



Spilyay Tymoo

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Resort impact concerns

The ground water situation in Central Oregon is concerning with the water level declining each year. In some places, such as in Deschutes County, the declines are a foot or more each year, and this has been happening for decades.

Each year more groundwater wells take more water for agriculture, residential and commercial purposes, while a changing climate condition in the region has seen declarations of drought for the past several years. And meanwhile, Central Oregon has the fastest growing population in the state.

A planned new destination resort, the Thornburgh project in Deschutes County, calls for close to 1,000 new homes around a golf course and man-made lake; and the project would rely on groundwater.

The groundwater of the Deschutes basin is a basic source of water for the river, allowing it to have a very stable stream water flow.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs hold the oldest or most senior right to water in the river, dating back to 1855. This applies both to water of the reservation and the ceded lands, including Deschutes County. The tribes rely on the Deschutes River for drinking water, fish and wildlife, the tribal culture and sovereignty.

Earlier this year, the Deschutes County Commission voted 2-1 in favor of a key step in the Thornburgh approval process. The Confederated Tribes appealed the decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

Issues include the impact on the water resource, tribal sovereignty and inclusion in regard the process.

The Land Use Board of Appeals board heard the oral arguments last week, and is expected to make a decision within the next several weeks.

The developer is proposing measures to mitigate the impact to the water, though the tribes and other opponents believe the consequences would be significant.

The tribes and also Natural Resources, for instance, have a long history of working with proposed new development to find reasonable solutions, said Robert Brunoe, secretary-treasurer and chief executive officer of the Confederated Tribes.

The Thornburgh project is different, he said; and the county commission decision to move forward at this time was very disappointing, leaving the land-use appeal the only option.

The county decision, he said, ignores the treaty, "the supreme law of the land," as stated in the United States Constitution.

Boost for WSCAT employment training

The Warm Springs Community Action Team received a large grant award this month to expand its career exploration, training and work program. The three-year \$870,056 grant will allow the Action Team to provide up to 20 paid internships per year, at up to 300 intern training hours each, said Sara Dowty, WSCAT technology workforce analyst.

The Community Action Team partners with companies

to provide the training for the community, Ms. Dowty said. A recent example is the company Nomadic Tipi Makers in Bend, which provided business and manufacturing training to members through WSCAT paid-internship program.

Traing opportunities with the Action Team also include Information Technology, or IT, such as with Go Google; and solar technology, among other fields. The solar training aspect comes at the right time, for example, as the tribes are con-

sidering the development of a solar power facility on the reservation. With the new grant, the training program can expand to include more people, and more aspects of the training such as lodging and transportation, and possibly child-care for a person who has a child or children and wants on-the-job training.

If you are interested in learning more about a training opportunity, write to sara@wscat.org

The Community Action Team

career, employment and training is one of three programs recently funded by Oregon Workforce Ready "to advance equitable education and training opportunities in technology careers, including solar technology, digital literacy and exploration; career-connected credential pathways in unmanned aircraft systems."

The \$870,056 WSCAT grant comes from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, through Oregon Workforce Ready.

First Youth Council takes office

The Tribal Council now hears from and works with the Tribal Youth Council on issues that are most important to the young people of the Confederated Tribes. "These young leaders will be used as a source to report on our young tribal members' priorities, and possible solutions," said Tribal Councilman Alvis Smith III.

Tribal Council wants to hear, "Not only our shortfalls but also the positive resources that we can use as a foundation to build upon," Councilman Smith said.

"These youth are an example of a successful process that we want to use to allow future investment," he said. Councilman Smith and Councilwoman Rosa Graybael are the delegates to the Youth Council, and help establish the program.

To recruit young people to serve on the Youth Council, they worked with teacher Ardis Smith Clark at the Warm Springs Academy; school district tribal liaison Mariah Stacona at the high school; and Wayne Miller at



Sandra Danzuka/CTWS Council Office

The Youth Council members: Dasan Begay, president (male); Keith Charley III, secretary; Arthur Miller, vice president; Charlene White, treasurer; Katelyn Tanewasha, communications director; and Kahmussa Green, president (female).

the tribal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity office.

Ardis shared the Youth Council idea with eighth-graders at the Academy; Mariah with the high school students, and Wayne with youth 18 to 24.

They held a nominating and elec-

tion day in October at the high school in-person, and on Zoom for the Academy and interested college students. Candidates shared their views on issues, and how they would approach the job. Students then voted, electing the six-member Youth Council. They are: Dasan

Begay, Keith Charley III, Kahmussa Green, Arthur Miller, Katelyn Tanewasha and Charlene White.

They took an Oath of Office in November at the Tribal Council, and then met for an introductory discussion.

See Youth Council on 10

Academy classroom addition takes shape

The new construction work is coming along at the Warm Springs Academy.

The framework, roofing, wall and floor work are in place, and the project is on schedule for completion later this school year.

The work is among the projects funded by the bond measure of the school district, passed by voters a few years ago. The new rooms will address the need for new classrooms for the growing number of Academy students.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay



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