

Site chosen for computer center

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs' proposed community telecommunications center, which will give Warm Springs residents free computer access when it's completed in 2005, now has a location.

The Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs passed a resolution to allow Eagle-Tech Systems a location in a lot east of the Warm Springs Courts building and north of the Warm Springs Police Department.

A vacant and condemned house currently sits on the lot, located at 2124 Warm Springs Street.

Lloyd Phillips, general manager of Eagle Tech Systems, said that the telecommunications center, which will have around 20 computers available for local residents to use free of charge, may not be available by June, as had been planned, pending availability of a site. But it will be open in 2005.

"I'd like to break ground within three months, and it would be nice if it were open by June," he said. "But things would have to move incredibly fast to open by June."

"It will open next year. It's just a matter of when next year."

The building is expected to be around 2,224 square feet, and Phillips said the site was Eagle Tech Systems' first choice.

"I think it's a nice central location," he said. Phillips received news of the tribal resolution at the Tribal Council's meeting Dec. 15. He said he got the sense that the council was "enthused" about the center's proposed location and its orientation toward youth.

"They liked the location because it was central to downtown and away from U.S. 26," he said.

The telecommunications center, when finished, will be the first structure in Warm Springs' downtown, which includes converting houses on Warm Springs Street west of the courthouse into a commercial retail center as the houses become vacant.

Mike Clements, general manager of Business and Economic Development at Warm Springs, said the house at 2124 Warm Springs will be demolished but not until after the new year.

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Winners named in coloring contest

Ada Polk-Lopez, 11, and Trent Heath Ageilo, 10, both of Warm Springs Elementary School, are the top prize winners of the Spilyay Holiday Coloring Contest. Ada wins a five-foot tall bear from Black Bear Diner, and Trent wins a remote control truck from Les Schwab Tire Center.

Other winners are Kirsten L. Holliday, 8, of Warm Springs Elementary; and Damon (last name not mentioned on the entry form) of Jefferson County Middle School. They win Wrangler jeans from Ag West.

LeVaghn Kirk, 8, of Madras Elementary, wins a pizza from Abby's Pizza.

Leslee Henderson, 11, of Jefferson County Middle School, wins two ice creams from the Madras Coffee Station. And Patricia VanPelt, 11, wins two hot chocolates from the Coffee Station.

Winners can come by the Spilyay to get their prizes. Thank-you sponsors!

Skate park opening in Warm Springs

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

A skate park is opening just in time for Christmas at Elmer Quinn Park in Warm Springs. The skate park will include quarter-pipe wedges, launch wedges, grind-rail, fun-box and other skateboarding ramps.

Cost of the park is about \$100,000. Basic rules are as follows:

The park will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. All skaters have to wear helmets and pads. No alcohol, drugs or tobacco. Skate at your own risk. Rollerblades and skateboards only: No bikes allowed because they can mar the surface when they fall.

The idea for the Warm Springs skate park began about three years ago. A group met and discussed how the park would give young people something more to do. The main issue was money.

Then Social Services was able to secure funds through the tribes' Diabetes Grant program. This money would pay

for equipment, such as the ramps, but not construction, meaning the underlying concrete slab.

Last March the financing came together for the slab, which cost about \$30,000. Community members, including youth, then got together and discussed what they would like to see at the park. The design is based on the community input, including discussion with about 250 young people, said Jim Quaid, manager of Social Services.

The concrete slab went in about six weeks ago. Then this week a company from California put in the ramps and other equipment.

Dedication of the park was scheduled for Wednesday of this week. In other youth activity news:

Work is continuing on the remodel of the VFW-Ladies Auxiliary building on Hollywood Boulevard.

The group Extraordinary Young People is remodeling the building into a youth center and small restaurant.



Workers from skate park developers Spohn Ranch Inc., of Calif., built the Warm Springs skate park earlier this week.

VFW-Ladies Auxiliary will share the building with the youth club.

The building will be extensively remodeled, with the plan being to open the youth center in March 2005. Along with the small restaurant the youth cen-

ter will include a study room, and a game room with DJ booth. Jerry Jacoban, district manager of Extraordinary Young People, was working on the building this week.

