

Commercial code gains momentum

By Shannon Keaveny
Spilyay Tymoo

A local planning group is preparing a two-day workshop promoting a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) on the Warm Springs Reservation for late September or early October, said Shawnele Shaw, community advocate for the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

Tribal Council will attend. The workshop will allow Tribal Council to address concerns about a UCC from the community perspective.

The Council will assess internal changes in other departments on the reservation.

For example, a UCC would require changes in the Warm Springs court system.

"The Council is taking a serious and responsible approach

"I think a UCC is an exercise of our sovereignty because legal actions will be able to take place on the reservation in our court system."

Shawnele Shaw
WSCAT

to the viability of this idea," said Shaw.

A UCC on the reservation would promote economic development by creating a uniform set of standards that would provide outside lenders legal protection.

"UCC is the cornerstone for business. Right now outside home lenders are not lending to Native Americans," said Bruce Engel, from the Warm Springs loan department.

One advantage of a UCC would be that tribal members would be able to obtain loans to purchase cars and homes easier. Engel said there are off-reservation government home loans that offer interest rates below five percent, the rate on the reservation, for low-income families.

A UCC would open up the reservation to more government low-income home loan opportunities and save families money, he explained.

"For example, on a \$50,000 housing loan from the tribes, a person pays about \$268 per month at a five percent interest rate. With access to this particular government program with an interest rate at one percent, about \$100 a month could be saved," said Engel.

Also, tribal entrepreneurs could receive outside loans over

\$200,000, the current tribal loan limit.

The code would open up the community to basic services like a bank too, said Shaw.

Community members could have more services in the Warm Springs community and limit trips to Madras.

According to Shaw, US Bank has already expressed interest in opening a branch on the reservation but backed out when representatives found out Warm Springs did not have a UCC.

Outside businesses often require a UCC before opening a location on a reservation.

Currently, outside lenders hesitate to invest in businesses or homes on reservation lands because they fear lack of legal recourse on the reservation. Sometimes limited waivers of sovereignty are granted to outside lenders, as in the case of a

casino.

Since last April tribal attorneys have been reviewing community input, the impact on local businesses and the impact on the tribes' sovereignty.

One major concern with UCC is that the tribes' would compromise their sovereignty for commercial interests.

But Shaw sees a UCC on the reservation as having the opposite effect.

"I think a UCC is an exercise of our sovereignty because legal actions will be able to take place on the reservation in our court system. Instead of forcing us off the reservation into another nation, we can have a legitimate court on the reservation," she said.

And Engel claims the reservation already does not have full sovereignty. He used the aforementioned contract with the

state and the casino as an example.

Community supporters have already said they would like the Warm Springs UCC implemented in parts, because the code is so large.

Implementing the code in parts over time would minimize changes in the community and allow tribal members to adjust. Tribal attorneys have already drafted a rough version of a Warm Springs UCC.

If a UCC is implemented, Warm Springs Reservation will be the first reservation to do so in the state of Oregon.

Creating a UCC on reservations is a growing movement in the United States. Reservations with strong community and financial planning have benefited economically with a UCC, said Shaw.

Quilt classes teach skills for life



Eraina Palmer demonstrates how to cut fabric for a quillow.

Eraina Palmer, owner of Quilts and More, is featuring a series of late summer quilt making classes at her store.

Her store is located at the Plaza at Warm Springs. "A lot of people inquire on how to make quilts. There is an especially strong interest in young people," said Palmer.

Palmer's goal is to teach young people a skill she says they will use all their lives.

"My payment is seeing their excitement when they finish a quilt," she said.

Thirty years ago Palmer learned how to make quilts in class with Eleanor Burns, author of "Quilt in a Day."

"After that I was hooked on quilting," she explained.

Owning a quilt store and teaching classes was the realization of a 25 year-old dream for Palmer.

Classes will include how to make quillows and various quilt sewing styles, including the Irish Chain style, and Log Cabin style.

For class times, see the calendar on page 2.

To register, call 553-1460.

New tribal substance abuse center to open in Portland

Oregon Health and Science University plans to open a new center aimed at finding remedies for the high levels of drug and alcohol addiction among Native Americans in the United States. It will be funded by a \$3 million federal grant.

"One Sky Center" will look at information from many drug and alcohol treatment programs working with Native Americans. From this information, officials will decide which method has proven to be the most effective for treating substance abuse.

The center will also continue OHSU's efforts to recruit Native Americans into existing health programs.

The \$3 million grant will be

distributed over a period of 3 years to first establish the One Sky Center and hire sufficient staff.

OHSU's proposal was chosen over 27 possible recipients that tried to get funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The university plans on building the center in the South Waterfront district in Portland.

Drug and alcohol abuse is a serious problem for Native communities across the United States. Alcohol rates are six times higher among Native Americans than the U.S. average, and drug abuse rates are at least four times higher.

Museum internship offers collegueship to youth

In its first year, the Museum at Warm Springs internship not only succeeded but raised funds to continue the program for the next 3 years.

Intern Levi Blackwolf is no stranger to the museum.

It was his previous beadwork and sewing exhibits at the Museum at Warm Springs that led Education Coordinator Rosalind Sampson to ask Blackwolf to be the museum's first intern this summer.

"I used to come here and exhibit my work and then answer questions the visitors would have," says Blackwolf.

