

Spilyay Tymoo

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Plan would use vacant property

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Vacant off-reservation property owned by the Confederated Tribes could be used as a ministry soup kitchen to help people in need, according to a plan proposed by two Madras men.

Jim Struck and Mark Harner met last month with Tribal Council, to ask if the tribes could offer any possible locations for the project.

Following the meeting, Struck, Harner and Ron Mulkey, pastor of Metolius Friends Community Church, toured three potential sites with Herb Graybael, head of the tribal Utilities.

They toured the Morrison property, the Eyerly property, and the Shoenhagen property.

The Morrison property includes 39 acres on the east bank of the Deschutes River, between U.S. 26 and the Mecca campground.

The property includes two houses with cement slab foundation. One house is a large residential structure with a fireplace and spacious kitchen, while the other is built around a swimming pool and has showers and lockers.

Both houses and the pool are in disrepair.

The original owners of the Warm Springs Forest Products Industries mill built the houses. Around the time the tribes bought the mill, Duke Morrison bought the property.

"And then eventually the tribes bought the property from Duke Morrison," Graybael said. Though the Morrison property needs time and effort to refurbish, Harner said the buildings appeared structurally sound to him and had possibility.

The Eyerly property is on the Metolius River at Flag Creek.

"There's a double-wide modular and some old log cabins that were moved there from somewhere," Graybael said. "And then there's what's called the blue house right next to the Deschutes River, which was never finished. It doesn't have water or septic tank, but it's a beautiful place. The property is right where the river dumps into the Lake Billy Chinook. There's excellent fishing."

The Shoenhagen property includes a small house and farmland off the Pelton Dam Road east of the reservation.

Struck said contractors have been willing to offer their services in helping build or remodel whichever property they deem best, if Tribal Council approves of the proposal.

Both Harner and Struck attend Metolius Friends Community Church, and are part of that church's soup kitchen-style ministry. This ministry has given them opportunity to meet individual people and help provide their needs at the moment.

To expand on that theme, Struck and Harner formed the Madras Gospel Mission, filing necessary state and federal paperwork toward creating a non-profit organization.

The plan for soup-kitchen mission includes use of a building to shelter and train those who are committed to the mission's program.

Harner and Struck say the location should be out of the way, away from possible temptations like stores where alcohol is sold, and old hangouts.

The training period, as Harner and Struck see it, would be at least three and a half years.

Struck said the mission's program would be patterned after the Portland Gospel Mission's.

Members, managers weigh budget options

By Spilyay Tymoo staff

Tribal members of the Agency District voiced their views on the 2006 budget at a gathering Monday evening. Members asked their Council representatives, and other tribal officials to consider keeping some proposed program increases, particularly those involving law enforcement and tribal member employment.

Tribal department managers

meanwhile this week have been meeting with the Finance Department to discuss how to eliminate the \$4.7 million deficit contained in the 2006 draft budget that was posted earlier this month.

The posted budget needs to be balanced before adoption by Tribal Council.

The proposal includes \$4.6 million in new initiatives.

At the district meeting Monday

evening, Marcia Soliz, whose Community Works program initiatives total over \$1 million, said the programs put people to work, give them pride, and keep them away from other societal problems. The programs include the Day Labor Work, Explorer, Young Warrior, Women's Work, and Older Tribal Member Work programs.

"I only employ tribal members," said Soliz. "I feel very good about that. It feels good to help our people."

Mike Clements, head of tribal Business and Economic Development, spoke in favor of the Day Labor Work Program, among the six employment program initiatives. He also said he would support funding for overtime police patrol divisions, and corrections and detention officers, but not for a new proposed Corrections facilities administrator.

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At the Early Childhood Education Center, teacher Sharda Miller helps Tyler Muniz-Wewa and Dellena Ploufee with a painting project.

The challenges of child care

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Early Childhood Education Center provides the essential service of childcare for many families of the reservation. Funding to operate the center comes from a variety of sources, and some changes are expected at Early Childhood Education (ECE) as the center prepares for the 2006 budget year.

The biggest single source of funding at ECE is the Head Start grant, which funds Head Start at the center, and Early Head Start, which is a home-based program.

The Confederated Tribes have one of the longest-standing and most active Head Start programs among tribes. This is the 40th year the tribes have operated a Head Start program, as the tribes' participation dates back to 1965, said Wendell Jim, director of the tribal Education Department.

