



Spilyay Tym

Coyote News, est. 1976

December 20, 2017 - Vol. 42, No. 26

December - Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyam

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John Kalama, Andy Stacon and Dennis White (clockwise from front) form the foundation for the new entranceway at the Children's Protective Services Center. The Construction crew has been at the CPS remodel project for about a month. Already the building is unrecognizable, with the whole interior being redone from floor to ceiling. The new layout is much more practical, giving added space for the infant center, laundry facilities, offices, better access and hallways, etc. There will be a new roof, and exterior and interior paint. Construction foreman Tim Johnson expects the work to be done in late January or February.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Next door, a Housing crew is remodeling the Vern Jackson Home. This will be for transitional living, a facility for children and their parents.

Plan to move historic building

The Warm Springs Community Action Team has Tribal Council approval for a business development project on the campus.

The project involves the two-story 'old commissary' building, an historic structure built in the late Nineteenth Century.

The Community Action Team plan is to relocate the old commissary from its current location by the Post Office and police station.

The new site for the building would be Highway 26 and Paiute Avenue, the area of the Kalama Fry Bread stand. The Community Action Team secured an Administration for Native Americans grant that will help with the moving costs.

The Action Team has also received close to \$70,000 in pro bono architectural and landscape design services.

At its new site with extensive improvements, the old commissary would serve as a private business development center.

Small business owners in the community would have space in the building to set up their shops. The building would also house a small business promotion and coaching center, said Dustin Seyler, Community Action Team finance counselor and small business advisor.

The Community Action Team has been working on the business development project for about two years, meeting with small business owners, and securing funding and architectural-landscape design services.

The initial idea for the project goes back some years before that, having been identified in the 2005 Warm Springs Downtown Improvement Plan. The plan, commissioned at the time by the Tribal Council:

"Calls for the tribes to take steps to clear a new site for the commissary building, move the building, develop structural and architectural plans for a new foundation and renovated interior, seek and obtain funding to move and renovate the building, and establish a committee that will provide ongoing oversight and programming of activities and maintenance."

Then last year the Warm Springs Community Action Team met with 50 local small business owners. A general consensus among the owners: In the downtown area "there is a lack of retail sales space and office space. There are no buildings to work out of, and no downtown business district in which to operate."

Following a presentation by the Action Team early this month, Tribal Council approved a 10-year lease of the commissary building in order to carry out the Downtown Plan and the business owner survey.

Name the new Travel Plaza restaurant

Among the many amenities and services, the tribes' Plateau Travel Plaza will feature a new restaurant with seating for 70. As the grand opening is just a few months away, the restaurant is in need of a name.

Indian Head Casino has launched a naming contest open to Warm Springs community members. Some guidelines to keep in mind:

The name should reflect positively and descriptively on the Travel Plaza. The name must be original, not likely to be confused with another similar business or enterprise; and not be the trademark, trade name or property of another person or entity.

In instances where the same name is submitted, the committee will select the one with the earliest entry by time and date. The author of the winning suggestion, chosen by the selection



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Billboard on the highway announcing the Plateau Travel Plaza.

committee, will receive a \$250 check. Members of the committee will not know the names associated with the contest.

Additional rules: Only two entries per submission. The winner is solely responsible for all federal, state and local taxes on the prize.

All entries are due by January 6. Entries can be mailed to Indian Head Casino, attention Nicole

Garcia-Smith, PO Box 890, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Or email her at: NGarcia-Smith@indianheadgaming.com.

General manager on board

Another important development at the Plateau Travel Plaza is the hiring of the general manager, Eric Angel. The search and hiring process has been thorough and ex-

tensive, as the Travel Plaza is a unique and vital project for the tribes.

Years of experience working with these kinds of projects, and with Native American tribes in particular, were the factors in bringing Mr. Angel on board, said Jeffrey Carstensen, Indian Head Casino general manager.

Most recently, Mr. Angel was manager of the Golden Acorn Travel Plaza near San Diego, owned by the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. To the Plateau Travel Plaza, he brings seven years' experience, and enthusiasm and dedication to the interests of the tribes and membership.

Personally, Mr. Angel comes from a humble background in Indiana, working his way to management positions of responsibility.

(See **PLATEAU** on page 3)

For many reasons a year to remember

This past year the most dramatic day on the reservation 'overshadowed' some of the bigger developments of 2017.

The Great Eclipse was unforgettable, but there were other events of greater long-term importance to the membership. For example:

At the beginning of the year Kah-Nee-Ta had only a small chance of staying open. The yearly cost to the tribes had become wholly unviable. The beloved resort would be gone, along with 180 seasonal jobs.

Then at midyear—with the closure deadline approaching—the resort board found an investment and management partner. The transition to AV Northwest is set for New Year's Day.

The partner will assume management, and invest millions—for wonderful improvements, plus intriguing additions at the Village. The



Spilyay Courtyard at Kah-Nee-Ta.

resort—owned by the tribes since 1961—will stay open, beginning a new chapter in 2018.

Some four months before the Great Eclipse, the tribes celebrated another important day: It was mid April when Indian Head Casino and the tribes broke ground on the Plateau Travel Plaza. This was a day years in the making. Briefly:

The tribes own 10 acres strategically located at the entrance to the Madras Industrial Park, just

off the highway. This trust parcel had been in disuse for many years, though research showed a clear business opportunity.

Based on the research, Tribal Council in 2015 approved a gaming board plan to develop the site. The board and management worked on the financing; construction began in April, and the Plateau Travel Plaza will open in the spring.

Meanwhile this year the tribes

saw the completion of the Ox-bow Dredge Mining Restoration projection. Two miles of the Middle Fork of the John Day—within the tribes' 1,000-plus acres on the river—were made whole again, helping the salmon.

This was a project of the Confederated Tribes Branch of Natural Resources, and the BPA. The completion and dedication in the summer of 2017 celebrated a project the tribes, Natural Resources and BPA began in 2001.

And just this month we've seen the start of the Downtown project. Twenty-Seventeen may be remembered as the year of the Great Eclipse, though other big things happened of lasting importance.

— Dave McMechan



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