A Warm Springs native, 28 year-old Blackwolf spends the school year in Vancouver, WA, studying computer program-



Levi Blackwolf on the museum grounds. Behind him is the teepee he painted as part of his internship.

ming at Clark Community Col-

lege.

In his spare time, he is a traditional artisan.

"I like beading horses," Blackwolf says.

His beaded horses usually are sewn onto pow-wow outfits or used for neckpieces. He also dabbles in painting and wood-carving.

It's his creative side and interest in traditional crafts that makes him a perfect candidate for the internship.

Now, as an intern, he provides friendly greetings

to tour groups and guides them

through the museum.

Blackwolf, although a tribal member, claims he's learning just like the tourists.

"I probably know about 70 percent of the information in the museum and continue learning more every time I give a tour," he says.

Blackwolf's continued interest in his own culture has been sparked by the internship.

"I got a language dictionary about all our traditional foods. There are a lot of opportunities to learn here," says Blackwolf.

Recently the intern painted a teepee on the museum's grounds for the Huckleberry Harvest.

His enthusiasm and background are just what museum Director Carol Leone envisioned when she spearheaded the internship program.

"The internship is designed to

treat the intern like a colleague of the museum and stimulate creativity in the museum. There should be room for the intern to bring in their cultural ideas, while being exposed to other cultures from around the world," says Leone.

Leone modeled the internship after her previous experience with a Southwestern reservation museum.

"At my previous job, the internship program was a really positive experience for all of us," says Leone.

Blackwolf says he'd like to come back and work at the museum after college.

This year the position was funded by a grant.

But recently at the museum's Huckleberry Harvest, over \$8,000 were raised to fund the summer internship for at least the next three years.

Club's future at recreation center discussed

The Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club will stay under one umbrella with the recreational center at least for now, said Austin Greene, director of the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center.

A meeting was held last week at the recreational center to discuss the future of the Boys and Girls Club at the center. About 30 community members attended.

Greene said the purpose of the meeting was to hear the community's input on whether or not the center and club should be merged.

Attendees also shared ideas on improvements. A need for more safety and cultural activities were among the suggestions.

Also, eliminating fees for youth participants was discussed.

New espresso hut opens

Customers can pick up a steaming latte or ice-cold espresso drink next time they are pumping gas at the Texaco.

Last Thursday tribal member Jodel Johnson opened a drive-thru espresso hut next to the gas station on Highway 26.

"The location is a great stop for a business," said Johnson.

At the hut's location, highway drivers not only stop to get gas, but use the restroom and get a snack.

Johnson hopes to capitalize on the traffic.

In addition to hot or cold espresso drinks, Joe's Coffee Corral will be serving jet teas, Italian sodas, steamers, bagels, muffins and English muffins. In the next month or two, Johnson hopes to offer daily lunch specials.

"We'd like to do a soup and

sandwich special," said Johnson.

Even sooner, the hut will be cooking Figaro pizzas to sell by the slice in the gas station.

Johnson has wanted to open an espresso hut on the reservation for 5 or 6 years.

She first had the idea when she was attending college in Bend. Each day Johnson picked up an espresso drink on her early morning ride to class.

"I lived on espresso in college," she said.

It was in this time she learned to appreciate a good cup of coffee.

At her own business, Johnson pays special attention to the freshness of the coffee, and acknowledges that aroma is an important part of the taste.

In her training classes, she learned to use coffee grounds right away and never steam milk

higher than 160 degrees. Johnson buys her coffee from the Sun River Coffee Co. in Bend.

"I have to pay a little more but its worth it because the company is located so close, the quality is high, and the coffee is always fresh," she says.

The time was right for Johnson to start a new business after recently being laid off at the mill.

Without a job, Johnson felt the pressure to start her business and received plenty of support from her family. Her parents purchased the building and her husband remodeled it. Now that it's open, her daughter takes on daily shifts.

"It's scary but I like being my own boss," said Johnson.

The hut is open Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Warm Springs receives Ford Foundation grant

Due to the efforts of the Warm Springs Community Action Team, the Ford Family Foundation has chosen Warm Springs to be the recipient of a \$10,000 grant for leadership training.

The foundation grants money to rural communities that have limited resources.

It focuses on the leadership from a rural community's own

people and the abilities the community has to offer.

A group is formed and the community is allowed to execute their own project.

Although Warm Springs was chosen, the foundation included Madras after acknowledging the need to enhance opportunities as a joint community between Warm Springs and Madras.

Radio language lessons to be shorter, more frequent

Beginning in September radio language lessons will be aired every hour.

"It will most likely be a phrase or quick saying," said Tim Finch, computer programmer at the language center.

On the weekends longer les-

sons for 15 to 20 minutes of each Native language will be aired. The language program supports the new radio format.

"Shorter phrases will be easier to pick up and remember, especially if they are useful and practical," said Finch.

Wild horse race to gallop here

The Extreme Wild Horse Race Challenge will be held Sat., Sept. 27 in Warm Springs.

The race is open to everyone, but there is a 32 team limit.

Entries will be open Sept. 15 and Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Entry fees are \$250 per team plus a \$25 administration fee for each team.

Awards will be given for first to third place. Awards include the Top Mudder Award, Top Rider Award, and Fast Time Award. There is a \$2,000 added purse.

Some additional activities will be the Youth Wild Colt Race and Women's Calf Scramble for cash.

For more information call Sammy at (541) 553-1856 or Alfredine at (541) 553-0442.