

2014 ~ A Year in Review

(Here is a look back at some of the memorable news events that happened on the reservation over the past year.)

January

The new year started with some good news for the Confederated Tribes, as the Federal Aviation Administration approved the Warm Springs Reservation as a **test site for unmanned aerial vehicles**.

This could be an important economic development opportunity for the tribes, as the UAV industry in the U.S. is expanding at a rapid pace.

UAV businesses will likely want to locate facilities close to the testing areas, according to Warm Springs Ventures, the tribal enterprise working on this project. Meanwhile in January:

Harold Baugus was feeling good about the 2014 prospects for **Indian Head Casino**.

Baugus, who came on board recently as casino general manager, said his goal is for the casino to become a top entertainment center in Central Oregon.

"We're centrally located, and this is still a new casino," he said. "The sky is the limit."

The casino installed 40 new machines. The Cottonwood Restaurant on weekends is hosting live music entertainment. And this summer there will be outdoor concerts with room for up to 1,500 people.

A new marketing campaign is gearing up, with new billboards and print advertising. The casino will start advertising in Spanish language television and radio stations. Elsewhere:

The Museum at Warm Springs will be focusing on youth in 2014, as the Warm Springs k-8 Academy will be opening in the fall.

The main exhibit of the year will be *Celebrating Native American Youth*, said Natalie Moody, museum curator.

Work is nearly complete on a \$1.5 million repair project at **Kah-Nee-Ta Resort**.

Last summer, a fire started in the kitchen area. The flames caused some damage, but water from the emergency sprinklers also was a problem. In the lodge the floor had to be replaced, as it was damaged by the water.

Insurance is covering the cost of the repairs, said Carlos Smith, Kah-Nee-Ta general manager. The resort is open, as the repair work is nearing completion. In the meantime:

Tribal Council has been reviewing the possibility of the tribes entering the **carbon sequestration** market. The hope is that this could provide a new source of revenue—possibly a very good source—to the tribes.

Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Certain forestry practices can be a method of capturing and storing carbon dioxide, and the reservation includes extensive forest land.

The Natural Resources Branch and legal staff have been studying the carbon sequestration market. "I think this could be a very good project for the tribes," said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of the Natural Resources Branch.

February

The Warm Springs **Academy construction** crews worked through a stormy February.

Painters were at work inside the classrooms, and the teachers were preparing for the open house in March.

Construction is scheduled for completion in August, in time for the start of the 2014-15 school year.

More than 700 students will be attending the academy in the fall. Meanwhile, the students decided on the mascot for the academy. They chose the eagle image as drawn by Taylor Arthur, who was an eighth-grader at the time. Also in February:

Many departments were shut down in early February, as a major **winter weather** event passed over the region.

There were several minor motor vehicle accidents, but no serious injuries. In sporting news:

Abby Scott achieved a rare feat, tying the all-time NCAA Division I Women's basketball record for most 3-pointers in a game. Abby is a sophomore at New Mexico State.

Shoni Schimmel was having another great year at Louisville. This is Shoni's final year with the Cardinals, and will be entering the WNBA draft in 2014. In other February 2014 news:

Tribal Council spent several days with the directors and managers of the tribal enterprises. The general fund budget, with the need for continued cuts this year, is the issue. Elsewhere:

The Museum at Warm Springs opened the **Twenty-First Tribal Youth Art Show**, this year called *Young at Art*.

March

The Simnasho community hosted the **Thirty-Seventh Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow** in March.

The powwow is usually held in February, but this year was an exception due to the weather. Also in March:

The Madras Cinema 5 made a special showing of **Awakening**, a film by tribal member LaRonn Katchia. This was a special event at the cinema, with a showing of *Awakening* plus five recent music videos by Katchia. And this:

Culture and Heritage announced a new program, *Rites of Passage: A Young Boy's Journey to Manhood*. The program features lessons on Nami Tamanwit—unwritten and traditional laws; the tribal Constitution and By-Laws; the Treaty of 1855; making tribal laws; net-making and catching fish. In other March news:

Warm Springs Ventures announced the tribes will host the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems **International conference** in 2014.

