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# Spilyay Tymoo

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April - Hawit'an - Spring - Wawaxam

## ATNI at Kah-Nee-Ta

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will host the Mid Year Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. The conference is set for Monday through Thursday, May 18-21, at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The ATNI conference is one of several important items on the Tribal Council agenda for May. At their meeting on Monday, Council set the agenda for the coming month.

### On Council agenda

One of the items is a meeting in Warm Springs with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

CRITFC will share information on the issue of coal transportation along the Columbia and Deschutes rivers. The tribes are concerned about the potential for an environmental disaster from the transport of coal. "It's not a question of if, but when," said Councilman Carlos Smith, CRITFC chair.

At least one tribal member has a

fishing site that would be impacted by the development of a new coal transport facility at the Columbia, he said.

The federal government required no Environmental Impact Statement for this development, which is not consistent with the approach they took with the Cascade Locks casino proposal.

In a related item, the Council in May will look at the possibility of a tax on railroad cars that pass through the reservation.

The Confederated Tribes in May will work on the memorandum of understanding between the tribes and the 509-J school district. The current agreement is set to expire this summer. Some other items on the May agenda:

The effect of state marijuana legalization on the tribes and reservation.

A meeting with state officials regarding off-reservation hunting.

Discussion of the position of tribal secretary-treasurer.



2015 Miss Warm Springs Suzanne McConville addresses the audience at the Miss Indian World Competition.

## 25th Honor Seniors Day

There will be some special entertainment at the Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day this year.

"I can't tell you yet what it is, but we will have something special," said Wilson Wewa, Senior Program director.

Seniors Day is marking its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary this year. "We've never had bad weather during any Honor Seniors Day—knock on wood," Wilson said.

Honor Seniors Day will be on Friday, May 8. The day will see guests from all around the region.

A group is coming up from Duck Valley in Nevada, among others. "They've already booked their rooms at Kah-Nee-Ta," Wilson said.

Tribal enterprises and other donors have been generous this year, he said, contributing some great gift items. The salmon dinner this year will also feature buffalo meat.

## Sidwalter considers irrigation district

The Sidwalter area may create an irrigation district to oversee and improve the delivery of irrigation water to the residents there.

Through an irrigation district, grant funding would be available for improvement to the Sidwalter irrigation headworks and canal, said tribal water engineer and Water Control board member Roy Spino.

The irrigation water for Sidwalter comes out of Mill Creek. The headworks could use improvements that would cost about \$100,000, Spino told Tribal Council last week. This would help with fisheries in Mill Creek.

The irrigation canal itself could also be improved, making for a more efficient use of water. This could leave more water in Mill Creek; and ensure that all the resi-

dents who are entitled to the irrigation water actually receive the water, Spino said.

A current problem is that the canal runs dry for some of the residents. There are 54 homes at Sidwalter that could use the irrigation water, Spino said.

Spino presented to Tribal Council a draft charter for a Sidwalter Irrigation District, proposing a five-member board.

At the Council meeting, two people voiced their current opposition, or concerns about the irrigation district draft charter.

Susan Guerin said the residents need to have more input on the content of the charter. Some suggestions have not been incorporated into the draft, she said. "This needs to be fair to everyone," she said.

Glendon Smith said the Sidwalter area already has a livestock district, creating a potential conflict of authority over the irrigation water.

Chico Holliday said improvement to the irrigation system could have many benefits, from firefighting efforts during the summer, to the 4-H livestock program.

The Water Control Board and others have been working on the Sidwalter irrigation district idea for about 18 months. Spino said that if steps are taken to establish the district, then grant funding could be available for improvements in 2017.

Tribal Council would like to see a consensus among the Sidwalter residents on the proposal before making a final decision.

"I see the need to move this along," Councilman Orvie Danzuka

said, "but we also want to make sure the residents there are in agreement."

Council vice chairwoman Evaline Patt said it is important to make sure that all the residents who are entitled to the irrigation water share the resource equally.

Councilman Reuben Henry spoke in favor of irrigation system improvements that would keep the salmon from Mill Creek out of the irrigation ditch.

Sidwalter would be the first irrigation district on the reservation, and could serve as a model for other areas that might consider a similar approach.

— Dave McMechan

## Council okays WSFPI mill plan

Tribal Council accepted a plan by the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries enterprise that will keep the mill in operation.

The workforce at the mill will go from 104 to about 85, and there will be cost savings such as salary reductions.

A key part of the plan has to do with timber stumpage payments that are owed to the tribes. The approved plan of operation calls for a 36-month repayment schedule.

Councilman Orvie Danzuka and Chief Joe Moses voted against the proposal, feeling that an earlier version—with a 24-month repayment schedule—should apply.

Nevertheless, all on Council expressed support for the mill, and the process that led to the new operation plan. "It's good to see everyone working together—the BIA, Forestry, WSFPI and the board—and I hope that continues," Councilman Danzuka said.

WSFPI interim manager John Katchia Jr. also said the cooperation among the parties has been productive, and is necessary now and in the future.

In approving the WSFPI plan, Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. voted to break a tie among the Council members.

Chairman Greene emphasized that WSFPI needs to be diligent in meeting the monthly payments to the tribes.

Otherwise, he said, the BIA will issue a cease and desist order stopping the operation. The plan is proposed by WSFPI, not Tribal Council; so it is up to WSFPI to make it work, Chairman Greene said.

Weavers of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are spending some time this spring getting ready for the 2015 conference of the Northwest Native American Basket Weavers Association.

The conference this year is marking its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, and is set for the fall at Kah-Nee-Ta.

For the conference promotional material, Natalie Kirk, curator of the Museum at Warm Springs, made these baskets available from the museum collection. The baskets are from the three tribes of the Confederation.

Alyssa Macy/Spilyay





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