

Geo Visions provides unique service

Warm Springs Geo Visions provides a unique service in the region, and is a growing enterprise of the Confederated Tribes. Geo Visions works for the protection and preservation of cultural resources of the tribes.

Projects of the enterprise include archaeological research at specific sensitive sites, with oral history research and indigenous knowledge to give the tribal context to each site.

Many of the projects are within the Ceded Lands of the Confederated Tribes. The Ceded Lands are large—roughly 11 million square miles, ranging from near the Idaho border to the Cascades.

These are traditional lands of the tribes, in part ceded by the Treaty of 1855. The tribes kept the right to use areas of the Ceded Lands that are the usual and accustomed places of tribal generations, from time immemorial.

Clearly, there are countless cultural and historical sites of the tribes within the Ceded Lands. Geo Visions works to ensure the protection and preservation of these significant sites.

Some of the main Geo Visions clients are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland General Electric, the Bonneville Power Administration, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

These agencies are responsible for the security of tribal cultural sites within their jurisdictions. Geo Visions helps provide this environmental compliance service.

The Ceded Lands are large, yet Geo Visions foresees a chance for expansion beyond this boundary.

For example, the solar industry is growing in the Northwest, and this requires environmental compliance services, said Angelina Howell, Geo Visions director.

Her vision for the enterprise is as a full environmental compliance service. A step toward expansion in services, and in the service area, could be to open a



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

At the recent open house, Museum at Warm Springs Education director Tamera Moody and museum development director Angela Smith talk with Alex Atkins of Geo Visions. They were discussing the archaeological artifacts display, plus partnership opportunities between the museum at Geo Visions.

Geo Visions office in Portland, Ms. Howell said.

All of the large clients, plus potential new ones, are headquartered in Portland, and a Geo Visions office there would facilitate enterprise growth, Howell said.

She looks to the Cherokee Nation as a model: The Cherokee environmental services enterprise is very large, generating multi-millions of dollars in revenue.

Geo Visions is not close to that size, yet the potential is there to follow the Cherokee model, Ms. Howell said.

This would go toward another goal of Geo Visions: To increase job opportunities for tribal members, especially young people interested in the field. Archaeology can involve field work, ideal for people who want to be out of an office; plus work in developing analysis and reports.

Geo Visions is a division of Warm Springs Ventures, the economic development enterprise of the tribes. For now Geo Visions has five employees. Working with Ms. Howell are:

Larry Squiemphen, Geo Visions GIS manager and oral history coordinator, who has been there since the enterprise began 15 years ago.

Lindon Hylton, primary investigator and lead archaeologist.

Alex Atkins, lead crew chief and archaeologist.



Examples of more recent kinds of artifacts.

And Brandon Gilliland, junior archaeologist

Geo Visions hosted an open house last week at their office, housed with Ventures at the industrial park.

On hand were the students from the Warm Springs Bridges program. They were specially invited to give them an idea of the work involved in the archaeology field.

At the open house Alex Atkins had a display of ar-

row heads and tools of obsidian and a substance called cryptocrystalline silicate, or CCS, a material also used for making tools and arrowheads.

Interestingly, obsidian artifacts can be analyzed to determine exactly where they originated. An artifact found in Washington, for instance, can be traced to an obsidian source hundreds of miles away, Mr. Atkins explained.



The students from Warm Springs Bridges visited the Geo Visions open house.

A good year for the roots and berries

Laurie Danzuka of Warm Springs Ventures gave a First Foods presentation at the recent Geo Visions open house. Laurie is a First Foods gatherer for the Simnasho district.

Her display included a kupn, handed down from generations that will in time be handed down in turn, Ms. Danzuka said. "Kathleen Heath handed this down to me and my sister," Laurie said of the kupn.

She gathered roots and huckleberries this year with Nola Queahpama, Suzie Slockish, friends and family. "We had a good year for the roots and berries," Laurie said.

Her presentation included wapus baskets. When out gathering, "The



Courtesy Laurie Danzuka/Ventures

Nola Queahpama this summer with roots.

goal is always to have a full wapus," Laurie says.

Like the kupn and wapus, the knowledge of the First Foods is handed down from generation to generation, she says.



Haunted Warehouse

Warm Springs Fire Management will host the Haunted Warehouse Wednesday and Thursday, October 30-31, at the Forestry warehouse.

Proceeds from the Haunted Warehouse will

help cover travel expenses for Albert Charlie and Rylan Davis.

For 13 and over the Haunted Warehouse is \$5; and 12 and younger, \$3.

Any questions call 541-460-0675.

On the Council agenda

The following are some of the items coming up on the Tribal Council agenda for the rest of October (subject to change at Council discretion):

Monday, October 28

9 a.m.: BIA Superintendent transition discussion with Bryan Mercier of the BIA.

10: Traditional leave discussion with Cheryl Tom, Human Resources director.

11: Tri-County Major Incident memorandum of understanding with Carmen Smith, Public Safety general manager.

1:30 p.m.: Willamette Valley operations and maintenance environmental impact statement discussion, downtown fish passage, at the request of Ron Suppah.

2:30: September financials with Alfred Estimo and Dennis Johnson, Finance.

3:30: Warm Springs Ventures board of directors up-

date.

Tuesday, October 29

9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer and chief operations officer discussion.

10: Tribal Council Proclamation and Priorities.

1:30 p.m.: U.S. Highway 26 safety corridor update with the Oregon Department of Transportation.

2:30: Draft resolutions with Michele Stacona.

Items for further consideration:

Annual consultation with the U.S. Attorney, District of Oregon.

Meeting with president of Southern Oregon University.

Livestock code revisions. Warm Springs Community Action Team vital tribal economies.

Willamette Falls Legacy project.

Appeals court judges.

School notes...

The Madras High School boys soccer team hosts Molalla this Wednesday evening at 5.

Before the game will be the Senior Night presentations.

Meanwhile the girls soc-

cer team travels to Molalla.

At the Academy

It's community engagement night this Wednesday at the Warm Springs Academy. Dinner is at 5:30.

Madras Campus CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Join us for COCC Preview Day!

Junior and Senior high school students may take mini classes, meet current students, tour the Bend Campus and enjoy a free lunch!

cocc.edu/madras
541.550.4100

Friday, November 8
10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
COCC Bend Campus

For more information and to register, go to:
cocc.edu/previewday



In advance of College events, persons needing accommodation or transportation because of a physical or mobility disability, contact Joe Viola at 541.383.7775. For accommodation because of other disability such as hearing impairment, contact Disability Services at 541.383.7583.