



Spilyay Tymoo

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Geothermal research at Mount Mutton

The Mutton Mountains geologic formation is old and interesting; and one with the promise of providing a geothermal energy source for the Confederated Tribes.

A team of geologists and a drilling crew have been studying the Mutton Mountains area for the past few weeks.

The geologists—Lisa Safford, Ismail Kuscus and Roy Mink from Idaho—say a geothermal energy project appears to be possible.

Energy could be used by Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, or sold to the power grid.

The geologists and the drilling team, Welsco Drilling of Nevada, are working with Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises on the feasibility study, as approved earlier by Tribal Council.

Funding for the research is from the Department of Interior-Mining and Mineral program. The team has drilled test wells at Charley Canyon, by the bridge on the way to Kah-Nee-Ta, and by the fish hatchery.

The team studies the temperatures at various depths,



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

and analyze the composition of soil and rock samples from the wells. This will indicate whether the temperatures are high enough to support a small geothermal plant.

The test well sites are not necessarily where a potential geothermal plant may one day be located, said Power and Water general manager Jim Manion.

Another important point, Manion said: Any water that would be used to power a geothermal plant would come from far below the surface water that feeds the rivers on the reservation. So any project would have no effect on streams and rivers.

The geologists explained the origin of the geothermal conditions at the Mutton Mountains area of the reservation:

The mountains, they said, are actually the remnants of an old volcano, dating back around 35 million years, much older than Mt. Jefferson, for instance.

See **GEOTHERMAL** on 12

Exploratory drilling site near the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

Working on 2017 budget

Tribal Council this week is meeting with departments and enterprises, working on a proposed operations budget for 2017.

Council is expected to have a proposal by the end of September, and will mail this to membership some days afterward. District and a General Council meeting will follow. Some important budget aspects looking toward 2017:

There will be a fairly significant reduction in enterprise dividends. This continues a trend in recent years, including the present year.

Power and Water Enterprises accounts for a large part of the overall dividend reduction, as was true in 2016. On a positive note, GeoVisions is expecting a \$1 million dividend, as a result of the carbon sequestration project.

This project is managed by Ventures and GeoVisions, with oversight and approval from Tribal Council.

The 2017 budget proposal from the secretary-treasurer includes full-year of funding for the Senior Pension fund. This is possible as the Confederated Tribes develop a new timber enterprise to replace Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

The budget proposal as presented by S-T Glendon Smith is balanced. The overall operations budget would be about the same as the present year, with some reductions. Per capita would remain the same under the recommendation.

Tribal Council will continue work on the proposal next week, with call-backs as needed to departments and enterprises managers.

KWSO turns 30

In the 1980s the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs laid out a plan for obtaining a license from the FCC to start a radio station.

Larry Calica was the tribes' secretary-treasurer at the time. Management's Doug McClellan and Ray Rangila of the Planning Department were involved in filing for the license and working out the funding details. In the end Warm Springs started two radio stations.

KWSI was a 100,000 watt commercial FM station and KWSO was a 3000 watt non-commercial FM.

Bob McClanathan was the initial engineer contracted for the technical work involved in obtaining a license and constructing the radio stations. Nat Shaw, who had extensive commercial radio experience, was brought on as station manager in June of 1985 to oversee construction and then all operations.

See **KWSO** on 8

Some changes as new school year begins

There are now four kindergarten classes at the Warm Springs k-8 Academy, an increase by one from last year. The school decided to add the fourth class based on projections from graduating students from the Early Childhood Education Center and the tribal enrollment list, said academy principal Ken Parshall. Class size for the kindergartners is now at about 21 students.

Another change this year in the 509-J district is the Warm Springs alternative education program. Last year the program was Roots, and this year the program is part of the district Bridges program.

About twenty students showed

up the first day of the Warm Springs Bridges program, said district superintendent Rick Molitor. Mr. Molitor gave an update of the district overall numbers at the school board meeting Monday. District enrollment is now about 2,993 students.

The number is broken down by ethnic background, showing that students with American Indian-Alaska Native heritage are the largest in the district. There are an estimated 1,102 American Indian-Alaska Native students in the school district, making up 36.8 percent of the overall enrollment. There are an estimated 919 White students (30.7 percent), and 904 Hispanic (30.2 percent).



D. McMechan/Spilyay

Kindergartners arrive at the Warm Springs Academy for their first day of school. Students arrive at the school around 7:40 to 7:50 a.m. for the before class activities.



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Hands Across the Bridge

As September is National Recovery Month, Warm Springs Community Counseling hosted the Hands Across the Deschutes Bridge and Motorcade awareness event, Sept. 3.

Later this month, Counseling will host the *Recovery Never Ends* conference, September 30. Everyone is welcome, and the conference is free.

The gathering will be at the HeHe Longhouse. The day will include speakers, talking circles, healing activities, sweat-house and meals. For more information call 541-553-3205.



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