

A Year in Review ~ 2017

(The following is a look back at some of the memorable news events of the past year around the reservation.)

January

The year started with **Katrina Blackwolf** winning the 2017 Miss Warm Springs crown. "I've always wanted to be Miss Warm Springs," Katrina said after the pageant.

"Especially since I was Little Miss Warm Springs in 2000, I've looked up to the older girls who were Miss Warm Springs."

Over the years she has also been the Miss Columbia River Powwow Queen, and Junior Miss Yakama Nation. She learned tradition and culture from her grandparents, especially grandmothers Galen Jackson and Katie Blackwolf-Bevis. Here grandfathers are Amos Nelson and John Bevis. Katrina's parents are Zelma Walsey and Levi Blackwolf. In other January news:

Tribal Council voted to continue the **Warm Springs Timber Co.** through 2017. By continuing the company through this year, the tribes could realize more than \$2 million in timber stumpage payments. The timber stumpage payments are the source of the Senior Pension and per capita payments. Elsewhere this month:

Tribal Council approved an agreement with the state of Oregon that clears the way for **the cannabis project**.

The agreement was 11 months in the making, including extensive negotiation with state officials including the Governor's office and legal counsel, and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates the industry in the state.

This is a unique agreement in Oregon, and only the fourth such document in the U.S. The other three are with tribes in the state of Washington.

The inter-government agreement is the document that will allow the tribes to export its cannabis products into the state market.

After gold was discovered in the **Middle Fork John Day River** in the 1860s, the waterway and the ecosystem it supports endured over a century of damage, degradation, and destruction. The greatest damage came from the dredge mining of a two-mile stretch of the river from 1939 to 1943.

In total, around two hundred acres of floodplain were impacted, with soil and vegetation loss, straightened stream channels, and tailing piles that affected water quality.

Bucket dredging was an early steam-powered method that was used on the Middle Fork John Day River. A bucket dredger uses a rotating belt or wheel equipped with buckets to scoop up material from the riverbed for processing.

The scouring of the riverbed at this scale destroys aquatic ecosystems that take thousands of years to develop naturally.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources recognized that the river needed help.

The thinking was that by speeding up the river's recovery, the summer steelhead, spring chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, and bull trout that depended on the river would reap the benefits.

The tribes coordinated a large-scale restoration project, taking a number years, with a successful finish and dedication in 2017. In other news:

The morning of August 21 of this year, a Monday, will bring a **solar eclipse** across parts of Oregon. The reservation is in direct line to see the total eclipse.

A January report at Tribal Council: Expect many visitors, as more populous areas—Portland and Eugene, for instance—are not in direct line to see the total eclipse.

This is an economic opportunity for the tribes, and plans are coming together for a variety of events on the day of the eclipse, and during the weekend leading up to it.

Indian Head Casino is planning to feature Native entertainers on the days leading up to the eclipse. Working with the casino, the Museum at Warm Springs has plans for a gathering on the museum grounds featuring tribal vendors and dance demonstrations.

The **snowpack this winter** in the region is about 122 percent of average. This will help the roots and fish in the spring.

The snowpack this year is healthy, especially in comparison with some other recent years. In 2015, for instance, the level was 41 percent of average; and in 2014, thirty-seven percent of average. In late January news:

Almost no jurisdiction in the U.S. still requires a blood test before two people can obtain a **marriage license**. Of the states, only Montana and Mississippi, plus the District of Columbia, have the requirement.

The Tribal Council decided to eliminate the blood test and health certificate requirement for people wanting to obtain a tribal marriage license.

The action came on recommendation of the tribal Justice Team.

The Justice Team recommended the elimination of the requirement as outdated, and because Oregon no longer has the requirement. People wanting to avoid the tribal test could simply go off reservation to get married; so having a tribal blood-test requirement was obsolete.

February

Tribal member employment is a top priority of the Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council. In February they took significant action toward this goal.

The Council approved a memorandum of understanding between **the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs TERO** and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

TERO is the Tribal Employment Rights Office, housed in the Warm Springs Ventures building at the industrial park.

With the ODOT agreement in place, the Warm Springs TERO has jurisdiction over federally-funded transportation projects in a large area of the region.

This will provide construction and other employment opportunities for tribal members. TERO also coordinates training programs for members.

The office serves the Warm Springs tribal members, and any other member of a federally recognized tribe. The process of reaching the MOU took a couple of years, as the parties worked out the details.

It was a case of being at the right place at the right time. Like a hole in one. Or better yet, a double eagle.

An avid golfer, Brent Moschetti was a long-time member of **the Kah-Nee-Ta**



Courtesy Brigette McConville and family
Andrew Zimmern of the Travel Channel's *Bizarre Foods* meets with Tribal Councilwoman Brigette McConville at the Columbia River. The show, featuring Councilwoman McConville and family, premiered in February 2017.

course. Mr. Moschetti retired from his medical supplies business at the end of last year, with the idea of playing more golf.

A short time later he received word that the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course was closing, due to finances at the resort.

He knew that closing the course for a year or two—letting the fairways and greens go fallow—would mean the course would probably never open again, at least not without substantial and costly renovation. "And I would hate to see it close," Moschetti was saying in February.

So he contacted the Kah-Nee-Ta board and management. His proposal was that he would operate and maintain the course and clubhouse. This was a decision based on love of the game, and a desire to help the resort, rather than for profit.

So far this year he has already made improvements at the course, trimming trees, getting the rough under control, re-sanding the traps, landscaping around the clubhouse.

March

Marie Kay Williams was named the interim **general manager for Kah-Nee-Ta** Resort and Spa.

Former resort general manager Jim Bankson retired based on a doctor's recommendation. The

resort board of directors and interim manager Williams met with Tribal Council this week for an update on the developments.

Ms. Williams is a long-time resort employee, having started there 18 years ago while in high school. In other March news:

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. In other school news:

The district 509-J board of directors hired Warm Springs Academy Principal Ken Parshall as the new **district superintendent**.

Mr. Parshall has been the Warm Springs Academy principal since the beginning of the 2015 school year. For at least the first two years of his tenure as district superintendent, Parshall will continue to serve as the Warm Springs Academy. Elsewhere:

Columbia River tribes support a proposed law to protect salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia River by allowing for more efficient removal of **predatory sea**

lions.

Studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service and others show that predatory sea lions are having an ongoing significant and detrimental impact on the fish runs. NOAA Fisheries Service estimates that up to 45 percent of a recent spring chinook run was potentially lost to sea lions. And this:

The federal lawsuit *U.S. v. Oregon* is the ongoing court case that implements the Treaty of 1855 fishing rights of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and three other Columbia River treaty tribes.

The management agreement pursuant to *U.S. v. Oregon* is the fundamental guiding document for tribal fisheries at the Columbia. So having a long-term agreement with provisions that ensure tribal fishing rights is critical.

The management agreement also covers vital matters such as fisheries restoration at the Columbia, providing a framework for all parties in salmon and steelhead management.

Mr. Ogan gave an update in March at Tribal Council on the *U.S. v. Oregon* management agreement. There was good news, he said, in that it appears all parties are willing to extend the current agreement for another ten-year term. The existing agreement is set to expire at the end of this year.

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Wishes the
**Confederated Tribes
Of Warm Springs**
A Very Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year

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