



Spilyay Tymoo

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Credit union coming to Warm Springs

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Mid Oregon Credit Union is partnering with the Confederated Tribes to bring banking services to the reservation.

Tribal and credit union officials met last week at tribal Credit Enterprise to sign a financial services and support agreement.

The first phase of the agreement is to bring an automatic teller machine and check cashing machine to the Credit building.

Through the agreement, the credit union will in the future open a drive-up banking window. In time, the plan is to have a full service banking service through Mid Oregon Credit at the tribal Credit Enterprise building.

Evaline Patt, chairwoman of the tribal Credit Enterprise board, signed the agreement on behalf of the tribes. "We've been looking forward to this partnership for a long time," she said.

The tribes talked with several financial institutions in the region, she said, "and Mid Oregon Credit Union is a very good fit for Warm Springs."

Credit Enterprise board member Versa Fuentes Smith said that traveling to and from Madras for basic services, such as banking, can be difficult for some tribal members.

"Some people have no transportation, and we have to arrange transportation for them," she said. "I want to thank the credit union on behalf of our people."

"This is an historic move for our tribes," said Credit Enterprise director

Lori Fuentes. "I have a good feeling about what is to come."

Credit Enterprise board members Sandra Greene and Greta White Elk also commented that the new service will be a great benefit for tribal members. Chairwoman Patt thanked tribal advisor Scott Clements, chief financial officer Ray Potter, and Chamber of Commerce director Holli Van Wert for their work on this project.

Mid Oregon Credit Union President Bill Anderson signed the agreement on behalf of the credit union.

"From our very first meetings, I saw the tribes and the credit union share a similar philosophy," Anderson said. "Your organization and ours exist solely for the benefit of the members."

The ATM and cash dispensing machine at the Credit Enterprise will be

state of the art equipment, capable of cashing checks, and scanning checks and cash for deposit into the individual's account. The service is free to credit union members.

In order to secure the tribal Credit Enterprise account, the tribes and the credit union had to develop a unique arrangement, said Ray Potter.

The enterprise was granted a security interest in the Madras branch of Mid Oregon Credit Union. Federal deposit insurance covers deposits up to \$250,000, and the Credit Enterprise account could exceed that. So the security interest was needed for any amount beyond the \$250,000.

The ATM and cash dispensing machine should be in operation within three to four months.

River claims 2 fishermen

Two Warm Springs men, Thane Colwash and Pete Good Lance, passed away in a boating accident last week on the Columbia River.

The men were fishing in a boat with three other fishermen, who were able to survive the ordeal.

One of the survivors, Bruce Jim, chairman of the Off-Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee, was in serious condition, requiring heart surgery this week.

He was being treated at Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, Wash.

Services for Mr. Colwash, who was 46, and Mr. Good Lance, 22, were on Saturday in Warm Springs.

The fishing boat they were in capsized and sank on Sept. 14 near Hermiston, on the west side of McNary Dam.

The search effort immediately following the accident included a Coast Guard helicopter, divers from the Multnomah and Clackamas county dive teams, the Morrow County Sheriff's Department, tribal members, Intertribal Fisheries Enforcement, and the Three Mile Island search team.

Officer Casey Weeks of Intertribal Fisheries Enforcement located the body of Mr. Good Lance at 12:52 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17. The remains were located approximately 300 feet from the Oregon shore in 25-30 feet of water.

Three Mile Island search team members located the body of Mr. Colwash at 5:35 p.m. on Sept. 17. The remains were about 50 feet from those of Mr. Good Lance.

The bodies of both men were transported to the Burns Mortuary in Hermiston, and then to Warm Springs.

Fishing tradition lives at Columbia

By Selena Thompson
Spilyay Tymoo

For many years fishermen from the four treaty tribes have fished the Columbia River and continue to practice their right to fish their usual and accustomed places since the signing of the Treaty of 1855. The Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama, and Warm Springs tribes signed a treaty with the United States government to reserve this right.

The Columbia River is known for its distinctly flavored rich red chinook salmon, and for thousands of years has been home to coho, sockeye, chum and steelhead salmon as well. This river is the only place in the Northwest you can see this historical fish harvest.

Tribal fishermen fish from scaffolds or boats, using set nets, spears, dip nets, and poles and lines. After the destruction of Celilo Falls in 1957, the tribes have gone to the commercial type of fishing, the use of a boat and set nets. While scaffold and dip nets are still being used, commercial fishing is in practice during the biggest season for salmon.

Starting on August 24, fishermen from the four treaty tribes have gathered to participate in fall chinook run along the Columbia River. They gather their nets and supplies, hitch up their boats and locate themselves at one of the "in leiu" or treaty fishing access sites, which are for the treaty tribes use to practice their traditional fishing activities.



Selena Thompson pictures

Albert Kalama's fishing crew from left to right, Titus Kalama, Angela Polk, Albert "Snackbar" Kalama, Nano Briseno, and Simeon Kalama. Pictured below, ladies from Yakama Reservation butcher salmon every day.

Depending on their experience, fishermen have any number of boats, nets, and members of their crew.

If visiting one of the access sites, you would find that there are crews with one net, up to five nets, 5-10 nets, 40 nets, etc.

Fisherman who have fished for many years have accumulated more nets, have more than one boat and have a larger number of crew members. These experienced fishermen are looked upon for their knowledge, and share that knowledge with all generations.

Please see FISHERIES on 9



Local girl wins Pendleton Round-Up pageant

Revonne Johnson of Warm Springs won first place out of 90 contestants at the Junior Indian Beauty Pageant at the Pendleton Round-Up.

Revonne, 12, is Wasco, Warm Springs, Klamath and Paiute. She is the daughter of Reva Johnson.

She competed in the Round-Up pageant last week, wearing regalia made by her grandmother Marcia Minthorn, who went with her to the Round-Up.

The beadwork on her regalia is 49 years old. The dress she wore was newer.

"What an honor to our tribes for Revonne to be representing us," said Brigitte Whipple, tribal ethnographer at Natural Resources.

"We cheered loudly for Revonne," said Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham, Warm Springs Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman, who won the Best Dressed Native American at the Round-Up.

Revonne is in seventh-grade at the Jefferson County Middle School. She likes basketball, and competes in wild colt races. In school she likes science classes and P.E.

She competed in the Pendleton Round-Up Junior Indian Beauty Pageant last year, and finished in the top 10.

She tried again this year, winning the grand prize. The pageant is for girls

ages 4 to 13. The girls are judged on their regalia and poise.

After the 90 contestants walked through the first time, introduced by announcer Wes Grilley, the judges asked a final 10 to come forward again.

After more deliberation, they decided on the first, second and third place winners. (Please see page 12 for a thank-you statement from Revonne.)

Flu shots will resume in October

Warm Springs Health and Wellness is planning to resume flu shot clinics in mid October, said Carol Prevost, IHS chief executive officer in Warm Springs.

The clinic offered flu shots around the community earlier this month, but the supply of vaccine ran out, she said.

The shots were for the regular flu. The new supply expected to arrive in mid October will also be for the regular flu.

H1N1, or swine flu vaccine could arrive at about the same time next month, said Prevost.

The manufacturer of the vaccines ships the supplies to the states, which then distribute them to the local providers.

There has been an added emphasis on flu shots this year because of the possibility of a swine flu outbreak.

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.