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Council preparing 2016 budget proposal

The 2016 tribal budget process is under way. Tribal Council met last week with Finance, the departments and enterprises, working toward a proposal to present to the membership.

Members can expect the budget message in the mail later this month.

The initial presentation by Finance and the secretary-treasurer had some good news, and some points of concern, as voiced by Council members.

The draft budget proposal as presented is a balanced budget, as required by the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council.

The current Council has adopted

two budgets—for 2014 and the current year—that were the first balanced budgets in several years: This was a needed correction from years of unbalanced deficit budgets.

Based on last week's initial presentation, potential budget cuts for 2016 would appear to be much less severe than the cuts required over the previous two budgets, when the overall general fund expenditures were reduced by several million dollars, or about a third.

The 2015 budget turned out to have a small surplus, partly because the final loan amount for the Warm Springs Academy was slightly below what had been budgeted.

Some added revenue is a welcome change during the current budget process. But the general fund is still recovering from the previous deficits.

New revenue is expected from the carbon sequestration program of the Natural Resources Branch and Warm Springs Ventures. The specific amount of this revenue is not yet known, as the tribes are still in the process of marketing the carbon sequestration credits.

Councilman Orvie Danzuka, who works in Forestry, said the Countyline 2 fire burned into acreage initially identified as part of the carbon sequestration acreage.

There are options as to how to address this, he said, to be discussed with Ventures and Natural Resources.

Senior pension, other items

Other points from last week's Council meeting on the budget presentation:

Ensuring the future of the Senior Pension is a Council priority. The 2016 budget should include funding to keep the Senior Pension solvent for the foreseeable future, said Councilman Carlos Smith.

See **BUDGET** on page 3

Health matter at river sites

Up to 3,000 people, including families, are living along the mid Columbia River, at in-lieu fishing and other nearby sites. The area is roughly from Cascade Locks to Hermiston.

Children of the families need access to education, good food, a safe home and medical care. The families may qualify for Expanded Medicaid and other assistance. Many of the people are tribal members. Some may be homeless.

The area is under law enforcement jurisdiction of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement, a branch of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

The county jurisdictions—Hood and Wasco counties—are available to provide social and other services. Warm Springs tribal health liaison Caroline Cruz has been meeting with Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement, the BIA and others regarding how best to meet service needs of the people living at the river sites.

It is important, she said, to ensure the safety of the children, to make sure they are in safe homes, going to school, receiving their shots, eating well, etc.

The situation has come about over the past 50-plus years, really since U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inundation of Celilo Falls with The Dalles dam.

See **IN-LIEU SITES** on 3

Former judge Smith is new Secretary-Treasurer

Glendon Smith joined tribal management last week full-time as secretary-treasurer.

Smith served seven years as an associate judge on the Warm Springs Tribal Court. Tribal Council appointed him to the S-T position a few weeks ago.

Glendon spent a few days earlier this month finishing up his court work, while moving to the secretary-treasurer position.

He came on board full-time as S-T just as the budget presentations were beginning at Tribal Council. "This will be a challenge, and a chance to apply what I've learned over the years," Glendon was saying recently.



Glendon Smith, S-T

Making sure the tribes have a balanced budget is a priority, he said, along with finding new revenue, creating jobs and new housing on the reservation.

Glendon is a life-long resident of the reservation. He graduated from Madras High School in 1998, then went to Central Oregon Community College, where he received an Associates of Arts degree.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Oregon State University in 2008, then a Master's Degree in justice administration from the University of Phoenix. He has Certified Training in Tribal Judiciary Skills-Judicial Development from the National Judicial College in Reno.

Glendon lives in the Sidwalter area of the reservation.

The secretary-treasurer is responsible for the implementation of the political, financial and governmental actions of the Tribal Council.

The S-T oversees management of the tribes' financial affairs, safeguards tribal records and assets, and fulfills the responsibilities delegated through the Tribal Constitution and Management Plan.

Glendon is the twelfth person to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Confederated Tribes since the position was created in 1938.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Students arrive at the bus drop-off area at the Warm Springs Academy; sports practices at the academy started this week.

Plan for youth center

Health and Human Services and the tribes are looking to develop a youth center at the old Warm Springs elementary school.

Some renovation work needs to be done to the building before this can happen.

There is a chance the work could be done by early next year, said Alyssa Macy, tribal executive deputy director. A funding source could be Indian Health Services, she said.

The Community Health Education Team (CHET), Prevention, and Culture and Heritage would be able to move to the renovated rooms.

This would help to bring the departments that serve youth to a central location. The Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club is already housed nearby, in the re-built building next to the former elementary school gym.

This part of the elementary school was renovated after the fire some years ago that burned down the old gym. Also as part of the overall plan, the tribal Records Department would relocate to the room that was the library at the previous elementary school.

There are about 650 students attending the Warm Springs Eagle Academy, grades k-8.

The students and parents are getting used to a new schedule at the academy, with classes starting

at 8:55 a.m., and buses arriving shortly before. Breakfast is then served in the classrooms, making for an easier transition to the start of class.

Parents can still drop students

off starting at 7:45 a.m., as there are student activities, including language, offered until classes start.

Meanwhile, athletics practices began this week: Fall sports for grades six through eight are foot-

ball, volleyball and cross country. The first Eagles football home game is coming up.

The academy sports schedules will be posted soon. Listen to KWSO for the latest.



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