



Spilyay Tymoo

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Water system nearing limit



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The plant, built in 1982, is located near the Deschutes River off Lower Dry Creek Campground Road.

This summer brought several weeks of very hot weather. It was in mid July, at the height of the heat wave, that the Warm Springs water treatment plant almost reached capacity.

The plant was producing as much drinking water as possible—close to 4.3 million gallons a day. This was just barely enough to meet the demand.

Steve Courtney has worked at the treatment plant for 30 years, almost since the plant was built in 1982.

He explains the water delivery system: First, the water is drawn from the Deschutes and

treated at the plant. The water is then pumped to the community water tanks. These tanks are located at various neighborhoods: Greeley Heights, West Hills, Kah-Nee-Ta, etc.

In mid July these tanks came close to being depleted, as people were using more water than the usual.

During one day in mid July, the treatment plant pumped out 4.25 million gallons of water—just 50,000 gallons away from total capacity. If the use were to exceed capacity, then some people would be without water.

See **WATER** on 10

\$1 million communications grant

To provide faster police, fire response

The Confederated Tribes received a \$1 million grant to upgrade the public safety radio network.

The project will improve the police and fire radio system on the reservation.

The grant, from the Department of Homeland Security, will also provide for construction of a telecommunications tower on the Mutton Mountains area of the reservation.

This is part of Homeland Security's ongoing efforts to support state, local, tribal and territorial partners.

The total amount awarded to the Confederated Tribes is \$1,069,200, through the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program.

With the new Mutton Mountains tower, the grant will fund an upgrade of the existing two-way public safety radio network to a "simulcast" system.

Stan Suenaga, manager of the tribes' Public Safety Branch, sponsored the grant request. He received a telephone call last week from Washington, D.C., letting him know of the award.

"It was great news for us, and a big vote of confidence," Suenaga said. "We ended up getting a big

chunk of the \$10 million funding available in Indian County.

"It shows that FEMA is happy with how we've been systematically upgrading our communications capabilities over the years and that there is more work to be done."

Suenaga also explained the impact of the "Simulcast" radio system funded by the grant:

"This is a sophisticated technology that will allow our first responders to transmit and receive two-way radio communications automatically through the closest tower, rather than requiring them to manually switch between repeaters," he said.

"It will improve response time for the police and fire departments, which ultimately will provide better service to the tribal members living throughout the reservation."

More coverage

Dan Martinez, Fire and Safety chief, was also happy to hear of the grant award. "With a tower on Mutton Mountains, we will finally be able to get coverage down along the Deschutes River, where we have a lot of boating, fishing and rafting incidents," Martinez said.

"It will also help our wild-land firefighters. Last month we had to put a firefighter at the top of Mutton Mountains to relay radio messages from crews fighting the fire along the Deschutes."

A needs assessment identified the tribal Public Safety radio network as the top priority for improvement...

Tribal telecommunications

Warm Springs tribal leaders have been working on improving telecommunications since 2002, when the Tribes first completed a telecommunications needs assessment.

That first assessment determined that telecommunications services were severely limited on the Warm Springs reservation. It also identified the Public Safety radio network as the top priority for improvement.

Since that time, the tribes have been working with consultants Adam Haas and Marsha Spellman of Converge Communications. They have secured grants that have funded the construction of new towers, upgrades to radio equipment, access to additional frequencies for the tribes' departments, and essentially expanded and improved the network.

To date, this effort has resulted in a total of \$3.8 million dollars in grant funding, including the latest grant award.

See **COMMUNICATIONS** on 5

Visit at k-8 Academy

Parents and their kindergarten children visited the K-8 Academy on Monday. They met with teachers and checked out the classrooms.

The official Warm Springs K-8 Academy dedication and opening is set for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, August 27.

The Warm Springs Recreation Department will host the **Back to School Yard Sale** this Saturday, August 23, at the Community Center front yard. Set-up starts at 9 a.m., and the sale is from 1-4 p.m. Call 541-553-3243 for more information.

Next, the **Back to School barbecue** will be on Thursday, September 4, starting at 4 p.m.

Class lists and schedules will be available for students that day. In addition to the barbecue, there will also be backpacks and supplies for students.



Raya Shike-Snow and Freddie Ortiz (bottom row of gym bleachers) were among the students and parents at the school orientation day on Monday.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay photos

Teacher Ardis Smith-Clark (lower left) greets visitors in the cafeteria.

Memorial Highway designation honors veterans

Tribal Council approved two veterans programs—the Tribal Veterans Memorial Highway, and the creation of the Warm Springs Warriors Society. The actions came following a presentation by Jody Calica.

Calica and other veterans have proposed designating Highway 26 on the reservation as the Tribal Veterans Memorial Highway. Tribal Council, the BIA regional office and the Warm Springs BIA superintendent, state and federal officials are in favor of the highway designation.

The next step will be the placement of signs along Highway 26, showing the roadway is the Tribal Veterans Memorial Highway. Calica last week requested \$5,200 for four signs. Council unanimously approved the request.

Two of the signs will be placed where the Highway 26 enters the reservation, and two signs will be located in intermediary spots along the highway. With support from the BIA, funding is also available through the Federal Highway Administration (the Transportation Equity Act).

Calica was speaking on behalf of the VFW Elliot Palmer Post 4217, American Legion Eugene A. "Cougar" Greene Post 47, and other

tribal veterans. The Tribal Veterans Memorial Highway is a way of a showing appreciation for the service, and raise awareness of the many local veterans, Calica said.

Among tribal members, both living and those who have passed on, are more than 70 veterans of the wars in the Middle East; 107 veterans of the Vietnam War; 97 veterans of the Korean War.

Many veterans on the reservation do not receive the medical and other benefits they are entitled to, Calica said. A big part of the problem, he said, is the long delay in the process of applying for and receiving the benefits. His own paperwork, Calica said, was lost after being in the VA system for three years. "So I see what a lot of the other veterans are going through," he said.

Other projects in the planning phase are a Veterans Memorial Wayside to be located along Highway 26, and a memorial on the museum grounds.

Veterans hall

The VFW Elliot Palmer Post 4217, Ladies Auxiliary and American Legion meet in the building on Hollywood Boulevard by Shitike Creek.

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