Bridge of the Gods Casino Tribes and state are close to a decision on the Gorge site

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Confederated Tribes and the state of Oregon are close to concluding their negotiation toward a new casino for the tribes. Specific terms of the potential agreement are almost final.

"We're very close to completing the compact for final review by the Tribal Council and the governor," said Rudy Clements, tribal gaming spokesman. "The negotiating teams are working diligently."

The hope is to have a draft compact complete by the end of the month, and then have the proposed agreement

to the governor in January. "What we're doing now is responding to each other's issues and concerns," said Clements.

While specific terms of the proposed compact are still being worked out, some things are known. Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Casino, for instance, will take on a new role for the tribes once the new casino opens at the Gorge.

The new casino - called Bridge of the Gods - will open a number of years from now; so no immediate change is planned at Kah-Nee-Ta. However, the Confederated Tribes will not have two slot-machine type casinos, and Indian Head will no longer be a casino.

How exactly the tribes will continue

operating Kah-Nee-Ta is now under consideration. There are many opportunities at Kah-Nee-Ta that in the long run could benefit the tribes culturally and through tribal member employment, said Clements.

The name Bridge of the Gods came from tribal members, during community discussion over the past year. Bridge of the Gods has various meanings.

The term is used in reference to a catastrophic geological event - the damming of the river by a landslide - centuries ago at the Columbia. The event and the name also have significance in legends of the Columbia River tribes.

A strong majority of tribal members were in favor of this name, said Clements.

The plan is to build the Bridge of the Gods Casino at Cascade Locks. The site "is in an industrial park where the community wants this development to occur," said Len Bergstein, a negotiator for the tribes. Also, said Bergstein, the law establishing the Columbia Gorge scenic area anticipates development at the site, within specified areas within the city limits.

Ralph Esgard, mayor of Cascade Locks, said the town is anxious for construction to begin.

Sheep making selves at home up north

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Most of the 15 California mountain sheep are making themselves at home somewhere in the Mutton Mountains on the northeast corner of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

One, though, appears to be out exploring about 10 miles from where it was dropped off nearly three weeks ago.

For the first time since the sheep were transported to Eagle Creek Canyon on the reservation from the lower John Day River area Dec. 4, 10 of the sheep fitted with collars with radio transmitters had been spotted in a telemetry flight over the area Monday.

While 10 of the sheep wear the so-called radio collars, the other five had ear tags placed on them so they may be visually spotted, even from the air.

Doug Calvin, a wildlife conservation officer for Warm Springs Natural Resources Branch, said most of the sheep have settled within five miles of where they were placed, still adjusting to their new home but partaking of habitat conditions that seem like home.

"They're scattered a little bit and starting to explore a little bit," Calvin said. "Some are expanding from Eagle Creek to the west. One actually moved to the south to Antoken Creek, basically where the old sheep are."

A group of 20 sheep were transported

to Antoken Creek in early 2002.

One sheep, a three-year-old ewe, had wandered off by herself to Nena Creek, off the reservation and about 10 miles from Eagle Creek.

"It's not the best of sheep habitat, but she's probably trying to find where her home is still," Calvin said. "She's on what we call a walkabout from a transfer."

"She may stay. She may keep moving. She may decide to come back. At least she's seen the good stuff, where we put them in good habitat, where the majority of the released animals still are."

Monday's flight was the third one tribal fish and wildlife personnel took with Madras pilot Don Mobley of Mobley Aviation.

The first one was six days after the transplant, when six of collared sheep were located via radio but four were out of range, possibly because they were bedded down under rocks or trees. Calvin said he flew with Mobley Dec. 17 and spotted three before it became too dark to fly.

"You get a visual on them, and then sometimes you just won't," Calvin said.

Tribal Fish and Wildlife personnel will fly over the northeast corner of the reservation once a week or biweekly over course of next several months to monitor the sheep and their movements.



Martika Saludo, 13, Allegra Robinson, 13, and Tanaya Hunt, 12, (left to right) stand in front of the now-lit Christmas tree at the Warm Springs Community Center during the community Christmas celebration Dec. 14. The evening included a parade of lights and a hot dog and marshmallow roast, as well as the lighting of the Christmas tree.