



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

September 11, 2019 - Vol. 43, No. 19
September - Wanaq'i ~ Fall - Tiyam

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Canoe Family planning Paddle to Celilo

The Warm Springs Canoe Family is working on a plan to bring the Tribal Canoe Journeys to the homeland of the Confederated Tribes.

The plan is ambitious, potentially historic, and long-term: The family sees the Paddle to Celilo happening in 2023.

Jefferson Greene presented the idea at Tribal Council last week, with support from N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family members Colleen Johnson, Carina Miller and Becky Picard. For background:

The Tribal Canoe Journeys began 30 years ago, and has grown each year since the first Paddle to Seattle in 1989. Every year since then a different tribe has hosted the destination landing for the canoe family pullers, support crews and guests.

Most of the host tribes so far have been in Washington, with some in British Columbia, Canada.

The Warm Springs N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family has been on the last 11 journeys, forming alliances with other families. And among the other canoe families, N'chi Wanapum is unique.

This in part is because the Confederated Tribes' canoe tradition is based on the mid Columbia



Landing scene from the Paddle to Lummi, summer of 2019.

Courtesy photo.

River rather than on the Coast or inland bays of the Pacific Ocean. "And we still have many stories, songs and dances from our canoe days," Jefferson said.

This uniqueness was the inspiration for the Paddle to Celilo 2023. The project is big, and will require many partners along the Columbia in the area of Celilo Village. To give an idea of the scope:

At the arrival sites of recent Canoe Journeys—Lummi, Puyallup, Salish, to name a few of the recent—thousands of people

showed up for the landings. At the Paddle to Lummi 2019, more than 18,000 people were on hand for the landing. The Canoe Journey landing celebrations generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in commerce.

Jefferson estimated more than 100 tribal canoes, and 15,000 or more people could take part in the Paddle to Celilo celebration. These numbers would overwhelm the Celilo community itself—as would have happened at the other landing destinations—so partners will be needed among the neighboring

communities.

First, the N'chi Wanapum Paddle to Celilo 2023 vision is for collaboration with the Yakama and Umatilla Tribes and Bands, Jefferson said. Next would be the nearby towns and cities. Schools and universities also take part, he said. Councilwoman Brigitte McConville suggested involving the Army Corps of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration.

See **CANOE JOURNEY** on 8

Council working on 2020 budget

September is one of the busiest times of year for Tribal Council, Management and Finance, as they prepare the budget proposal for the following year.

This is especially true this year, as the 2020 budget proposal will likely call for a significant reduction.

Council earlier directed all departments to present budget proposals with reduction options of 10-percent, 20-percent and 30-percent.

In fairness, the approach at Council is for the organization overall to absorb the reduction in 2020; rather than having some entities take drastic cuts while others take less so.

Earlier this month Tribal Council began the budget reviews with the various departments and enterprises.

Taking a thorough approach, Council is dedicating many days in September to the budget presentations, before posting a proposal in early October. The district meetings would follow, and General Council.

Earlier this week the presentations included a budget overview with Secretary-Treasurer Michele Stacona, followed by a Chief Operations Officer report by Alyssa Macy.

Caroline Cruz at Health and Human Services, Robert Brunoe with the Natural Resources Branch, and Valerie Switzler with the Education Branch were also scheduled for this week.

A Public Safety report was planned with branch manager Carmen Smith. Also on the agenda: High Lookee Lodge, Public Utilities, Human Resources, Governmental Affairs, Finance, Tribal Court and others. (Funeral arrangements this week may have caused a change to the agenda. You can see the list of entities coming before Council during the rest of September on page 5 of this publication.)

The current year budget was approved at \$18.4 million. For next year a preliminary estimate foresees a budget of \$14.8 million—a decrease of approximately \$3.5 million. Some reasons for the decrease:

The Timber LLC is seeing a reduction in its timber revenue of \$1.5 million. And the Carbon Sequestration (Warm Springs Geo Visions) dividend payment for the current year was close to \$2.5 million, for 2020 the number is greatly reduced.

Other enterprises—in particular Power and Water, Indian Head Casino and Credit—are projecting greater dividends for the next year, though their increases would not be enough to offset the reduction.

Decisions pending on solid waste questions

The three Warm Springs Sanitation drivers service all of the residents on the reservation.

They also pick up at the Warm Springs Academy, enterprises, the market and other commercial customers.

They have three trucks, plus a new one coming on line in December, approved by Tribal Council. The drivers are busy, often starting at 4:30 a.m. in order to cover the entire reservation.

Maintaining the vehicles is a challenge, and at times costly. So the new truck, to service commercial customers, will be a welcome addition to the fleet, said Russell Graham, tribal Sanitarian.

The vehicles and drivers are critical to solid waste management on the reservation, while

the Dry Creek landfill presents a more pressing matter.

The question is the future of solid waste disposal for the Confederated Tribes, Mr. Graham said.

Should the tribes build a new landfill on the reservation? Or transfer the waste to an off-reservation facility?

Madras Sanitary Service, for instance, transfers their municipal waste to a facility at The Dalles. Another off-reservation option would be Bend, though The Dalles option appears to be the more cost-effective, Graham said.

The on-reservation option presents this additional issue: For funding reasons a new on-reservation landfill would possibly have to accept waste—for a fee, of course—from off reservation, such as from Madras.

This would clearly require com-



Two of the the tribes' three sanitation trucks.

McMechan/Spilyay

munity discussion and decision.

Another question of importance: Should residents of the reservation pay a monthly fee for pick-up service?

The non-residential customers pay, while the tribes have never charged a fee—\$15 a month, for

instance—to the many residential customers.

These are difficult questions that will have to be addressed in the fairly near future, as the Dry Creek facility is not a long-term option, Graham said.

— Dave McMechan

Reservation Census Count 2020

The Warm Springs 2020 Census Complete Count Committee is now meeting regularly, planning for the count next year. Their meeting last week included a presentation by Shana Radford, from Umatilla, the Census Tribal Partnership Specialist for Oregon and Idaho, a division of the Regional U.S. Census Center based in Los Angeles.

She gave some history of the Census in regard to Native Americans. The first U.S. Census was held in 1790. American Indians were not counted until the 1860 Census, and this involved only off-reservation Native Americans.

The first time Native Americans on reservations were included in the U.S. was in 1900, Ms. Radford said. As a side note: It was not

until 1924 that Native Americans secured the right to vote in U.S. elections, though the struggle for equal representation went on much longer: It was not until 1962 that every state finally guaranteed Native Americans the right to vote.

The U.S. Census is important for Native American communities because it helps guide the allocation of federal resources and

services, based on population. At stake is the proportional allocation of \$675 billion annually in federal funds—including funding to tribes.

The Census guides the distribution of funds for transportation, housing, emergency response, social services and more.

See **CENSUS** on page 9

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