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Spilyay Tymoo

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Council to weigh options for mill

(Submitted by the office of the the Secretary-Treasurer.)

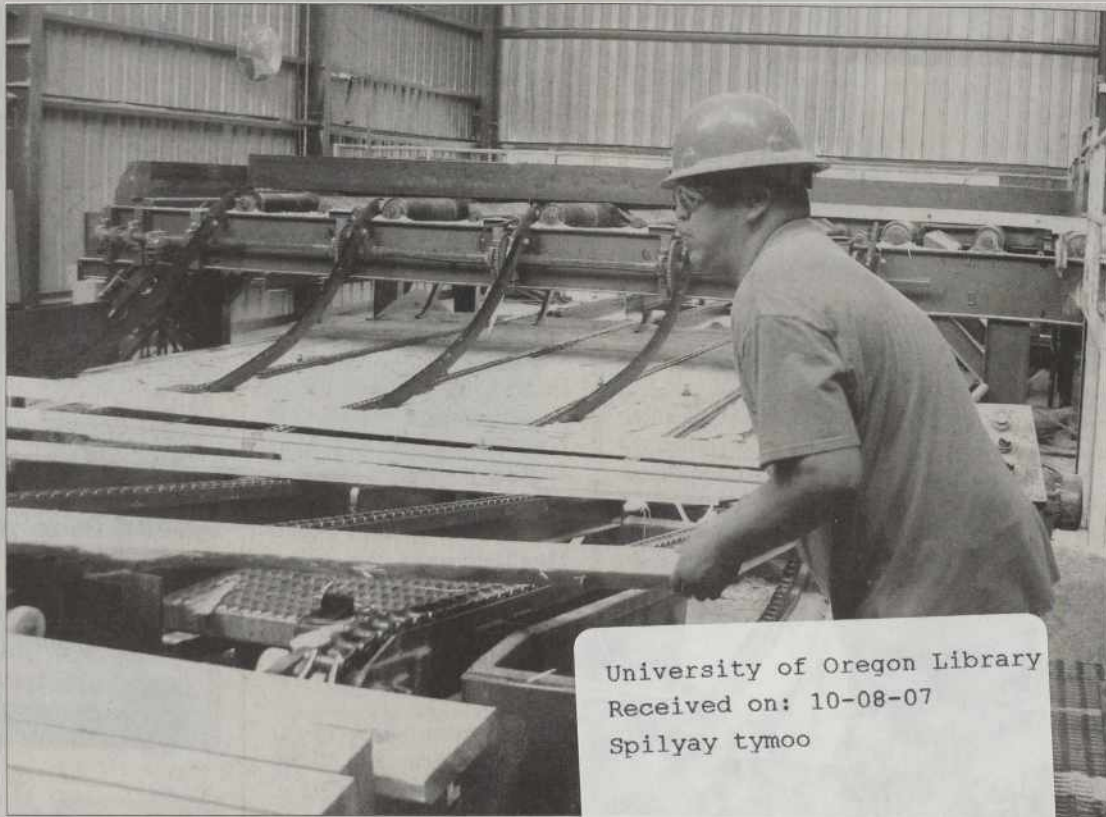
Recent concerns over the performance of Warm Springs Forest Products Industries prompted Tribal Council to meet in executive session to discuss the mill and investigate its prospects. The September 13 session in Lincoln City resulted in a directive to Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica to assess the mill's board, management, and operating results over the past two years.

The purpose of the assessment is to see what can be done to preserve the mill's viability as a revenue source for the tribes.

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries (WSFPI) losses have averaged \$1.4 million per year since 2000, with just one profitable year in that period, when lumber prices hit a cyclical high during the housing boom. Council is concerned about the ability of the mill's board and management to develop and implement strategic business options.

Tough competitive environment

WSFPI benefits from the steady log supply available from reservation timber, but several other factors create a very tough financial environment for the enterprise. Past



Brian Suppah, mill tippie operator, is one of 117 WSFPI employees.

harvesting practices have led to lower current annual levels. Declining log sizes and long-term trends in the North American forest products industry all contribute to the difficulties.

Declining housing starts, mortgage industry woes, and increasing international competition have sent repercussions throughout the timber industry, resulting in significantly lower prices on

the lumber markets. Dozens of mill closures have occurred throughout the Northwest over the past ten years.

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Positive trends reported at schools

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

New data is demonstrating a positive trend in the 509-J school district.

Officials with the school district said the data—regarding items such as grade-point averages, absenteeism and suspensions—is the best it's been in years.

Within the district, Warm Springs Elementary School has made several noteworthy improvements, according to the data.

School principal Dawn Smith said the teachers and staff have been working for years in various areas to improve student achievement.

One aspect, she said, involves aligning the entire curriculum with the standards of the state of Oregon while also developing year-long teaching plans at each grade level "that guide instructions and help ensure that everyone teaches everything that needs to be taught."

In addition, Smith said, they've also worked to select core subject programs that both support and enhance the state standards.

"The programs that we have in place also allow for differentiated instructions, meaning that students may move through most of our programs at their own pace," Smith explained—allowing students to move quickly through concepts and skills they have already mastered while having time to review and practice other that they may find challenging.

Smith said they've also implemented instructional strategies that help students develop language skills necessary to fully understand what is being taught.

"It's not enough to just teach reading or teach math or social studies or science," Smith said. "You have to make sure kids clearly understand and can apply what they're learning."

At Warm Springs Elementary, Smith said, they also have high expectations for student behavior and strive to create a strong community within the school.

Another aspect they've worked to improve, Smith said, involves developing a common language of achievement.

