



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Vision taking shape for business park

At the Warm Springs Community Action Team, Chris Watson recounts this incident:

Some years ago he and his wife and parents-in-law were travelling along the highway, when they saw a chance to stop for some refreshments and a short break from driving.

It was a small convenience park operated by a Northwest Indian tribe. In the café they ordered something to drink, and then his parents-in-law purchased \$250 in Native American crafts.

The point is this: Just getting some of the highway drivers to stop—even if it's only for a cup of coffee—can open the door to any number of small business opportunities.

And that is the idea behind the Community Action Team Small Business Incubator project.

Mr. Watson and his team have been carefully planning and working on this idea for some time, with large funding components now in place.

The Administration for Native Americans, the Oregon Community Fund, the Collins Foundation are examples of the diverse funding sources so far.

A leading architecture firm—Hacker Architects, one of very best firms in the U.S.—has do-



Graphics and photo courtesy of W.S. Community Action Team.

nated design services.

Additional funding requests are pending, with a great chance for success, bringing the project just within reach. And the closer a project of this kind is to its goal, the more likely other sources are to help see it through.

### The business park

The main offices and business space of the Small Business Incubator project will be in the building known as the Old Commissary. The building will be wholly renovated, and moved across campus to the property at Highway 26 and Paiute Avenue.

The café will be a central feature on the ground floor, along with other businesses. Upstairs will be offices and the small business support staff.

See **BUSINESSES** on 5



Architects' rendering (at top) of the finished Commissary Project main building; and above, a schematic graphic, subject to change as the project develops, of the development site. The Old Commissary is a 5,000 square-foot, two-story wood frame building, built in the early 1900s or possibly earlier. The historic structure has not been in use since 1998, when it housed the tribal Natural Resources Branch.

## Canoes ready for Paddle to Puyallup

The N'Chi Wanapum Canoe Family of Warm Springs is beginning the Power Paddle to Puyallup Tribal Canoe Journey.

They leave this Thursday, July 19 for Wallowa Lake. About a week later, on July 29, they will arrive at the final destination, Puyallup in the Puget Sound region.

At Puyallup—in the Medicine Creek Territory of Puget Sound—they will meet with the host tribe, the Muckleshoot, and many other tribes: Warm Springs is one of 99 tribal canoes that are registered to make the Power Paddle to Puyallup 2018. The journey concludes with a week-long celebration.

The very first Northwest tribal Canoe Journey was in 1989, with just four canoes. Warm Springs joined the Journey in 2010, after the tribes acquired the 36-foot N'Chi Wana canoe in 2009.

Over the years they have paddled to Makah, Swinomish, Squaxin, Nisqually, among other destinations. They practice regularly in the months leading up to the Journey.

The N'Chi Wanapum Canoe is a project of the Museum at Warm Springs, Health and Human Services Branch, and the tribes. The canoe revitalizes the tribal tradition that suffered after 1855, when the tribes were relocated from the Columbia River to the reservation.

## Fair and Rodeo are next week

There will be new carnival attractions at this year's Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo, starting next Wednesday, July 25.

This year the carnival will feature a new 3D Haunted House ride. So far this summer at other fairs: "This ride has been a big hit," said Brian Crow, fairgrounds coordinator.

"For the kids we're also bringing in the Kids Fun Faire, and the Bouncy House Safari," Mr. Crow said. "This area will include face painting, and all kinds of family fun." Another new feature will be a 300-foot zip line, plus the traditional carnival rides.

On the fair schedule: Honoring Veterans Day is Wednesday, July 24. Kids Day is Thursday; Seniors Day is Friday, and Can Cancer Day is on Saturday, July 27.

The rodeo starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday in the Corwin Arena.

There will be all kinds of show livestock, food vendors and barbecue, and entertainers from around the region.

From Warm Springs, Blue Flamez will perform on the Les Schwab Main Stage at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. The Rock Bottom Boys play that Saturday night.

The Fair and Rodeo includes an ice cream eating contest, lawnmower races, exhibits in the Exhibits Hall, and more.

## Tribal Council will decide future course for Kah-Nee-Ta

Tribal Council has taken no action on the future operation of Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa, and the potential operator continues to seek funding that would allow the resort to stay open.

The Kah-Nee-Ta board will make a presentation soon to Tribal Council, presenting various options. Reports that Kah-Nee-Ta will close on September 5 were based on a public notification requirement, and the reports were perhaps premature.

Regarding the notification: The federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act applies to companies that employ 100 or more employees, such as Kah-Nee-Ta.

The WARN act says the company must give notification if 50 or more employees are going to be laid off for more than 30 days.

The notification must be given 60 days before the expected lay-offs. Kah-Nee-Ta gave this notice early in July with September 5 as the potential lay-off date. This was done in the worst-case scenario of Kah-Nee-Ta actually closing.

However, Tribal Council has made no decision; so the matter is pending, said Jim Manion, Kah-Nee-Ta board chairman.

In the worst-case scenario, there are options: A partial closure, a temporary closure, or a permanent clo-

sure, Mr. Manion said. And there remains the hope that the potential operator will secure the necessary funding.

The potential investor-operator, Accent Ventures, wants to invest up to \$16 million in Kah-Nee-Ta, under a long-term lease of the property with the Confederated Tribes. Securing the funding has taken longer than expected, but could still happen.

The option that the Kah-Nee-Ta board would not recommend to Tribal Council would be continued operation of Kah-Nee-Ta without at least a break-even bottom line.

"Kah-Nee-Ta has been a financial drain on the tribes for years," Mr. Manion said. "We have to come up with a model that is self-sustaining."

Weighing the potential closure options is happening at the same time that Tom Hansen, chief executive officer of Accent Ventures, is actively seeking the funding that would resolve the matter.

Kah-Nee-Ta opened in the 1960s. The tribes built the Lodge in the early 1970s.

This summer there are about 170 employees working at the resort.

— Dave McMechan

## Indian Head, Plateau update at Tribal Council

It's been close to four months since the Confederated Tribes and Indian Head Casino opened the Plateau Travel Plaza.

The new venture is proving to be a great addition to the tribal enterprises, said Jeff Carstensen, Indian Head general manager. Mr. Carstensen and Eric Angel, Plateau general manager, met with Tribal Council last week for an update.

Since opening in mid March, the travel plaza has sold over 400,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel. The volume of sale is increasing steadily month by month, Mr. Angel said.

Meanwhile the casino and travel plaza are working on additional promotion strategies for the enterprise. Other news from the recent update:

There are 75 employees at the Plateau Travel Plaza: 56 percent are tribal members; 3 percent are married into the tribes; 13 percent other Native; and 28 percent non-tribal. And as of last week there were 12 open positions.

### Rail spur matter

Meeting with the Indian Head Casino team, Tribal Council also passed a resolu-

tion, as recommended by the team, regarding a land matter at the travel plaza property. The situation can be summarized:

The 10-acre Plateau property, which is trust land, once was part of the tribal lumber mill. Some years ago the mill operation included the transfer of finished wood to a warehouse that once stood on the property.

The wood would then be loaded on rail cars for further transport. At the time the property included a rail spur.

After the mill operation no longer used the property, the rail spur strip eventually reverted from the railroad to the city of Madras.

The tribes have since bought the property in question, holding it so far in fee. The Tribal Council action last week is part of the process to bring the rail spur strip into trust, making the entire lot trust land.

Care was taken during the planning of the travel plaza to ensure that no gaming aspect of the plaza was located on the rail spur area, said Howie Arnett, tribal attorney.

— Dave McMechan



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