

Spilyay Tymoo

(Coyote News)

News from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation

Gathering of Nations 2000 Featured Historical Performances



Photo by Lenora Starr

The Zuni Pueblo pictured were one of the 19 Pueblo Tribes to assemble together for a historical performance at the Gathering of Nations 2000 Pow-wow in New Mexico. It is the first time the 19 Pueblo Tribes have orchestrated a public performance. More on the Gathering of Nations Pow-wow in the next issue of the Spilyay Tymoo.

Madras gaming site offers revenue fix

A new gaming facility at Madras represents the best possible answer for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, as the Tribe faces projected revenue shortfalls in 2003 and beyond.

The Tribal Council has set May 23 for a vote of the people on a proposal to expand the Tribe's gaming program by developing a new casino on tribal trust land in the industrial area just north of Madras.

The proposal is aimed at adding an average of some \$9 million a year to the Tribe's revenue base to meet future costs of schools, security and other programs, and to secure Tribal sovereignty for future generations.

Tribal officials say the Madras proposal is based entirely on economic gain and on creating economic stability for the benefit of the Tribe.

Current projections of Tribal revenue over the next several years show fiscal problems beginning as early as 2001, when it's estimated total Tribal expenditures to meet current services will exceed anticipated revenues by \$3.2 million.

A spending cut would be required in that year to balance the budget, and in any year thereafter where a shortfall is experienced.

By 2002, the shortfall of revenue compared to spending needs will rise to \$7 million and remain at the level annually on average through 2007, the last year of current forecasts.

Annual total Tribal revenues are estimated to decline from \$29.6 million in the year 2000 to \$21.67 million in 2002, and reach a low over the next eight years of \$21.3 million in 2006.

Declining Tribal revenues from timber and hydro power are the cause for the developing shortfalls. Timber revenues will be reduced by 20% to maintain sustained harvest levels after 2002.

The Madras proposal represents a short-term response to the Tribe's

revenue concerns. An intermediate facility at Madras as seen as a first step toward a long-term strategy of assuring adequate annual Tribal revenues through expanded gaming.

A Madras facility would supplement the existing Indian Head casino at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, which serves primarily as an amenity to guests and is expected to maintain modest cash flow of \$2.5 million to \$3.5 million a year.

For the long term, a Warm Springs casino in the Mid-Columbia River area is the goal. This facility is estimated to bring the Tribe net annual cash several times greater than either Madras or the existing Indian Head casino at Kah-Nee-Ta Resort.

Oregon Governor Kitzhaber last year rejected the Tribe's plan for a Mid-Columbia casino at Cascade Locks. However, the Tribe plans to pursue this goal with a new administration in Salem.

Short-term options studied for meeting Tribal revenue shortfalls included a new facility on the reservation. According to estimates made for the Tribe by an independent economics firm, a new gaming facility anywhere on the reservation would produce only about half the net annual cash projected for a Madras casino, and potentially fail to close the gap on revenue shortfalls.

Tribal officials also say the investment necessary to develop a new casino on the reservation would be nearly as much as a Madras facility. An intermediate facility is likely to cost about \$25 million to build for either option. Site development at Madras may bring some added costs, estimated at several million dollars.

Gaming expansion at Madras is expected to capture the growing Central Oregon market along with increases from drive-by traffic on Highways 26 and 97. With approval of the people and cooperation from local city and county officials, a Madras facility could be open in two years, Tribal leaders predict.

Factors supporting a Finding of No Significance in the final project assessment of HeHe Butte

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Warm Springs Agency proposes conduct a salvage of timber and to rehabilitate the burned area resulting from the escaped fire in the HeHe Butte area of the Warm Springs Reservation.

Based on the Final Project Assessment, HeHe Timber Salvage (as amended) dated April 5th, 2000 as well as public comments gathered during the period of October 13 through November

24, 1999, we have determined that the proposed action does not pose a significant impact upon the human environment. Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement as cited under Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4223 (2)(c)) is therefore not required.

Factors supporting a Finding of No Significance:

*Install a four-strand barbed wire fence

around the 400-foot buffer along Badger Creek after harvest activities are completed. The fencing will occur on the east side of Hwy. 26 and the west side of Hwy. 25, upstream to the B-100 road.

*No encroachment into 400-foot buffer to retrieve salvage material will be allowed.

Salvageable trees within 100 feet of the edge of the 400-foot buffer will be marked with orange paint as leave trees.

This will help limit the temptation to enter this area for a large diameter tree. Entering the "no harvest" buffer zone was a problem during last winter/spring blowdown salvage.

*Cultural sites within harvest units will be buffered. The size of the buffer will depend on the size of the site. The buffers will be marked by the Cultural Resources staff.

*Additional large-diameter snags

outside the Natural Resource Zone, but within the burn area, will have to be left in order to meet IRMP standards requiring two snags per acre. Original location for leave settings such as in and around openings or along rimrocks will apply. Additional large downed logs may be required to meet IRMP standards within the resource zone as well.

*Cultural plant areas will be designated and protected in accordance with Culture and Heritage Committee recommendations.

*All roads used for access or haul will be ripped and seeded following harvest activity.

*Skid trails will be designated before logging activities occur. The soil scientists will be consulted on the location of all skid trails.

*Designated skid trails will be clearly marked for use in harvest operations.

*Low-impact shovel loaders will be used in moving logs to designated trails in areas where skidders will be confined.

*All skid trails will be ripped and

seeded following harvest activity.

*All disturbed lands (landings, skid trails and ripped roads) will be rehabilitated. A native-dominant seed mix will be utilized in the rehabilitation effort and will include bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and Sandberg's bluegrass. Straw mulch should be applied to skid trails, landings and rehabilitated road surfaces that have been seeded to help establish.

