

Tribes invest in future economic vitality

By Jody Calica
Secretary-Treasurer

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council along with enterprise managers, government leaders, and the Warm Springs Community Action Team are mobilizing efforts to strengthen tribal and private sector business.

Efforts are supporting four Economic Stewardship goals: Increase tribal revenue, increase jobs, foster private sector business development, and improve reservation infrastructure.

Tribal Council is investing \$10 million into three areas supporting economic growth.

The investments share a core principle of using the resources to leverage as many additional resources as possible.

The investment includes:

Business Investment Revolving Fund (BIRF)

The BIRF provides \$6 million invested in developing or advancing tribal enterprises to produce increased tribal revenue and jobs.

The intent is to grow this revolving fund over time to over a minimum of \$20 million to support on-going enterprise development.

The BIRF team is responsible for generating and implementing business strategies and meets monthly to discuss and develop investment proposals.

The BIRF team includes all tribal enterprise managers, Ken Smith and Wayne Pearson, two at-large business leaders, and Tribal Council leaders Chair Buck Smith, J.P. Patt, and Scott Moses.

To date, investment is being made in the Teleco project which provides bandwidth infrastructure for the reservation and will result in a minimum of 19 new jobs.

Private Business Revolving Loan Fund (PBRL)

The PBRL includes the initial investment of \$2 million to support private sector business growth and development.

The intent of this fund is to grow the private business sector among tribal members and provide a source of capital that will be available now and in the future.

Decisions on the method for accessing the resources are currently under discussion and should be completed in the near future.

Capacity Building Fund

The ability for government and private sector to successfully grow business, is supported by a \$2 million investment with a focus on enhanced job creation and skill development through education and training for enterprise and private sector jobs.

Included in Capacity Building is a \$500,000 investment in

a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to create a revolving loan fund for private businesses that will have the opportunity to leverage an additional \$2 million grants and loans from the U.S. Department of Treasury and private banks.

In addition there will be an increased capacity for Ventures, the enterprise development corporation for tribal enterprise, to develop business opportunities and for planning to enhance the physical infrastructure that is the foundation for both tribal enterprises and private businesses to operate.

The Community Action Team (CAT) will provide leadership in the development of the CDFI fund and focus on assisting the private business sector through a private small business center.

Lastly an economic coordinator will provide overall facilitation and coordination out of the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

TeleCo Corner

Native Nations Day at the FCC

by Marsha Spellman
Marketing & Regulatory Director, WSTC

Earlier this month, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of meetings that were held to promote and lobby for tribal telecommunications.

Like Warm Springs, most tribal communities lack basic telecommunications services. Some reservations have no phone service at all.

Tribal leaders have begun to recognize that the lack of these services is a huge problem that they must deal with. No longer should tribes rely on the outside world to bring telecommunications to their reservations.

But this is easier said than done. Telecommunications is a very complicated business. It is technically complex and requires a lot of engineering and planning.

It is also very expensive to build. Developing a phone or broadband network takes big bucks that most tribes don't have.

And finally, it is a regulated industry. Unlike putting up a new store, one can't just go into the telecom industry without the

necessary regulatory approvals. This is not only to be allowed to go into business, but without all the regulatory approvals, it is impossible to get the various agreements approved to allow your company to "talk" or "interconnect" to the other companies so your calls will reach the outside world.

