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Work starts on education agreement

The current Education Agreement between the Confederated Tribes and the Jefferson County School District 509-J will end in a year and a half.

The tribes and district finalized the agreement in July of 2011. This is a five-year agreement, so it will expire in July of 2016.

The Tribal Council and the 509-J school board met last month to discuss a new agreement. This was the first Council-school board work session on the 2016 agreement.

The Council and board agreed to meet at least quarterly from now on regarding the new agreement.

At the January work session, Councilman Orvie Danzuka said the next agreement should include

tribal member education benchmarks that can be measured on a regular basis.

The next agreement can be for five or more years, Councilman Carlos Smith said, but the document should include specific benchmarks that can be evaluated in a timely way.

“Our students seem to be struggling, more than others,” Councilman Kahseuss Jackson said. “We need to come together and address these issues, whatever it takes. We shouldn’t be afraid to change the system to get success.”

The current Education Agreement has brought some significant achievements, said school district superintendent Rick Molitor. The

Warm Springs k-8 Academy was a priority project of the 2011 agreement, he said, and this was a major accomplishment.

“Did it solve all of the problems? No,” he said, “but it did help with some of these issues.”

Councilman Smith said the school district curriculum should include education about the Confederated Tribes—the Treaty of 1855, tribal sovereignty, *U.S. vs. Oregon*, ceded lands, Native language, culture, history, etc. If the curriculum were relevant and engaging to tribal member students, “I think that would help with the dropout rate,” he said.

See **AGREEMENT** on page 7

Mill decision a step closer

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries board and management last week presented Tribal Council with three alternatives for the future of the WSFPI mill.

One option is the closure of the sawmill, and the sale of all future tribal timber to mills off the reservation.

The second option would be to downsize the mill from 120 workers to about 80, operating the sawmill at 60 percent of one shift.

The third option is to transform the mill into an efficient operation. This would require stopping the mill operation for two years, while the facilities are being remodeled.

Tribal Council could not make a final decision last week, as there needs to be a clearer financial analysis of the options. The numbers as presented by WSFPI to Council last week seemed to be open to interpretation.

Council asked that the figures be clarified and presented again on Feb. 12. There may be some modification of the three options as well.

“The mill is a trust asset of the membership,” Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene said. The Council needs accurate information, and all possible options, he said, in order to make the best decision for the tribes.

The WSFPI situation is compli-

cated and long-standing.

Employment is a large part of the equation: Of the 120 employees at the mill, 67 percent are tribal members.

On the other hand, the operation has been losing significant money in recent years. To further complicate the matter, WSFPI carries significant debt, to tribal Credit and the Business Investment Revolving Fund, among others.

The Warm Springs BIA superintendent John Halliday says he cannot sign-off on further timber sales until the Tribal Council is satisfied that the required payments from WSFPI to the tribe will be made.

WSFPI sells high-quality lumber to the buyers in Japan. When the cost of operating the mill is more than the revenue, the effect is a subsidized sale of lumber to the Japanese, Halliday said.

The effect is like sending tribal revenue to the Japanese buyers, Halliday said. “You cannot run a business that way,” he said.

In the plan presented to Council last week, the WSFPI board recommended the down-sizing option, while they develop a plan for the transformation option. Council asked to see a modified version of the transformation option, with the remodel happening sooner rather than after a number of years.

Student success at Roots

At the start of the school year the goal of Warm Springs Roots was to enroll 30 students in the program. Roots is the 509-J school district alternative education program on the reservation.

The goal of 30 students was ambitious, as the previous year only 12 students had enrolled in the Warm Springs alternative education program.

There are now 41 students in the Roots program. Twelve of these students will likely have enough credits at the end of this school year to graduate, said Dawn Smith, program director.

The students take math, English and other courses online, working toward the high school credits needed to graduate.

“This has been a success so far,” Smith was saying recently. “We’re doing what we set out to do.”

A part of the reason for the success is the cultural component of the program, Smith said. This comes through the work-experience aspect of Roots. During the first semester the subject was introduction to agriculture, followed by carpentry.

The students are remodeling a single-wide trailer located by the Education building, learning carpentry as they go. They’ve partnered with Utilities on this project. When they’re finished with the remodel, Roots will donate the trailer to the VFW for a veteran’s housing.

This week Roots visited Warm Springs Composite Products, and for the rest of the semester will work on forestry with the Branch of Natural Resources.

These hands-on lessons come from members of the Warm Springs community, providing the cultural component with the academics.

See **ROOTS** on page 10



A performance by the tribal youth dance group was part of the opening reception of the Twenty-Second Annual Youth Art Show at the Museum at Warm Springs. The show is called *Young at Art* and runs through April.



Jayson Smith photos.

Lincoln’s at Simnasho coming up

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow is coming up this month at Simnasho.

Lincoln’s this year is set for Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 at the Simnasho Longhouse. This will be the first smoke-free powwow (see page 3).

A memorial and stone-setting for Anna Clements is set for this Saturday, Feb. 7, starting at 9 a.m. at the Agency Cemetery. Washut services at 10 a.m. at the Simnasho Longhouse. Meal to follow.

The Anna Clements Women’s Team Round Dance, 30 and Over Memorial Special, will be Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 at the powwow.

Anna was a founding member of the Lincoln’s Birthday Powwow, this year celebrating its thirty-eighth anniversary.

First place team: \$3,000 plus Pendleton jacket. Two consolation prizes: blankets and prize money.

Buckskin dresses, shell dresses, and a short fringe preferred. Contact Shayla Stwyer for more information, 541-777-7658.

The Jarvis M. Stwyer Round Bustle Special, with \$1,000 first-place prize plus jacket, is coming up at Lincoln’s. There will also be two consolation prizes.

Dancers must be wearing arm bustles. Contact Jarvis Stwyer for information, 541-777-7616.

Friday, Feb. 13 at the Simnasho Longhouse is for new and re-joiners, starting at 5:30 p.m. sharp, grand entry at 7 p.m.

See **LINCOLN’S** on page 3

IHS removing older buildings from campus area

Indian Health Services is in the process of demolishing four former residences in the campus area of the reservation.

One of the houses, across from the basketball court on Warm Springs Street, was torn down last week.

The demolition crew began removing two other houses this week. These are located across from the Family Resource Center. The fourth one is located farther down near the Community

Counseling building.

These are former residences that were occupied by Indian Health Service employees. They had not been lived in for a number of years.

The buildings contained asbestos, which is being removed to a separate landfill.

Some parts of the buildings—cabinets and doors, for instance—were donated to the tribes. The Roots program students used some of these items for their carpentry project.

Other federal buildings

The Bureau of Indian Affairs also has several buildings on the campus. The BIA has plans to remove these buildings as well.

This is part of the Warm Springs Downtown Plan. Another aspect would be the replacement of the infrastructure lines at the campus.

The BIA has about 15 buildings on the campus. The plan is to remove them this year. The process involves sending a report on the his-

tory of the buildings to the Washington, D.C., office of the BIA. Once reviewed there, the report is sent to the regional office in Portland.

The BIA will then confer with the tribes on whether to proceed with the removal. The BIA offered the buildings to the tribes, which rejected them.

The buildings are old and would require a substantial investment to update.



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See page 12 for more promotions.