



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

September 10, 2009 Vol. 34, No. 19

P.O. Box 870
Warm Springs, OR 97761

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

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Stimulus could fund new K-8 school

By Dave McMechan
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A long-standing plan to build a new school in Warm Springs could benefit from the federal Stimulus program.

"We put in a grant application that would fully fund the school construction," said Rick Molitor, superintendent of Jefferson County School District 509-J.

The district and the tribes worked together to get the application completed in time to meet the deadline, said Molitor.

There was a time-frame of only

three to four weeks to complete the application, he said.

Fortunately, the tribes and the district already had preliminary drawings of the school, which would be built on Chukar Road at Greeley Heights, on the plateau above the museum.

The school would serve students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

"Everyone pulled together to get the application in," said Gerald Smith, the tribes' chief operations officer. The Land-use and Education committees, Utilities Department and others worked well together on the project, said Smith.

Whether the district will receive the \$17 million grant is uncertain. The pool from which the grant would be drawn is specifically for school districts in the U.S. that include military installations or Indian reservations.

A total of \$60-\$70 million is available nationwide, which is not a lot of money considering the number of school districts competing for grants, said Molitor. "But we think we have everything in order to be a serious candidate," he said.

The new school would replace the existing Warm Springs Elementary School, which was originally built in the

1930s. Some classes at the school are in portable trailers.

The gymnasium at the elementary school is just a few years old, and would continue to be used for education purposes if the new school is built, said Molitor.

If all goes as hoped, construction could begin next year, and the school would open in the fall of 2011.

A new school is a great need of the Warm Springs community, said Smith. As a side benefit, he said, construction of the new buildings would create badly needed local jobs.

Palomar assessment comments accepted

The Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team has released the Palomar Natural Gas Line Draft Project Assessment.

The team will be accepting comments on the assessment during a two-week public review period.

The Palomar project involves construction by the energy company of a natural gas line between a point at the northwestern boundary of the reservation near North Pinhead Butte and a site on the eastern boundary just south of Pelton Reregulating Dam.

The development would include a maximum 120-foot-wide construction right-of-way in upland areas and a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way in wetlands.

The portion of the project covered under the project assessment would be located entirely on the Warm Springs Reservation.

The gas pipeline would cover a total of 217 miles in Oregon and 36.1 of those would be on the reservation. The permanent right-of-way would be 50 feet in width.

The pipeline would be buried to a depth of at least three feet in most areas. There would be 34 stream crossing and approximately 0.3 mile of new access road would be constructed for maintenance purposes. An additional 2.7 miles of existing roads would be widened by approximately four feet to provide temporary access during construction.

This project would cut an estimated net harvest volume of 3.25 million board feet of timber from 524 acres.

Tribal members can contact the Natural Resources Branch to submit their comments.

Kah-Nee-Ta awards 4 scholarships

Four tribal members seeking higher education degrees received scholarship awards from Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert and Casino.

Jaylyn Suppah, attending Evergreen State College, is studying Political Science. She received \$500.

LaRonn Katchia is attending the Art Institute of Portland, majoring in Game and Art Design. He received \$1,000 and a laptop computer.

Cally Young is attending Cal Poly Pomona, studying education. She received \$1,000 and a laptop.

Colleen Debra Johnson is attending Oregon State University, studying Natural Resources and Forestry Management. She received \$500.

Kah-Nee-Ta awards the scholarship grants each year to students attending a four-year college, or a two-year college, vocational or technical school.



Kah-Nee-Ta human resources director Janell Smith presents Jaylyn Suppah and LaRonn Katchia with their scholarship checks. LaRonn also received a laptop computer.

Politics of Indian casinos can be very unfair

By Dave McMechan
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Indian tribes have a long history of dealing with unfairness.

A present-day example of ongoing unfairness is in the business of tribal casinos, particularly the effort by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to have a successful gaming enterprise.

An injustice of the tribal casino system can be seen in the main opponent of Warm Springs: the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

In this instance the numbers speak for themselves:

Spirit Mountain Casino and resort of the Grand Ronde generates annual gross revenue of about \$260 million, according to a study commissioned by the Grand Ronde.

