



Spilyay Tymoo

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31st Access Site



Drummers of the Columbia River treaty tribes conclude the dedication ceremony at the Dallesport Treaty Fishing Access Site. The treaty tribes, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Corps of Engineers, BIA and other guests dedicated the site last week. The Dallesport site is the thirty-first in-lieu fishing site constructed by the Corps of Engineers at the Columbia. (More on 10.)

Voters to decide school proposal

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Two important local elections are coming up this month, on May 14 and 15. The tribal referendum on the Warm Springs school proposal is scheduled for Monday, May 14.

The school district bond election is the following day, Tuesday, May 15.

The tribal referendum is asking whether the tribes agree to fund half of the construction cost of a new school in Warm Springs.

The total cost of the school is estimated at \$18-20 million, so the tribes would be agreeing to fund about \$10 million.

This would likely be done with a tribal bond, paid off over several years, such as 20 to 30 years. The tribes currently have about \$1.1 million set aside as school capital.

The school district bond proposal calls for bonds up to \$26.7 million. Besides the approximately \$10 million for a Warm Springs school, the district bonds would also fund an auditorium and performing arts center in Madras.

The school district bond would also refurbish and replace athletic facilities at the high school. This would include a new football stadium and track. The rest of the bond money would be used for various improvements at each of the district schools.

The new Warm Springs school would be for grades k-8, replacing the existing k-5 school. The new school would be 80,000 square feet,

or about the size of the Jefferson County Middle School (JCMS).

The building site is on 20 acres at East Tenino and Chukkar Road.

The school would include approximately 26 classrooms, science, music and art rooms, computer lab, gymnasium, athletic fields, cafeteria, library, etc.

While the school district and tribes would share construction costs, the district would fund the operation of the school.

All staff at the Warm Springs Elementary School would move to the new school, and another 12-14 staff would be needed.

The tribes recently mailed an information sheet to members, addressing some common questions about the school proposal.

For instance, if the bond and referendum both pass, the district and tribes would work with construction contractor on tribal hiring preference. With a k-8 school in Warm Springs, no buses would run from Warm Springs to the Jefferson County Middle School.

If the school district bond passes and the tribal referendum does not, the school district would issue bonds minus the approximately \$10 million proposed for the school.

Through Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises, the tribes are one of the largest tax payers in the district, as the Pelton-Round Butte facilities are located partly off-reservation, the information states. The district receives federal impact-aid payments, making up for the non-taxed property of the reservation.

Timber, mill issues on May agendas

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs this month will host the Thirty-Sixth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium. The symposium, including pre-symposium workshops, is set for Sunday-Thursday, May 13-17.

Later in the month, Tribal Council will meet to discuss specific issues related to Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and logging on the reservation.

Began in 1976

The National Indian Timber Symposium is the annual gathering of the Intertribal Timber Council.

The council was established in 1976 in Warm Springs.

The agenda for the upcoming five-day symposium includes a variety of timber-related topics: mill operation, huckleberry conditions and first foods, wild fire issues, tribal sovereignty in relation to federal regulation, among other topics.

The council will tour the mill, the Simnasho fuels reduction project, and the fisheries facilities at Pelton-Round Butte. A pre-symposium workshop at the museum will cover traditional crafting from the Warm Springs perspective.

The Intertribal Timber Council is the nationwide consortium of Indian tribes, Native Alaska corporations, and individuals dedicated to improving the management of natu-

ral resources of importance to Native communities.

Over 60 tribes and Alaska Native corporations currently belong to the council. For the full agenda, go to itcnet.org

WSFPI

Tribal Council met in late April, deciding to focus during the upcoming May 30 meeting on the logging and mill situation on the reservation. WSPFI and Natural Resources reached a compromise for the current year on the allowable timber cut, but some questions remain pending.

— by Dave McMechan

Honor Seniors Day next Friday

Honor Seniors Day is next Friday, May 11. Some highlights will be the Early Childhood Education dancers, Spanish dancers from the high school, the afternoon games, and Elvis.

The ECE dancers perform at 10

a.m., followed by lunch. Ken Billingsley, manager of Indian Head, will give a welcome at 1 p.m., followed by the games. For more information, call the Senior Department at 541-553-3313; or email: pautewewa@yahoo.com

A struggle with homelessness for 'the poor ones'

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

They move among us like spirits—seldom seen by those who choose not to look. Often, as one homeless man puts it, they pray to God and wonder if He is listening.

Whether they made the choice to live the homeless life or were forced into that lifestyle by circumstance, Neda Wesley says these are still people... with feelings.

In Oregon, it is estimated that just over 11,600 individuals are homeless. There are roughly 2,132 homeless in Central Oregon. The exact count has not been yet been established for the reservation.

In Indian, Neda said, they are known as *yanwaima*. The poor ones.

"Though I realize that some of them have chosen their path in life, they're human," Neda says. "Most of them have gone through very tough losses, and they have nobody to lean on."

One such individual is Kendrick Arthur.

Occasionally, police are asked to

check on Kendrick when he sleeps under the bridge. But life wasn't always this way for him.

"I used to cut wood and do tree-thinning for my dad, Larry Arthur," Kendrick said recently. "That way, I made some good money. And then he passed away from a heart attack back in 1993. It was tough to handle."

Today, Kendrick spends his days hitchhiking between Warm Springs and Madras. In town, there is a shelter that serves meals on a regular basis. That's where he eats.

"So far as money goes," he says, "I got people that help me out when they see me. When I can get back up towards West Hills, I stay at my niece's house. She has a big heart. Sometimes she'll give me some nice, clean clothes to wear. That makes me feel good, because it's pretty rough out here."

Two weeks ago, Kendrick broke his knuckle when someone picked a fight with him. He was transported to the hospital.

"People help when they can," he says. "Iva Pennington and Neda bring down food and clothes. My



Kendrick Arthur worked as a wood cutter and tree thinner.

family will give me rides when they see me. I don't drink every day. Sometimes I just hang out."

"I guess I'm the known chuck wagon of the Bow," Neda said with a laugh. "I grew up when people shared with one another. You wouldn't believe how many homeless people we have, how many just hang out and are looked down upon.

I've taken down a bucket of luckamean and fed 17 people once. Another time I went down with food and there were only three of them."

Percy Jack, a Simnasho resident, visited his sister in West Hills last week. Having suffered a permanent injury, Percy is now on disability and requires a cane to help him

walk. He empathizes what the homeless go through.

"I don't see how some people can do this every day," Percy said. "From the time that I started out on the far end of West Hills to the time that I crossed the bridge by Rainbow, it took me about four or five hours. Nobody would give me a ride."

Where the years went

For Tillman Holliquilla, the walk is all day, almost every day.

"Back in my day, I was a middle-weight boxer," Tillman remembers. "I used to win a lot of fights. My father was Sims Holoquilla. My mom was Joyce Quinn. I'm not sure where the years went, but today I'm an old man. I turned 65 back on December 11."

Earlier this year, Tillman fell and injured both of his legs. He uses a walker and relies on the kindness of the community.

"I'll sit at the store and someone will buy me a burrito or a sandwich," he says. "They know I'm an elder. I have to eat."

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