

Spilyay Tymoo

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Bear Drive construction to start soon

The long-awaited Bear Drive housing project is back on track. When complete, the project will add 25 new housing units to the reservation.

The Bear Drive development is federally funded through Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and was first proposed in 2002.

Some of the preparation work - development of the Bear Drive roadway, for instance - was completed, but then the project hit a roadblock.

As a condition of qualifying for the federal funds, HUD required an environmental assessment, which was not complete. HUD then put a stop to the project.

Warm Springs Housing was without a permanent and full-time director for a time, and the Bear Drive development stalled.

Recently, though, the project was revived, and a construction contract should be signed soon, said Satch Miller, acting Housing director.

Miller said he hopes to see the construction crews doing some of the home foundation work by the end of this month.

The tribes have hired the construction company TomCo of Spokane for most of the Bear Drive work. TomCo is an Indian-owned company, said Miller.

TomCo will be building 20 of the 25 units, and a Workforce Development crew will be doing five of the units, he said.

The WEDD aspect of the job is through an apprentice-training program, whereby tribal members gain building experience.

There is a long waiting list for housing on the reservation, so the units will be occupied as soon as they are complete.

The future occupants are those at the top of the waiting list, in other words those who have been on the list for the longest period of time.

Dam spill plan again rejected

(AP) - A federal appeals court has upheld a ruling that blocked Bonneville Power Administration plans to reduce the amount of water spilled this month over Columbia and Snake river dams to aid salmon migration.

The Army Corps of Engineers had asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to overturn the order issued last month, just days before Bonneville planned to cut back on the spills in order to generate more electricity.

The corps and Bonneville said they were trying to balance conservation with Western power demands by reducing spill.

U.S. District Judge James Redden, however, ruled July 28 in Portland that the long-term environmental health of the region outweighed the short-term economic benefits of increased hydroelectricity production this summer.

The 9th Circuit decision was announced Friday by environmentalists who had sued Bonneville and the corps to prevent any spill reductions.

Indian tribes of the Columbia River, and Gov. Ted Kulongoski, were opposed to the spill reduction plan. The two federal agencies, along with NOAA Fisheries, had reviewed the spill reduction plans, finding that its impact on endangered salmon would be minimal.

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Resort names new general manager

The Warm Springs Tribal Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors has selected Garland Brunoe as general manager of Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

Brunoe is a current Tribal Council member, and director of the tribes' Compensation and Benefits managed care program. In the past, Brunoe also served as a general manager of Kah-Nee-Ta.

He is planning to begin work as Kah-Nee-Ta general manager in September, after he resigns from Tribal Council and from his position as managed care director.

Brunoe also serves as an advisor to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Services national budget committee. He will resign from these positions as well, after beginning work at Kah-Nee-Ta.

As general manager, Brunoe will be responsible for all operations relating to the 130-room resort and casino. Kah-Nee-Ta has an annual budget of \$7 million.

Jeff Ford, who has been with Kah-Nee-Ta for eight years, will continue serving as resort general manager until



Garland Brunoe

Brunoe comes on board.

Ford will then begin serving in a new position, that of chief executive officer and chief operations officer of the Warm Springs Gaming enterprise. He will have overall responsibility of the enterprise, in addition to the siting, construction and operation of a tribal casino at the Columbia River Gorge. Brunoe will report to the gaming enterprise board through Ford.

In making the announcement that Brunoe will be the new general manager of Kah-Nee-Ta, gaming enterprise chairman Warren R. Clements, said:

"As a tribal Leader and accomplished manager, he brings the right combination of management expertise and cultural sensitivity. Garland will prepare Kah-Nee-Ta for the transition away from a gaming emphasis, as we develop our resort and casino, and transfer our single casino to our traditional lands along the Columbia River."

Brunoe commented, "I'm delighted to be back at Kah-Nee-Ta at such an exciting time of transition. I look forward to working with Jeff and the board of directors of the enterprise."



Johnny Smith cleans his horse's hooves before riding.

Rockin' 4-H rides again

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

It's seven o'clock in the evening at the rodeo arena. Young people on horseback are learning the skills needed for cattle ranching. First you need expert control of the horse, and a good roping technique.

Most of the young people here already are good riders, because they grew up around horses. But there is always more to learn, because the goals are high for this group of riders. In the end they want to have a working and profitable cattle operation.

The group is the Warm Springs Rockin' 4-H Club. The name is familiar to many, as the club has a long history, dating back to 1957.

For years Rockin' 4-H was a thriving club. The members worked a 1,000-plus acre cattle operation at two pastures on the reservation. Then about 15 years ago the club disappeared, a victim of lost interest. And the pastures fell into disuse.

That is changing now, as the Rockin' 4-H Club again has strong membership and leadership. And the club members are getting ready for the time when cattle will again graze and grow large on the 4-H pastures. The goal is to have cattle on the pastures by this fall.

How this came about involves a fortunate set of circumstances, and generosity and inspiration from many people. "There is a strong desire in this community to help kids, and the kids are responding to that," said Chris

Buller, Rockin' 4-H Club leader.

Buller is the youth minister at the Methodist Church in Madras. He and his wife and children moved to Central Oregon last year from Idaho.

After moving here he soon realized he could be of help to young people on the reservation. It would be a way of giving something back, in part for a good deed that an Indian had done for Buller years ago.

"In the summer of my seventh-grade year I went to work in North Dakota," Buller said. "The man next door trained horses. He was 72 and knew all the tricks." Buller ended up riding and working for the neighbor, a Northern Cheyenne, Lakota and Crow Indian.

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More chemicals found in salmon

(AP) - Traces of industrial-strength fire retardant have turned up in wild and farm-raised salmon, a study released last week said.

The research, published in the journal Environment Science and Technology, was the latest blow to the nutritious reputation of salmon, which is packed with heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids. A prior study by the same researchers recently found troubling levels of PCBs, a known carcinogen, in farm-raised salmon.

On average, wild fish were less contaminated with the fire retardant chemicals than farmed salmon, with two exceptions: Chinook from Oregon and British Columbia, which tested at more than 2 parts per billion and 4 parts per billion, respectively.

The toxicity of the chemicals, called polybrominated diphenyl ethers or PBDEs, isn't fully understood. But the fish-contamination study concerns health officials and environmentalists.

"The bottom line here is pointing out ... we have a problem with PBDEs," said Rob Duff, director of the Washington Health Department's Office of Environmental Health Assessment. "The levels are getting up there."

PBDEs can harm neurological development and function in babies and young children - just like mercury and PCBs, Duff said. People will generally be protected from the retardants if they follow federal and state dietary guidelines for mercury and PCBs, he said.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, have been banned for decades, but PBDEs are still in production around the world. Bans in Europe, California and Maine will kick in over the next few years, and U.S. manufacturers voluntarily are stopping production of some forms of the fire retardant.

For now, though, PBDEs are still being added to a long list of common household and workplace items - from computers and other electronic gear to foam seat cushions and synthetic fabrics.

The researchers analyzed two tons of salmon caught in the Pacific Northwest, Europe, Canada, the East Coast and Chile. They used the same fish in their PCB and PBDE studies.

Besides Chinook, other Washington state wild salmon - coho, chum, sockeye and pink - generally had lower levels of the fire retardant than their farmed counterparts, according to the study.

Among the farm-raised salmon tested, Washington fish were the least contaminated, with concentrations of the chemicals at slightly more than 1 part per billion.

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