



Spilyay Tymoo

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K-8 finish date just 3 months away

July 18 is the substantial completion day for the Warm Springs K-8 Academy. Many of the rooms, plus the gymnasium, are already painted.

Community members made a tour of the buildings last week. "I think it's looking great," said Urbana Ross, advocate of the K-8 project.

"The materials they're using are top quality, and the rooms are large," she said.

During the tour, school board member Laurie Danzuka explained details such as where the buses will enter, where parents can drop off the kids, and the locations of the classrooms for the different grade levels.

The buses will arrive off Tenino. They can proceed toward the back area of the school, and drop kids off by the commons area for breakfast. The commons is the large area toward the back of the building complex.

The main building area is 80,000 square feet in size. The new school will have a projected enrollment of more 720 students: A little over 250 will be middle school students, and over 470 will be in grades k-5.

After the construction work is done in July, the contractor brings in a cleaning company to go over all the rooms, cleaning everything. Landscaping and work on the sports fields are other aspects for the coming months.

Once everything is complete, the building will be turned over to the



Students and other community members visited the K-8 Academy last week during the open house. The commons area is the tall structure in the center; the k-2 wing is the right, and the gymnasium is tall structure to the left.

school district for operation.

The month of August will be an especially busy time, when the teachers and other staff move in to the

new school, said Glenna DeSouza, Warm Springs Academy principal.

In other recent school news, the Confederated Tribes last week

hosted the conference of the Oregon Indian Education Association.

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Mobile clinic gearing up

Health workers recently visited Fire Management in the tribes' mobile clinic. They provided physicals for some of the fire fighters, and are planning another visit for more fire-fighter physicals as the season approaches.

These trips, and earlier flu-shot clinics, also provide an opportunity to work out all of the details involved in operating the clinic.

The next step is for the clinic to make a trip to the Simnasho community, scheduled for May, said Tammy Wilson, Community Health director.

The tribes acquired the mobile clinic last year through a grant. This is a project of the Community Health Program, the Joint Health Commission, tribal Health and Human Services and the Indian Health Service.

When fully operational, the mobile clinic will provide medical and dental services. The facility is needed to serve tribal members, especially elders, who live away from the clinic, such as at Simnasho, Seekseequa and Sidwalter.

Simnasho water system at end of June

The Simnasho Schoolie-Flat safe-drinking water project is getting closer to completion. The estimate now is for completion in late June, said Travis Wells, tribal engineer.

The Simnasho-Schoolie Flat water project, costing about \$2 million, will bring safe drinking water from a well near Highway 26 to the residents in the Simnasho-Schoolie Flat communities.

The well is located about five and half miles from Simnasho. Building the pipeline from the well to Simnasho was a large piece of the project, along with the pumphouse at the well site.

Need for the new system first came to light eight years ago, when testing showed the arsenic level in the Simnasho-Schoolie Flat domestic water was above Environmental Protection Agency regulation.

Finding the necessary funding took some time. In the end the tribes contributed several hundred thousand dollars, matched by the EPA, Housing and Urban Development, and Indian Health Service funding.

An added cost to the tribe has been the regular delivery of Earth2o bottled water to the Simnasho-Schoolie Flat residents since the 2008 finding. This will end this summer, when the new system comes on line.

Construction of the system has taken about a year.

Tribal farm ready for new growing season

The tribal farm is entering its second growing season. Both areas of the farm—the middle Warm Springs, and the Moody property—will have crops this year. Last year just the middle Warm Springs was ready in time for growing.

Zane Wilson and Stuart Paul this month have been preparing the ground and planting the next crops.

They planted Belford beardless barley hay at the middle Warm Springs and the Moody farms. The harvest will be in late June or early July, followed by a planting of alfalfa.

Wilson is the farm manager. As of last week he had Paul working with him. Paul has about six years of farming experience.

Wilson said more help will be needed during the season, especially from people with some experience at farming and using the tractor.

The middle Warm Springs farm is about 105 acres, located by the Warm Springs River by the Culpus Bridge. The Moody farm is 350 acres in size, though only part of this will be farmed this year, Wilson said.

The middle Warm Springs farm is irrigated by one large pivot; and the Moody farm by a number of



Stuart Paul and Zane Wilson prepare the field for planting.

smaller pivots, because of the configuration of the irrigable land.

The pivots use water from the nearby Warm Springs River. Wasco Electric installed the power lines for the Moody pivots earlier this month; so that property is also ready for the growing season.

The two areas were farmed some years ago. The Natural Resources

Branch began reclaiming them as farmland last year.

The initial funding came from the restoration settlement. The goal is establish the farm as self-sustaining operations, said Jason Smith, Range and Ag manager.

Some of the initial work included removing rocks from the soil, and setting up the irrigation systems.



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