

Water damages ECE building

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Water leaked from a broken main pipe and came spilling from a toilet tank for a whole weekend recently at the Early Childhood Education Center.

The water warped particle-board floorboards, creating a pungent smell of wet paper, as the ECE staff had to scramble to move and consolidate the 280 children attending on Monday morning, Feb. 7.

As a result of the flood damage, eight classrooms in the F pod were evacuated, as the floor is being replaced after the weekend flooding.

Though each of the classes at the center, including infants to children 12 years old, were affected in having to move to other rooms, curricula was not significantly changed.

By Wednesday of last week, workers from V and M Restoration of Woodinville, Wash., and Webb Construction of Madras were working in the F pod. V and M, a firm that handles building restoration, was in place to dry the wing out, using fans and dehumidifiers. Webb Construction's job was to dismantle the waterlogged floor and subfloor and cut holes in the floor to allow V and M to use its dehumidifying equipment

under the building.

Gallons of water were still being pumped from under the 13-year-old building by last Thursday, nearly a week after the flooding.

Six classes of children from six weeks old to two years old used the rooms in the F pod.

Infants were moved to a room in the C pod, while the Striders, a group of two-year-olds, were moved to a room in the G pod. Children three and four years old were moved to rooms in the B, G and A pods.

Kindergartners were moved to a converted conference room.

"Kindergartners were the most displaced because they're not in an actual classroom," said Julie Quaid, director of Warm Springs Essential Educational Services.

School-age children, ages six to 12, the center administers, were consolidated in rooms in the C pod. The re-routing and logistical planning were handled in about an hour the morning of Feb. 7, Quaid said.

"We walked through and took a look," she said. "And then we took an hour to plan and got everybody around the building."

Quaid said moving and re-routing the children was done in a sequential order and with

the needs of the children in mind, particularly placing children who are toilet training in classrooms with properly sized toilets, and planning meals at the same time the children expect them every day.

"We tried to keep kids with their own teachers as much as we could," Quaid said.

Working parents, she said, would not be affected by the switching, as the children need not be brought to, or picked up from, the ECE Center any earlier or later than usual.

She said the children had to be scheduled so that one group's active time didn't come at the same time as a neighboring group's naptime.

By the morning of Feb. 8, fans were in place in Pod F to help dry the subfloor and confine the smell of the damp wood and linoleum tile.

Fortunately for the school, the water damage did not include sewage and it didn't involve electricity, Quaid said.

The problem started, she said, when a stream of water was found running over an outside breezeway and pooling in a playground Friday, Feb. 4. Warm Springs Public Utilities turned off the water, used equipment to dig at the source of the leak and fixed it, replacing a sleeve

that had come loose from a water pipe.

Children were released at 2:30 p.m. that Friday, and the water was turned back on an hour later.

"We left Friday thinking everything was fine," Quaid said.

In fact, she didn't find out about the flooding until she came to work Monday morning.

Water was pumped from the Pod F all day Monday through Tuesday morning.

By Wednesday morning, two railroad-car style storage containers were in place at Early Childhood Education Center to house chairs, tables and other items in the vacated rooms as the floor dried out.

"We're trying to make sure it works, but we have too much stuff," Quaid said.

Plywood, less absorbent than the original particleboard, will be laid down as soon as the area is properly dried.

"You're probably looking at three weeks to a month (before Pod F is usable again), depending on how soon it dries," Herb Graybael, Director of Warm Springs Public Utilities, said.

Graybael said Public Utilities would make additional repairs as needed as the floor is being worked on.

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Senior profile

Mychal VanPelt

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High school senior Mychal VanPelt, 17, is of the Umatilla, Walla Walla, Painte, Warm Springs, Wasco and Yakama heritage. VanPelt is the son of Chet VanPelt Jr., and Rebecca Danzuka, and the grandson to the late Chester VanPelt Sr., Eliza Brown-Jim, and the late Kathleen Heath.

He credits his cousin Melissa Danzuka for helping him reach his goal. He states, "She would always ask me to do better than I was, no matter what my grades were."

