

Progress with k-8 project

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Jefferson County School District is hosting an open house this Wednesday, March 6, on the upcoming school district improvements.

This is a subcontractor and vendor open house, a chance for all interested parties to learn more about the upcoming school projects.

"We encourage anyone who is interested in working on any part of the project to attend," said Laurie Danzuka, of Job Creation and Development, who also is chairwoman of the school district board of directors.

Labor, heavy equipment operators, flaggers and other jobs will be involved in the school projects, both on and off the reservation.

The open house in Warm Springs begins at 5 p.m. March 6 at the Agency Longhouse. Earlier in the day, at 3 p.m., an open house on the district projects will be held

at the district offices on Buff Street in Madras.

Subcontractors, vendors and other interested people are invited to attend either or both meetings to learn about the bond and tribally-funded projects. The meetings will include a review of the scope of the projects, the scheduling, and preliminary bid information.

The school district has hired Skanska, a leading construction and development group, as general contractor for the school improvements off the reservation. This work includes the performing arts center that will be built at Madras High School, among other projects at the high school.

The school district voters last spring passed a \$26.7 million bond levy to fund the improvements, including new sports facilities at the high school. The Warm Springs k-8 project is the single-largest aspect of the improvements, with the performing arts center second largest.

The tribes last year passed a \$10 referendum for half the cost of the \$20 million k-8 school, to be built on 20 acres at East Tenino and

Chukar roads. The tribes have conducted an environmental assessment of the project, as part of the USDA loan process. The assessment is available from the Natural Resources Branch (*official notice of availability on page 11.*)

A new water tower will be built to serve the school, which will be approximately 80,000 square feet, with capacity for up to 650 students.

A decision on the general contractor for the Warm Springs k-8 project was pending at the time of this publication. Construction work on the Warm Springs school is now set to start in July. The school will open for the 2014-15 school year.

For more information on the March 6 open house, contact Rob Quaempts at: robq@wenahagroup.com

Other school news

School board members are meeting this week with the BIA regional officials, Body Shaw and Stan Speaks, to update them on the latest district developments. This is a regular annual meeting among the board and the BIA.

Meanwhile, the school

board is considering the idea of working further with education consultant Richard DeLorenzo. The board is contacting districts in Alaska where DeLorenzo has seen success with student performance.

He is the founder of the Re-Inventing School Coalition (RISC), "a national nonprofit foundation established to transform education systems around the world and produce dramatically improved learning environments and achievement results for all children." A summary statement of RISC is as follows:

"We are committed to re-inventing schooling as we know it so that *all students* are successful in school and life, regardless of their background, their culture, their home life, or their previous educational experiences."

The essential ingredients of a RISC system are student engagement, motivation, ownership, leadership, and responsibility."

Coat class at Noree's Plume

Noree's Plume has a coat class scheduled for March 9.

Prepayments are being accepted now for reservations

for this class. If you prepay before March 1 you will receive a 15 percent discount.

You can contact Noree at the store 541-615-0282.

Computer class for employees

There is an Intermediate Word computer class being provided for Warm Springs tribal employees on March 12-14th from 9 to noon at the

COCC Madras Campus. Pre-registration is required by calling Job Creation and Development at 541-553-3324.

Weavers this year in Toppenish

The Second Annual Weavers Teaching Weavers basketry workshops this year will be in Toppenish, Washington, June 27-28. A discounted

rate is available for those who pre-register by June 7. For more information, call Ethel Greene at 208-843-7409.

Art camp for Native students

The Journeys in Creativity pre-college art camp for Native American teens will be held June 16-29 at the Oregon College of Art & Craft in Portland. Youth

have until April 2 to submit applications. Twelve teens will be selected to attend at no cost. For more information go to the website: ocac.edu

Veterans Gathering in April

The Veterans and Family Healing Circle Gathering will be held April 25-28 at HeHe Longhouse.

The weekend will include healing ceremonies, speakers, talking circles, elders' wisdom, sweat lodge, healing touch treatments, raffles and fun. No fees of any kind are being charged. Contributions of food, volunteer time and raffle items are greatly appreciated.

Thursday, April 25, the

longhouse will open at noon for campers, healing touch treatments, sweat lodge, music and storytelling.

Friday opening ceremonies will begin at 6:30 p.m. Saturday will be filled with ceremonies, a silent auction, raffles and music by David Currey.

Sunday the closing ceremony will be at 10 a.m. For more information contact LeMinnie Smith at 541-325-1531.

NAYA Spring Marketplace

Join Native small business vendors and artisans from around the Pacific Northwest as they display their goods, including beadwork, regalia, fine jewelry, pottery, woodwork, and more. Native American vendors are encouraged to register



NAYA Marketplace Details:

- The Marketplace will be held Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NAYA Family Center at 5135 NE Columbia Boulevard in Portland, Oregon;
- Table Display Contest: \$100 first place prize and a \$50 second place prize awarded to the vendors with the most creative and visually appealing vendor table display;
- Registration starts Monday, March 11.

For more information and to register, please contact: Ryan Parker, Micro Enterprise Coach at 503-288-8177, ext. 288 or email: ryanpa@nayapdx.org

Budget, k-8 meeting Thursday

The Chief Operations Officer and general managers are hosting a community input meeting this Thursday, March 7 for the purpose of discussing the 2013-14 tribal budget.

There will also be an update on the k-8 school project. The meeting will be at the Community Center Social Hall. Light dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7.

4202 Holliday St. Call 541-615-0555

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UPCOMING MARCH PROMOTIONS

- Egg Bank Roll Cash Drawings - Win up to \$777 Fridays at 9pm, 10pm, 11pm & midnight
- Lucky 7 Cash Drawings - Thursdays at 9pm, 10pm & 11pm
- Bring your kids to visit the Easter Bunny at the Cottonwood, Brunch served from 9am-3pm.

March Mania!
Win a 2013 Ford Fusion SE or \$15,000 Cash!
Easter Sunday, March 31 at 5pm