



Spilyay Tymo

Coyote News, est. 1976

August 27, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 18

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1230 SW PARK AVE.
PORTLAND, OR 97205

ECR WSS
Postal Patron

J.S. Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

50 cents

Celilo Village Restoration

Tribes, federal officials gather for dedication

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

The historic Celilo Village at the Columbia River has new homes, paved roads, a new drinking water system, a playground and basketball court. The new Celilo administration and school building is a great addition to the community.

The improvements to the village, including a longhouse with kitchen, happened over the past four years. The Celilo Restoration Project was a cooperative effort of the Columbia River tribes, the people of Celilo, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While the actual work on the restoration project began about four years ago, the circumstances leading up to it date back much further.

"Everything begins with history, and the history of this particular situation started when we signed our treaty with the federal government," said Ron Suppah, Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Wy-Am board member.

In the Treaty of 1855 the tribes retained their right, dating from time immemorial, to fish at all their "usual and accustomed places," many of which were located around Celilo Falls. In the late 1930s, Suppah said, the Bonneville dam inundated many of the fishing sites. Then in the 1940s construction of The Dalles dam flooded more sites and forced the relocation of Celilo Village.

At the time the government promised to acquire 400 acres of land for the tribes—including in-lieu fishing sites—to compensate the tribes for their losses. Meanwhile, the Corps of Engineers was given the responsibility of constructing a new village.

However, according to a report from the Oregon Historical Society:

"The poor quality of construction materials and inadequate maintenance at the relocated village caused structures to badly deteriorate, leaving residents without water or sewer access and with sanitary conditions that violated federal and state statutes and also endangered public health and safety."

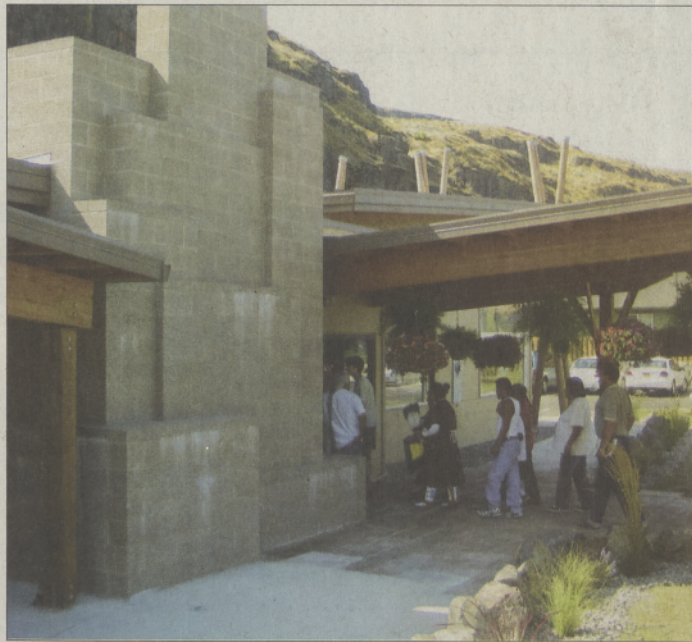
In 1988—forty years after the flooding by The Dalles Dam—President Reagan signed a law requiring the government to meet its obligations to the tribes. The Corps then carried out in-lieu fishing projects, but the living conditions at Celilo Village remained the same.

See CELILO RESTORATION on 9



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The architecture of the new Celilo Administration and School Building (above and below) was inspired by the basalt rock formations of the area, and by the tribal fish scaffoldings at the nearby Columbia River. Antone Minthorn (picture above), chairman of the Wy-Am board and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Tribal Council, signs a memento of the dedication ceremony last week.



Marijuana growing operations uncovered

Warm Springs law enforcement officers on August 14 seized over 1,600 marijuana plants growing on the reservation. Over the past two years, Warm Springs officers have seized over 30,500 marijuana plants in four separate raids.

Police Chief Carmen Smith said that illegal growers have made their way onto the reservation by having girlfriends who live here, scouting remote spots and setting up camps in remote areas where people seldom go.

Warm Springs officers focus on policing the town and surrounding neighborhoods, said Smith. "We're so busy that we don't have time to make these

rural patrols," he said.

Officers first spotted the most recent marijuana plantation while flying over a southern area of the reservation in an Oregon Army National Guard helicopter.

For a month afterward, police kept watch on a group of men as they tended the marijuana.

At daybreak on August 14, a task force of investigators began sneaking up on the campsite. The path to the camp was so overgrown with brush that it took nearly three hours to silently make their way 500 yards.

Still, they must have been overheard. Just as they came upon the camp, in-

vestigators heard someone running through the woods, said Warm Springs Detective John Webb.