All BMP's (best management practices) and standards of the Integrated Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment-Forested Area adopted June 26, 1992 will be applied to protect the water and fisheries resources of the reservation.

This decision will be implemented after the expiration of 30 calendar days of the signing of this document.

Approval:
Gordon E. Cannon
Superintendent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Warm Springs Agency
April 24, 2000

Warm Springs to receive \$600,000 Grant to improve existing Wastewater treatment plant

At a national gathering of American Indian community leaders the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced nearly \$5.5 Million in grants and low interest loans to six Indian Country drinking water and sanitary sewer projects in five states, including Oregon.

A \$600,000 grant to improve an existing wastewater treatment plant at the Warm Springs community, in Warm Springs.

The proposed project will construct a .87 million-gallon-per-day treatment plant that would include preliminary treatment and pumping, secondary treatment with activated sludge and disinfecting with ultraviolet light. The project is expected to cost \$3,030,000, of which \$2,430,000 is expected to be leveraged from other loans and a grants not yet awarded.

The community is currently served by two wastewater treatment facilities. The largest is the Warm Springs wastewater treatment facility. This facility uses three lagoons that cover 9.5 acres. The facility treats about 380,000 gallons per day of wastewater and at times exceeds discharge limits proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The majority of funds announced come from a \$12 million safe and clean water grant fund for Indian Country fund created by Congress in October 1999, specifically for tribal communities. The fund resulted from an amendment to a spending bill offered by U.S. Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). The funds are targeted to federally recognized tribes and communities with majority Indian populations that are severely distressed economically, with very high unemployment rates, and critical water-related human and environmental health

problems.

"This much needed fund is a first," said John Romano, coordinator of the Clinton Administration's WATER 2000 safe drinking water initiative. "After years of requests by the President, the Congress to its credit has for the first time given USDA-Rural Development a source off funding dedicated specifically to American Indian Community needs."

Five of the recipients are tribes, the sixth, a non-tribal utility company (Ranall Community Water in South Dakota) will serve a customer base that is more than 50 percent Indian. The six include:

ARIZONA—\$450,000 grant to the Havasupai Tribe, located in a major side canyon of the Grand Canyon, for a drinking water project. This very re-

late, poor tribe has been flooded out on a regular basis, and has lived with serious drinking water quality problems.

ARIZONA—\$350,000 Grant for a drinking water project to the Spider Mound Community Utility Association of the Hope Reservation where USDA Rural Development and the Indian Health Service have been financing major water and sewer work over the past three years.

MAINE—\$500,000 grant to the Passamaquoddy Tribe for a wastewater treatment project. The funds will leverage \$55,000 from the Indian Health Service, and \$200,000 from the tribe. This is the second USDA investment in the tribe in two years.

MINNESOTA—\$600,000 grant,

combined with a \$70,000 low interest USDA Rural Development loan, to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewas for extending both water and sewer lines to remove an existing health hazard.

OREGON—\$600,000 Grant to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, for wastewater improvements. This will eventually leverage \$2.43 million in other funding for a \$3,030,000 project.

SOUTH DAKOTA—\$300,000 tribal set-aside grant for the Randall Community Water District, combined with another \$300,000 in grant and a \$1.3 million low interest loan from other USDA sources. More than 50 percent of the customers of this drinking water system will be American Indians on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

Museum requesting artifacts

The Museum At Warm Springs is considering the purchase of materials for the permanent collections. The Museum is requesting artifacts, photographs and documents related to the members of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to be brought to the Museum. Every item will be tagged with the owner's information and an in-coming loan form completed so that people have a record of what they leave for consideration. The Museum will evaluate materials this summer for possible purchase. If you have any questions, call the Museum Curator, Eraina Palmer or Director Mary Ellen Conaway at (541) 553-3331.

Reception set for June 11

This year The Museum At Warm Springs is presenting "Artist In 2000", the 7th Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit. The exhibition of this year's art will begin with an afternoon reception June 11, 2000 2 to 5 p.m. Open to the public and will run through September 3, 2000.

The Tribal Member Art Exhibit consists of an open ended array of art created by Warm Springs tribal members 18 years old and over. All entries will compete for two awards, Judge's Choice a prestigious award given to the most outstanding art submitted as selected by the judge. The Honorable Mention Awards go the judge's selection of outstanding work. The art submitted to the exhibit that are for sale will have the opportunity to be selected as Timber-

line Purchase Awards. These purchases are made by Richard L. Kohnstamm to provide financial incentive to artists to develop and pursue their art work. They will be for resale in the Timberline Lodge gift shop. The awards will be presented to the artists at the opening reception.

Please take note, the reception date has been changed from June 3rd to June 11th and the reception will be in the afternoon unlike past evening receptions.

The Museum At Warm Springs, 2181 Hwy. 26 is open 362 days a year from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For information on tours, workshops or the Art Exhibit call (541) 553-3331 and ask for Eraina Palmer and/or Jewell Minnick.

The Spilyay Tymoo (Coyote News) newspaper is having an art contest in search of a new look for the new millennium

Prizes will be awarded to the winner, which include:

One night at Kah-Nee-Ta, a shirt & cap donated by KNT \$100.00 cash donated by Warm Springs Forest Products \$10 gas donated by DMJ Automotive \$50 cash & gift certificate donated by Warm Springs Market and various other prizes.

The deadline for entries is May 30, 2000

Rules:

1. All rights to winning picture will belong to Spilyay Tymoo.
2. Artwork must pertain to Spilyay Tymoo (Coyote News).
3. Size of artwork is limited to 11x13 (horizontal).
4. Contest is open to the readership of Spilyay Tymoo.