

Transit: route takes about an hour

(Continued from page 1)

Passengers who are on business are able to pick up transit tokens at Warm Springs Market, Community Counseling, and Vocational Rehab. The transit fare is fifty-cents; however the elderly and those people with disabilities are typically not charged on the reservation.

As yet, the fare for the Warm Springs-Madras run has not yet been determined.

The route would begin from the Madras DMV parking lot and would end up back on the reservation, Conroy said. Stops on the reservation would include Warm Springs Market, Vocational Rehab, and Kah-Nee-Ta Resort.

This proposed run would begin at 6 a.m., with the last run at 7 p.m.

Warm Springs transit route

Typically, the present transit route through Warm Springs takes about an hour. But that schedule is flexible. The transit does make special door pick-ups for the elderly and those who are physically unable to get to the bus stops.

Individuals who require a door pick-up are asked to call Lori Switzler at 553-4952.

Warm Springs Transit schedule

Approximate bus stop times, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.:

Top of the hour: Warm Springs Market.

5 minutes past the hour: Dry Creek.

9 minutes past the hour: Warm Springs Market.

15 minutes past the hour: Foster and Bray streets.

17 minutes past the hour: Foster and Bray (south end).

20 minutes past the hour: Poosh and West Hills.

25 minutes past the hour:

Administration building.

30 minutes past the hour: IHS building.

35 minutes past the hour: Oitz and Kuckup St.

38 minutes past the hour: Senior Center.

44 minutes past the hour: Jefferson St. and Quail Trail.

48 minutes past the hour: Deschutes Crossing.

52 minutes past the hour: Warm Springs Plaza.

55 minutes past the hour: Social Services.

58 minutes past the hour: Counseling Center.

"But again," Conroy said, "we want to stress that door pick-up service is only available for the elderly and those who are physically unable to get from the door of their house to the bus stops."

New accessibility lab

Conroy is also involved with the addition of the new Accessibility Technology Lab, which will have its grand opening within the next two to three

months.

The lab, located at Voc Rehab, will be helpful to elders and people who have special needs.

"For example, one of our work stations can be raised or lowered, if a person can't sit and work for long periods of time," Conroy said. "We also have what's known as JAWS software, which can blow up job notices for elders who aren't able to see very well."

Voc Rehab will also be software available for people with

mobility issues. This software, called Dragon Naturally Speaking, will type whatever is dictated into the computer.

The Accessibility Technology Center will be mostly funded by Vocational Rehab. The Social Services delivery area is about 65 aerial miles from the reservation boundaries, Conroy says.

The rate of disabilities is about three times what it is in the off-reservation population. Social Services has a current caseload of 170 individuals, compared to 20 a little over two years ago.

"We try to be responsive to areas of concern," Conroy said, "particularly if we are looking at program expansion or route expansion for the transit. We welcome public comments and we're here to serve the people."

He added, "Especially when we do something right, we like to hear about that, so we can keep doing things right. I know the bus system hasn't always been perfect but the system as a whole, I think, is beginning to move forward. We are here to serve the people first and foremost, particularly with such a high rate of unemployment on the reservation. We want to assist people in any way we can."

25 Year Recognition



Photo courtesy of Gary Gilhene

On behalf of the tribes, Charles Nathan accepts the 25-year recognition award from FM Global's Mike Witmere. Also on hand were FM Global's Scott Harbert and Barren Benson, and tribal chief financial officer Ray Potter (at right).

The Confederated Tribes have had the same insurance company, FM Global, for the past 25 years, and the company recognized the anniversary recently at their annual meeting at Kah-Nee-Ta.

FM Global insures all tribal property, said Charles Nathan, the tribes risk manager, who accepted the recognition award on behalf of the tribes.

The tribes began using FM Global, then called Arkwright, in 1984, as the

tribes' previous insurer had gone out of business, said Nathan.

The FM Global representatives came to Kah-Nee-Ta in the winter of that year to meet with the tribes, and the sides reached an agreement, said Nathan.

An interesting footnote, Nathan said, is that the company gave tribes flood insurance for free.

Then in 1996, the reservation was flooded and Kah-Nee-Ta suffered over \$1 million in flood damage, with the company covered, said Nathan.

Impact Aid: parents participating more

(Continued from page 1)

The tribes understand that the Impact Aid funds are provided to the school district for uncollected taxes on tax exempt lands, Katchia said.

"For the record and public notification," she said, "the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon pays taxes from their joint ownership of the

Round Butte and Pelton dams, and of the property purchased that has not yet been converted to federal trust land. Therefore, on record, it is to be noted that the Warm Springs Reservation pays taxes to Jefferson County."

Laurie Danzuka, school board member, said she is excited that more community members are familiarizing themselves with the Impact Aid fund-

ing.

"I have four children in the school district," Danzuka said. "I thought, 'Why aren't we more involved in this? Why aren't we standing up and making our voices heard for our children?'"

She said, "As a board member, I think it's important that we assure parents that these concerns are not going to go away just because you don't

come to a meeting. I'm glad this is coming forward, and I'm glad that everybody is here tonight, as we continue to advocate for all students."

The goals of the board drafting the Impact Aid application are to demonstrate continual academic achievement, create a positive school climate, and maintain long-term fiscal stability.

Public Meeting Notice

Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation is scheduled to meet Monday December 7, 2009 beginning at 10:00 am, at Bob's Texas T-Bone Restaurant, Rufus, 101 E Main St, Rufus, OR (541) 739-2559.

The LJD ACT is made up of Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler County's and Con-

federated Tribes of Warm Springs.

First Agenda item is to receive Public Comments on 2010-2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

For more information please contact LJD ACT Staff Michelle Colby, at 541-384-3767.

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