The investigators discovered a sophisticated irrigation system that used gravity to pull water into the gardens. The tarps and other equipment matched what they found in earlier seizures on the reservation, Webb said.

About the same time as this raid, Yakama tribal law enforcement seized a large number of marijuana plants growing on the Yakama Reservation. Thousands more plants were found this week growing near Prineville.

Stimulus funding could help variety of projects

The federal Stimulus program could fund a variety of projects benefiting the Confederated Tribes.

Some of the proposed projects have a good chance of receiving Stimulus funding, while some may not.

A few projects have already been funded, said Lonny Macy, tribal planner, who reported the information recently to Tribal Council.

From road and housing work on the reservation, to in-lieu fishing site improvements, the projects have the potential to create many new jobs.

The single biggest federal Stimulus program for the tribes is the bio-mass project at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

The tribes received word earlier this summer that the bio-mass would receive \$5 million in Stimulus, or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), funding.

The \$5 million will provide for the construction of a second bio-mass boiler at the WSFPI mill. This would allow the tribes to sell electricity from the bio-mass facility.

BIA Roads in Warm Springs is looking at about \$3.5 million in on-reservation projects that could qualify for ARRA funding.

Road maintenance projects would account for about \$2.5 million of the total, with road construction bringing in another \$1 million, said Tom Shuman, BIA Roads engineer.

Potential projects include spreading gravel on roads such as Mutton Mountain Road and Kishwalks.

There could be some pavement work done in subdivisions, overlay work on Hollywood and Tenino, pavement of Charlie Canyon Road, roadside brush removal and culvert maintenance, among the projects, said Shuman.

The list of proposed road projects will be finalized by Tribal Council; and the application is to be turned in by early next year, he said.

Shuman estimated that \$3 million to \$3.5 million in roads funding would

create about 30 on-reservation jobs. Tribal Construction would be the contractor.

The tribal Housing Authority received \$627,000 in Stimulus funding for construction of five new homes in the Sunnyside subdivision, said Housing Authority executive director Jeff Sanders.

The hope is that work will begin on the 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom homes perhaps as early as September. These mutual-help houses will be similar to those built a few years ago at Bear Drive, said Sanders.

Other Stimulus projects:

Two in-lieu fishing sites at the Columbia will be improved for use with \$28 million in Stimulus money, said Louie Pitt, director of tribal Government Affairs.

Vocational Rehabilitation is applying for \$180,000 to fund two new shuttles and five bus shelters. "We're really trying to get shuttle service between Warm Springs and Madras," said David Conroy, acting director of tribal Social Services, and director of Voc Rehab.

Indian Health Services set aside \$225,000 in Stimulus money for installation of water meters at 140 homes in Simnasho and Sidwalter.

Tribal Government Affairs is applying for \$55,000 for solar panels and other energy conservation measures for the new tribal Media Center.

Warm Springs Ventures has applied for \$5 million to bring broadband service to the reservation, said Jeff Anspach, Ventures executive director. The tribes would then designate an enterprise to operate the service, said Anspach.

This project would be a great benefit to the reservation and tribal members, and the need for the service also is great, he said. However, the criteria that the grant application is judged by could make funding of this project not very likely, he said.

— by Dave McMechan

Two flu vaccines this year

Indian Health Services, tribal health and other officials are preparing for a potentially very serious flu season.

A concern is a possible outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus, commonly called swine flu.

Swine flu has claimed nearly 500 lives in the U.S. since the start of the last flu season. Eleven of these deaths were in Oregon.

"IHS and the tribes are working together to prepare for this," said Roberta Queahpama, Warm Springs Community Health director.

The planning meetings have involved top officials of the tribes, she said. "We're developing a plan for distribution of the vaccines," said Queahpama.

This year, many people will be getting two flu shots: one regular flu vaccine, and one for the swine flu, she said.

The Community Health Department

is also putting an even greater emphasis on hygiene to prevent the spread of the flu, said Queahpama.

The flu vaccines are recommended for children 6-months to 24 years, for adults with chronic conditions, and for pregnant women.

There will be 190 million doses of the vaccine distributed in the U.S. With this supply, not everyone will be able to get a vaccination against swine flu.

The H1N1 strain of the type A influenza virus appeared in the U.S. in late March and quickly spread across the country and the world before it was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in June.

Health officials say infections from swine flu, like the seasonal flu, can range from mild to severe. Symptoms are a high fever, cough, sore throat, chills, body aches and fatigue.

Spilyay has new phone numbers

Please note, the Spilyay Tymo has new phone numbers. To reach the Spilyay, please call 553-2307,

553-2210 or 553-1928. The previous phone number (553-3274) is for voice mail only. Thank you!