VanPelt has participated in tennis, SMILE, and the Cultural Enrichment Club. He has also received awards for perfect attendance for the 2003-04 school year, a varsity letter for tennis, and he was honored in the Who's Who Among American High School students for the years 2003-04, and 2004-05.

His favorite class is advanced PE, because he's in there with his friends having fun as well as competing that can get serious.

His favorite teacher is Mr. Kezele, who was his AP Physics and Honors Chemistry teacher, "because



the way he taught helped me, and he was very understanding and funny."

VanPelt's stumbling block was his freshman year, because he was just entering high school, but he overcame it by studying, working hard enough to pass and move on.

After graduation he plans to enter college, either Oregon State or Portland State, and try to become an engineer.

After graduation he will miss the friends he grew up with and went to class together with. In addition he will miss having the opportunity to go home whenever and going to a friend's house or the community center. But he leaves this advice for remaining students: "Just try your best and never give up or doubt yourself or your abilities."

— By Selena Boise

KWSO to host clothes giveaway

KWSO has a trailer load of clothing to give away, and the clothes are free to anyone who wants them. If you're interested, then attend the open house at the radio station studio from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-26.

The clothing comes from Chris Buller, the youth pastor of the United Methodist Church in Madras and a leader of the Rockin' 4-H club in Warm Springs. Buller also hosts the "It's All Good" program on KWSO that is broadcast live on Sundays at 9 a.m. and re-run Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

"He said, 'I have a bunch of clothing. I can't sell them. Would you like to give them away,'" said KWSO station manager Sue Matters.

The next thing she knew, the clothes came - 50 bags worth in a horse trailer. The clothes are now piled up in KWSO's conference room, waiting to be given away.

The clothes include shirts, pants and jackets for men, women and children along with shoes and accessories like belts. In addition, included and also to be given away are linens, bedding and curtain material, Mat-

ters said.

"We want to encourage people to tell their friends and car pool out here," Matters said. "And take all the clothes away."

She said the station has not had an open house since last summer, and that the giveaway would be a perfect opportunity to show off the station and meet the staff. KWSO's studio is located on Road S-200, near Kah-Nee-Ta and 12 miles north of Warm Springs.

Refreshments will be offered at the giveaway/open house. Matters suggests that the clothing is perfect material for quilts.

Livestock deaths still being investigated

As of Monday, results of tests on a group of cattle that had died, apparently due to poisoning in the Sidwaller area three weeks ago, had not been returned. At least 19 and as many as 24 cattle were killed due to an unexplained cause Jan. 27.

A necropsy on each animal, as well as tissue and blood samples, was taken to be sent to Texas for analysis. Samples were of the standing water in the area, mainly due to snow-melt and runoff.

Events calendar

Chemawa Indian School 125th Birthday Powwow and Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Residential Facility: "Acknowledging the new beginning for residential life, creating a new student living environment."

Saturday, Feb. 19 in the school gym. Starts at noon. Powwow Grand Entry, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Location: 3700 Chemawa Rd. NE, Salem. For information call Jeanette at (503) 399-5721, ext. 237.

Cello, Salmon and Smoke discussion series continues Thursday, Feb. 24 at High Lookie Lodge. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Topic: Elders talk about the new Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Preregistration required. Call 553-1182. Bring lunch, or reserve lunch for \$3 at the lodge.

Quilts & More is offering the following classes. 5:30 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17: H Quilt class (for very beginners) made from two fabrics, simple and fast. Wednesday night sewing class, 5:30-8 p.m., Feb. 23, working on basic Seminole patchwork strips. Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., winning hand quilt class (card trick). Fee is \$20. Instructor: Eraina Palmer. Call 553-1460 for information.

Tribal Finance again recognized

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the Confederated Tribes Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The certificate of achievement is in regard to the tribes' comprehensive annual financial report. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to the Government Finance Officers Association.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement is awarded to the individual, department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning comprehensive annual financial report. For the 10th consecutive year, the award has been presented to the Confederated Tribes' Finance Department. The award is judged by an impartial panel, determining the report meets the highest standards.

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