



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

January 15, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 2

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Branch Matthew
1200 SW Park Ave.
Portland OR 97205

CR WSS
Patron

Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

50 cents

Tribes considering telecommunications enterprise

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is exploring the possibility of creating a telecommunications enterprise that would serve the reservation.

The people working on the project see great potential for economic development and local job creation through the telecommunications enterprise.

There are currently nine other tribes in the U.S. that have developed telecommunications companies, or enterprises on their reservations, said Jeff Anspach, chief executive officer of Warm Springs Ventures, the tribes' economic development enterprise.

The tribal telecommunication companies are partly or wholly owned and operated by the tribes. Each of the tribes—located mainly in the South-

west—has reported its project to be successful, said Anspach.

These tribes have reported success in areas of job creation for tribal members, development of infrastructure for new businesses, and telecommunication service to reservation households and businesses, said Anspach.

The number of jobs created through telecommunication development on the reservations range from 18 to 55. "These are skilled, living wage jobs," said Anspach.

The existence of the telecommunication system on the reservation would also encourage local economic development, said Anspach.

For instance, the Kah-Nee-Ta area, including the resort, would have access to high-speed internet, which has become an essential service at resorts.

The Warm Springs industrial park,

and the reservation as a whole, could see new business development, as a modern telecommunication infrastructure is key to attracting new businesses.

As Ken Smith, Ventures chairman and telecommunications team member, said, "If you want to enhance economic development, you have to have the infrastructure, the basic foundation for businesses." The telecommunications enterprise, he said, "makes good economic sense for the tribes."

Councilwoman Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham, who serves on the telecommunications team, said, "Wouldn't it be great if we could run a business to provide telephone, internet, and television services?"

"The tribal council has pursued this technology business to improve the infrastructural needs with communica-

tions, plus to create some jobs, and add to the tribes' revenue," said Stwyer-Pinkham.

Tribal telco

The tribal telecommunication project, called the tribal telco, would provide telephone, digital television and high-speed internet service the people living in all areas of the Warm Springs reservation.

Warm Springs Ventures, the telco team, the telecommunications steering committee and Tribal Council have been pursuing the idea for over a year.

The telco plan especially gained momentum after the opening of the Teepee Deli internet café at the Warm Springs Plaza, which has proven to be very popular. "It showed people here want to be connected to the world wide web," said Anspach.

Positive meetings

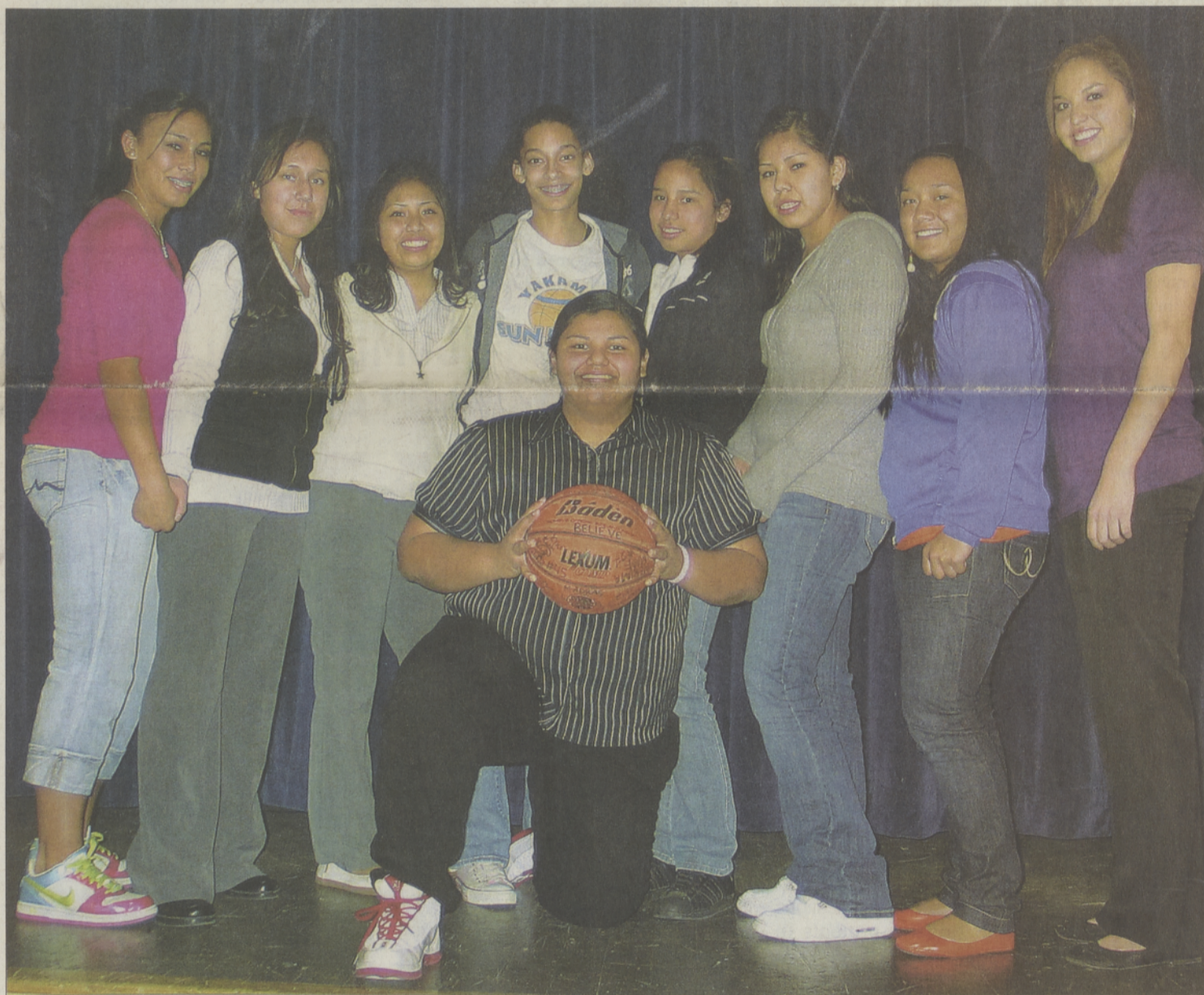
Telecommunications is highly regulated, and the tribal telco would require significant funding, so much planning is needed. Recently, tribal officials traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with federal lawmakers and the regulators whose support will be needed for funding and development of the telco.