Kah-Nee-Ta resort and casino of Warm Springs generates annual gross revenue of about \$4 million.

Two-hundred and sixty million dollars a year versus \$4 million: In winning political and other allies who may need money, it is easy to see which tribe has the advantage.

Treaty provision

The essential difference between Spirit Mountain and Kah-Nee-Ta is their proximity to Portland, something that neither tribe had any control over.

That situation in itself is somehow

not fair. But recent acts of the Grand Ronde have pushed the situation beyond what is reasonable.

The tribes are at the point now where Louie Pitt, Warm Springs government affairs director, refers to this provision of the Treaty of 1855:

"...Nor will they (the tribes) make war on any other tribe of Indians except in self-defense but submit all matters of difference between them and other Indians to the Government of the United States, or its agents for decision..."

As stated in the treaty, the policy of the U.S. and tribal governments is that tribes are not to war with other tribes.

If tribes are in conflict over certain land, for instance, then war—or in this case an economic conflict involving millions of tribal dollars—should not be an option.

The Ceded Lands

The conflict in the present case is about Cascade Locks, a part of the Ceded Lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

A federal case, *The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs vs. the U.S.*, concluded that no other tribe has any original claim to these particular Ceded Lands, which include Cascade Locks.

And yet the Grand Ronde assert their interest in the site.

The Grand Ronde, for instance, is attempting to be included among the

"That seems like an aggressive act to me... We were there for them, and this is how they return the favor."

Louie Pitt

Government Affairs director

tribes recognized in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The act currently recognizes the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce tribes.

As for the Grand Ronde's sudden interest in the Gorge, Louie Pitt asks, Where were they all the years when the Columbia River tribes were fighting for tribal fishing rights?

Why is Grand Ronde not part of the Columbia River Fish Accords? Why are they not part of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission? The answer is that the Grand Ronde have no treaty rights at the Columbia.

Paid lobbyist

The one instance when Grand Ronde asserts an interest at the Gorge is when the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is trying to build a casino there.

The lobbying work by Cecil Andrus on behalf of the Grand Ronde is a

great example of how far the situation has deteriorated.

Former Idaho governor Andrus was actively opposing the Cascade Locks casino, apparently out of concern for the Gorge. An August editorial in *The Bend Bulletin* summarized what happened next:

So much for Cecil Andrus, environmentalist. The former Idaho governor let it be known recently that he opposes the construction of a casino in Cascade Locks. Protecting the Columbia River Gorge from such economic development—er, blight—is a "professional passion," he said at the time.

Professional, indeed. As Bulletin reporter Keith Chu discovered days later, Andrus has a financial interest in the casino debate.

He works as a paid lobbyist on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Grand Ronde tribes oppose the Cascade Locks casino because it would be closer to Portland than their own cash cow, Spirit Mountain Casino.

Why didn't Andrus or his employer (Gallatin Public Affairs) see fit to volunteer this very relevant piece of information?

"It was entirely an oversight on our part," a partner at Gallatin Public Affairs told The Bulletin. Really?

If the revelation of Andrus' lobbying activities compromise the environmental case against the Cascade Locks site, good. It

happens to be a particularly bad case.

Act of aggression

Without some new source of revenue, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is facing a financial crisis.

Recent budget talk is of a 33-percent reduction in tribal services within the very near future.

Unemployment on the reservation is between 40 and 60 percent.

There are 200 names on the Housing Authority rental waiting list. There are 300 names on the waiting list to buy a home.

And the Grand Ronde—who were helped by Warm Springs in regaining their federal recognition as a tribe—are actively fighting the Cascade Locks casino.

"That seems like an aggressive act to me," said Louie Pitt. "We were there for them, and this is how they return the favor."

A little over 20 years ago, Warm Springs officials testified on behalf of the Grand Ronde, who at the time were trying to restore their tribal status. In appreciation of the help, Grand Ronde wrote a letter thanking Warm Springs:

The support by Warm Springs, according to the letter, "demonstrates the Pacific Northwest Tribes' willingness to pull together and lend a helping hand to those who need it."