



Spilya Taimu

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Agency meeting Thursday

The Agency District will meet this Thursday evening, October 20 at the Longhouse. The purpose of the meeting, as called by the Agency District Tribal Council representatives, is to consider the position of the Wasco Chieftainship, and to hear the opinions of the Wasco and Agency District people.

The issue can be complicated, as demonstrated most recently during the time from 2010 to 2012, following the passing of atwai Chief Nelson Wallulatum, who had served for 50 years.

The Wasco Chieftainship was vacant during 2010-2012, as the Agency membership was determining how best to proceed. Following nine district meetings over the two years, the Agency consensus was to conduct a survey of the membership on how to proceed.

A majority of the people who responded to the survey said the matter should be put to a vote, which happened later in 2012.

The meaning of 'tribal custom' regarding the Chieftainship position can be a point of disagreement among some in the district. Chief Wallulatum did not have a sub-chief at the time of his passing. Chief Smith did name his sub-chief, Wissie Smith. The family held his sub-chieftainship ceremony in 2016. The significance of this would be a point for discussion during the Thursday evening district meeting.

The family of Wissie Smith wishes to outline their position on the matter in this edition of the Spilya Taimu, as shown on page 4.

A policy of the tribal media, regarding the filling of the elected positions on Council, is to present all candidates equally and in the same edition of the Spilya. This policy does not seem to apply to the situation at hand, as the Chieftainship position is not at this printing subject to a popular vote of the Agency membership.

Ballots are out for the Nov. election

The drop box sites opened today for the November 8 election ballots. Mailing is another and much more convenient method of casting a ballot. Mail-in ballots must be post-marked by the end of regular working hours on Tuesday, November 8.

Local, state and federal questions are on the November election. Local races include a Jefferson County Commission position. A local bond measure on the ballot is for the Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District, supported by property taxes within the district. The state Representative 57 position is on the ballot in an unopposed election, among several state and federal elected positions.

Upcoming work at Power & Water Enterprise

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises is in position to prosper, on behalf of the tribes, for the foreseeable future. A number of factors have aligned to create the interesting scenario.

First of all, Power and Water has the personnel on board with years of experience and insight to facilitate the progress. "Our team here is great, as set up by Jim," said Cathy Ehli, Power and Water general manager. Ms. Ehli has been with the enterprise since early this summer, following the retirement of long-time general manager Jim Manion, now serving on the Tribal Council.

Ms. Ehli mentions another factor that is coming into play, as Power and Water looks to the future: Oregon law now requires electricity power suppliers in the state to include at least 50-percent renewable power sources in their portfolios by the year 2040.

In addition to the hydro-power of the Pelton-Round Butte sys-

tem—co-owned by the tribes and PGE—Power and Water and the tribes for years have also considered expanding into solar power. The reservation has several sites—five identified in particular—that may serve as a profitable solar power field.

An obstacle with solar has been the cost of transmission from a potential field to the power grid. And this brings directly into play recent federal legislation, specifically the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. These laws could provide a funding source to address the transmission cost obstacle. Through all of these factors—the Power and Water team, the state renewables mandate, the new potential funding sources—"Sometimes in life, things just seem to line up," Ms. Ehli says.

And her own background is yet another consideration. Ehli comes to Power and Water from the Bonneville Power Administration,



Cathy Ehli at Power and Water

where she worked for about 30 years at their main office in Portland. She retired from the BPA early this year, and was looking for a new opportunity. Seeing the growth potential at Power and Water, she applied for the general manager position, coming on board last June.

At the BPA, Ehli was the executive vice president for corporate strategy, and vice president for transmission marketing and sales. Her education background

is in business. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Portland State University.

Foremost at Power and Water her responsibility is overseeing the tribes' interests in the three dams of the hydro system: The Pelton and Round Butte dams, and the wholly tribally-owned Re-Regulating dam.

This involves working with PGE to meet at all requirements of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to operate the dams, while maximizing the revenue to the tribes, and continuing to build on the fish passage components of the dams.

Keeping the dams operating as efficiently as possible will require major capital improvements coming up in the near future. Some of the improvements are very long-term involving, for instance, installation of large and specialized components.

See POWER & WATER on 2

A focus on mental health

The Warm Springs Native YouthLine is one of the more recent additions to the tribes' Prevention services. The youth help line, located at the Prevention building on campus, is a crisis and support hotline for teens, giving them an option to talk, text or chat with a peer about any issues they may be dealing with.

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden visited this month with Rosanna Jackson, who worked with Lines for Life to start the YouthLine for young indigenous people. At the office with Rosanna, and others with Prevention and the tribes, Sen. Wyden said he has a deeply personal interest in the YouthLine, and in the other mental health services that the tribes and Health and Human Services offer the membership.

"My brother was schizophrenic, and every night for years in the Wyden household, we would go to bed at night worried my brother was going to hurt himself," Sen. Wyden said. "If there is one issue I



D.McMechan/Spilya

Rosanna Jackson, Warm Springs YouthLine, talks with Sen. Ron Wyden at the YouthLine office, located at Prevention. Dan Martinez, Emergency Management, and others from the community, the tribes and Health and Human Services were on hand for the visit.

want to make a big difference on in the future, it is mental health."

The YouthLine is looking for young volunteers to help with answering calls. This involves training, and is conducted in a safe and secure way. Anyone interested can contact Rosanna at : rosanna@2linesforlife.org

During his visit to Warm Springs, Sen. Wyden also toured the Homeless to Independent Living facilities, located nearby on cam-

pus. The living facilities, including the showers and bathrooms, laundry room, food and storage lockers, are to help people transition from homeless to an independent living situation, explained Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services.

The Senator also visited Emergency Management, speaking with the team about their services such as water and food distribution, and response to emergency situations

like water outages. And he spoke with Darryl Scott about the resources available at Behavioral Health. Sen. Wyden asked Robert Brunoe, Secretary-Treasurer, what might be the single biggest need among the tribes. Mr. Brunoe mentioned economic development as a priority. And this involves the infrastructure work, such as water, that Sen. Wyden has helped the tribes with over the years.

New skatepark construction

A construction crew is at Elmer Quinn Park working on the new skatepark that will replace the previous wooden ramps. The new park will be constructed wholly of concrete.

The skatepark is a cooperative project involving a number of people and groups, both locally and from out of the area. Scott Koerner, of the Tac-

tics skate shop in Portland, first contacted the tribes about the idea. One of his skate team members is from Warm Springs, so Mr. Koerner became aware of the need. He has worked with Tribal Council and tribal Managed Care manager Michael Collins to get the project off the ground, as many others, for instance the Community Action Team, have come on board.



D.McMechan/Spilya

Skatepark construction this week at Elmer Quinn Park.

BOO BASH!
Costume Contest!
CASH PRIZES!
Saturday, Oct. 29TH

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

See Players' Club for details & times.

Indian Head Casino