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50 cents

Coyote News, est. 1976

October 9, 2008 Vol. 33, No. 21

Growing enterprise serves global market

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Warm Springs Composite Products is unique and surprising.

The products the workers make at Composite Products are diverse — from fireproof construction parts, to bulletproof material, to specialized secondary wood products.

Composite Products continues to thrive, in part because of the diversity of products, and in part because of increasing sales overseas.

"If you have a lull in one area, then another area picks up," said Jake Coochise, Composite Products director of global business.

"That way, things balances out," he said. "And we can continue to hire people, because we don't have the highs and lows that we used to have."

Composite Products now employs about 50 people, an increase of six or seven over the past year, said Coochise.

The plant operates in two shifts of four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday. With this arrangement, any necessary overtime can be worked on Friday, said Coochise, who has been with the company.

Composite Products, an enterprise of the Confederated Tribes,



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

was founded in 1993 by Phil Rhodda and Alan Earnest.

In the early years the enterprise was housed in the old apparel building, producing just the door components.

As the operation expanded, Composite Products moved into a building by the Forest Products Industries mill. And as growth continued, the en-

terprise expanded into three large, separate rooms in the building.

When the company started, nearly all of the sales were to businesses in the U.S. Now, about 30 percent of the sales are overseas, said Coochise.

For example, earlier this year Composite Products landed a major, high-profile contract to supply fire-resistant

components for the Burj Dubai. The \$4 billion skyscraper, under construction in Burj, United Arab Emirates, will be the tallest in the world.

The drawings for the Burj doors were being finalized last week, and the Composite Products employees this week were planning to start building them, said Coochise.

The Burj contract is the biggest project ever for Composite Products, surpassing its previous work for the World Trade Center in Bahrain.

The mainstay of Composite Products is Tectonite, a unique mixture of materials including diatomaceous earth, fiberglass, recycled newspaper and other ingredients.

Tectonite is used in components of doors used in public buildings such as hotels, schools and hospitals, which must meet fire protection standards.

Composite Products has its own in-house testing system, a furnace the enterprise purchased from a certification agency in California. "It has already paid for itself 20 times over," said Coochise.

Before, Composite Products would ship off its products for testing, hoping they would meet the fire standards. This led to over-engineering of the products to ensure they met the standards.

See WSCP on page 9

Districts to meet on budget

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The proposed 2009 general fund budget of the Confederated Tribes was posted recently.

Tribal management and Council will conduct two rounds of district meetings regarding the proposal.

The Agency District meeting is this Thursday evening, Oct. 9, at the Agency Longhouse. The Simnasho meeting was scheduled for Wednesday evening of this week (after Spilyay deadline). The Seekseequa District is expecting to meet next week.

The tribes will conduct a second series of district meetings on the budget proposal later in the month or early next month, said Ray Potter, chief financial officer of the Confederated Tribes.

This is the first year that the tribes will conduct two series of district meetings on the budget proposal.

The purpose of the first meetings is to present budget information to the membership. More information will be passed out than in previous years, which is why the second set of meetings will be held.

The second meetings will happen after members have had some time to review the budget material. These second district meetings, and the General Council meeting will be a chance for tribal members to give their comments on the proposal.

A difference in the 2009 budget proposal, in comparison with the previous several years, is that there is no proposed reduction in the tribal operations budget, said Potter.

This is the result of budget planning over the past three years. In these previous years, "We worked to reduce the budget, because we saw there were problems on the horizon," Potter said.

So there is no need to reduce 2009 operations in order to balance the budget, he said.

See BUDGET on page 6

Neighborhood cleanup project draws support

The West Hills Beautification Project has witnessed an overwhelming amount of support from the community members, said Jefferson Greene, project coordinator.

The neighborhood beautification project is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 25-26.

Within the past two weeks, friends,

neighbors, businesses and community teams have offered their time and resources toward the project, said Greene.

Since early September, when the project first got under way, community members have contributed nearly \$700, with only \$280 to go toward the goal of \$987, Greene said last week.

Fourteen different organizations have come forward to financially support the project. "We have close to 30 participants," said Greene.

A main goal of the project is to remove the weeds from the sidewalks in the West Hills neighborhood. Volunteers are needed for cutting the weeds, bagging and removing them. Donations of

water, other beverages and food are also needed.

The clean-up project will begin on Saturday morning, Oct. 25 with an opening ceremony at the corner of Foster Street and Bray Avenue in West Hills. For more information, or to contribute or participate, call Jefferson Greene at (541) 460-3004.

Chain gang stays close to football action

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

A love of football has inspired several community members to volunteer their time this fall.

The familiar faces can be seen on the sidelines during junior varsity football games at the high school. Dubbed the "chain gang," the group is responsible for holding markers where downs occur during the game.

That means they move along with the game, Coach Butch David explained.

Volunteers include Dawn Smith, Ardis Smith, Kevin Rodin, Alley David and Patrick Clark.

Dawn Smith, principal at Warm Springs Elementary School, is responsible for encouraging her fellow volunteers to join her efforts.

Rodin works as the school improvement specialist at Warm Springs Elementary and said he began volunteering after Smith invited him to join their team. "I enjoy watching football—so good sideline seats," Rodin said.



Leslie Mitts/Spilyay

Alley David and Ardis Smith are two of several volunteers who help out during the junior varsity football games at Madras High School.

Dawn Smith also invited her daughter, Ardis Smith, a first grade teacher at Madras Elementary School as well as Ardis' boyfriend Patrick Clark.

According to Ardis Smith, her

mother used to volunteer at the games and talked about how much fun it was, so they decided to volunteer this year as well.

"It's just something fun to do," she

explained. "It's kind of fun to watch the players to see who is going to be up and coming—plus I just like to watch football."

See CHAIN GANG on page 9

Suspect faces charge of first-degree murder

Jolena Jean Warner, 27, was arrested in Portland last week on a charge of first-degree murder.

Warner is accused of murdering Lucinda Stwyer, who was 27 at the time of her death on September 24 (Howlak Tichum on page 9).

Ms. Stwyer's body was discovered when a crew responded to a report of a fire in the Trout Lake area on Wednesday, Sept. 24. The fire crew found a burning car, and the body of Ms. Stwyer inside.

Ms. Stwyer was the mother of three. She had become involved with meth, her relatives said.

On the day of her passing, she had gone alone to a drug deal in the remote Trout Lake area of the reservation, her relatives said.

The suspect in the case turned herself in to authorities in Portland and was booked into the Multnomah County Detention Center on federal charges of first-degree murder.