The tribes received word recently that the \$1.1 million Head Start

grant for 2006 has been approved. The tribes then match the Head Start grant money in different ways. In this time of financial challenge for the tribes, there is a greater emphasis on meeting the match requirement through volunteer work at ECE.

Rate increase

Another change expected at ECE in 2006 will be an increase in rates for day care, said Versa Fuentes-Smith, acting director of ECE Day Care and Pre-School.

This will be the first time in many years that rates have gone up, said Smith, who has worked at ECE since 1987. "To make ends meet, we have to raise them," she said.

"My wish would be that we have a sliding fee scale. Those making good money would pay accordingly," said Smith.

The current rate at ECE for infant and toddler day care is \$200 per month. This is very inexpensive in comparison with the state average of \$392 per

month, said Smith.

The ECE rate for care of 3- and 4-year-olds is \$90 per month, in comparison with the state average of \$291, she said.

Smith said the new rates at ECE will be effective in January 2006.

New bus

Some good news at ECE is the purchase, through Head Start, of a new bus. The bus will allow kids who don't have transportation to attend Head Start at ECE. The bus can also be used for activities for Early Head Start families.

Head Start has been operating with only one bus, and the second bus will be a great benefit to the program, said Sheryl Potts, family interventionist for Early Head Start. Potts and Adrian White, grants manager, did the grant work for the new bus.

The bus will be specially built to meet safety requirements

Chamber recognizes KWSO personality

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Known for a long time as the news director at KWSO radio, Will "The Wilman" Robbins went to the Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Banquet expecting to accept an award on behalf of the radio station.

Instead, he was surprised with an individual award that salutes his service to the Jefferson County community. Robbins was presented the Community Champion award, in the form of a plaque, at the banquet.

In addition to his work at KWSO, Robbins is known through the community for his candor in talking about his own battle with, and recovery from methamphetamine addiction years ago, and his efforts at informing the community and helping in its fight against meth abuse.

He regularly attends and contributes at the Jefferson County Methamphetamine Task Force, speaks to local groups, and has been featured in stories in the local press.

Robbins said he was completely taken by surprise to receive the award.

"I was suckered into going to the chamber banquet, under the guise that it was an award for the radio station. I was just there to accept the award for the station, on behalf of the tribes," he said.

"So when they got to this award, Melanie Widmer stood up. She had written up some comments, some excerpts from my story in the Pioneer, a lot of things. And I go, 'Wait a second. They can't be talking about me.' Then halfway through it, I knew that she was talking about me. They caught me off-guard."

Display to feature Gorge casino

Drawings of the proposed Bridge of the Gods Casino will be on display soon at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The display will be in the Eagle Butte Room, available for public review starting Monday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The tribal gaming enterprise will also bring the display to different places in Warm Springs once a week beginning in mid November, said Margie Tuckta, director of special projects for the Gorge casino.

The new casino and resort will feature a 250-room hotel, 24,000-square-foot meeting and convention facility, gaming casino, spa and fitness center, entertainment venue, retail shops, cultural interpretive center, daycare facility, and a variety of dining options.

Construction cost is estimated at \$300 million. The 500,000-square-foot riverfront resort and casino is planned for construction on 60 acres of land in the Cascade Locks industrial park.

The project is expected to create 1,500 permanent new jobs.

The tribes are currently in the process of developing a study of the environmental impact of the casino proposal.

Activities planned for Halloween

The reservation is preparing for a fun, though at times frightening Halloween.

On the fun side: There is a Halloween Carnival on Monday, Oct. 31, at the Community Center gym.

There will be a costume contest from noon to 1 p.m. on Monday in the community center social hall. All tribal employees are welcome to join the contest. There will be prizes for different categories.

The Simnasho Halloween Powwow is set for Monday evening. The powwow begins at 5:30, with a gathering of all goblins at the longhouse, followed by trick-or-treating around the loop. At 6:30 is the potluck dinner at the longhouse. Starting at 7:30 there will be games, and a costume contest for tiny tots, grade school, junior and senior high, and adult.

In Warm Springs on Monday is a Haunted House at the Warm Springs Fire Hall. The house is open from 5 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for kids, with the money going to help pay medical expenses of a former employee of the fire department. Also on Halloween, stop by Commodities for some treats, and apple cider.

Daylight Savings Time ends Saturday, Oct. 30. HOUR BACK