The association is the largest organization devoted exclusively to advancing the use of unmanned systems, with membership over 7,500 individuals.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the AUVSI Cascade Chapter are planning a fall forum at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The **smelt season** this year for the Sandy and Cowlitz rivers, and other Columbia River tributaries, runs through the end of March.

The tribal catch limit is 7,500 pounds, or about 107,100 fish. The smelt of Oregon, Washington and California are listed under the federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act.

April

A proposed increase in **coal and oil transportation** by rail and barge through the Gorge is a growing concern among tribal officials. Natural Resources Branch General Manager Bobby Brunoe updated Tribal Council on these matters in April.

A coal export facility proposed for the Port or Morrow at Boardman is another item of concern, Brunoe said. Impacts on cul-

Elder of the Year



Edna Gonzalez and her mother Viola, 2014 Senior of the Year.

The Warm Springs Senior Program hosted the annual Honor Seniors Day in May.

Viola Kalama was honored as **Senior of the Year** for 2014.

Viola was born in early July of 1921, at the area that is now Elmer Quinn Park. The area once was used for Fourth of July celebrations.

Viola's mother was Ida Palmer, and her father was Custer Wallulatum. Growing up Viola lived on the reservation and at the Columbia River, where she learned from her grandmother Susan Palmer, Indian name Youdel.

From her grandmother Viola learned the Wasco language, and traditional basketry skills.

Growing up at the Columbia she helped with the fishing,

and dried and canned the salmon.

Later as a young woman, Viola attended technical college in Corvallis, at what is now Oregon State University.

She has spent most of her adult life on the reservation, where she was a rancher.

Viola is the third eldest tribal member. She has 13 grand children, 25 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren. Her Indian name A-tumani.

Viola served six terms on the Culture and Heritage Committee, and was active in the Language program with atwai Gladys Thompson and Madeline McInturff. She is an Agency Longhouse elder, and keeps active by gathering roots and other traditional foods, and beading.

natural resources, water quality and the Columbia fishery are the main concerns, he said.

A cultural site within an area of immediate impact dates back to 1300 B.C., said Tribal Councilman Kahseuss Jackson.

The Warm Springs **Telecom** has seen great progress since beginning operation in early 2012. The Telecom is now serving about 80 percent of the residential market on the reservation.

The enterprise also has several hundred non-residential customers. These include Indian Head Casino, which was the Telecom's first customer; tribal administration and most other departments; Power and Water, Natural Resources, and some telecommunication aspects of the clinic.

The Telecom this month is establishing a new tower that will greatly enhance the broadband service at Kah-Nee-Ta. New towers are serving Simnasho, the Schoolie and Sidwalter Flat areas, and Seekseequa. In other news:

Veterans and their family and friends met at the HeHe Longhouse for the **Annual Veterans and Family Healing Circle**.

Larson Kalama and family have organized this event for the several years now. Many kinds of healing practices—sweat lodge, talking circle, washing and healing touch, music and poetry among them—are used at the gathering.

May

The Confederated Tribes this month hosted the first **unmanned aerial vehicle fly-overs** on the reservation.

Staff from Oregon State University and the company Virtual Data Operations Support (VDOS) operated the UAV flight, coordinated by Warm Springs Ventures.

OSU is interested in studying the effects of wildland fires. During the fly-over, the UAV flew above the area of the reservation that burned last summer, making a video recording. In other May news:

The Jefferson County School District 509-J received a **\$1.64 million grant** for Warm Springs Elementary. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Education School Improvement Grant program.

