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Tribes may mediate schools agreement

The Confederated Tribes have been trying to negotiate a new long-term education agreement with the Jefferson County School District 509-J.

This has been an on-going process yet to be resolved. Meanwhile the district is following an agreement that is past due for renewal.

The tribes may request the matter be put to mediation. This would be through the Oregon Department of Education.

Tribal Council met last week with school district board members and the tribal Education Committee.

Part of the discussion was in regard to the property at the previous elementary school campus, including teachers' row.

Tribal Council appointed Chair-

man Austin Greene Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona as representatives to negotiate on behalf of the tribes.

The property was subject to a long-term lease with the school district. The arrangement is no longer needed since the 2014 opening of the Warm Springs k-8 Academy. Councilman Ron Suppah suggested a resolution be reached at least by the end of this year, and the parties agreed.

Discussion then turned to the overall education agreement, or memorandum of understanding, between the tribes and the district.

The current five-year agreement was supposed to expire last summer. But because no new agreement has been reached, the district continues

to operate under this understanding.

Last year the previous Tribal Council appointed the Education Committee to negotiate terms of a new agreement. The committee developed a detailed proposal, but was not able to reach an agreement with the district.

The current Tribal Council then took office, and appointed two new members to the Education Committee. There is still no agreement, and mediation may be the best solution, said Deanie Smith, Culture and Heritage project supervisor, and Education Committee member.

The problem with the current agreement is its general vagueness, Ms. Smith said. There are state

and federal standards that apply to Indian education, and these should be addressed in the new agreement, she said.

Tribal Council next week is scheduled to meet with April Campbell, Indian Education Advisor with the Oregon Department of Education. The meeting should help determine whether mediation is necessary.

Some of the issues that need to be resolved are fundamental. For instance at the meeting last week there was discussion of having a charter school or high school in Warm Springs.

This is not a solution to the issues now facing the district, Councilwoman Carina Miller said.

Oregon Experience on 'Broken Treaties'

Oregon Public Broadcasting on Monday, March 20, will premier the one-hour Oregon Experience documentary *Broken Treaties*. The show will air at 9 p.m. on OPB.

Louie Pitt Jr., director of governmental affairs of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, is among the tribal representatives featured in *Broken Treaties*.

The timing of the show is significant, as this month marks 60 years since the inundation of Celilo Falls.

Broken Treaties examines the history of the Native people of Oregon, and how they have gone from possessing 100 percent of the state's land to nearly none of it. OPB provides an overview of the documentary:

'Broken Treaties'

Oregonians today generally know little about the first inhabitants of the region, the tribal people who lived here for thousands of years before European contact.

Indians still have a significant presence, with nine federally recognized tribes located around the state, yet they continue to live 'off the radar' of most non-Indians.

Before Euro-Americans came West, this region was home to a diverse and remarkable mix of Indian tribes and Native languages. What is now Oregon was Indian country—hundreds of villages in an environment of natural abundance, in which most people thrived.

In the early 1830s the Oregon Trail established a direct route to the Pacific Northwest. The government encouraged Americans to make the journey and settle here to strengthen its claim to the territory.

Two Congressional laws—the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and The Organic Act of 1848—each declared the United States' commitment of good faith and fair treatment toward the native people.

Early settlers often did not heed these pronouncements. They settled where they pleased, which began the slow but relentless acquisition of the Indians' most valued asset: their land. The transfer of land away from the Indians took more than a century and assumed many forms—and it was effective.

In 1850, before any treaties had been signed or any land legally acquired from the Indians, Congress passed the Donation Land Act, giving 320 acres of Indian land to every settler who wanted it. Within five years, they would claim 2.8 million acres of it.

Congress sent envoys to acquire Indian land legally through treaties, even as the government—before any documents were ratified—continued to promote settlement there.

(See OPB on 7)

Veterans Memorial plan for museum

The tribes' Veterans Memorial Committee presented the latest design for a memorial to be located on the grounds of the Museum at Warm Springs.

The project would include a memorial park and monument. Walkways could be a bricks inscribed with the names of donors.

Tribal Council gave its approval to the committee to go ahead with the project.

The Veterans Memorial Committee represents the Warm Springs Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Ladies Auxiliary and Eugene Greene Sr. American Legion Post.

On the committee are Tamera Calhoun, commander, Dan Martinez and Alvis Smith III of the VFW; and Charles Tailfeathers, commander, AJ Atencio, Charles Calica, Dennis Dowty and Keith Baker of the American Legion; and Susan Brunoe of the Auxiliary.

The committee now has the preliminary drawings and plan for the memorial park. The final design will be by an architectural firm that may donate the service, the committee reported.

The idea for a veterans memorial on the museum grounds goes

back a number of years. The current Veterans Memorial Committee is dedicated seeing the project through.

One of the ideas for the memorial park is to incorporate water and fire features. There would be a raised mound with the water feature and flame of life at the center.

A soldier statue, flags and monument with the names of the tribal veterans are other ideas. Hundreds of tribal members have served in the armed forces from 1850s to the present day.

The proposed site of the veterans memorial park is by the Treaty Tree at the museum.

The Veterans Memorial Committee has researched fund-raising ideas. An idea is for the pathways at the park to be of bricks inscribed donors' names.

Meanwhile, the Ladies Auxiliary and American Legion are planning a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Parade and Expo in the spring. This will be the second year of the parade and expo.

The Legion and Auxiliary are now hosting fund-raisers in the community for the event.

Miss Warm Springs reports at Council



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf and tribal chief operations officer Alyssa Macy, a former Miss Warm Springs, met last week with Tribal Council.

As Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf keeps a busy schedule.

She is a full-time student at Yakama Valley Community College, majoring in Biology.

Meanwhile this year she traveled to the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, where she had an inspiring visit with the students.

At Lincoln's Powwow she demonstrated the Butterfly Dance. And next month she will be traveling to the Gathering of

Nations Powwow in Albuquerque for the Miss Indian World contest.

Katrina met last week with Tribal Council and chief operations officer Alyssa Macy. She reviewed some of her tribal ambassadorship projects so far this year.

Her report was well received and appreciated. The visit to Chemawa was especially noted, Council members said, because students there can sometimes feel far from home.

Congressional intern to work in Senate office

Karlen Yallup will be working this summer in Washington, D.C., in the offices of United States Senator John McCain. She will be working as a Congressional Intern.

Karlen was selected by the Udall Foundation for the 2017 Native American Congressional Internship program.

This is a rare opportunity and achievement: She is one of only 12 students chosen for the 2017 program.

Karlen is a graduate of Madras High School, and a 2016

graduate of the University of Idaho, where she majored in Forest Resources and Fire Ecology. She currently works at tribal Finance as the grants, budgets and contracts analyst.

Karlen is planning to go to law school in the fall, so the Congressional Internship this summer will be a great experience.

Sen. McCain, R-Ariz., is the longest current serving member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

Seeing first-hand the relationship between the federal government



Karlen Yallup

and Indian tribes is a main reason why she became interested in the internship. The legislative process in general is another point of interest, she said.

Karlen learned of the opportunity from Carol Dick at the tribes' Higher Education Department.

The Udall Foundation over the past 20 years has provided 245 internships to students from 116 different tribes. The program is funded by the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy.



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