



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

July 31, 2019 - Vol. 43, No. 16

July - Pat'ak-Pt'akni - Summer - Shatm

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## Plan developing for Business Incubator move

The land is clear for the Community Action Team Business Incubator, just off the highway.

Some of the next steps in the process are the site survey and a geo-tech survey, said Marissa Ahern, Business Incubator project manager.

These surveys should start happening within the next few weeks, Ms. Ahern said. So we'll start seeing the surveyors and others working at the construction site.

Next will be the pouring of the building foundation; and some mitigation work at the Commissary itself, to remove lead paint and potential asbestos, for instance.

September is a target month for the actual move of the building, which will be a unique sight: The building will be lifted up on stilts, and then loaded onto a truck, Ms. Ahern said.

The vehicle will then make its way slowly over the couple of blocks to the new site. This will be great renovation of the area.

The Community Action Team planning a community outreach this year, identifying the retail businesses that will join the Incubator team.

And there will be a website launch. Marissa has worked with



Courtesy Community Action Team.



Architect's conceptual drawing of the finished building (above); the Commissary today (left); and the new building site (below).



filmmaker LaRonn Katchia on developing video for the website.

For the project the Action Team has worked with many lending sources, with great success; and with a leading architecture firm, Hacker Architects, who have donated their services.

So far the retail businesses for the Incubator include the Tananawit artists group, and a cafe. Upstairs will be office space, including for the Action Team small business coach.

The long-term plan calls for an outside food court, and the Action Team has advertised for a food cart manager-trainer.

The old Commissary building is thought to be the oldest structure on the reservation, dating back to the late nineteenth century. It's been vacant for a number of years now.

## Getting ready for start of school

The month of August means school will be starting soon, in about a month. The first student day at the Warm Springs Academy and other 509-J schools is Tuesday, September 3, the day after Labor Day.

The Academy reminds incoming kindergarten families that the students need to be enrolled for the coming 2019-2020 school year.

Kindergarten conferences and Summer School for kinders will start soon. Turn in registration packets to Heilan at the school district office in Madras, 445 SE Buff Street.

If you have any questions you can contact Heilan at 541-475-6192. Registration packets need to be returned soon, by Thursday, August 8. Summer school for kindergarten starts August 12.

In other recent school news:

### Senate Bill 13

Following a presentation by Valerie Switzler, general manager of the tribal Education Branch, the Tribal Council this week endorsed the effort to implement Senate Bill 13.

The Oregon legislature adopted SB13 in 2017, with advocacy from tribes.

The law requires the state Education Department and school districts to work with tribes in developing a Native American curriculum.

This curriculum will give the tribal perspective on history, culture and heritage, tribal sovereignty and treaty rights, and current economic conditions and events.

Since 2017, Warm Springs Culture and Heritage has been working with elders and others in developing the curriculum since 2017, with the implementation in the school district this coming school year.

## Entering month four of boil water notice

It was back in May that the tribes found chlorinated water leaking into Shitike Creek. After some research, tribal Management and Utilities reported a worst case scenario: The 14-inch water pipe serving the Agency area had broken underneath the creek.

The Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council—they had taken office just two weeks earlier—declared an emergency. And residents around the residents were issued the boil-water notice.

The notice applied to the entirety of the Warm Springs Agency area, including Kah-Nee-Ta, Wolfe Point, Sunnyside, Upper Dry Creek, Miller Heights, Campus area, West Hills, Tenino Valley, Tenino Apartments, Elliott Heights, Senior Housing, Trailer Courts and Greeley Heights.

August will be the fourth month that the notice has been in effect, an unprecedented condition for the reservation.

There was some hope that repairing the water break—an expensive project for the tribes in

these lead budget times—would resolve the problem.

What happened, though, was the repair of the main break led to new breaks.

The problem has been the old pressure regulating valves, no longer functioning to regulate the water flow. In addition to the boil water notice, some residents experienced the loss of water pressure.

Many individuals, businesses, organizations and government agencies have offered and helped the tribes during water crisis. Examples are Indian Health Services, the BIA, and Housing, Urban Development. Water companies and agencies, other tribes, individuals and many others donated bottled water, and money.

Tribal Emergency Management has become the headquarters providing the bottled water to residents.

And for now the boil water notice continues, as the tribes are encouraging care and conservation.

Starla Green had her frybread concession cooking last week at the Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo. The frybread concession is an always popular addition to the fair.

As Natives and others know, frybread is a versatile food: It can be enjoyed by itself, or with almost any kind of toppings.

According to some Native traditions, frybread was created in 1864 using the flour, sugar, salt and lard that was given to tribes by the federal government. Over the decades frybread has been a link from generation to generation, still as popular as ever.



Cheryl Taylor photo

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