



Spilyay Tymoo

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Funding, other progress with k-8 school project

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Community forums on the planned k-8 Warm Springs school are coming up in the near future. During the forums, members will be able to give their input on design and other aspects of the school facilities.

Recently, the tribes and school district agreed to hire BBT Architects of Bend for the design of the school.

BBT Architects have designed several schools, such as the LaPine High School and a number of elementary schools, and other public and commercial buildings, such as the Mt. Bachelor West Village Lodge.

The tribes meanwhile are working to secure a loan guarantee through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The loan would be repaid over a number of decades. The tribes and the school district are each contributing up to \$10 million for the new school.

The project manager for the k-8 school, and other school district improvements, is the Wenaha Group of Pendleton. Dave Fishel of the Wenaha Group has been in the community for the past several weeks.

"I think this is going to be a tremendous school," Fishel said. "The

views at that location in each direction are great, and there will be great options for using natural lighting."

The school will be on 20 acres at the East Tenino-Chukar roads. The acreage will accommodate the school buildings, sports facilities, parking and so forth. The main school building will be 80,000 square feet, or about the size of the Jefferson County Middle School.

Fishel said that over the course of construction, lasting about 14 months, the school project will create about 200 jobs, some lasting a short duration and others lasting through much of the construction.

A core value of the Wenaha Group, he said, is to keep the money and jobs as local as possible. "That is an important priority for the tribes and the school district," he said.

The Warm Springs k-8 school is scheduled to open at the start of the 2014 school year. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of next year.

The membership passed the school referendum in July, allowing the tribes to borrow up to \$10 million. The membership adopted the referendum after the school district voters in May approved a \$26 million levy that will fund half the Warm Springs school, a performing arts center at the high school, new football facilities, and other district-wide improvements.

Art Show Opening



Dave McMechan pictures



The Museum at Warm Springs is hosting the Nineteenth Annual Tribal Member Art Exhibit.

At the exhibit opening last week, the winning artists were on hand to receive their awards. Winners (above) included Aurolyn Stwyer, Charlene Dimmick, Carrol Dick, Roberta Kirk, Mavis Shaw and Pat Courtney-Gold (from left). The Judges Choice-Contemporary Award went to the work "War Paint" (at left) by Charlene. The exhibit will be on display until January. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fun, healthy time at farmers market

Warm Springs hosted a farmers market last week at the campus park.

The market included farm stand products. Community members were also selling arts and crafts.

Bob and Laura Coblenetz's Seed to Table Farm came with a variety of fall produce, pestos, vinegars, oils, baked goods and natural beauty products for people to browse and buy.

Many folks stopped by to see what was happening and to buy the fresh, organic produce.

A nice feature of this market was the support it received from the Community Health Nutrition and OSU Extension teams.

Both teams worked hard to provide samples of dishes using the fruits and vegetables that could be purchased at the market that day, including roasted root vegetables, butternut and acorn soup and fresh apples and pears.

See FARMERS MARKET on 9

Minnie Yahtin and little Minnie Yahtin Cloud enjoyed the farmers market.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Tribes hosting Veterans Benefits Fair at HeHe

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in October will host the U.S. Veterans Affairs Tribal Government Relations Benefits Fair.

The keynote speaker will be Jody Calica, tribal Secretary-Treasurer. The Benefits Fair will be at the HeHe Longhouse on Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

If you need a ride, a bus will be available at the following locations and times:

Senior Center, 10:30 a.m.; Community Center, 10:45 a.m.; Warm Springs Market, 11 a.m.; and the Simnasho Longhouse, 11:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please

call Randy Thompson at 541-420-8745; or Randy Boise Sr. at 541-777-7864. Lunch will be provided.

Representatives from the following organizations will be on hand at the Benefits Fair:

Veterans Health Administration, Portland office; Veterans Benefits Administration; National Cemetery Administration; Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs; Veterans Integrated Service Network Leadership, from Vancouver, Wash.; Housing and Urban Development, Northwest Office of Native Programs; and the Veterans Administration of Tribal Government Relations, from Washington, D.C.

Mill layoffs in November

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries will lay off 93 full-time employees next month.

The lay-off is planned as temporary, lasting about four months.

The mill meanwhile has to make some substantial improvements, such as development of a micro mill to handle smaller logs.

Tribal Council last week heard reports regarding timber and the

mill from the Natural Resources Branch and WSFPI representatives.

The mill has indicated a need for more board feet of timber than is sustainable from the reservation. Operation of the mill without exceeding the sustainable timber harvest would require purchasing logs from off the reservation. Council has requested that WSFPI develop a 10-year plan of viable operation.

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