



Spilyay Tymoo

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Casino study set for public review

By Ron Suppah
Tribal Council Chairman

Good day, friends and fellow tribal members.

Today, I am very happy to share some good news with you about our proposal for a casino at Cascade Locks.

After strongly presenting our case to the Department of the Interior, we have been told to expect official notice — on Friday, February 15 — that we are moving on to the next step of project approval.

Specifically, we expect the draft of

the BIA's Official Study of potential Environmental Impacts, called the DEIS, will be released for public review and comment this Friday. In addition, five public hearings will be scheduled in March — with the first meeting held at Kah-Nee-Ta — the first week in March. At these meetings, tribal members as well as the general public will be able to comment on the Cascade Locks casino project and its environmental impacts.

This is a very important mile stone. Only six tribes in the entire nation were approved to take their next step.

In our case, we are one step closer to the day we can achieve what our People voted for in 2000 — that the Tribal Council locate a casino along the Columbia River, on our ancestral lands.

I am optimistic that these public comment hearings will demonstrate what we know to be true: that our proposal for Cascade Locks is the best alternative for our tribal members and all Oregonians; our proposal will:

Deliver significant economic benefits to our tribal members, and secure the financial future of our tribe for many,

many years to come;

Improve the quality of life on our reservation;

Share the benefits of the Cascade Locks casino with neighboring communities in the Gorge; and

Protect the environment and improve fish habitat on both sides of the Columbia River; restoring harmony to the lands that have been the home of our ancestors since time immemorial.

Because our needs are so great, and because we strongly believe that it is our sovereign right to pursue economic development in our in our traditional,

Treaty-ceded lands, it is hard to understand why anyone would oppose us or stand in the way of our survival.

But even if our opponents are driven by narrow interests or greed, the Warm Springs Tribe will go forward with dignity — because our cause is just. We will present the facts, we will play by the rules and we will prevail.

As I hear more specific details about the upcoming public meetings on the DEIS, I will share that information with you.

Thank you.



Powwow at Simnasho

The Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee, and the community of Simnasho hosted the Thirty-First Annual Lincoln's Birthday Powwow this past weekend. The powwow has been held each year since 1977 in the Simnasho Longhouse. The contest results of this year's powwow are as follows:

Kia McCloud of Harrah, Washington, took first place in the Jr. Girls Fancy/Jingle category. Mariah Leavitt, of Toppenish, WA, took second while Aurelia Johnson of Burns took third.

In the Jr. Girls Traditional Category Katrina Blackwolf of Toppenish won first place while Abigail Totus of Yakama won second and Star Upshaw of Beaverton won third.

For the Jr. Boys Fancy/Grass division, Manny Totus of Pendleton took first place. Dakota of Portland won second while Trevor Smith of Spokane took third.

In the Jr. Boys Traditional category, Red Bear McCloud of Harrah, Washington, won first place. Samuel Jim of Glendale, Washington, won second and Garyson Johnson of Simnasho took third.

Please see POWWOW on page 8

Students earn trip to Blazers game

Several tribal member students received a special prize for good attendance—a trip to a basketball game in Portland.

A total of 24 students from Jefferson County Middle School traveled to Portland last week to attend a Portland Trail Blazers game against the Denver Nuggets.

The students were being rewarded for having excellent attendance during the first trimester this year.

Jaren Bailey, Dakota Berman, Carson BigKnife, James Blackwolf, Alexander Danzuka, Alicia Farias, Tysen Green, Jamie Halliday, Amanda Henderson, Alexis Hintsala, Ashley Kaltsukis, John Katchia III, Thomas Kurtz, Andrew McConnell-Charley, Jackie Poirra-Wetchie, Leanne Smith-Lucero, Kaleb Smith, Bryson Spino, Shoshanna Street, OhShay Summerholder, Haley Wahnetah, Kari Wahnetah, Jhaylen Yeahquo, and Ashton Bruisehead all attended the game along with several teachers and the principal and vice principal of JCMS.

Museum, Chemawa on Council agenda

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal Council heard updates on Chemawa Indian School and the Museum at Warm Springs this week.

A resolution was approved to add two new members to the museum board, which museum staff members are hoping will help motivate other board members as well.

According to Carol Leone, executive director, "We're hoping that this will kind of help us to really rejuvenate our activities."

Leone also spoke to Council about funding opportunities, and said the museum has received a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission to fund the educational portion of the upcoming "Spirit of the Horse" exhibit.

Several other grant applications have been submitted and they should hear back soon, she added.

They're hoping to receive a grant to fund a website upgrade, Leone said, that would include things like adding a language section and offering museum memberships through the website or selling gift shop items online.

Dora Smith spoke to Council about the upcoming honor dinner on April 5 as well as future fundraising activities.

Staff recently mailed promotional

packets to 1,300 people on the museum mailing list, Smith said, announcing future fundraisers. They have several ideas for new fundraisers as well, she added.

Staff members at Chemawa Indian School spoke to Council about updates with the school and how they plan to improve in the future.

According to Jon Claymore, school supervisor at Chemawa Indian School in Salem, of approximately 400 students at the school 73 are from Oregon—and a large portion of those students are from Warm Springs.

Currently the campus is taking steps to ensure a safer environment as well, Claymore said during the presentation to Council.

Those steps include working with the Marion County Sheriff's Department and the formation of the Chemawa Behavioral Health Clinic and Chemawa Social Services Department.

The school is also working to create a variety of positive extracurricular activities, from sports and performance groups to a ropes course and paintball course for an outdoor adventure club.

In addition, they also feature the "Chemawa Cinema" where students can watch movies or local television as an incentive for good grades or good behavior.

The school had 423 instances of drug or alcohol use during the 2003-04 academic year, and that has been reduced to 124 for the 2006-07 year.

Another incentive program at Chemawa is the Chemawa Homeliving and Academic Merit Program (CHAMP) where students are given the opportunity to earn up to \$350 per year for academic or behavioral accomplishments.

That includes maintaining a 2.5 grade point average or higher as well as not having any failing grades and no more than 5 absences.

Claymore also spoke about the honor dorms, where students who achieve academically are placed and receive positive reinforcement in the form of earning special activities or benefits.

Another unique dorm setting includes the STARS dorm, or Students Transitioning Academic Residential Setting. In this dorm, students are given more structure and are offered things like counseling services to help with academic or behavioral problems.

Drug and alcohol use has been reduced dramatically at Chemawa in recent years, according to Claymore.

The school had 423 instances of drug or alcohol use during the 2003-04 academic year, and that has been reduced to 124 for the 2006-07 year.

That's something they hope to improve upon this year as well, Claymore said.

"By no means are we satisfied with the status quo," he explained, but they are happy with the steady decline.

The school has seen a 58 percent decrease in fighting from the 2005-06 year to the 2006-07 academic year, as well as a reduction in the amount of assault from 34 to 19.

However, Chemawa is facing budget concerns. The system has recently changed to award funding based on daily attendance rates, and because of that the school lost \$6.4 million for the 2007-08 year.

That will also mean a projected decrease of \$5.8 million for the 2008-09 academic year.

In the end, Claymore said, seeing the students cross the stage for graduation at the end of the year makes all of their hard work worth it.

"I'm a firm believer that these kids can do it and will do it if it's expected," he said.

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