



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## On Veterans Day



Dave McMechan photos.

Korean War veteran Paul Anderson was a Guest of Honor in the Veterans Day Parade in Madras on Monday. (See page 12 for more on the parade).



Korean War veteran Reggie Winshut was a Guest of Honor in the parade.

## Cigarette tax refund to increase

The Oregon Legislature voted last month to increase the state tax on cigarettes. This will result in some additional revenue to the Confederated Tribes.

Through House Bill 3601, Oregon lawmakers voted to increase the state tax on cigarettes by 13 cents per pack.

Through its arrangement with the state, the tribes should receive an additional \$40,000 to \$50,000 in cigarette tax refund, as a result of the tax increase.

The tribes in recent years have received over \$280,000 in state cigarette tax refund. With the 13-cent increase per pack, the refund will go up by a corresponding amount.

The cigarette refund arrangement goes back to 1979, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling exempting from state tax on-reservation cigarette sales to Indians.

The Confederated Tribes entered into an inter-governmental agreement with the State of Oregon and adopted Tribal Ordinance No. 59.

See REFUND on page 9

## Finance summary explains budget challenge

Tribal Finance and management provided a budget explanation recently, outlining the challenge facing the tribes in 2014 and beyond.

The key to resolving the situation is to develop some new revenue source. It was toward this goal that Tribal Council earlier this year proposed the motorsports park project. The two referendums failed for lack of voter participation.

There are other potential solutions that Council is diligently exploring. For now, though, the budget scenario can best be explained by reference to the summary provided by management. These are some of the key points:

**Question:** Why are in the financial situation we are today?

**Answer:** Simple, we spent more than we have had coming in. Cut-backs were never made to align the

organization with the decreased revenue. Funds from savings were taken to offset the deficits. Now that savings are no longer available, the organization has no choice than to cut back. If the money is not in the bank, the checks cannot go out.

In the past ten years, operating revenue was never sufficient to fund everything the tribal government spent (including per capita, Senior Pension, and bonuses). Sources were pulled from savings to balance the budgets...

Starting in 2008, revenues drastically declined; however, operations reductions were not taken. Instead, sources from savings were utilized to offset the deficits...

**Question:** What is the leading factor to the decline in revenue?

**Answer:** Enterprise revenue has been the leading factor to the de-

cline in revenue to the tribes. Without sustainable enterprise revenue, the organization must decrease spending.

**Question:** How much is per capita in 2014?

**Answer:** Due to the substantial decline in enterprise revenue, per capita will only be funded at \$25 per person in 2014. If new revenue is not generated before 2015 and years to come, the sustainability of per capita will not be maintained. New revenue sources are critically needed. If per capita were to remain unchanged, trust revenue sources would deplete by 2015, and government operations would have to drastically reduce direct services to the membership.

**Question:** How much is Senior Pension distributions in 2014?

**Answer:** Similar to per capita,

due to the substantial decline in revenue, the Senior Pension fund has a limited balance. To sustain distributions for two years to ensure seniors are receiving benefits in 2014 and 2015, the balance proposed per month would be reduced to \$300 per senior for 60 years of age and older. If the senior distributions remain unchanged, the funds will run out in 2014, and without new revenue projected in 2015, the distributions will not be made. By reducing it now, this will provide time to generate new revenue, partially supplement senior benefits, and hopefully new revenue will be earned by the end of 2015 to replenish the senior distribution for the 2016 budget year.

See BUDGET on page 12

## Many sign up through new health care system

As widely reported, the Cover Oregon/Affordable Health Care program has had trouble in its on-line component.

However, many local people are visiting the Warm Springs clinic and signing up with paper applications. They are qualifying for expanded Medicaid. The clinic has a team of assistants who are there to help people through the process.

There are significant benefits—both to the individual, and to the tribes—from members signing up for health insurance.

All members currently receive medical care at the Indian Health Service clinic in Warm Springs, and at hospitals in the region. Under the new program, members continue to have this option. And they face no penalty for not signing up for health insurance through Cover Oregon.

For individuals who sign up for expanded Medicaid, the options for care are greater. In addition, for the tribal organization, the billing options are increased for the participating individuals. Greater billing options will bring revenue for Indian Health Services and the tribes' Health and Human Services to bring in more specialty care.

See HEALTH CARE on page 9

## Academy Open House

The Confederated Tribes, school district 509-J, and the construction contractor hosted an open house last week at the construction site of the Warm Springs K-8 Academy. There was a lunch of chili and bread.

The weather held out, and the visitors were able to tour the grounds. They saw that the school gymnasium is taking shape, and the work is progressing on the main building of the school. The main building will be 80,000 square feet in size. The main bus entrance to the school will be off of Tenino.

Open house event included lunch by the construction trailers.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay



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# FALL-TASTIC FESTIVITIES

WIN A 2013 FORD F150XL ECO-BOOST  
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See page 12 for details.