



Spilyay Tymoo

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School district takes large budget cut

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Nearly 11 percent of the 509-J school district budget will be cut for the 2008-09 year, according to the proposal made by the superintendent to the budget committee.

Because the school district is facing a budget crisis, Superintendent Kay Baker proposes cutting 10.8 percent of the budget (about \$3.127 million) for the upcoming academic year.

The cuts come after the district faced declining enrollment and decreased funding, and will result in staff cuts and increased class sizes.

For Warm Springs Elementary in particular, Baker said, that would mean a slight increase in class sizes as well as the loss of a few teaching positions.

At the middle school and high school levels the cuts will also mean an increase in class sizes and the loss of staff positions as well as a few programs.

Overall, she added, they are hoping to make the effect on students relatively minimal.

"We're trying to keep it as far away from students as possible," she explained.

However, Baker added, "You affect staff and that affects students."

The cuts will also result in the loss

of staff positions in the district office, Baker said.

"These are budget cuts that hit every department in every location," she said.

The district was aware of the budget problems last year, Baker said, and while certain steps were taken to address the issue then the district must take even bigger steps to completely address the problem this year.

Baker said 22 public meetings were held before she decided where to make the cuts—including several meetings with the Warm Springs community.

The overall enrollment trend has been decreasing, Baker said, and the

recent economic difficulties are going to make the problem worse next year.

Because of issues like layoffs of mill workers and because the new prison did not create an enrollment boost as was expected, Baker said, their projected enrollment for the 2008-09 year was lower than expected.

Also due to the cuts, Westside Elementary will close. In some instances, Baker said, they cut positions in order to retain certain programs.

See **SCHOOL CUTS** on 12

Carrying forward values and traditions

Plans are in full swing for the upcoming Northwest Indian Youth Conference in Warm Springs.

The event will take place from May 27 through May 31, and features the theme "The ancestors will be our strength for the future."

This conference marks a return to Warm Springs after the event began here 33 years ago.

The Youth Conference mission statement captures the spirit of the event:

"As youth, it is our responsibility to carry forward the torch and uphold those cultural values and walk in the strength that our ancestors portrayed in their walk of life."

The agenda for the conference is full of fun activities for youth to attend, starting with a campfire for people arriving the night before the conference begins. There will be an opening ceremony parade when all NWTYC participants will be invited to walk, create a float, or ride a horse and to showcase the youth's native pride through traditional dress or matching t-shirts.

A hip-hop dance will be held on Tuesday night (May 27) for all participants to get a chance to meet each other, and a banner competition will feature tribal banners, staffs, flags and signs created by the groups.

A cultural gift exchange will give participants the opportunity to share their traditions with others—each youth will bring a cultural item as a gift and exchange it with a gift from another tribe.

The conference will also feature a three-on-three basketball tournament, a 5K run/walk, an endurance horse race and a golf scramble.

Thursday night (May 29) will include a rounddance. A picture gallery walk will feature photos from each group of honored elders or ancestors. Included with the photos will be a mini-biography, and the event will serve to honor the theme of the conference.

The Museum at Warm Springs will host an art show, while a fashion show will feature items of contemporary as well as traditional fashion.

Youth will also have the chance to participate in a talent show, essay contest and Mr. and Ms. Northwest Indian Youth Conference competition.

Friday, May 30, will kickoff the Northwest Indian Youth Conference powwow.

When the first conference was hosted in Warm Springs 33 years ago, tribes traveled from Portland and Lapwai, Idaho. The next year Lapwai hosted the gathering, until it grew into a large annual event that is hosted throughout the northwest.

In the past, representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have always traveled to the youth conference, which is hosted by a different reservation in the northwest each year.

Local youth will be planning and hosting the entire conference. Jaylyn Suppah, from OSU extension, is working to plan and promote the conference and has been holding weekly planning meetings with local students working to host the conference.

Registration for those attending will be \$65, and that means significant revenue for the tribes. Typically over 1,000 youth attend the conference each year.

For more information, visit www.warmsprings.com/nwtyc.

— by Leslie Mitts

Kah-Nee-Ta golf ready for spring



By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The upcoming golf season will see a number of changes at the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course. Some of the changes are to the area around the clubhouse and putting green. There is a new fountain nearby, for instance, which lights up at night. Construction workers are also building a new snack bar by the pro shop.

There is a new PGA head golf professional at Kah-Nee-Ta, Ryan Davis. And a new teaching pro, Austin Maki, who also tours professionally.

Davis was the first assistant golf professional at Sunriver Resort. A 1997 graduate of Portland State University, Davis began his professional career with a three-year stint



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The new fountain at the Kah-Nee-Ta golf course. Work crew (photo at left) is building a new snack shack.

at Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland.

He then returned to his hometown of Costa Mesa, Calif., where he served as assistant golf professional at Mesa Verde Country Club under the direction of head golf professional Tom Sargent, the 1996 winner of the National PGA Golf Professional of the Year award.

Teaching professional at Kah-Nee-Ta, Austin Maki competes for part of

the year on the PGA tour. He competed recently on the Dakotas Tour, finishing in 18th place out of a field of 129 players. He has won numerous tournaments, including the 1999 Industry Hills PGA Pro-Am, the 1999 Golden State Tour Costa Mesa, and the 1997 Merced County Pro-Am. Maki turned pro in 1992 at age 20.

Maki is available to give lessons to players at all skill levels. There is more emphasis this year on teaching young

players, said Davis.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at Kah-Nee-Ta is the Snag golf program, Snag standing for "Start New at Golf." The class is limited to the first 20 children, ages 11 and under. Cost is \$30 per child, which includes a hot dog and drink. The class is from 9-11 a.m., and from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

See **KAH-NEE-TA GOLF** on 12

Mill expenses, adoption election discussed at meeting

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The upcoming adoption election, as well as the proposed supplemental budget served as topics of discussion at the latest Agency District Meeting.

Because of the closure of Warm Springs Forest Product Industries, the tribes are facing a significant budget shortfall that resulted in a proposed supplemental budget.

According to Ray Potter, CFO, "The mill has significant financial challenges." "We tried to be as open as we could possibly be on this," he added.

The proposed supplemental budget will total \$2.75 million.

The funds would not come from

working capital, and instead the money would be drawn from excess funds that have built up due to interest and investments.

Because the conditional mill closure presents several problems that could potentially occur, Potter said, it is best for the tribes to be prepared in advance to face those challenges.

"The bottom line is its easy for us to see where the money has to come from but hard to predict where it has to be spent," Potter said.

The current cash flow plan for the tribes shows a steady decline until 2018 due to a lengthy approval process for the proposed Cascade Locks casino, which will face a two-year appeals process and then approximately a two-year construction period.

However, at that point the cash flow will steadily increase, Potter explained.

"If we can make it to that point we'll have accomplished our major goal," Potter told the crowd of community members.

Potter also spoke of several "bright spots" in the tribes' financial future—Composite Products and Tectonics are working to expand their business, and there are potential energy projects through Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

Madeline Queahpama-Spino spoke to the crowd about the upcoming adoption election and said they are looking forward to developing it so that more children are eligible for adoption by the tribes.

Proposals for the adoption election include adopting the 1950 or 1960 census role as a base role for the tribes, or allowing the combination of the four Columbia River tribes for adoption.

It is a lengthy and tedious process, Queahpama-Spino said, and takes about a week to count all the ballots.

As the election approaches, she added, they will be working with local media in order to inform community members of those who are up for adoption.

"We try to set up the adoption election so that people are aware of who the families are," Queahpama-Spino explained.