

Repainting piece of local history

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Nobody remembers, for sure, how long the Warm Springs sign has greeted visitors and reminded tribal members of their unique history. Lamont Brown, 69, and Marcia Soliz, 61, remember seeing the letters on the hillside back when they were in school.

The best anybody can recall is that the letters may have been put in place by the Conservation Corps Camp crews. The letters have stood tall over the community at least for several decades.

"I remember those days when people would help one another out," Soliz said. "People would give freely. Everybody would contribute to make our community a better place."

Soliz recently decided to assemble a group of volunteers to repaint the Warm Springs sign. "It's time to get people involved and feel good about our community again," she said.

Tribal Utilities supplied the paintbrushes and supplies. Soliz and Brown, along with Joy Ramirez, Aspen Johnson, Izzy Ramirez, Roy Spino and Sariah Ramirez, were among 17 or so volunteers who supplied the elbow grease.

"This is good for me,"



Lamont Brown (above) and crew repaint the Warm Springs logo rocks on the hillside above town.

"Right now, doing this, I feel like I have a good purpose in this world."

Brown said. "I lost my wife a while back. It was a bad time. But I've found strength through the Senior Program. I wouldn't know what I would do without it today."

Brown stays busy exercising, attending meetings, and finding ways to help out his community.

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Duran Bobb photos.

pose in this world," he said. One possibility for the future of the landmark include a reservation boundary around the current letters and three teepees.

Questions and answers about school referendum

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Earlier this week, tribal leaders gave responses to a list of questions asked by tribal members regarding the details of the tribes' contribution towards the proposed new school. Anita Jackson, who compiled the questions, was present at Monday's General Council meeting.

Secretary-treasurer Jody Calica, chief operations officer Urbana Ross, Councilwoman Lola Sohapp, and Councilmen Scott Moses, Austin Greene, Reuben Henry, Raymond Tsumpti, Council chairman Buck Smith and Chief Delvis Heath were present at Monday night's meeting, held at the Agency Longhouse.

"Currently, the school district is holding the \$10.7 million until the tribes pass the referendum," Ross said. "The Education Committee has responded to a list of questions that they've received, and copies of those answers are available."

The present elementary school on the reservation requires repairs which will cost an estimated \$1.7 million, Ross said. The BIA in the Washington, D.C. office are sending a team to the reservation to assess the needs of the current building.

Funding options

"There are a lot of questions about financing, and can we afford it?" S-T Calica said of the proposed new school.

"If it is important to our community to have this new school for our children, then we'll find a way to get it financed," he said.

Calica went over several options that have been presented to Tribal Council. Among those ideas are:

Diverting funds from economic development, financing the entire \$10.7 million of the tribes' contribution; use tribal reserves to make the contribution without financing; or redirecting \$13.5 million in investment funds following the refinancing of Indian Head Casino.

Senior pension funds or tribal member per capita payments are not an option when considering funding sources, Calica said.

Member comments

"I have grandchildren," Eliza Brown-Jim said. "I got out and voted, because our children need this school. We can't make it in Madras. We're the first Americans, and last on the list."

"Our people have been mistreated by 509-J ever since I was a kid," Gene Smith said. "In 57 years, it hasn't changed... It's gotten worse."

"If you go back to the early 1980s, we asked 509-J to help us out with a new school," Calica said. "[A member of the school board] commented that taxpayers were tired of carrying Indians on their backs. Council fought for our rights then. There was a financial impact study. Our children are one-third of the students in 509-J, but our tribes are contributing over half of the revenue to Jefferson County students."

The decision to share the cost of the new school was made by Tribal Council upon signing an agreement with 509-J.

Eventual plans may also call for pressuring the BIA to restore the present elementary school as a high school, and eventually separating from 509-J.

(Note: The General Council meeting on Tuesday evening of this week was after the print deadline for this publication.)

Golf fundraiser at KNT for MHS baseball team

The Springers golf scramble fundraiser for the Madras High School baseball team is at Kah-Nee-Ta on Saturday, July 7. This is a men's, ladies' and juniors' tournament, entry fee \$50 per person. Everyone is invited to help the kids get to the games. Two-person scramble and barbecue. Contact Tony Holliday, 541-980-9902.

Weavers gathering in August at Kah-Nee-Ta

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Northwest Indian College will host the Weavers Teaching Weavers gathering at Kah-Nee-Ta on Thursday and Friday, August 16-17. The purpose of this event is to allow experienced Native American weavers to teach and learn from others in the field.

Weaving teachers will be from Warm Springs, Puyallup, Idaho, Neah Bay and other Pacific Northwest communities. Pre-registration is \$75 before July 27, and \$90 after or at the door. Weaving kit fees are payable to individual teachers. Kit fees are \$10 to \$75 depending on the class. For more information, contact Kelli Palmer at 541-325-6535; or Ethel Greene at 208-843-7409. Vendor tables are available for the gathering. Or send an email: kabob76@hotmail.com

Warm Springs July 4 Parade

"Vietnam, the 10,000 day war— We honor our soldiers we forget no more."

9 a.m. - Parade line-up at Warm Springs Elementary School. 10 a.m. - Judging begins. 11 a.m. - parade starts, ending at the ball fields. Parade grand marshal, Janice Smith, U.S. Army. "A star-spangled Fourth in Warm Springs—Enjoy an old fashioned family day with games and prizes."

Toy Sale & Swap

Friday, June 29 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Community Wellness Center front court-yard. Call Carol to reserve your table, 541-553-3243.

GET YOUR KICKS ON HIGHWAY 26

\$1,000 SUMMER SIZZLES SLOT TOURNEY
Saturday, July 30th at 6pm, \$20 Buy-in

COTTONWOOD RESTAURANT THURSDAY NIGHTS
Prime Rib Dinner Special, \$17

SUMMER CHEVY SONIC GIVEAWAY OR TAKE \$10,000
Friday, June 29th at midnight

Highway 26, Warm Springs | indianheadgaming.com | 541.460.7777

COTTONWOOD restaurant

Indian Head CASINO