This federal funding is designed to help improve student achievement. The funds will be distributed over a three-year period. In other education news:

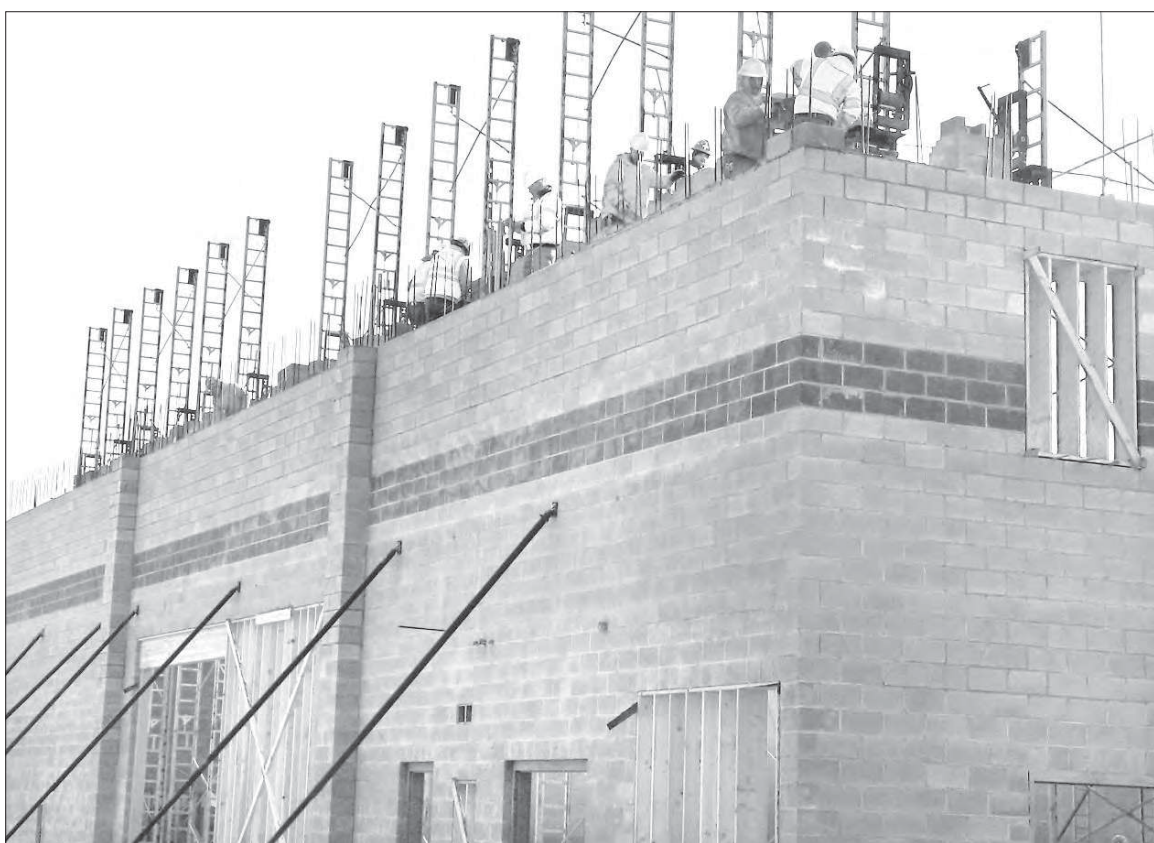
The Warm Springs community hosted a surprise assembly for **Warm Springs Elementary School Principal Dawn Smith**, who will be retiring from the elementary school at the end of the year. Smith is going to direct the Roots alternative education program in Warm Springs. And this:

Ventures announced a renewed interest in the **motorsports** project. This project was the subject of two referendums, both of which failed for lack of voter participation. Elsewhere:

The Natural Resources Branch is preparing a major stream improvement project, at **Potter's Pond on Mill Creek**.

This is a large-scale improvement project that will improve fish habitat along a stretch of the creek that was damaged over the past several decades.

(To conclude in the Dec. 24 Spilyay)



Early in 2014, construction was under way on the new Warm Springs Eagle Academy gymnasium.