

Ken Smith ~ 1935-2020

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In 1959, Ken graduated from the University of Oregon with a BS in Business. He was the second Native American to graduate from the University of Oregon.

Ken and Sybil Cowapoo married in 1959, and would later welcome a son Greg and daughter Michele into the world.

Ken went to work for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. With the passing of general manager Vernon Jackson, Ken became the tribes' general manager in 1969.

In Ken's first tenure as General Manager, much was accomplished. Kah-Nee-Tah Lodge was constructed, and Warm Springs Power Enterprise was built—the first federally licensed hydro project on an Indian reservation. This historic event occurred when the McQuinn Strip was officially returned to the Confederated Tribes in 1972, ending 100 years of litigation.

In the 1970s, Ken was named one of the five outstanding young men of Oregon by the Oregon Jaycees. He was named to the board of directors of the Portland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and was a member of the Oregon Board of Education.

In January, 1981, he married Jeanie Thompson, a lady he initially met when the tribe hired her travel agency. Jeanie's daughters, Debra and Becky, joined the family.

In 1981, the newly elected president of the United States, President Ronald Reagan, asked Ken to serve as the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs. As Assistant Secretary, Ken controlled a budget of one billion

dollars, oversaw a workforce of 16,000, dealt with 300 tribes in the lower 48 states, and provided services to 190 Alaskan Native Organizations. He administered 52,000,000 acres of trust land for tribes and Indian people.

President and publisher of Indian Country *Today* Tim Giago once wrote, "Ken Smith was the best Assistant Secretary Indian tribes have ever had."

In February of 1989, at the urging of Confederated Tribes' Secretary Treasurer Larry Calica, Ken returned to Warm Springs to pick up the reins of tribal government.

In preparing to step down, Mr. Calica devised a plan for reorganizing the tribal organization. An important consideration in Smith's strategy was a new business to Warm Springs. He joined with Tribal Council in implementing a drug and alcohol program for all employees, which included random testing. He also initiated a smoke-free work place policy.

By the end of 1994, the face of the Warm Springs community had changed forever. First came the \$5 million Early Childhood Education Center, followed by the \$7.6 million Museum at Warm Springs, and the \$5 million dollar Health and Wellness Center. Each facility embraced a vital need for the Warm Springs community.

Another momentous change, during Ken's second tenure as general manager, was the turn-around at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Other income-producing ventures were the Warm Springs Plaza shopping center and Indian Head Casino. In 1984, Ken received the Jay Silverheels Achievement Award for Leadership in Managing Indian Resources and Steadfast Commitment to the Economic and Social Betterment of American Indian Communities.

Ken served on numerous boards, including US West Communications, US Bank,

the World Forestry Council, and Futures for Children. He served on the boards of three distinguished museums: The High Desert Museum in Bend, the Museum at Warm Springs, and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Ken also served on the Board of Trustees for the Oregon State University Foundation, the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Heart Association.

In 2017, Mr. Smith was honored by Madras Union High School as one of its Distinguished Alumni. In 2019 the University of Oregon included him in their 'Top 100 Ducks Who Made a Difference' from 1919 to present.

Saying that Ken Smith has made an impact on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is an understatement. Like Vernon Jackson before him, Ken leaves a legacy that future tribal leaders will find challenging to match.

In retirement, Ken and wife Jeanie, and dog Bennie, traveled extensively, spent winters in Palm Springs, and maintained homes in Portland and Warm Springs.

Ken Smith passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on May 13 at his home. He is survived by his daughter Michele Hensel (Kendal); daughters Becky Rae Olson Schroeder (David), and Debra Olson Daniels; and eight siblings. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanie, and son Greg.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting contributions be made to the Museum at Warm Springs, PO Box 909, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date, due to the Covid-19 virus.

Museum remains closed

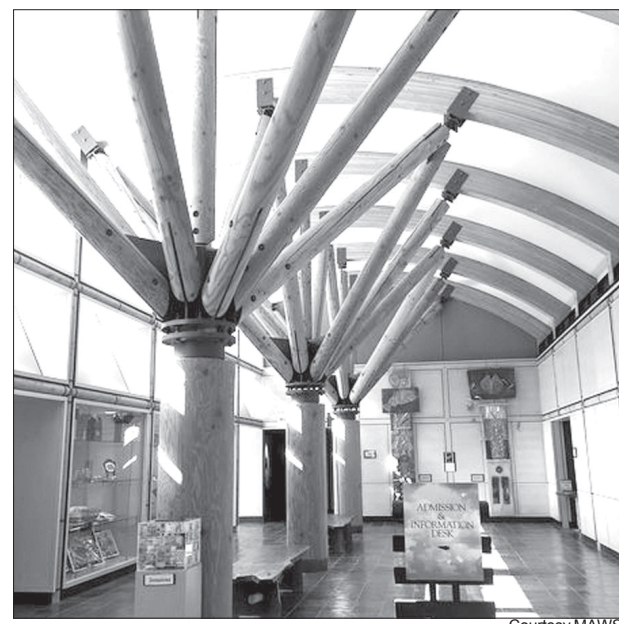
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Museum at Warm Springs has been closed to the public since March 18. The museum's staff is on administrative leave through May 29.

