

A Year in Review ~ 2017 (Continued)

June

Students at the Warm Springs Academy got to see a test flight of a **high-altitude helium balloon**—the kind that will launch here during the August 21 solar eclipse. The Space Grant Consortium NASA partnership and Academy conducted the balloon demonstration.

The architect working with the Warm Springs **Veterans Memorial Park** Committee revealed a design for the project. Meanwhile the funding details are being hammered out. Architects Statsny Brun also designed the museum, and are donating services to the memorial park committee. Elsewhere:

Workers have installed the underground fuel tanks at the **Plateau Travel Plaza**. The walls are going up for the main building, and the steel frames are in place for the canopies over the gas and diesel pumps. The project is a little over three months into construction, and on schedule. With the framing in place, the various components of the operation are coming into view:

There is the main entrance way leading to the convenience store. The restaurant with seating for 70 is to the back right. In June on the reservation:

When it first opened in the 1970s, **Kah-Nee-Ta** was the premier resort in the region.

“The playing field has changed significantly since then,” said Jim Manion, Kah-Nee-Ta board member. “Now we have to find our niche—to make this a unique experience—and become competitive again.” The hope is to find a partner to take over management, and make investment at the resort. Elsewhere:

The tribes’ **carbon sequestration** project, through Ventures and GeoVisions, is moving into a final phase. The concluding process involves detailed third-party verification, registration, and then sale of the credits.

July

The Jefferson County School District 509-J board and school officials hope to continue the Ma-

dras High School **Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps** program.

The board and new superintendent Ken Parshall heard testimony in July from the public on the JROTC program.

The meeting room was at capacity for this topic in particular. Many in attendance were military veterans. All those who spoke were very much in favor of finding a way to continue the high school JROTC program in the next school year.

Native Aspirations and Health and Human Services have been working on plans for a **three-day event** for the August 21 solar eclipse.

The Native Sol Eclipse Fest will be August 19-21 at the grassy area behind the Family Resource Center, in front of the Behavioral Health Center.

There will be live music performances, and food and merchandise vendors.

The Natural Resources Branch hired five youth to work on projects through the summer. Seven more young people, part of the Native Aspirations program, are also working with Natural Resources. In July the youth Natural Resources team made a trip to **Willamette Falls for ceiling**.

The group collected more than 1,400 eels. These are to be shared with elders and others in the community.

Tribal Council took a step toward financing the **Cannabis Project**, or CP Enterprise. The next important step will be the General Council meeting set for Monday evening, July 24. In a narrow vote last week, Tribal Council approved the formation of Warm Springs Financial Strategies, a limited liability corporation wholly owned by the tribes.

The sole purpose of Financial Strategies LLC is to provide financing for membership-approved capital improvements and economic development, such as CP Enterprise.

Tribal Council voted in July to continue the **Warm Springs Timber Co.** beyond the current year. Council early this year approved the enterprise to operate through 2017. The vote this month allows the company to continue as long as the Council sees positive results.

Great American Eclipse comes to Warm Springs



One of the best places in the U.S. to view the Great American Eclipse was the Warm Springs Reservation. For the Monday, August 21 event, the Warm Springs Academy hosted a team of scientists who launched the high altitude balloons. Tribal Aspirations and Health and Human Services hosted the Native Sol festival. Public Safety staff were on hand through the weekend and the day of the event. The



Jayson Smith photo

picture at top is of the ‘Ring Effect,’ taken by Ilijtsch van Beijnum, who visited Warm Springs from The

Hague, Netherlands. And above, a family enjoys the eclipse at the Academy.

Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, the Confederated Tribes and the Warm Springs TERO this week are hosting the **2017 National TERO convention**.

Tribal TERO officials were on hand from many tribes, including Blackfeet, Colville, Umatilla, Hoopa Valley, Makah, Navajo, Nez Perce, Northern Cheyenne, Quechan, Seminole, Tohono and Yakama. The national TERO convention began 40 years ago, with the first convention held at Kah-Nee-Ta.

