

# Plan for Warm Springs co-op business

Since early December a group of local artisans, crafters and business people have been investigating cooperative businesses.

A cooperative business, or co-op, is a type of business comprised of members who both own and make use of the services provided by the co-op.

Membership in a co-op provides some sort of financial benefit to its user-owners. In a co-op comprised of individual business people, each user-owner earns more money by being a member of the co-op than they would otherwise.

The co-op group in Warm Springs is interested in forming a Native arts and crafts marketing co-op that would also operate a storefront.

The storefront would provide co-op members a public space to sell their products year round. Co-op members could also have the opportunity to interact with their customers and tell the story of their work with dedicated on-site studio space.

### Alaska example

Different kinds of business owners create co-ops for different reasons, depending on their particular business.

For example, one very successful cooperative started in Alaska, Oomingmak, is a co-operative made up of about 250 Alaska Native women living in remote villages.

These women knit products made out of musk ox underwool, or Qiviut. Each woman pays the co-op a yearly membership fee.

This fee offsets administrative costs, and each co-op member also receives Qiviut yarn and knitting patterns as part of her membership. Each co-op member knits at her own pace and sells her product to the co-op. She also receives part of the profit earned by the co-op at the end of each year.

Oomingmak is a marketing cooperative, which means that by being a part of the co-op members gain the advantages of a larger marketing footprint and reduced marketing costs.

In this case, the women gain access to an expanded market for their product.

Oomingmak sells its products online and in a store located in Anchorage, which provides a much larger market for these women who live in remote villages in rural Alaska.

By working together these

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women are able to earn more money than they would alone.

This information has been provided by the Warm Springs co-op group. Members of this group will be going out into the community to talk to artists and crafts people about the co-op in the next few weeks.

They will be using a questionnaire to assess whether

community members are interested in a co-op.

You can also fill out this questionnaire at the Warm Springs Community Action Team office at 1136 Paiute Avenue on campus.

The co-op project is still a work in progress, and what it looks like in the end will depend upon the participation level of local artisans and crafts people.

This is your chance to get involved in the planning process. The co-op group will also be holding a public meeting to discuss the co-op on March 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Museum at Warm Springs.

**The Warm Springs Co-op Group**

## FAFSA workshop

Students who are planning to use the tribal scholarship for college need to attend a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop.

There is a workshop in Warm Springs scheduled

for this Friday, March 7 from 10 a.m. till noon at the Administration Building.

Call Higher Education at 553-3311 for a list of items you need to bring with you.

## Weavers Conference this month

The Third Annual Oregon Weaver's Teaching Weaver's Workshop will be held at the Tamáststlikt Cultural Institute in Pendleton March 20-21.

To learn more contact Ethel Greene at 208-843-7409 or email: [egreene@nwic.com](mailto:egreene@nwic.com)

## Memorial

A Memorial for Muriel Suppah and Jackie Simtustus, with namegiving, is set for April 19, 2014 at the Simnasho Longhouse.

9 a.m. Washat Service.

Noon - Lunch. Name-giving and give-away.



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**MARCH PROMOTIONS**

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- "I Win you Win" Hot Seats

TUESDAYS - Nifty Fifty Club Fast Cash

WEDNESDAYS - 5X Blackjack Multipliers

THURSDAYS - 3X Slot Multipliers  
- Weekly Slot Tourney

FRIDAYS - Leprachauns Lucky Slot Points

SATURDAYS - March Madness Moolah

SUNDAYS - Blackjack Tournaments

**ENTERTAINMENT**

CHEYENE WEST - LIVE IN THE CASINO LOBBY  
- Tuesday, March 4th, 12pm-4pm

DJ BOOGIE (CHUCK QUARTZ) - LIVE IN THE COTTONWOOD  
- Friday, March 7th, 9pm-Midnight

THE RUCKUS BAND - LIVE IN THE COTTONWOOD  
- Saturday, March 8th, 9pm-Midnight

**DON'T MISS OUR FRIDAY SEAFOOD BUFFET IN THE COTTONWOOD RESTAURANT!**

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