A partial re-opening of the museum is yet to be determined. An update will be posted in June.

During the public closure, the entire building has continued to be kept cleaned and sanitized.

"We will use guidelines from the American Alliance of Museums and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which prioritize health and safety measures that we will undertake as we plan for the museum's re-opening," said museum director Elizabeth A. Woody. "In the meantime I want to thank the public for their patience and understanding during this difficult time."

"Our Museum is more



Courtesy MAWS

Museum at Warm Springs lobby.

than a building," Ms. Woody said. "It represents decades of dedication to the preservation of the history, culture and heritage of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. We look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Museum soon."

In the event individuals

require an emergency sale in the museum's gift shop, such as ceremonial purchases, please call Elizabeth at 541-553-3331 ext. 401. For more information and updates, visit the website:

museumatwarmsprings.org

And the museum's Facebook page.

Schoolie Flat Boil water notice

As of earlier this week, the Schoolie Flat Boil Water notice was still in effect:

Loss of pressure - Schoolie Flat system: This notice applies to all residences and businesses in the Schoolie Flat area.

Boil your water for three minutes before using: Bring tap water to a rolling boil, boil for three minutes, and cool before using. Or use bottled water certified for sale by the Oregon Department of Health. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and preparing food. This applies until further notice—*Listen to KWSO 91.9 for updates.*

What happened: The Schoolie Flats water distribution system lost pressure due to excessive use of the potable water supply for livestock purposes. This hap-

pened in early May.

This has been an on-going issue for the Schoolie Flats water system—One that we have tried to mitigate in the past by informing residents in that area to only use the potable water supply for human consumption only.

With the small reservoir, it is already difficult to maintain an adequate supply for domestic use. The excessive use for livestock water surpassed the system's ability to maintain an adequate supply, causing a significant loss of pressure.

When water mains lose pressure, it increases the chance that untreated water and harmful microbes can enter your water.

Harmful microbes in drinking water can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms; and may pose a special risk for infants, some elderly, and people with severely compromised im-

mune systems. However, these symptoms are not just caused juts by the by microbes in drinking water: If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you should seek medical advice.

What is being done:

The Branch of Public Utilities water crew is running the booster pumps 24-7 to bring the reservoir levels back up to safe levels. On Monday afternoon of this week the anticipation was the return of adequate pressures within the next couple of days, at which time the BacT samples will be drawn and sent off to be tested.

Once the BacT samples meet the EPA requirements the Boil Water Notice will be lifted. For more information please contact Chico Holliday, Branch of Public Utilities, Water and Wastewater division, 541-553-3246.

Around Indian Country

Sioux checkpoints attempt to protect tribes

Sioux tribes in South Dakota have refused to remove coronavirus checkpoints they set up on roads which pass through their land.

The checkpoints are in response to a number of Covid-19 cases that have happened on the Sioux reservation lands, and the relative lack of health care to address the matter.

Meanwhile the governor of South Dakota has stated to the Sioux leaders that in the state's the checkpoints were illegal.

But the Sioux say they are the only way of making sure the virus does not enter their reservations.

Their limited healthcare facilities would not be able to cope with an outbreak, they have said.

The checkpoints have meant that outside people are only allowed to enter the



Courtesy

Oglasa Sioux Tribe reservation checkpoint.

reservations for essential business, if they have not travelled from a Covid-19 hotspot. Visitors must also complete a health questionnaire before doing so.

Gov. Noem of South Dakota is threatening to take the two tribes—the Oglala Sioux and the Cheyenne River Sioux tribes—to

federal court if they do not comply.

The chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, Harold Frazier, issued a statement in response to the governor, saying: "We will not apologise for being an island of safety in a sea of uncertainty and death."

"You continuing to inter-

fere in our efforts to do what science and facts dictate seriously undermine our ability to protect everyone on the reservation," he added. The situation facing the Sioux is not unusual across some parts of Indian, where the reservation populations can be underserved by health care.

Prisoner early release

PORTLAND — A judge last week said he would grant early release to a federal inmate who is eight months away from completing his 10-year sentence for sexually abusing five girls, because of the man's unusual vulnerability to contracting the coronavirus.

Harry Hintsala is 70, has kidney disease and must use a wheelchair, defense lawyer Stephen Sady said. He's being held at the Lompoc federal prison in California, where 105 inmates have tested positive and two have died, Sady added.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Barr opposed any early release, as did the guardian of one of the victims.

Navajo Covid-19 pandemic

The Navajo Department of Health in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, has reported more than 3,000 cases of Covid-19 for the Navajo Nation; and more than 100 deaths as result.

"We've lost more than 100 lives to this virus and we offer our condolences to all of the families who are grieving," said Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez. "And I want you to know that we're working around the clock to fight Covid-19."

The Nez-Lizer Administration is also stepping up its efforts to ensure that items donated to the Navajo Nation reach the most in need as quickly as possible. Since the Nez-Lizer Administration began food, water, and supply distributions, more than 4,300 families have received essential items to help them stay home and stay safe.