



Spilyay Tymoo

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Funding approved for school work

The Confederated Tribes received word that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved a \$6.8 million loan guarantee. This allows the tribes to seek construction financing from one of the banks that has shown interest in working with the tribes on the school project.

The Warm Springs k-8 school will cost an estimated \$20 million. The tribes are contributing \$3.4 million from tribal revenue, plus the \$6.8 million USDA loan-guarantee funding.

Jefferson County School District 509-J is contributing \$10 million through a bond levy that district voters approved last year. The school district voters also approved additional funding for a new football stadium, performing arts center, and other district-wide improvements.

Tribal members last year approved a referendum allowing the tribes to contribute \$10 million.

There was a delay of a few months in receiving final word from the USDA regarding the loan guarantee. This had the potential of complicating the construction schedule, but the plan can now go forward as intended, with the construction start-date on June 24.



The building site is at East Tenino and Chukar, at Greeley Heights.

The initial work will involve leveling the ground and other pre-construction activity.

The new school, on East Tenino and Chukar, is scheduled to open for the fall term 2014.

Anyone interested in employment opportunities during the construction phase should call Job Creation and Development at 541-553-3324.

'Personalized mastery'

The district board in May agreed to move forward with a new teaching and learning approach called "personalized mastery."

The approach has proven to be a highly successful in other school districts, said Laurie Danzuka, of the 509-J school district board.

Personalized Mastery refers to a student-centered education

model that emphasizes individual, rather than group, learning. This allows each student to proceed at his or her own pace, Danzuka said.

The district board for the past several months have been studying the personalized mastery approach. They visited schools in districts that have implemented the system.

The board then discussed the subject with parents and staff in a special work session in May, and decided to move forward.

Personalized mastery involves dividing major subjects like reading and math into smaller units that students have to master before moving on to the next level. The idea is that students who have trouble will receive more one-on-one instruction, while those who excel right away can advance to the next challenge.

"This is a student-centered learning system that is very different from our traditional teacher-driven instruction methods," said district superintendent Rick Molitor. (More school news page 8.)

- Dave McMechan

Council weighs election options

The referendum on the motorsports idea fell 63 votes short of a valid election, failing to meet one-third voter participation. Of those who did vote, 526 were in favor and 468 were against.

There were 800 ballots cast locally, and 156 from absentee voters. The process that was used in regard to the absentee ballots was a matter for discussion last week at Tribal Council.

The election also may lead to a broader discussion of Tribal Ordinance 44, governing elections, and whether this ordinance may need to be updated. Council Chairman Austin Greene said Ordinance 44 discussion should be added to the Council June agenda.

Witness requirement

With the motorsports referendum the tribes for the first time used an outside company to help with the election. The tribes contracted with Automated Election Service, based in Albuquerque, to assist with the referendum.

Automated Election Service printed the referendum ballots by following Ordinance 44, a copy of which had been provided to them by the tribes.

The ordinance says that an absentee ballot must include signatures by two witnesses. This provision has not been enforced in any election in recent memory. The provision apparently dates back to when very few tribal members lived off the reservation.

Automated Election Service was not aware that the two-witness provision in Ordinance 44 has not been a requirement for some time. So the motorsports absentee ballots went out requiring the two witnesses.

This was clearly not fair to the absentees, as there had been no witness requirement in any other election, said Councilman Carlos Smith.

This may have discouraged some voters from participating in the election, he said. And as the referendum fell just 68 votes short, the question is whether there should be a re-vote.

Councilman Orvie Danzuka asked Election Committee Chairwoman Beulah Tsumpti how the number of returned absentee ballots in this election compared with other elections.

There were 156 absentee votes in this election, while other elections might see 200 or above, she said. Tribal Council elections generally see a higher return than other elections, she added.

See VOTING on page 12

Financial matters the focus at Council

Tribal Council last week called for a General Council meeting, so the membership can be updated on the tribal enterprises.

This came near the start of a four-Day Council work session last week on the state of the tribes.

Councilman Carlos Smith made a motion that the Cascade Locks casino negotiating team give an update to the community at a General

Council meeting.

This motion was seconded by Councilman Scott Moses. Councilman Smith said that most people in the community are no longer in favor of spending more money on Cascade Locks. The tribes have spent millions on the proposal and are still spending money each month on Cascade Locks, he said.

Others Council members felt the General Council meeting should include an update from all of the tribal enterprises, and not focus just on the Cascade Locks matter.

Council Chairman Austin Greene said the membership should hear from each of the enterprises as to why there has been such a drop in revenue. "The people rely on the enterprises, and

they should know why they are struggling," he said.

Councilmen Smith and Scott said the Cascade Locks topic would take up a whole evening of discussion; so a better idea would be to address Cascade Locks by itself, and then meet at another General Council for discussion of other enterprises.

See COUNCIL on page 12

Social Dance Reunion

The N'Chi Wanapum Canoe Family hosted the Social Dance Reunion last Friday at the Community Center Social Hall (photo at right).

Dances were those from time immemorial complemented by cultural dances of today.

The Canoe Family meanwhile is preparing for the Paddle to Quinalt 2013. The family will be on the journey from July 17-August 7.

This will be the third time the N'Chi Wanapum Family participates in the Native Canoe Journey.

Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay



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