

Essential education continued...

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Other goals include increasing student utilization of non-tribal higher education and vocational education funding sources resulting in serving more students with available tribal funds and maintaining education facilities to provide a safe, healthy and productive environment for children, employees and the community.

The biggest challenges facing the Essential Education Branch in the next few years, according to Director Quaid is the ability to continue delivery of quality education services with little cost to families and individuals.

Quaid said the reduction of tribal budget appropriations and the competition to receive state and federal grants will be a challenge. She went on to say that the influence of the information and technology age on educational systems demands constant program design, policy development and funding allocation in a time when funds and time are short.

"The cost of demand for essential services from a growing population of children, students and families will require elimination or reduction of some services," Quaid pointed out. She said that a problem with less funding is the gradual loss of key experienced personnel in the education system to Organizations with higher pay and less diverse job responsibilities. Lack of funding limits the ability of the branch to attract and retain enthusiastic employees due to low pay, noncompetitive benefits and annual downsizing threats.

A major success for the branch is the Family Resource Center. The center, housed in the old Health and Wellness Clinic, opened in 2001. The center was created to provide a place to deliver child, family, and educational information and resources in a friendly, informal environment. The center focuses its efforts on parent education, prevention and intervention, and women's health. The goal of the center is to provide learning through workshops, hands on activities, informal presentations, classes, and sharing among community members. The center is home to the Early Head Start program which is a home visitor program targeting new parents and infants under three years old. The program encourages developing of positive relationships between infants

and parents; parents and parents; and parents and the service provider.

Community partners providing high school credit recovery are the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council and Madras High School. A classroom in the Family Resource Center provides the opportunity to earn high school credit towards a high school diploma. Students are enrolled in the high school can earn up to six credits outside the Madras High School. The classroom provides a morning and afternoon session for up to twelve students per session.

The Family Resource Center will eventually be the home of the first public library in Warm Springs. Grant writing and partnerships are being developed to meet a June 1st opening.

The library hopes to become the literacy and information center with community Internet access and public access to an abundance of reading and research material. Community

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volunteers will be recruited to contribute to the success of this project.

Where are we with the new Warm Springs Elementary School? The School Project is in the Architect and Engineering selection phase.

The process includes preparation of the bid documents, posting the bid, responding to questions from potential firms, providing a bid conference and site tour, selecting finalists, interviewing finalists, visiting school projects the finalists designed, checking references, and finally requesting the best and final offer from two finalists.

The final selection will be made in early April. The selection com-

mittee met frequently and reported monthly to the Tribal Council. After the Architectural Firm is selected a contract will be negotiated and the programming phase will begin.

The programming phase will include gathering input from children, school staff, and the community regarding the design features necessary for a highly functional, efficient, and safe school.

The ideas and recommendations will be considered based on cost effectiveness, conduciveness to learning, and alignment with school construction building codes, and related elementary school standards. In the meantime, a legal document is in draft form that will detail the financial obligations of the Tribe and the Jefferson County School District.

In addition, it details the role and responsibilities of each partner in the completion of the project.

Due to the State's massive budget reductions and rippling effect on the local school district's revenue forecasting, the agreement is delayed until it can be determined that adequate funds are available from basic school support funds to meet the District's

financial obligation to both existing school operations and new school debt. The delay means that the entire project is behind the desired projected timeline leading to a Fall 2003 opening. The timeline will be adjusted in the Architectural Design phase and made public as progress is made.

After the Tribal Council and Jefferson County School Board sign the financial agreement, the low interest loan application will be submitted for \$8 million.

Future plans include preparation for selection of a construction firm; soil testing; and continual work on the school's design. Despite the recession and economic downturn, progress is being made on the school.

The unforeseen state budget reduction and dismal revenue forecast for the next twelve months has taken its toll on an otherwise aggressive project. The good news is that a new elementary school is in the future and the joint partnership on the project between the Jefferson County School District and the Confederated Tribes is unique in American public education.



Letter from the S-T

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- A tribal construction enterprise charter was adopted.
- A Warm Springs Development Corporation Charter was adopted and a board of directors was appointed.
- A 10-year financial strategy and the 2001 tribal budget were approved.
- A 401K provision for the tribal employee pension plan was adopted.
- A settlement proposal for the McQuinn timber mismanagement claim was negotiated and an appeal to the Federal Appeals Court was successfully argued.
- A sum of \$450,000 was secured from the Ramah contract support claim.
- The Simnasho Store was funded and constructed.
- Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Indian Head Casino were merged.
- A \$250,000 fund was established to assist tribal members affected by layoffs at Warm Springs



Charles Jackson, S-T

Forest Products Industries.

The 21st Tribal Council was among the most active and productive in the Confederated Tribes' history, but much remains to be done.

Tribal Council officers are committed to working with the tribal government and enterprises as well as the community to help Tribal Council accomplish their goals. Working together and with the support and assistance of the membership, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish.

