



Spilyay Tymoc

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July date for school referendum

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

Tribal Council has set July 10 as the date for a second tribal referendum on the Warm Springs k-8 school proposal.

The Council wants a consensus from the membership, either for or against the \$20-million proposal.

The recent school referendum, with about 21 percent voter turnout, did not provide enough of a response for a valid election.

The referendum in July will be in a different context from the first one: During the May 14 tribal referendum, the fate of the school district bond proposal was still unknown.

Then on May 15 the school district voters passed the \$26.7 million measure, including \$10 million for the Warm Springs school.

The school district now has authority to release about \$16.7 million in bonds, which will fund a performing arts center in Madras, and improvements to schools and school

facilities in the district.

Passage of the Warm Springs referendum would provide the district with authority for another \$10 million in bonds.

Long term solution

Before the school district bond was put to a vote, each of the schools in the district except for Warm Springs Elementary School was asked to submit a list of needed improvements to existing facilities.

Warm Springs Elementary did

not submit a needs list, as the idea is to build the new school, said school district superintendent Rick Molitor.

It would not be sensible to make significant improvements at the existing elementary school if a new one is to be built in the near future, he said. That remains the long-term plan to address education needs of the Warm Springs community, he said. And the tribal leaders also remain committed to this goal.

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Credit Enterprise offers check cashing

The Tribal Credit Enterprise is now providing check cashing services.

Credit will now cash Warm Springs tribal per capita, payroll, senior pension, tribal Credit loan checks, U.S. Treasury checks, and State of Oregon checks. The maximum amount for check cashing is \$3,000.

Some fees may apply:

The fees are \$2 for checks up to \$200.99; \$3 for checks from \$201 to \$500.99; and \$5 for checks from \$501 to \$3,000.

You will need a valid picture ID. Credit will not cash personal checks, two party checks, money orders, insurance drafts, or checks that have been altered.

Tribal Credit reserves the right to refuse any check.

There is a \$25 returned check fee, and Tribal Credit will use any method available to the enterprise to collect returned check fees.

To cash a check you will need to come into the building at the teller window in the banking area.

Our drive through window is also open for dropping off loan payments. If you are making a payment with one of the check types we accept for cashing, no fees apply.

Elders and handicapped individuals can use the drive through window for payments, check cashing and dropping off applications.

Credit has also installed handicapped accessible front doors. You can reach the enterprise at 541-553-3201.



The Jefferson County Middle School band performed during an assembly last week at the Warm Springs Elementary School.

Habitat restoration planned on Mill Creek

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoc

A stretch of Mill Creek will see major improvement for fish habitat through a plan being developed by the Natural Resources Branch. The scale of the project is similar to that of the Shitike Creek project of 2009.

Fish Habitat Program Manager Scott Turo is presenting information on the Mill Creek project to tribal members, as the branch develops a final plan.

Mill Creek is a tributary of the Warm Springs River. The area tar-

geted for habitat restoration is at Potters Pond, which was breached by flooding in the 1980s. The area also burned last year in the fires on the reservation.

Restoration work would include planting up to 20,000 native plants of different varieties, said Turo.

While similar in size to the '09 Shitike Creek project, the Mill Creek work would be different in some aspects, he said.

For instance, as it ran through Warm Springs, Shitike Creek was fairly straight, and not in its original channel. The habitat work on Shitike involved major realignment of the

creek, creating a more winding or sinuous river, which is better for fish.

The Mill Creek work will involve much less realignment of the creek channel; and will instead involve vegetation restoration, and work along the banks to reconnect the floodplain, said Turo.

A major component of the project will be to restore important habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead in the form of side and off channel habitats. These habitats will have slow water velocities with lots of instream hiding cover. Spawning gravels will be screened

from some of the berms that created the ponds and placed in the creek for use by adult salmon and steelhead. The ultimate goal is to increase fish production in the system

Estimated cost of the project is over \$500,000. Funding comes through restoration grants, Turo said.

At a recent scoping hearing on the Mill Creek project, Turo also reviewed some other restoration projects that are in the planning stages at Natural Resources.

See FISHERIES on page 2

UAV process continuing

The tribes continue to pursue an economic development project involving unmanned aerial vehicles, aircraft that are controlled by remote control.

The Federal Aviation Administration is currently in the process of identifying up to six test-sites in the U.S. for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), said Jeff Anspach, chief executive officer of Warm Springs Ventures.

The tribes have completed a small project assessment for the UAS project, "and we're still trying to figure out exactly how to capitalize on this," said Anspach. "And we're still moving forward."

An initial question is to determine what the FAA means by "site." For instance, the term could mean a region of the state, such as the central area of the state. Or, it could be a smaller area, such as the reservation.

Growth industry

According to recent figures, as many as 50 companies, universities and government organizations are developing and producing some 155 unmanned aircraft designs.

Estimates on the increase in global spending for UAS technology by the year 2017 are anywhere from \$5 to \$7 billion.

Graduation on June 9

Graduation Day at Madras High School is on Saturday, June 9. Ceremonies begin at 3 p.m. at the White Buffalo stadium.

Last week, some of the grads from Warm Springs (at right) gathered for the class of 2012 pictures.

In all, about 32 students from Warm Springs will be graduating this year.

(See pages 6 and 7 for more.)



Dave McMechan/Spilyay