



Spilyay Tymoo

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IHS planning \$1.5 million clinic expansion

The Indian Health Service in Warm Springs is planning to expand the Health and Wellness Clinic.

Expansion of the existing building would add 12 new examination rooms, and provide more space for health and wellness departments that are overcrowded.

The reason for the expansion

plan is simple, said Russ Alger, clinic director.

"When we opened in 1993, we had 29,000 outpatient visits per year," he said. "Now we have over 50,000 outpatient visits per year."

A clinic should have two examination rooms for each doctor and nurse practitioner, said Alger. Five doctors and

three nurse practitioners work at the clinic. This means that the clinic should have 16 exam rooms, but currently only has ten.

The planned expansion project will add 12 new exam rooms, providing space to accommodate growth from some time into the future, said Alger.

The clinic expansion has an

estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

The hope is that construction will happen this year, he said.

IHS is now in the final stage of choosing an architectural firm for the project, said Alger.

Comments from tribal members regarding the project are welcome, he said.

The expansion will add

5,260 square feet to the clinic.

This will involve the construction of a new building on the empty ground located behind the existing reception area.

The new building would be connected to the rest of the clinic through one or more corridors.

See CLINIC on page 2

Survey supports Gorge casino

About 270 tribal members responded to a survey regarding gaming expansion.

Of those who responded, approximately 90 percent are in favor of development of a Gorge casino, said Rudy Clements, tribal gaming spokesman.

In recent weeks, during a dozen or so family home-base meetings on gaming, the response has also been in favor of the Gorge, said Clements.

Many people who earlier were opposed to the Gorge idea are now supporters of the plan, he said.

People are eager to have the gaming expansion question put to a vote of the tribal membership. "The feeling is, Let's move forward with the referendum," said Clements.

Tribal members could see the referendum on gaming in early June, he said.

Sometime in the spring, the tribes are planning a ceremony at the Columbia Gorge to commemorate the tribes' return to the traditional homeland, said Clements.

This event, he said, will be coordinated among Tribal Council, Culture and Heritage, elders and other interested tribal members.

The ceremony will include the dedication of the tribes' property at the Gorge, said Clements.

The tribes own land near Hood River, and also own Government Rock near Cascade Locks.

New fire chief on the scene

Lynn Fluhr is chief of rural Sherman County district

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo staff

She is only 23 years old, but tribal member Lynn Fluhr has already achieved some unique goals in the field of fire-fighting and emergency response.

Recently, Fluhr became the first woman to serve as fire chief of the South Sherman County Rural Fire Protection District.

She is also the first tribal member to serve in the job, and most likely also the youngest person ever to hold this position.

The South Sherman County fire district is about 400 square miles in size, located just to the northeast of the Warm Springs Reservation.

South Sherman County is a rural area, with the largest town being Grass Valley, population 400.

The main station of the fire district is located in



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Tribal member Lynn Fluhr is new fire chief of the South Sherman County Rural Fire Protection District.

Grass Valley, which is also where Lynn and her husband Glenn live with their son

Zachary, age 3. The very small town of Kent has a station that also is part of the South

Sherman County fire district. The district has about 10 volunteer fire fighters. Fluhr said

she hopes to recruit more volunteers soon.

See FLUHR on page 3

Tribal tapestries brighten museum



The Tribal Tapestry exhibit at The Museum at Warm Springs will be on display through April 28. This exhibit features some of the beautiful beaded bags from the museum's private collection. The bag pictured above was acquired by the museum from Ada Sooksoit.

Council weighs river permit plan

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo staff

The lower Deschutes River, from Warm Springs downstream to the Columbia, sees a large volume of recreational rafting during the late spring, summer and early fall months.

During the course of the warmer months of the year, tens of thousands of rafters will float down the river.

The large volume of rafting traffic on the river has led river management agencies in recent years to consider the possibility of adopting a rafting permit system for the Deschutes.

The Tribal Council met last week to discuss this issue with Brian Cunningham, who represents the tribes on river issues, and Jim Noteboom, tribal attorney.

Tribal Council is scheduled to meet again on the subject next week with representatives of the federal and state agencies involved in management of the lower Deschutes.

A key point under consideration is whether a rafting permit system should be adopted for the Deschutes in the year 2003. No permit sys-

tem is being suggested for the current year.

River guides and representatives of the towns of Maupin and Madras have voiced opposition to a permit system for the Deschutes.

Tribal officials, and officials of federal and state managing agencies, have said that a permit system may be necessary to maintain the good qualities of the river.

The high volume of rafters can damage fish habitat along the banks of the river, said Chief Delvis Heath. Water quality is also effected.

Tribal Council Chairman Olney Patt Jr. said, "From the tribal perspective, this is a quality of life issue." It is no one's best interest, said Patt, to have an endless series of rafters floating down the river.

The idea for a permit system for the Deschutes goes back several years. The background is as follows:

In 1988, the federal government mandated that the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River be managed as wild and scenic.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the state of

"From the tribal perspective, this is a quality of life issue."

Olney Patt Jr.

Oregon, and the U.S. Department of Interior were named the primary managing agencies.

Then over the next few years, 11 federal, tribal, state and local government entities worked on the Lower Deschutes River Management Plan. A 9-member advisory group appointed by the governor also participated in development of the plan, adopted in 1993.

The 1993 management plan indicates the volume of rafting that would warrant the implementation of a permit system.

The permit system is to be implemented if voluntary re-

ductions in use of the river prove unsuccessful in meeting target levels.

River guides and local government officials have said voluntary measures have been successful in reducing traffic on the river. Guides and local government officials are also suggesting changing the target numbers of the 1993 plan, an idea that tribal officials are against.

Recently, the local governments have requested representation on the board overseeing implementation of the 1993 plan. The current representatives of this board are the Confederated Tribes, the state of Oregon, the BLM and the BIA, the entities that signed the management agreement.

Cunningham and Noteboom suggested that the local governments should not be included on the oversight board.

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Remember to change your clocks

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday morning, April 7, at 12 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks

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