Letter from the Chief Operations Officer

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The concept of a community library, community health education resources and other support services are ample evidence that indeed the strengths of the facility are the intended services the community will receive.

Completion of the Sunnyside expansion housing subdivision in 2001 allowed the tribes to add another housing subdivision, and recognize a small but significant gain in its efforts to resolve housing issues on the reservation. The completion of the Warm Springs community wastewater treatment facility in that same year provided the tribes the capacity to respond to growing population demands.

Year 2000 capital projects, such as the Simnasho wastewater facility and automation of the Warm Springs community water treatment facility, and 2001 projects are examples of efforts whose objectives were to improve community infrastructure and provide the Confederated Tribes the capability to address increasing demands well into the second decade of the 21st Century.

Obviously, large undertakings such as these required the collaborative efforts with the Tribal Construction Enterprise, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services.

The retirement of long-time tribal employee Satish Puree as the project engineer in early 2001 has had wide ranging impacts to the overall tribal efforts in the capital projects arena.

Replacing the talent he brought to the tribes has proven to be a challenge. Mold, specifically a variety commonly referred to as black mold, was discovered in two tribal buildings and will continue to demand tribal resources be allocated towards prevention, abatement and monitoring efforts for all tribal buildings in the coming years.

Training of carpentry apprentices, initiated some years ago by tribal member Marcia Soliz, bore fruits as two apprentices neared the completion of their four-year apprenticeship program. This exemplary program was just one of the innovative programs designed and nurtured by Ms. Soliz in the years she served as the director of the Workforce Development Department. It is through these types of initiatives the capacity of the tribes and its members will be enhanced, so that we might meet many of the challenges confronting the reservation at some point in our future.

The Language Program continued to strive in its efforts to ensure tribal languages are not lost.

The language teachers were brought to full-time employees, after years of being part time employees. The basis for the change was to allow the program to meet the growing demand to teach more classes at the Warm Springs Elementary School and in the community. In the coming years the program will be seeking additional tribal members to enhance its staff numbers as the need continues to grow.

While it remains critical to invest in our youth, we should not ignore the fact that children do not live alone in this world and indeed need family and community support and direction to reach their full potential.

Another glowing accomplishment was the collaborative effort of the Language Program staff, Governmental Affairs Department and the Tribal Council, which resulted in the passage of SB 690 - The Language Bill by the Oregon State Legislature. Efforts directed by Adult & Community Education Director Wendell Jim have led to the 2020 Partnership with Washington State University and a published comprehensive planning document for food systems education, including traditional first foods. Emphasizing the priority of retention of tribal traditions and culture, the Tribal Council approved the Traditional Leave Personnel Policy.

Tribal land acquisitions of the Wagner Ranch and Clowers property, in tribal ceded land, utilizing Bonneville Power Administration funds, continue to position the Tribes to effectively assert our treaty rights in our usual and accustomed places. Once again the tribes, through the work of the Natural Resources, are

at the national forefront as being among the first tribal nations to establish its own water quality standard. The tribes were definitely the first tribe in the state to do so.

In the summer of 2001, the Natural Resources Branch and tribes honored the efforts of the late Eugene "Cougar" Greene for his life long commitment to the protection of tribal treaty rights and preservation of tribal natural resources. The new Natural Resources administration building was named after Mr. Greene.

Certainly, at least for the past two decades, much has been said about our youth being the tribes most important resource.

The complexity of the issues challenging our youth are not that different from the challenges faced by previous generations of reservation youth, especially in how those challenges were innately connected to the challenges other segments of the tribal member population have encountered during that same period of time.

That was true generations ago and remains true today.

While it remains critical to invest in our youth, we should not ignore the fact that children do not live alone in this world and indeed need family and community support and direction to reach their full potential. The problem is not so much knowing what we need to do but how.

The inception of the Boys and Girls Club is one small step towards that goal. The opening of the Family

Resource Center and the partnership with the school district to construct a new elementary school, in conjunction with various collaborative efforts with community groups are excellent examples of how we could partner up and work together to resolve issues we are confronted with.

I recognize these efforts by themselves will not get us to where we need or want to be.

The family is and will always be the most effective resource for teaching our youth, especially at the early stages of life.

To that end, the work of the Youth Development Team, whose mandate was to create advancement towards this Tribal Council priority, has played a part in the increased numbers of tribal youth graduating from high school and enrolling in college.

The completion of the review of the Child Protection System, comprised of the Tribal Court, Public Safety and Children's Protective Services will provide the tribes an opportunity to make necessary change in our child welfare systems in the coming years.

Noting that as we continue to evolve as a people and community our work will never be totally completed and in that sense we, the tribal staff from the operations side of tribal government, pray that our efforts and collaboration with community members have in some small way moved the tribe closer to the vision of a fervent and prosperous Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.