"Every student knows they may be asked at any time what spelling level they are on," she said. "They know they may be asked how many accelerated math objectives they have passed, how many words they read on their hot or cold timings that day, or what percentages of questions they just passed on their comprehension reading quiz."

According to Smith, "There is a continual flowing of 'achievement' speak that everyone in the school is involved in daily and that sets the tone of the school. We are all about learning and getting more proficient at everything we do and everyone knows it."

A large part of their ongoing success at Warm Springs Elementary is due to parent involvement as well, Smith said.

"We have tremendous parent support and we are grateful daily for it," she said. "Our parents understand and support what we are doing and hold high expectations for their children as well."

See LIBRARY on 10

See SCHOOLS on 11

Tribal budget subject of upcoming gatherings

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The proposed tribal general fund budget was posted earlier this month. There are five meetings at various locations scheduled for tribal member discussion of the proposed budget.

The 2008 proposed budget is based on the 2007 approved budget. The proposed budget for next year projects increases of \$1.173 million for operation, community assistance, land purchases, capital projects and per capita.

There also is a projected increase in revenue of \$166,000, according to the budget statement by secretary-treasurer Jody Calica. With decreases in program operations of approximately \$460,000, there is a deficit in the posted budget of \$547,437, which must be eliminated prior to final adoption later this year. According to the budget message of the secretary-treasurer:

"When the Tribal Council takes action to finalize the 2008 tribal budget, total proposed expenditures will not be increased beyond the (posted) proposal.

If no new revenues are made available in 2008, proposed spending requests will have to be reduced below current budget levels to result in a balanced or surplus budget. As reported to the membership over the past several years," the statement says, "tribal government will continue to try and balance the essential community needs with the current and forecasted revenue base."

The 2008 proposed budget is posted around the community, such as the administration building, and the post office. Tribal members will also receive

the proposal in the mail.

The upcoming meetings are scheduled as followed, with the meetings beginning at 7 p.m., dinner served at 6:

Agency District: Monday, Oct. 1 at the Agency Longhouse.

Seekseequa District: Tuesday, Oct. 2 at the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

Sinnasho District: Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Sinnasho Longhouse.

Sidwalter community: Thursday, Oct. 4 at Corey Clements residence.

General Council: Tuesday, Oct. 9 at the Agency Longhouse.

Warm Springs library planning to expand services

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The local library may be a work in progress, but plans for the future are quickly expanding.

Julie Quaid works as the librarian for the library located in the Family Resource Center. Althea Henry works as the library aide.

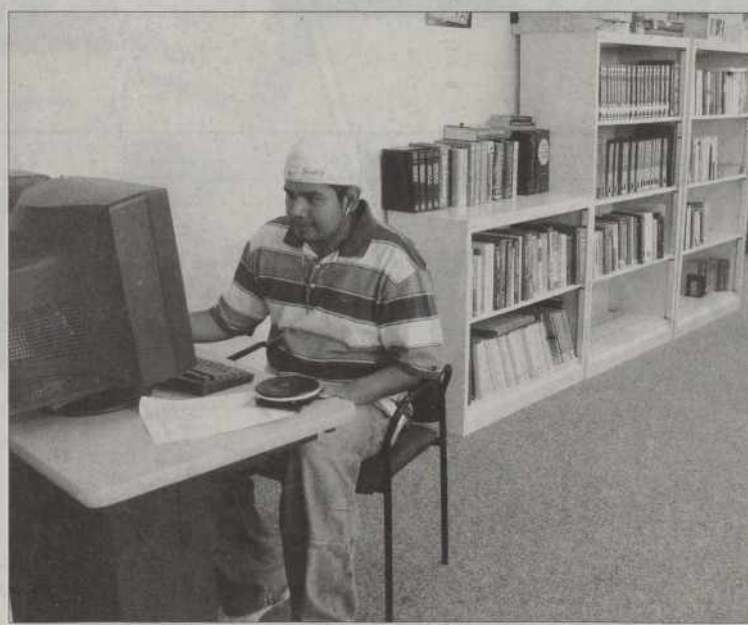
Specifically, the library carries books relating to children's literature, Native American culture and history, and K-12 education (materials like reference books and study guides).

Currently library staff members are working to catalog 700 new books in preparation for a much larger project—linking the library with Jefferson County Public Library in Madras and the Deschutes County Public Library in Bend.

By August 2008, Quaid said, they hope to have the books cataloged using the same system as the other two libraries.

That will enable them to borrow books from both of those libraries with a courier service, as well as lend books from the local library to others.

At that point, the library will also



Dallas Camas, 21, said he goes to the library about twice a week.

have to begin using a library card system—currently they just have a lending policy for the general public.

No matter the system, Quaid said, returning the books is important to the success of the library.

"We have to have people return the books after they check them out,"

Quaid said.

In fact, she added, if anyone has checked out a book and not returned it, staff members would appreciate the book being brought back to the library.

While there are a few regular patrons at the library, many also use the library for its computer access, Quaid added.

This year they also plan to upgrade the computer systems.

An ILMs enhancement grant helps fund the library, paired with two grants through the Jefferson County Public Library.

However, Quaid said, they also have private donors in places as far away as New York and Connecticut.

In fact, the library was founded on donations alone.

"A lot of our collection is built on donations," Quaid explained. Other libraries, literary foundations and private donors often donate books that are used or have been used in the library.

"We get people donating from all over," Quaid said.

Currently they're working to make sure the collection is current—removing any books older than five years old.

The library moved to the Family Resource Center in 2002 when the building was remodeled.

Before that, it was located in the Community Center, but was not staffed and books were not returned frequently.

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