

Coyote's Eatery opens for business



Jasmine Caldera at Coyote's Eatery.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Jasmine Caldera has opened a new business, Coyote's Eatery.

Coyote's Eatery is a mobile concession trailer, providing culinary services for the residents of Warm Springs.

Most of the time the concession will be located on the

lot across from Warm Springs Market.

The eatery will also be used at various local events such as the feasts, rodeos and powwows. Caldera was kept very busy recently with the many fire fighters who are living at the fire camp by the rodeo

grounds.

Coyote's Eatery offers hamburgers and cheeseburgers, hotdogs, salads, nachos, Indian tacos, Wasco shortcake, strawberry shortcake, drinks and other items.

A specialty at the eatery is fry bread. Caldera first began learn-

ing the family recipe for fry bread at the age of 6, when she would watch her grandmother make the fry bread dough.

Regular hours of service are from 11 a.m. until evening time.

PGE starts demolition of hydro dam

SANDY (AP) – The CEO of Oregon's largest utility detonated explosives on the Marmot Dam on Tuesday, the beginning of the end of a 47-foot concrete hydroelectric dam that has blocked the Sandy River for nearly a century and hindered steelhead and salmon from reaching their spawning grounds.

When the Marmot is totally dismantled later this summer, the Sandy will again be a free-flowing river – from its origin high on Mount Hood to its mouth on the Columbia River.

The bottom line is that it's good for fish and saves our customers money," Peggy Fowler, CEO and president of Portland General Electric, said at a ceremony just before pushing down on a plunger-style detonator straight out of the Old West.

The explosion just after noon cracked the dam enough to allow crews to begin hammering and drilling while a temporary earthen dam diverts water around the site.

Fowler told environmentalists, state and federal government officials, and lawmakers at the site that their eight-year effort was a model of cooperation to preserve threatened fish runs and expand wildlife habitat.

The utility also had determined that they were better off paying the \$17 million demolition costs than maintenance fees made higher by newer environmental regulations.

The Sandy is a legendary steelhead river, and PGE's decision to assist those fish and others on the river was welcomed by environmental groups.

"The undammed Sandy River, flowing freely from Mount Hood to the Columbia, will be good for local businesses, clean water, and fish and wildlife," said Amy Kober of American Rivers. "The Sandy will show us that when a river is healthy, we all thrive."

PGE will also remove a smaller dam on the Little Sandy River, a tributary to the Sandy.

Environmental groups, state and federal agencies, and local governments and businesses were among 23 groups involved in the dam removal plan.

Marmot Dam was part of the Bull Run Hydroelectric Project that went on line in 1913 to provide power to a younger Portland decades before the more massive dams were built along the Columbia River. The Bull Run project provides enough electricity to power more than 10,000 homes.

The project includes more than a mile and a half of canals and tunnels that connect a three-mile wood box flume from Marmot Dam to the Little Sandy River just above Little Sandy Dam. Water from the Little Sandy River is diverted into Roslyn Lake, then returned to the Bull Run River after passing through a powerhouse.

PGE is donating about 1,500 acres on the Bull Run Project for fish and wildlife habitat, and for public recreation. The area will be the centerpiece of a planned 9,000-acre natural resource and recreation area, officials say. Decommissioning hydroelectric projects has been rare. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has authorized fewer than a couple of dozen out of more than 1,600 project proposals nationwide.

New housing at Celilo Village

CELILO VILLAGE (AP) – Searing heat bakes the brown hills that rise up along both sides of the Columbia River, but the air conditioning inside the government-issued doublewide works perfectly.

Village Chief Olsen Meanus Jr., shirtless and sweating from a day spent lugging box springs and dressers, sits for a moment as his children explore the white-on-white interior of their temporary home.

It's a better environment for the kids, Meanus muses. And all the recent village improvements – the new longhouse, the new water and sewer systems, now the new houses – all of that work honors the elders who have preserved the heritage of this ancient gathering place for Northwest tribes, he says.

The Meanus family and about 50 other village residents have started moving into modular homes provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The families will live there for the next nine months while contractors build 14 homes and the first paved streets and sidewalks the village has seen.

The village's existing residences will be torn down – many are decrepit shacks or trailers afflicted with lead paint and substandard plumbing and wiring.

The new homes will be two-, three-, or four-bedroom houses ranging from about 1,400 to 1,800 square feet, said George Miller, the corps' project manager. The housing will be owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which will issue residency permits. Village residents will live there free, taking on some responsibility for maintenance.

For most residents, even the temporary modular homes are a dramatic step up. Each has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and comes with washer, dryer and air conditioning in addition to the usual stove and fridge. A half-dozen homes are handicap-accessible.

Even so, Meanus will miss his old home.

"It's the only house I've ever lived in," he says ruefully. "I have a lot of memories in that house."

Such is the hold Celilo Village has on Native Americans. Despite decades of poverty, neglect and broken promises, despite being cut off from reservation services and dealing with sketchy sewer, water and electrical service, even good change is unsettling.

But change is coming and fast. The work is part of a \$67 million project that essentially represents an admission by the government that it did not abide by a series of agreements, beginning with an 1855 treaty that promised Northwest tribes access to "usual and accustomed" fishing sites.

Celilo, seven miles upstream from The Dalles, was a fishing, trade and cultural center for Pacific Northwest tribes for an estimated 10,000 years. Native Americans, perched on planks or platforms, netted migrating salmon as they milled and leaped in a series of pools and falls.

Water backed up by completion of The Dalles Dam in 1957 flooded Celilo Falls and forced relocation of the original village. The Bonneville and John Day hydroelectric dams affected other Native American fishing sites.

To make amends, the Corps of Engineers in the past few years has rebuilt 31 traditional fishing sites along the Columbia, adding access roads, boat ramps or other amenities as needed. At the request of the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce tribes, the corps added the Celilo Village restoration to the project.

A 2003 corps report, written to authorize the village project, was unusually plainspoken in its assessment of the government's responsibility. The corps contributed to problems at Celilo by providing inadequate housing

and infrastructure to residents forced to relocate because of The Dalles Dam, the report said.

The agency's long involvement at Celilo "sets this site peculiarly apart as a corps responsibility," the report said.

"It's hard to think long-term when you don't have decent water, electricity and sewage," said Miller, the project manager.

The home and street construction extend a flurry of improvements at Celilo. Contractors built a new village longhouse in 2005, and this spring it hosted a 50-year commemoration of the flooding of Celilo Falls. Since then, workers have drilled a new well, installed a 250,000-gallon water reservoir, built a new sewage lagoon and pump station, and added fire hydrants.

A Bureau of Indian Affairs administrative office and classroom will be built in 2009.

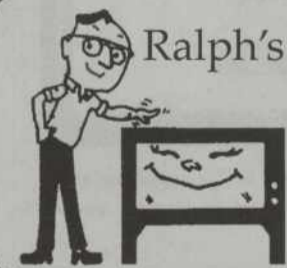
The village work has been followed closely by Native Americans living on Northwest reservations and elsewhere. An estimated 2,000 people, most of them Native Americans, attended the 50-year commemoration at Celilo.

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