Tribal Ski Day at Meadows

Jayson Smith photos

Tribal members at the Feb. 1 Tribal Ski Day.

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort hosted the annual Warm Springs Ski Day early this month.

More than 80 tribal members participated. Meadows provided them with equipment, lessons, and lift tickets.

Meadows also provided transportation and lunch. They held the Ski Day on a no-school day in the 509-J district.

Before lunch, Russell Charley sang a prayer song, and shared words about the snow on the mountain. The water on the Mt. Hood, he said, provides water that sustains life.

Mt. Hood Meadows operates with a permit from the U.S. Forest Service. The resort is located in the Warm Springs ceded lands. Meadows works in partnership with the Confederated Tribes, ensuring good stewardship of the mountain.

Meadows has also worked with the tribes on restoring historical huckleberry fields. And the resort hosts a tribal huckleberry outing in the late summer.

Officer accused of setting up pot sale

A former Warm Springs police sergeant was accused last week of setting up a marijuana sale while on duty in the squad room.

Federal court records show 44-year-old Lonny McEwen is charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana.

McEwen allegedly negotiated the sale with a buyer who turned out to be an informant.

McEwen allegedly agreed via text to sell four ounces of marijuana and later completed the transactions at his home. The affidavit states FBI agents obtained a warrant and seized marijuana from McEwen's home.

Possession of marijuana is illegal on the Warm Springs reservation.

McEwen's was scheduled to be arraigned in federal court this week. Warm Springs Public Safety fired McEwen after his arrest.

Ventures: cannabis update

(Continued from page 1)

Construction of the greenhouse is planned to begin in April, with a completion time set for August. Warm Springs Construction, also part of Ventures, will be the general contractor for the work.

The cannabis operation will employ up to 85 employees, with 55 working at the greenhouse. Ventures is planning a job fair in June or July, to begin recruiting employees.

Ventures is also finalizing an agreement with Strainwise, based in Colorado, that will work in partnership with the tribes in creating a successful grow operation.

Strainwise will work with the tribes in setting up the retail outlet stores, in Portland and Bend, and in constructing and then operating the greenhouse. Strainwise has expertise in cannabis growing and retail.

The company will provide training to tribal members who want to work at the greenhouse, or in one of the retail outlets. The training will be in Warm Springs, and at the Strainwise operation in Colorado.

Strainwise currently manages growing operations totaling 130,000 Square feet. The Confederated Tribes are planning a facility about 36,000-square-feet. Strainwise operates 12 retail stores, while the tribes are planning to have three.

It is possible that the tribes may open one of more of the retail shops before the cultivation aspect of the business is in full operation, Mr. Sampson said.

This will give the tribes a chance to develop their marketing brand this year, Mr. Sampson said. This would also create job opportunities at the shops.

Upcoming projects for Ventures and Tribal Council will be the creation of a cannabis commission, and then a compact with the state of Oregon. These will ensure that the operation is carried out in compliance with all laws and regulations, Mr. Sampson said.

House bill 4014

The Oregon House on Monday took up House Bill 4014, part of which addresses the tribes' ability to sell cannabis off the reservation.

Adoption of the bill would clarify the tribes are not precluded from the statewide market, and can therefore enter an agreement with the state.

House bill 4014 is bi-partisan legislation, with support from Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, of Oregon's District 30. With passage in the House, the bill goes to the state Senate, and then to Gov. Kate Brown.

Legal challenge to Deschutes irrigation management

Lawsuits by environmental groups could force the federal government to ensure that Oregon spotted frogs, a threatened species, have enough water to survive in the Upper Deschutes River Basin.

The lawsuits are by WaterWatch of Oregon, and the Center for Biological Diversity.

The groups filed the cases in December in U.S. District Court in Eugene. The basis for the claims is the Endangered Species Act.

If successful, the lawsuits could reduce the supply of North Unit irrigation water, which comes from the Deschutes River.

Farmers in the North Unit district grow some of Oregon's most valuable seed crops. The farmers generally hold junior water rights in the basin.

The suits asks the court to order the Bureau of Reclamation to operate its reservoirs on the Upper Deschutes River, where irrigation water is stored, to create a more natural stream flow.

The lawsuits are about more than just the spotted frog, said John DeVoe, executive director of WaterWatch of Oregon

"From our perspective, restoring flows encompasses more than a single species," he said. "This is also about the fish, wildlife, and people in Central Oregon whose lives and livelihoods depend on a healthy river."

According to WaterWatch, as a result of water storage and irrigation operations, the once stable natural flows of the Upper Deschutes have been replaced by dramatic and unnatural flow swings

This damages the water quality while harming fish and wildlife, DeVoe said.

One of the most visible recent examples of this harm occurred in October 2013, when a rapid flow reduction due to irrigation management caused a kill that claimed nearly 3,000 fish and sparked outrage throughout the state.

During the winter, the bureau stores water for the North Unit primarily in the Wickiup Reservoir, which has a capacity of 200,000 acre-feet. Consequently, the Deschutes River has low winter flows followed by summer flows sometimes 50 to 70 times higher, the Center for Biological Diversity says.

During the irrigation season, which lasts from April to October, water is released from the reservoirs into the Deschutes River, then diverted at Bend into the North Unit system to be delivered via the main canal to farms in Jefferson County.