August

About 680 students returned to class this week at the **Warm Springs Academy**. The year began early this year, made possible by an Extended Learning Grant. In other school news:

Tribal languages and culture once are again part of the regular school day for younger students with 509-J, but the district discontinued the program some years ago.

This year marks the return of the tribal Language program to the regular school day at the Warm Springs Academy.

Culture and Heritage had been teaching the languages and culture during Rise & Shine, before the start of the school. With the start of the 2017-18 school, the languages are now an elective course for stu-

dents, taught during the regular school day. And this:

The future of health care, and the threat from North Korea were two of the main topics of discussion at the **Senator Ron Wyden town hall** meeting last week in Warm Springs.

The town hall at the Warm Springs Academy was the first by the Senator on the reservation. It was his eight-hundred and forty-second town hall since becoming a U.S. Senator in 1996, his sixty-second town hall this year.

September

DMJ Cattle this month hosted the **Western States Regional Finals Rodeo**, a first for Central Oregon.

In the past, the event—a year-end chance to qualify for the Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas—has been held in Klamath Falls.

This year the usual organizers couldn’t host the event, and the DMJ stepped up and agreed to help. It was a lot of work with not much time, but the family put in a great effort. Elsewhere:

Oregon now has a **state law recognizing the importance of accurate Native American history and culture** lessons in the public school system. During this Oregon legislative session, Councilwoman and Culture and Heritage director Val Switzler testified two times in favor of Senate Bill 13, signed into law this month by Gov. Kate Brown.

The downtown, or campus area of Warm Springs holds an economic development opportunity for the tribes. The vision of the **downtown plan** is for small business development, serving residents of the reservation, and visitors from Highway 26.

The tribes are planning the removal of several old and abandoned buildings on the campus. Meanwhile, the Warm Springs Community Action Team has been working on a project that could help the downtown plan.

A key component of the WSCAT program involves the ‘old commissary’ building—an historic structure—currently located by the Post Office and police station.

Based on public input, WSCAT is now pursuing a plan to move the old commissary to the lot by Highway 26, at Paiute Avenue and Summer Street. The renovated building could then be a small business

incubator, said Dustin Seyler, WSCAT finance counselor and small business advisor.

October

The tribes are taking a step toward a **new beginning at Kah-Nee-Ta**. Along the way the resort will receive attention that is overdue. A major investment in Kah-Nee-Ta requires a partner.

Tribal Council and the resort board met this month with Tom Hansen and Michael Gaskin, senior partners with AV Northwest.

Over the past several weeks the parties have worked on an agreement that will lead to a long-term lease of Kah-Nee-Ta to AV Northwest. For its part the company will invest about \$17 million in the resort.

James Edmund Greeley first played a Native flute about 20 years ago. About two and a half years ago James began working on what would become the album *Before America*.

He recorded the songs at the Portland studio of Ibori Records. After two years of work, he released *Before America* in 2016. The album this month won the **Best Traditional Recording at the 2017 Native American Music Awards**.

One of the more popular exhibits each year at the Museum at Warm Springs is the **Tribal Member Art Show**. This year the Judges Choice Award in the Traditional category went to Roberta Kirk for *In Beauty I Walk and Dance*, dentalium beaded dress with dentalium breast plate. The Judges Choice Award in the Contemporary category went to Travis Bobb for *Queen of the Amazon*, oil and air brush on gesso board.

November

Tribal Council last week approved a request from the **Kah-Nee-Ta** board to proceed with a lease agreement with the new investment partner, AV Northwest.

AV Northwest will manage the resort operation and make substantial investment, perhaps \$16 million, for improvements at the property.

The Department of Interior has signed the **land buy-back** cooperative agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Pioneer Rock & Monument

201 Crafton Rd - PO Box 348 Goldendale, Wa 98620

Map to store on website

509-773-4702

Wishes the
**Confederated Tribes
Of Warm Springs**

*A Very Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year*

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