

Spilyay Tymoo

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Construction begins on Credit building

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Construction is set to begin on the new building that will house the Warm Springs Tribal Credit Enterprise.

The 9,200-square-foot building will be located on the vacant field west of the Administration Building. The construction completion date is late September of this year.

The new building will allow Credit to serve the community in more and better ways, said Lori Fuentes, manager of the credit enterprise.

"We want to provide banking services and financial education to the Warm Springs community," said Fuentes.

The new building will be a classroom for financial literacy, business planning, and new homeowner training. At Credit there is also a need for private office space for loan officers and others who discuss and work with individuals' personal financial information. Credit needs a more secure place, such as a vault for its files, said Fuentes.

Planning for a new building began several years ago, said Evaline Patt,

chairwoman of the Credit Enterprise board of directors.

"The primary need is more space," said Patt. "We need to hire more personnel, and to increase our services to the community."

Credit became an enterprise about 10 years ago. The enterprise is self-funding and pays a dividend to the tribes. After years of planning and saving, Credit has about \$2 million for construction of the new building.

The plan is for Credit to offer basic banking services at its new location. There are plans for check-cashing ser-

VICES, an ATM machine, a drive-up window, and a collection point for payment of electricity, phone and other bills.

"We'll be able to provide services that people usually drive to Madras for," said Fuentes.

The new building could also house a branch office of a bank, she said.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Credit building was scheduled for Wednesday of this week, January 17, after the deadline for this paper.

Interior official touring casino site

Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior James Cason was scheduled this week to tour the Cascade Locks tribal casino site with officials of the Confederated Tribes. The group was also planning to tour the tribal property at Hood River.

Cason is originally from Hood River.

In his position in the Department of the Interior, "My job is to work on particularly difficult issues, where the problem has not been solved lower down in the organization," said Cason. In the department he is the third in command.

Much of his current work relates to challenges the federal government faces as trustee for Native American land.

"We have to manage these properties, which includes extensive litigation, on long-term stewardship," he said. "I spend a lot of time working on the underlying causal factors for the litigation. I look at all of our programs, trying to redesign how they work and to streamline how we manage the land and natural resources that are in our care."

New high school focus of discussion

Representatives from the new Willow Creek Community High School will be hosting two meetings in Warm Springs on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Parents can attend an informational meeting at the Family Resource Center at 6:30 p.m. During the day employees from the Willow Creek Community High School will meet with community representatives.

Open student enrollment for the school began on Jan. 17, and staff applications will be available during mid-February.

In addition, employees from the high school hosted meetings at Madras High School on Jan. 9 and Jefferson County Middle School on Jan. 17.

For more information, contact Julie Lafayette at 475-8266 or jlafayette@509j.net.

Students will receive personalized educations in the new, small school that will include community and family engagements, real-world learning and college preparation.

In order to prepare them for the real world, students will complete internships with local businesses.

School officials said approximately 30 percent of the student population will be Native American—matching the percentages of the current school system. The school is set to open in September.

Youth art show opens next week

The Fourteenth Annual Tribal Youth Art Exhibit begins next Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Museum at Warm Springs.

The opening reception honoring youth artists will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 25 in the museum lobby.

Hatcheries work to replace fish loss

(By Spilyay staff and AP wire service.)

Close to 200,000 salmon fry arrived last week at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. The juvenile fish replace some of those lost during a recent accident at the hatchery that killed about 500,000 of the fry.

In July the hatchery will receive more replacement juvenile fish, said hatchery manager Mike Paiya. About half the fish that were lost are expected to be replaced, said Paiya.

The fish are being raised for release in the spring of 2008. The loss of part of the juvenile stock at the hatchery could hurt tribal and recreational fishing on the Lower Deschutes River in a few years, when the run returns.

The fish died when the water supply to the incubator was inadvertently turned off Tuesday while new equipment was being installed.

Many factors will determine the extent of the potential decline in the return: ocean and river conditions, dam operations, harvest management and further actions taken to make up the production shortfall at the hatchery are factors, said Paiya.

"We experienced a shortfall in smolt production in 1994," said Paiya. "Due to very low returns that year we were able to release only about 60,000 smolts, yet with a com-



Warm Springs fish hatchery workers Kevin Blueback (left) and Joe Badoni place newly arrived juvenile fish, from the Pelton-Round Butte hatchery, into a Warm Springs hatchery pool.

bination of Warm Springs and Round Butte stocks we had a good return four years later."

At the hatchery, water normally flows through incubators containing

trays full of salmon fry, which are about half the size of a pinkie finger. "We were installing a new piece of equipment, and we inadvertently turned off the water supply to some of our fish,"

said Paiya. "Normally, the water is continuously flowing through the incubator, so the water got stale for a period of time," Paiya said.

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Elders travel for love of the game

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

For a portion of tribal elders, basketball is much more than just a sport.

Traveling to see games also involves some of the most memorable times in their lives—all of which involve spending time on a bus with fellow elders.

Lawrence "Kunya" Squiemphen works with the Warm Springs Senior Program and is responsible for driving the group of elders to the games and on other trips.

This year the Senior Program is taking a group to four Blazer games in Portland—and it's possible because of sponsorship from tribal attorneys Karnopp and Petersen, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Power Enterprises and Composite Products, Squiemphen said.

This is the first year of sponsorship for Karnopp and Petersen, while the other three sponsors have sponsored for three years.

The senior program receives sponsorship from Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Power Enterprises and Composite Products for more than just Blazer tickets—they also sponsor

concert tickets, honor senior days and jackets that seniors have worn to conferences and to the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

"They really appreciate doing this," Squiemphen said of the sponsors.

According to Squiemphen, the trips to see the Blazers are only a small part of what the senior program does—they also take trips throughout the year to a variety of events.

"It's just one facet of what goes on," he said.

One thing is for sure, he added: there is a misconception about the funding of the trips.

"The seniors pay for it on their own," Squiemphen emphasized. "They pay for their room; they pay for their needs."

"A lot of times it's the same group," he said, because those are the seniors that express interest in traveling.

However, Squiemphen added, anyone is welcome. "I try to get as many people to go as possible," he said.

Maxine Switzler and Faye Waheneka are part of the group that tries to travel to Portland regularly to see the Portland Trail Blazers in action.

"I do this because I love my elders."

Lawrence Squiemphen

According to Switzler, "We've had several avid Blazer fans, and win or lose we're still faithful to our Blazers."

"I think us old people really enjoy going to games," Waheneka said.

"Once we board the bus, we talk about fun days that we had," she continued. "We laugh together, we cry together, we eat together—we take care of each other."

At times, she said, they pool together money to help out someone who doesn't have enough money to travel with them.

"It uplifts a lot of us," she explained. "A lot of us are lonely."

Waheneka continued, "I don't think anyone's ever had a cruel word for anyone on the bus."

However, she said, their good time can often be misconstrued—once they were even rumored to have been inebriated while at a game, something that

was not the case at all, they said.

"We just know how to have fun," Waheneka said.

Of course, they all have their opinions about how the team is currently functioning.

"I don't know what to think of the new group," Waheneka said.

In her opinion, the solution to many problems can be found in the coaching. "I feel a coach has a lot to do with what happens to a team," she explained.

"We really enjoyed that season when they were all on the dream team," Switzler added.

"They had a really good system and they were winning a lot of games, and then all of a sudden something went wrong," Switzler said. "It seems like they couldn't win after that."

In Switzler's opinion, the staff at the senior program has taken extra steps to help make their lives enjoyable.

She said, "I appreciate Kunya and the rest of our staff for making it possible for us to enjoy the few things we have left to enjoy."

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