



Spilyay Tymoo

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2 renewable energy projects show promise

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises is looking at two renewable energy projects for 2017: One is geothermal, the other is solar.

The geothermal project—already showing great promise—is based in the Mutton Mountain area.

The solar project—in a more preliminary phase—could be based around Warm Springs.

Regarding geothermal testing at Mutton Mountain, Power and Water general manager Jim Manion said: “We have a high potential for a viable commercial generating resource.”

Initial testing happened this year at various sites around Mutton

Mountain. “And we are now submitting requests for stage two test funding,” Manion said. “So far the conclusions are positive.”

The stage two research could cost up to a million dollars. Power and Water is looking at various sources—the Department of the Interior, and the Energy Trust of Oregon, for instance—for the needed funding.

Meanwhile, Power and Water is working with a partner on a solar energy study. Areas of interest are the flat above the mill site, and the plateau above Greeley Heights, as examples.

A project could involve several hundred acres: Any potential site would necessarily go through rig-

orous environmental, cultural resource and community review, Manion said.

The incentive for the solar development partner is an energy tax credit. As the tribes pay no such tax, there is no economic incentive for the tribe to pursue a project alone.

With a private industry partner, however, such a project begins to make financial sense. And the tribes would benefit by serving essentially as landlord.

This project is in an early phase. But the development partner this year visited the potential sites, and discussion will continue in 2017, Manion said.

Geothermal research

This year a team of geologists, with a drilling crew, made test wells near the fish hatchery, at Charley Canyon, and near the bridge on the way to Kah-Nee-Ta.

They studied water temperatures and soils at various depths underground, with a preliminary conclusion of a viable commercial geothermal resource.

A point of emphasis: Any water 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, fisheries, etc.

KNT plan at Council

The Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa board of directors and management met this week with Tribal Council, about a plan for the resort to stay open through December.

Kah-Nee-Ta is now on winter hours of operation, open Friday through Sunday.

The resort can stay open on winter hours for the rest of this month, but will need some financial help to do so. Tribal Council directed Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona to identify possible sources to help the resort through December.

The resort board and management are then scheduled to return to Council with a proposal next week.

The long-term goal is to make Kah-Nee-Ta a profitable enterprise, said board member Jim Manion. This may involve working with an outside partner with experience and resources to make improvements to the resort, he said.

Meanwhile, there have been significant cost-cutting measures at the resort, involving, for instance, reducing the hours of operation, and implementing seasonal layoffs. Other measures: The Kah-Nee-Ta office in Portland is closed, the golf course is closed, and the board of directors is serving with no compensation.

“The golf course has struggled for many years to cover its expenses with revenue,” Manion said. The former Kah-Nee-Ta golf pro, Joe Rauschenburg, had already retired earlier in the year.

The board and management are continuing to explore ways of reducing costs, he said.

The Kah-Nee-Ta board is new. Tribal Council in September of this year voted to separate the Indian Head Casino enterprise and Kah-Nee-Ta.

(See KNT on 10)

Winter break coming up

Winter break at the Warm Springs Academy is coming up on December 19. Students will return to school on January 3. There is no school on January 16, as this is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. And then January 27 is a teacher work day.

Meanwhile, this week is Bullying Prevention Week at the academy. Each day the staff is focusing on different skills to help prevent and defend against bullying behavior. Thursday is ‘Step into Their Shoes—Empathy Day,’ and Friday is ‘Cool to be Kind Day.’

Student Spotlights

The Student Spotlight awards at the Warm Springs Academy go to students who have made inspiring accomplishments at school.

The students show excellence in math and language arts. They have great attendance and helpful attitudes.

Principal Ken Parshall, and assistant principals Chris Wyland and Diane Dominiak made the Spotlight Award presentations at the school district board meeting last week.

Some of the students showed great acceleration in reading skills, making a year’s progress in a matter of months. Some made impressive advancement in writing, and in math. Some had perfect attendance.

The Student Spotlight achievers this semester are Myla Spino, Lucius Stevens, Richard Crooked



Courtesy W.S. Academy

Arm, Serenity Bisland, Chad Tias, Julian Rosales, Josephine Badoni, Glenn Brunoe, Jason Tohet, Jocixx Hintsatake, Elizabeth Antunez, Esminda Campuzano, Deshaun Chavez and Margaret Van Pelt Guardipee.

Serenity Bisland, fourth grade; Margaret Van Pelt, eighth grade; Lucius Stevens, second grade; Deshaun Chavez, eighth grade; Julian Rosales, eighth grade; and Jocixx Hintsatake, eighth grade (back row from left; and Myla Spino, first grade; Josephine Badoni, eighth grade; Esminda Campuzano, eighth grade; Glenn Brunoe, eighth grade; and Jason Tohet, eighth grade (not pictured, Chad Tias, fourth grade).

School matters at Impact Aid hearing

Two of the suggestions from the school district Impact Aid hearing last week:

The district leaders should meet more often with the tribal community. And tribal culture and history need a more prominent place in the curriculum from k-12.

These are points that have often been mentioned over the years. So there was a sense of tension and frustration among some who attended the Impact Aid hearing.

The school board meets one time a year in Warm Springs, as required by the Impact Aid guidelines. More than a third of the students in the district are Native American; so meeting one time a year in Warm Springs is not enough, some of parents and grandparents said.

“This is not meaningful consultation, as far as I can see,” said Shana Radford, parent and health

liaison with the tribes.

Good quality education is a specific treaty right, like fishing and health care, and should be taken as seriously by the tribes, said Deanie Smith, Language coordinator.

The Rise and Shine program at the Warm Springs Academy received high praise from many who attended at the meeting. This is a morning traditional culture and language program in partnership with Culture and Heritage.

Rise and Shine teachers Viola Governor and Orthelia Patt shared how the program is an inspiration for the students, as well as for the teachers. “It’s important for children to understand where they come from,” Orthelia said.

Rise and Shine starts early, before the beginning of class. The only complaint was that Rise and Shine could be incorporated into

the regular class curriculum.

Opening the Impact Aid meeting, district superintendent said a priority now is to increase the graduation rate.

On this point, a response from the community was that more emphasis on tribal culture and tradition would lead to a better graduation rate among the Native students. Feeling at home, and having a sense of belonging would lead to more students wanting to stay in school, parents said.

Warm Springs Academy principal Ken Parshall said the school, like the district, is dedicated to improving graduation. “The Academy has a tremendous role to play in improving the graduation rate,” he said. “This starts at the earlier grades.”

The Bridges program will continue, he said, with help from a grant. Bridges is a three-week sum-

mer session where students who have graduated from the Academy can spend time at the high school, getting ready for the transition.

This year there has been overall student performance improvement at the Academy. This happened even while the school implemented a new curriculum last year, Principal Parshall said.

The finances

Regarding Impact Aid, Superintendent Molitor said the district has received an average of about \$2.1 million in Impact Aid in recent years.

The district relies in part on local property taxes, which are not assessed on the reservation.

(See SCHOOLS on 3)

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