



Spilyay Tymoo

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Roots program a great chance for students

For a young person on the reservation, now more than ever, having a high school education is essential to finding a job.

At the same time, 60 percent of Warm Springs students who begin high school do not graduate. The goal of the Roots program is to help correct this situation.

Roots is the new alternative education program serving the reservation students. The program is part of Madras High School, based in Warm Springs.

The Roots director is Dawn Smith, longtime educator and former principal of Warm Springs Elementary School. She is working with teacher Earl Simmons. He has taught on the reservation for the past several years, and is certified to teach agriculture at the high school level.

The Roots program is open to students who have dropped out of high school, and to those who may be at risk of dropping out. A student can join the class to catch up

on credits to graduate, or to improve his or her GPA.

Roots classes will begin in September. "This will be hands-on and active," Smith was saying recently. "The students will be very involved."

The previous alternative education program on the reservation took an on-line approach, allowing the students to earn credits by computer. About 12 students last year took advantage of the opportunity. The goal of roots is to have 30 students, Smith said.

Roots will have a computer component, of course, but the program is designed to be practical. "We want to provide students with every opportunity of finding a job," Simmons said.

Roots will introduce students to different careers in the broad Natural Resources field. The Branch of Natural Resources and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries are partnering in the Roots program.

See **ROOTS** on page 7

Fires update

Cooler weather just in time

Tens of thousands of acres burned on the reservation over the past couple weeks. There has been good news and some bad, as the reservation again experienced a volatile fire season.

Two tribal member fire fighters, from Warm Springs Fire Management, were injured in a vehicle accident while responding to one of the many fires that broke out in mid July.

Both of the fire fighters were hospitalized, one with serious injuries. Trey Leonard of Fire Management updated Tribal Council on the situation earlier this week.

The fire fighters who were injured, he said, are very popular with all of the crew. So the accident was traumatic, adding to an already stressful time. Everyone is wishing them a speedy recovery.

During the Shaniko Butte fire, Patrick "Hermie" Boyd lost his house, his primary vehicle, four pets, and historic family items. The house was located outside of Shaniko, and burned early during this fire event.

With Leonard, Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe gave an update to Tribal Council on Monday. They were joined by the inter-agency incident commanders, and BIA officials

The first part of the discussion focused on the Shaniko Butte fire to the east, then the Logging Unit fires to the west.

Later discussion focused on the overall wild land fire situation on the reservation: Why are we seeing major wildfires every summer? What if anything can be done to reduce their incidence?

Some of the cause is natural, as the reservation and surrounding region are prone to summer lightning strikes, Brunoe said.

During the storms that sparked the recent fires, Leonard said, the reservation saw 300 lightning strikes.

But at least part of the problem is the result of government policies, he said. The policy of strict fire suppression over the past 100 years is not the way the forest used to be managed, he said.

There are elders who remember when people would light wild land fires at certain times of the year for forest management. These fires would burn coolly because there was no accumulation of fuels on the ground. And this maintained the health of the forest.

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Huckleberry Feast

The Huckleberry Feast is set for Sunday, July 27 at the HeHe Longhouse.

K-8 Academy looking good as work finishes

Next month will see the official dedication of the Warm Springs k-8 Academy. Then in September the school will host the Back to School Barbecue and school supply giveaway.

The first event will be a ribbon-cutting on August 27, starting at 10 a.m. Officials will be on hand from the Confederated Tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, the USDA, and Jefferson County School District 509-J.

Federal and state lawmakers will also be invited, said Rick Molitor, school district superintendent.

The September Back to School Barbecue and School Supplies Giveaway will serve as the grand opening especially for the students and families. "The kids will have their first chance to really see the building and facilities," Molitor said.

Also in September will be the dedication of the new football stadium at Madras High School. This will be during the first home game, set for Friday, Sept. 12. Boosters will be working on how to mark the occasion, such as with a barbecue.

Crews are now working on landscaping (top photo). At right, the academy entrance way.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay



Showtime Schimmel wins All-Star Game MVP

Shoni Schimmel lived up to her nickname in her first WNBA All-Star Game.

Showtime Schimmel won the Most Valuable Player award in the wild All-Star game last Saturday.

Schimmel scored an All-Star game record 29 points. She had eight assists as the East pulled out a 125-124 victory over the West in the first WNBA All-Star Game to go into overtime.

Shoni is a rookie with the Atlanta Dream. She is a favorite athlete

among Warm Springs residents. She has family on the reservation, and many fans who followed her stellar college career with Louisville Cardinals.

Schimmel grew up on the Umatilla Reservation, in Mission. She has a vast Native American following across Indian Country.

In the All-Star game, Shoni broke the All-Star record of 23 points set last year by Candice Parker.

Brittney Griner opened the overtime with a layup, followed by Maya

Moore's 3-pointer. This put the West up 124-117 with 1:59 to play.

But Katie Douglas for the East sank a 3 to cut it to 124-120 with 1:15 to go, then Schimmel made her seventh 3-pointer of the afternoon with 41.9 seconds left. This cut the West lead to 124-123.

Tamika Catchings made a driving layup for the East, and a final turnover by the West put an end to the frenetic contest.

Schimmel was just the third reserve to start an All-Star game. And

she put on quite the show: Besides hitting 3-pointers she also hit a circus over-the-head shot over Griner.

"The hoop kept getting bigger and bigger," Schimmel said. "I wanted to lay it out on the line, and that's what I did."

Shoni and the Dream will play in Seattle on Thursday, August 7. Many fans from Warm Springs are planning to attend.

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