Employment

The following jobs were advertised recently with the Human Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs:

Receptionist/Secretary - For information contact Norma Heath - 541-553-3257.

Adult Mental Health Specialist - David Howenstine - 541-553-3205.

Dual Diagnosis Therapist - Howenstine.

Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist - David Howenstine.

Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Specialist - Howenstine.

Day Care Substitute Teacher - MayAnne Mitchell - 541-553-3241.

Support Services Coordinator - MayAnne.

Family Service Advocate - Jodi Begay - 541-553-3242.

Firefighter Fuels (18 positions) - Glen Smith/Joel Thompson - 541-553-8199.

Squad Boss/Fuels - Glenn Smith/Joel Thompson.

Wildland Fire Module-Asst. Sup. - Dorian Soliz - 541-553-8198.

Wildland Firefighter - Gary Sampson/Renso Rodriguez - 541-553-8193 / 8194.

Equipment Operator/ Operations - Jabbar Davis - 541-553-1146.

Assistant Engine Operator - Vernon Tias Sr. / Lionel Smith - 541-553-8309 /1147.

Engine Operator - Vernon Tias Sr. /Lionel Smith.

BNR Conservation Law Enforcement Ranger - Oswald Tias - 541-553-2033.

Fuels Technician - Brad Donahue, Jr. - 514-553-8301.

Fisheries & Wildlife Technician I - Marc Manion - 541-553-2042.

LD Fisheries Technician I - Cyndi Baker - 541-553-3586.

LD Lamprey Project Tech I - The Dalles - Cyndi Baker.

Police Officer - Lt. Jason Schjoll - 541-553-3272.

Corrections Officer - Ron Gregory - 541-553-3272.

Journeyman Plumber - Don Courtney - 541-553-3246.

Engineer Technician (Electrical) - Don Courtney.

The following jobs are being advertised at Indian Head Casino:

Custoidan - full time - Contact: Willie Stacona 541-460-7777 Ext. 7722

Cage manager - full time - Contact: Holly Waisanen 541-460-7777

Director of finance - full time - Holly Waisanen 541-460-7777

IT support technician - full time - Contact: Donovan, James, Justin 541-460-7777 Ext 7674, 7747, & 7746

Security officer - full time - Tim Kerr541-460-7777 Ext. 7749

Table games dealer - Contact: Jami Deming 541-460-7777 Ext. 7724

4202 Holliday St.
Call 541-615-0555
WARM SPRINGS TELECOM

Summary of Tribal Council - Jan. 25

1. Roll Call: Chief Delvis Heath, Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Vice Chair Evaline Patt, Carlos Smith, Kahseuss Jackson, Scott Moses, Reuben Henry, Orvie Danzuka, Raymond Tsumpti Sr., Minnie Yahtin, Recorder till 10 a.m., Alfredine Smith, Recorder.

2. Secretary-Treasurer update.

· Advised receipt of a letter from John Halliday, BIA Superintendent, notifying the secretarial election is authorized.

· 2016 Budget Contingency Plan.

· Tribal Court of Appeals, new hires.

· Warm Springs Forest Products Industries firewood cutting policy/sales.

· Report on horse removal program.

3. Draft resolutions.

Motion by Carlos to adopt and approve Resolution No. 12116 2016 Tribal subsistence fishing on the Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam to include the following changes:

- Remove paragraph "When a target of 500 spring Chinook is harvested the fishery will be reviewed by the Fish & Wildlife Committee again."

- Start date April 10, 2016, to May 10, 2016.

- The fishery shall be open Sunday to Saturday.

- Wednesday is reserved for elders day only (55 years and older).

- Fishers must yield the spot to an elder or handicapped individual if requested. An elder is any member 55 years and older.

- No. 12 second paragraph "If not followed, the Fish and Wildlife Committee has the authority to suspend fishing *privileges*" (replacing 'rights').

Second by Reuben. Question: Joseph/out of room, Carlos/yes, Kahseuss/yes, Scott/yes, Reuben/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/out of room, Orvie/yes, Raymond/out of room. 6/yes, 0/no, 3/out of room, Vice Chair not voting; Motion Carried.

Motion by Kahseuss to adopt and approve Resolution No. 12117 2016 Off-reservation fishing for Pacific eulachon on the Sandy and Cowlitz Rivers. Second by Reuben: Question; Joseph/out of room, Carlos/out of room, Kahseuss/yes, Scott/out of room, Reuben/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/out of room, Orvie/yes, Raymond/out of room. 4/yes, 0/no, 5/out of room, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

4. 2016 business agenda, and travel delegations.

Motion by Kahseuss to adopt and approve February 2016 Tribal Council business agenda. Second by Reuben. Question: Joseph/out of room, Carlos/out of room, Kahseuss/yes, Scott/out of room, Reuben/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/out of room, Orvie/yes, Raymond/out of room. 4/yes, 0/no, 5/out of room, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt and approve February 2016 Tribal Council travel delegations. Second by Reuben. Question: Joseph/out of room, Carlos/out of room, Kahseuss/yes, Scott/out of room, Reuben/yes, Delvis/yes, Alfred/out of room, Orvie/yes, Raymond/out of room, 4/yes, 0/no, 5/out of room, Vice Chair not voting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.