



Spilyay Tymoo

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Back to school in year of change

This time next year Warm Springs elementary and middle school students from the reservation will be attending the new k-8 school.

There are about 470 students attending the elementary school this year. There are 253 tribal students at the middle school, said Butch David, school liaison. So the new school will have a total of more 720 students.

The middle school students will benefit by having a much shorter bus ride, or no bus ride for some students. "That will be a big plus," said David.

The Warm Springs Elementary School has been at its current location since the 1960s. The number of students has outgrown the facilities, located by the highway. The cafeteria is located away from the rest of the elementary school. All of these, and other issues will be addressed starting in the 2014 school year.

There are no final plans yet as to what use will be made of most of the elementary school buildings. The gymnasium and its adjacent building, which are newer, will house the alternative education program.

Dawn Smith, elementary school principal, will be the director of the alternative education program. She has been talk-



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Back to School Barbecue earlier this month.

ing with community members as to how the program will best benefit these students.

The principal of the k-8 school is Glenna DeSouza, hired this summer by the school district

board.

DeSouza moved to the community recently, and has an office at the Education building and at the district administration office. "Right now I'm doing a lot of learning,"

she said.

DeSouza had her first meeting with staff last week, and is getting to know parents in the community. She set up a Facebook page for updates on the new school, at "k8 Warm Springs School."

DeSouza comes to Warm Springs from Sweet Home, where she was principal of the Foster k-6 school. Earlier, she was a teacher, and special education administrator at Salem-Keizer.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in special education. She studied at Western Oregon University, Portland State and George Fox University.

She and her husband have five children, all grown now. Her office at the Education building is in room 303.

Mascot and name

The school district is hosting a Warm Springs k-8 mascot and colors competition.

The eagle mascot and colors from Warm Springs Elementary School can carry over the k-8 school, if the students and parents prefer this option, said DeSouza.

See SCHOOL on 2

Ventures update at Council

Tribal Council met with the Warm Springs Ventures chief executive officer last week for an update on economic development opportunities for the tribes.

Ventures CEO Jeff Anspach said there is interest in developing a call-center service at the industrial park. A call center would be a central office taking and transferring phone calls for companies such as a home security service.

The discussion then turned to the more general topic of economic development on the reservation. "Revenue and economic development are vitally important for us at this point," said Council Chairman Austin Greene.

Councilman Kahseuss Jackson said the tribes have not seen results from Ventures. "We can't continue with nothing here," Jackson said.

Councilman Scott Moses said the board of directors of Ventures should be appointed by Tribal Council, as is the case with other enterprises of the tribes. The Council voted to have management review the Ventures charter, and propose revisions, so the board could be appointed by Council.

Anspach said the motorsports proposal is the project that has the best potential for providing a long-term revenue solution for the tribes.

The proposal has support among some Council members, and among some of the membership. Earlier this year, both referendums on the proposal saw a majority of voters in favor. The problem was voter participation, especially among the off-reservation tribal members.

On the reservation the turn-out was above 40 percent of eligible voters, Anspach said. Off the reservation, the participation rate was between 13 and 17 percent.

Councilman Carlos Smith said the project has potential, but there would have to be more information before the question could be put to a third referendum. "We would need to know what would be the benefit to the tribes," he said.

A third referendum would have to present a new proposal to the membership, as the matter has been voted on twice already, said Councilman Jackson. Wasco Chief J.R. Smith said to keep in mind that the previous referendums have already cost about \$25,000.

Anspach said an agreement with the development group, Lionshead, would clarify the benefits to the tribes. An initial step would be to have an appraisal of the value of the 1,000-acre development site, located on Miller Flat. A better idea as to the environmental impacts of the project would also be needed, Anspach said. He said he would report back to Council with progress on these projects.

— Dave McMechan

Tribes object to coal facility at Columbia

Following a presentation by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and tribal Natural Resources, Council last week voiced opposition to the a coal transport project at the Columbia.

Under the proposal, before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a coal facility would be located at the Port of Morrow at Boardman. Coal would arrive by train and then be transferred to barges for transport overseas.

The tribes have several concerns with the proposal. There would be the loss of fishing sites, for instance. If approved, the coal project would result in 18 coal train runs per day along the Columbia, said CRITFC executive director Paul Lumley.

The main concern for the tribes at this point is that the Corps of Engineers has not conducted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal.

See COAL on 5

Fishers memorial at Columbia

Tribal Council endorsed a fishers memorial at the Columbia River. The memorial will be located at Columbia Hills State Park, near Horsethief Lake. Petroglyphs, including *She Who Watches*, are located nearby.

The memorial will feature a stone pillar made of large rounded river rocks and basalt stones. The stones will be from four to six feet in size at the base, to smaller stones at the top, reaching a height of 20 feet. Around the pillar will be concentric circles of rock, the circles representing ripples of water.

Around the perimeter will be basalt columns marking the four directions. Leading to memorial from the parking area will be a pathway lined with cairns, where people can add stones in memory of loved ones lost on the river.

Lillian Pitt, artist, was joined by Paul Lumley and John Platt of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Mikkel Hilde, design specialist, in making the presentation to Tribal Council.

"We've been working on this for a number years, and now have the approval from Washington State Parks," said Lillian Pitt.

The idea for a fishers memorial goes back many years. "Each time someone is lost we hear suggestions that there be a memorial at the



Conceptual drawing of the memorial

river," Lillian said.

Through CRITFC, organizers established the Fishers Memorial Task Force in 2010. The task force reviewed fishers memorials from around the world, as well as potential sites along the Columbia. After a site tour, they decided on Columbia Hills State Park, east of Dallesport, because it is a secure location.

Lillian said the fishers memorial will be in addition to other memorials that family and loved ones may dedicate along the river.

John Platt said the organizers of the fishers memorial were seeking no funding from the tribes, as there are other promising sources. Total cost is between \$365,000 and \$415,000. Locating and transport-

ing the large river rocks will be the most challenging part of the project, said Mikkel Hilde.

On behalf of the Council, Chairman Austin Greene said, "This is something needed by the four tribes of the Columbia River." When a loved one from one of the tribes is lost on the river, he said, the tribes are drawn closer together.

Lillian said the memorial will also serve as a reminder for safety on the water: The memorial will include a bell that rings during high winds, she said.

The fishers memorial is for all those who have been lost on the river since time immemorial and any who may be lost in the future.

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