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Council sets organization priorities, goals

The Tribal Council this month adopted a set of priorities and goals to improve the tribal organization and service to the membership.

The priorities and goals are specific, and performance can be measured on a regular time basis. There are 14 priorities that Council focuses on with the plan:

- The tribal budget.
- Education.
- Holding enterprises accountable.
- Economic development.
- Tribal Council operations.

- Healthcare.
- Protection of assets.
- Communications.
- Tribal member employment.
- Housing, and Infrastructure.
- Community safety.

Tax commission and codes; and strategic planning.

Each of these priorities has its own series of goals, with an identified lead coordinator and support.

The purpose is to establish goals that are realistic and achievable, said Secretary-Treasurer Jake Suppah.

Stating goals and priorities that are specific and realistic allows for measurable results, he said.

Tribal Councilman Kahseuss Jackson commented, "This is an landmark new approach to achieving Tribal Council priorities. We now have an implementation plan which will better ensure progress towards stated priorities."

Proclamation 26 is a detailed document, and will be presented in a series of articles in the Spilyay and on KWSO. The progress for each

priority will be reported to the community.

Taking the first priority—the tribal budget—as a starting place:

The first goal for the first priority is: "The Tribal Council shall annually develop, review, and approve a balanced Tribal budget for each fiscal year in order to promote and maintain the financial sustainability and integrity of the Tribe."

See PROCLAMATION on 3

Red Hills land deal finalized

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have acquired a 278.5-acre property, the Red Hills Conservation Area, through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The property is located in Yamhill County in the Willamette Valley. The process in acquiring this property has taken a few years, and was finalized last month.

The Bonneville Power Administration provided the funding, as mitigation for loss of wildlife habitat from inundated acres from the construction of federal dams within the Willamette Valley.

In 2012 the Confederated Tribes' Branch of Natural Resources identified the Red Hills property as a property that met the conservation strategy for mitigation lands.

Through the review process, they presented this proposal in 2013. The proposal was ranked number one out of 16 for ecological values and funding.

Finalizing the project took some time, in part because of opposition from the Grand Ronde.

Warm Springs was successful, though, in making the land acquisition. This is similar to the project at the Pine Creek Conservation Area in the John Day Basin.

WSFPI working on plan for 2015

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries board and management team are set to meet with Tribal Council this month, to present a plan of operation for 2015.

The WSPFI board and management have been working in recent weeks on a plan for the future operation of the mill. They are scheduled to present future options for Tribal Council consideration on Jan. 28.

It is important for the 2015 plan to show how WSPFI will make the timely stumpage and other payments to the tribes.

The BIA might not approve more timber sales without Tribal Council and WSPFI coming to an agreement on the mill operation.

"There is a timber sale ready to go," Warm Springs BIA Agency Superintendent John Halliday said during a recent Tribal Council session. "But without some assurance that there will be repayment to the tribes, I cannot in good conscience sign off on the sale."

The stumpage payment is to compensate for the use of the tribal timber, a trust resource of all the membership, present



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Antonio Becerra sorts lumber at the WSPFI mill.

and future. The payments help the general fund, the Senior Pension fund, per capita, etc.

Ken Borchert from the BIA Regional office was also on hand for the recent Council meeting, along with tribal Forestry, the WSPFI board and managers.

"We see the amount owed (by WSPFI)," Borchert said. "And the amount owed would not be covered by the amount brought in." Without a plan of operation for 2015, the situation could become worse

over the next year, he said.

There are over 110 employees at the mill, most of them tribal members.

The goal is to keep everyone working, "but we need a plan," said Councilman Carlos Smith.

Secretary-treasurer Jake Suppah said the stumpage payment to the tribes should be the first item on the WSPFI list of bills to pay, rather than the last.

Councilman Raymond Tsumpti said the low priority of the stump-

age payment dates back some years, to a time when WSPFI was in a loan discussion with a bank. The bank insisted that the stumpage payment be a lower priority, and it's stayed there ever since, Councilman Tsumpti said.

WSPFI management raised an issue about the timing of the billing coming from Forestry.

These and other issues are expected for discussion at the Jan. 28 meeting.

Upper Columbia fish passage a collaborative effort

The Upper Columbia United Tribes are working toward restoring fish passage above the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams of the Upper Columbia. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and member tribes are in support of this effort.

Fish passage above the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams would be a major accomplishment, as construction of Grand Coulee in the late 1930s blocked about 1,200 miles of anadromous fish spawn-

ing habitat.

Restoration of fish runs above the Upper Columbia dams would have a major impact on the entire river, including Zone 6, the fishing area of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. For this reason the CRITFC tribes need to be involved in the planning process of the Grand Coulee-Chief Joseph fish passage project.

The Upper Columbia United Tribes—the Colville, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispel, Spokane and Kootenai

tribes—met last week with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on the Upper Columbia fish passage issue.

Before this meeting, CRITFC executive director Paul Lumley stated CRITFC's position on the matter in a letter to the Power and Conservation Chairman:

"The CRITFC supports the Upper Columbia United Tribes taking the lead on developing and implementing a work and coordination plan... to investigate the reintroduc-

tion of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams in the United States."

"Through the collaboration of the Columbia Basin Tribes Coalition," Lumley wrote, "we have learned that we can accomplish a lot by working together, and we have learned that each of us have a role and a responsibility for the reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams."

See FISH PASSAGE on 8

Elvis show at Indian Head

Indian Head Casino will present *The Illusion of Elvis* this Sunday, Jan. 25, from 7-9 p.m. The concert will be in the Cottonwood Restaurant.

Danny Vernon performs as Elvis. He sings numbers from throughout Elvis' career: the early rock and roll of the 1950s, the sleeker '60s movie years, jumpsuit '70s years.

Tickets are \$10. The event is for people 21 and over.



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