"We came away from each meeting with the feeling that this could be done," said Anspach.

A feasibility study, conducted through a USDA grant, also indicates the project could be accomplished.

The telco would be a major investment on the reservation. The project, for instance, would require the installation of a fiber-optic cable that would loop around the reservation.

See TELCO on page 7



The 2008-09 varsity squad includes (left to right) JoElla Smith, Kristi Olney, Penny Danzuka, Abby Scott, Karlen Yallup, Cheyenne Wahnetah, Merima Made, Marissa Ahern, and (in front) Kara Katchia.

Girls basketball squad features tribal members

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

On and off the court, several girls from Warm Springs are finding success through teamwork.

The 2009-09 girls' varsity basketball squad at Madras High School is made up entirely of students from Warm Springs.

That's something that the White Buffaloes see as an advantage this season, as the group of girls' has grown incredibly close as a team.

The team includes Merima Made, a 16-year-old junior; Abby Scott, a 14-year-old freshman; Marissa Ahern, a 16-year-old junior; Cheyenne Wahnetah, a 16-year-old-sophomore; Karlen Yallup, a 16-

year-old junior; Kara Katchia, an 18-year-old senior; Penny Danzuka, a 17-year-old senior; Kristi Olney, a 17-year-old junior; and JoElla Smith, 16, a sophomore.

Rory Oster serves as head coach for the girls' varsity team.

It's his first year coaching at Madras, and Oster said this is an excellent group of girls to work with.

"It's a great transition for me," Oster said. "It kind of makes my job easy."

This year the girls earned the first IMC win for Madras since 2007—something they credit as being one of their favorite moments so far this season.

According to Danzuka, the league win demonstrated the changes in the team this year.

"It kind of proved that we're a different team from last year," she explained.

Olney said her favorite moment so far this season was "walking back to the bench after our first win."

"Winning is definitely the favorite part so far," Scott agreed. "Hopefully a lot more wins to come."

After a loss against Summit on January 9, the team is 5-5 this season.

As for the players, Oster said, they all stand out in their own ways.

"It's usually different players that step up every single night," Oster said. "We kind of have that understanding that we don't care who scores."

"The season has been going pretty well," Oster said. "I think we've kind of already surpassed a lot of people's

expectations."

As for how the team is different this year, Made said, "We believe." Support, she added, is key.

"It feels good that a lot more people are coming to our games to support us, and we have a coach to tell us we can do it," Made explained. "It feels good just to have our own people come and watch us."

Some of the girls are hoping for even more support at the remaining home games.

"We want more community support," Smith and Olney said. "Because we want the top bleachers pulled out!"

See HOOPS SQUAD on page 7

Final casino EIS nearing completion

The Confederated Tribes expect that the BIA next month will finalize the environmental impact statement on the tribes' Cascade Locks casino proposal.

The final environmental impact statement (EIS) will be based on the draft EIS and the more than 10,000 comments that people made last year on the draft document.

The final EIS will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior's Office for review and action.

Highway interchange

A traffic interchange issue may be addressed in a separate document that could later be added to the final EIS, said Ed Manion, interim casino project team coordinator.

The traffic issue has to do with an Oregon Department of Transportation regulation that was recently adopted regarding highway interchanges.

The regulation says that new highway interchanges, or exits, can exist no closer than six miles apart in rural areas and three miles apart in urban areas.

The proposed interchange at the Cascade Locks casino site is about a mile and a half from the existing east Cascade Locks interchange.

The Oregon Department of Transportation indicated recently that the east Cascade Locks interchange would have to be closed if a casino interchange were opened.

Residents at Cascade Locks are against the idea of closing the existing interchange at east Cascade Locks.

Closing the interchange would create too much traffic, including truck traffic in town, and would make it difficult to leave town in case of emergency such as evacuation, residents of the town have said.

ODOT has said that the tribes can request an exemption to allow both interchanges, said Manion. The tribes and government agencies involved would help to develop an Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP), which is required by ODOT and the Federal High Administration, said Manion.

The Federal High Administration could then issue a record of decision based on the plan, he said. With the final EIS almost ready for Interior review, the IAMP would have to be inserted into the EIS at a later time, said Manion.