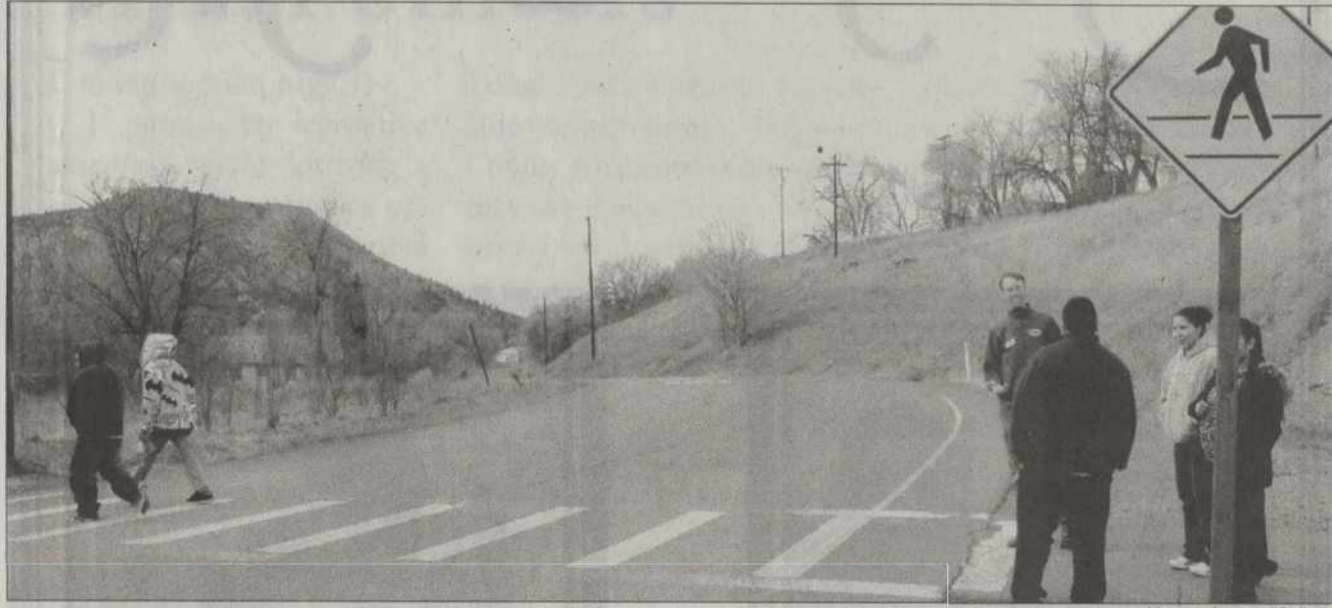
Last year, the Warm Springs Telecommunications Company joined the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, (NTTA), the organization representing the nine tribal telecom companies (including Warm Springs as the ninth tribal telco in the country!), as well as Sandwich Islands Telecom, of the Native Hawaiian homelands, and also some native Alaskan villages companies.

On the first day of my trip, I attended an NTTA quarterly meeting and then with the rest of the NTTA crowd, went to Capitol Hill to lobby various congressional staff and agencies to impress on them the importance of helping tribes to get into the telecom industry.

The big event of my trip was the Native Nations Day at the FCC.

See TELECO CORNER on 8

Safe Routes to School



Crossing guard training in Warm Springs.

Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

An application facilitated by the Warm Springs Grant Development Office was submitted and approved for a Safe Routes to School Program in Warm Springs.

As a part of the grant, a Crossing Guard program is being developed to assist students in safely crossing the road in areas that have been identified by the Safety Team.

Trainings provided by Brian Potwin, Safe Routes to School Instructor, were held on the last two Mondays for anyone interested in volunteering to be a crossing guard.

The training session covered the proper use of equipment and positioning and procedures. Each volunteer will need only to commit up to one hour per week and the vests and equipment are provided.

The process of gathering community members and representatives from different tribal departments to apply for the grant has also identified other issues that need to be addressed beyond what will be covered in the SRTS grant.

The group will be taking a look at the need for school zone and cross walk signage, as well as education about tribal Traffic Codes.

Last month the Safety Team took a quiz to show what they know about tribal Traffic Codes. The scores were 50/50, prompting a special presentation to the group by the Warm Springs Police Department.

The group will be using what they learned to carry out an education campaign in the months to come and you can expect to see crossing guards during the after-school hours once school resumes after spring break.

If you would like more information about this program

or are interested in volunteering, please contact Ashley Aguilar at 553-2243.

— by Yvonne Iverson

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo.
The next deadline to submit items for publication is Friday, April 1.

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NEW -N- USED

304 MADISON ST., SUITE 102
MADRAS, OR. 97741

ISAAC
541-693-3742

HECTOR
541-693-3386

Spring break activities

Warm Springs Recreation presents spring break activities through this week.

Basketball camp is this Wednesday, March 23 at the Community Center. The camp age groups are as follows:

- K-3rd: 9-11 a.m., fundamentals.
- 4-6th grades: 1:30-3:30 p.m., advanced plays.

Also on Wednesday, in Carols Room:

- 9-10:30 a.m.: Board games.
- 10:30-11:45 a.m.: Build a bird house.
- 1-2:30 p.m.: Paint your bird house.

2:30-4:30 p.m.: Get creative, your only limited by your imagination.

Thursday, March 24, is Mad Scientist day, in the social hall from 10-11:30 a.m.

Hip Hop Dance in the gym from 2-4 p.m.

Friday, March 25, Game Room Game Freak, from 9-11:45 a.m., and 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Carol's Room board games from 9-11:45 a.m.

Movie and popcorn: 2:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Community Center at 541-553-3243.

TRADING AT THE RIVER

APRIL 20 + 21, 2011

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