. Three: Other services 'A'. Four: Other services 'B'. And five: Entitlements.

Examples of Constitutionally required expenditures are the Tribal

Council and executive staff.

Essential services include police, emergency medicine, water, sewer, etc.

"Other services A and B" include various items and departments from building inspection to work experience programs.

A point of emphasis is that the plan is preliminary and conceptual: There is not yet a specific list of where each department and service falls in terms of priority. This will be determined with input in coming weeks from the membership.

Tier five, Entitlements, includes expenditures such as general per capita, special distribution, minor's trust, among other items.

The Waterfall Plan starts with an annual budget of about \$23.7 million. Direct and indirect revenue would provide about \$9.27 million of the total; and the remaining \$14.5 million would come from revenue reserve.

However, using that level of revenue reserve would soon deplete the tribal reserve. So new revenue, or significant budget reductions are necessary.

With no major source of revenue in the near future, the challenge will be deciding how to generate sustainable financial resources, and where to cut.

See FINANCES on page 3

Mill improvements, as workers return



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

WSFPI workers measure logs at the mill; they returned to work last week.

The Warm Springs Forest Products mill workers are back at their jobs.

Most of the 118 employees had been on temporary lay-off since November. They returned to work last week.

There are other major changes happening at the mill, and more changes planned for the future.

A current project is a \$4.65 million improvement to the mill

bio-mass power plant.

Funding comes from a U.S. Forest Service grant, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. WSPFI received the grant funding last summer.

There are various aspects to the project, from construction of a fuel-storage building, to replacement of fuel cells in the boiler. The five major equipment upgrade categories are:

The boiler, the power transform-

ers, cooling towers, fuel handling system, and turbine controls.

Work on the power plant allowed some of the mill employees to stay on the job through the lay-off period. Sawmill supervisor Jason Rabbie, for instance, was able to continue working as apprentice electrician, returning this week to his regular job.

See WSPFI on page 3

Lincoln's Powwow



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Dancer at the Thirty-Sixth Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, Feb. 7-10, hosted by the Powwow Committee and community of Simnasho. More on page 8.

Counseling Center dedication March 6

Health and Human Services will host a dedication ceremony in March for the new Community Counseling Center building.

The dedication will be throughout the day on Wednesday, March 6.

The day will start with Washat

Services in the morning. There will be a meal, and tours of the newly-remodeled building.

The Prevention Program, Alcohol and Drug, and Mental Health workers moved back to the building earlier this month, following the remodel. Cost of the project was

about \$600,000 funded through a grant.

The old girls dorm is now a updated with air conditioning, new carpeting, paint, remodeled reception area, restrooms, offices, etc. The process took over a year.

Council nominations soon

District meetings for Tribal Council nominations are set for Monday, March 4. The meetings will be at 7 p.m. with dinner at 6.

These are the other important dates for the upcoming election of the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:

March 5-8: Verify candidate eli-

gibility and prepare ballots.

March 11: Approval resolution setting election date. Mail absentee ballots.

Tuesday, April 16: Election date.

April 17: Certify election results.

April 19: Deadline for challenges and appeals.

Monday, May 6: Installation of the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council.

Gearing up for Youth Health Fair

Warm Springs Recreation and Indian Health Services will host the Spring Break Youth Health Fair on March 26.

The Youth Health Fair will be at the Community Wellness Center.

The event is free to community youth.

The Spring Break Youth Health Fair is sponsored with a CHIPRA grant. (See page 6 for more on the Youth Health Fair.)

Cobell deadline

Reminder: The Cobell Salazar deadline date is March 1, 2013.

If you need paper work from Tribal Probate Court to help fill out your packets, please submit a request for records before this Friday, Feb. 22.

The Probate Court cannot take any requests after Feb 22 at 5 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Tribal Probate Court at 541-553-3264.

For a claim form or to update your contact information, call toll-free 1-800-961-6109; or on the web at: Indiantrust.com



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See page 12 for details.



Highway 26, Warm Springs