



Spilyay Tymo

Coyote News, est. 1976

April 13, 2016 Vol. 41, No. 8

April – Hawit'an – Spring - Wawaxam

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Council weighs options as mill closes

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill is no longer a viable and solvent enterprise.

The WSFPI mill cannot resume operation, and the enterprise is now going into court-supervised receivership.

This will involve the sale of the WSFPI assets in order to mitigate the financial loss.

The Confederated Tribes are WSFPI's largest creditor, with loans outstanding to the tribal Credit enterprise, and the tribes' business investment fund.

WSFPI also owes the tribes for past due reservation timber sales. The timber is a trust asset, and has funded the Senior Pension and per capita.

WSFPI and the Confederated Tribes last year agreed to a re-payment schedule to bring the stumpage payments up to date. WSFPI missed its most recent scheduled payment, and the BIA had to issue a cease and desist order to prevent further extraction of the timber.

WSFPI also owes the logging companies, and non-tribal entities such as the lumber sale company VanPort International. The Yakama Nation is also owed for logs sold to WSFPI. Some of the mill employees are also apparently owed for earned vacation time.

The sale of some assets—logs that are currently on the ground in the woods—will happen quickly, as these assets are perishable.

Tribal Council took action to pursue receivership for WSFPI on Monday of this week, on advice of legal counsel.

The mill has not been in operation for the past several weeks. The initial closure was intended to be temporary, until the logging roads were usable.

See **WSFPI** on 7

Tribes' truck stop in design phase

The tribes' truck stop project is now in the design phase. The Gaming board is working with BBT Architects on the design.

BBT Architects, based in Bend, designed the Warm Springs Eagle Academy, and the Madras Performing Arts Center, among several other school buildings.

Some other design projects by BBT Architects: the Mt. Bachelor West Village Lodge; the

Village at Eagle Crest; the COCC Redmond Technology Education Center, among many other projects. (You can see examples of their work at bbtarchitects.com)

When the design is finished, the Gaming board will hire a contractor, and work will begin soon after. The target opening date for the truck stop is March of 2017, said Jeffrey Carstensen, Indian Head Casino general manager.

The truck stop will be located at the tribes' 10-acre trust property at

the Madras industrial park, just off Highway 26.

The truck stop will create between 40 and 60 new jobs, and will generate significant new revenue—a conservative estimate of \$2 million per year—for the tribes. The new jobs will have tribal member preference, following the policy at Indian Head, Carstensen said.

The Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council approved the project last year, on recommendation of the Gaming board. The casino board and

management then worked at acquiring a bank loan, approved earlier this year.

The tribes' property at the Madras Industrial Park—acquired in 1977, as part of the then-viable mill operation—has not been used in several years. The Gaming proposal calls for development of a truck stop with gasoline service, a restaurant and convenience store, among other amenities.

See **TRUCK STOP** on 7

Veterans Welcome Home

The Eugene Greene Sr. American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 48 in late March hosted the First Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade and Expo.

The parade and expo were part of the local recognition of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The event saw veterans arrive from around the region.

The American Legion Post 48 and the Auxiliary spent months planning and fundraising for the day of recognition and appreciation.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay



New Tribal Council; No on Constitution changes

The membership on April 4 elected the Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Tribal Council usually certifies the results shortly after the presentation by the tribal Election Counting board. For the April 4 vote, though, there was some delay, due to a debate as to who would represent the Seekseequa District.

Lee Tom will be one of the Seekseequa representatives. Meanwhile, Tribal Council was planning to meet on Wednesday morning of this week (after print time for this

publication) to determine the second Seekseequa representative.

The situation meant that Council had not yet certified the election results as of Tuesday, but the unofficial results—as presented by the Election Counting board—are available. The results show:

For the Agency District the top vote winners are: current Council Chairman Austin Greene with 211 votes; Val Switzler with 177; and Carina Miller with 158.

For the Simnasho District the top vote winners are: Councilman Raymond Tsumpti with 170 votes;

Charles 'Jody' Calica with 129; and Ron Suppah with 121 votes.

For the Seekseequa District the top vote winners were incumbent Councilman Scott Moses, who ran as a write-in candidate with 51; and Lee Tom with 48.

Seekseequa held a district meeting on Monday evening, but the matter remained unresolved on Tuesday. So Tribal Council was planning to reconsider the question on Wednesday.

The situation is unusual. Disputes such as these have traditionally been handled at the district level, rather

than at Tribal Council, said Arlita Rhoan, elder and counting board member. Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath also said this was a question for the district.

Twenty-Seventh Council

The election results mean that Agency and Simnasho each elected two non-incumbent members; and Seekseequa elected one new member.

The new members are Carina Miller and Val Switzler for Agency; Charles 'Jody' Calica and Ron Suppah for Simnasho; and Lee Tom

for Seekseequa.

Ron Suppah served on previous Tribal Councils, including as Chairman; and Jody Calica served as secretary-treasurer for several years.

Carina Miller works at the Re-Use It Thrift Store. Val Switzler is the director of the Culture and Heritage Department.

Lee Tom has many years of experience in construction, housing, land-use and agriculture.

See **ELECTION** on 7



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