



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

April 18, 2002 Vol. 27, No. 8

P.O. Box 870  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

SERIALS DEPT.  
KNIGHT LIBRARY  
1299 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
EUGENE, OR 97403

U.S. Postage  
Bulk Rate Permit No. 2  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

35 cents

## Schools facing cut in budget

Jim Manion has been on the School District 509-J board of directors for seven years.

This year is the first time, during his tenure, that the school district is facing a reduced budget. To a large extent, how far the reduction will go is to be determined during the upcoming May Primary.

In May, voters in the state will consider controversial Ballot Measure 13. This measure would allow spending money from the state's Education Endowment Fund for K-12 funding in 2002-2004.

In past years, earnings generated by the fund, established in 1995, have provided revenue to schools. Ballot Measure 13 proposes using \$220 million of the fund's \$272 million.

The Oregon School Board Association, the Oregon Education Association, and Gov. Kitzhaber, among others, are opposed to Measure 13.

"Raiding the trust fund is not a sound way to balance the budget or set a stable course for the future," according to a statement from the Education Association.

On the other hand, Measure 13 is seen by many as a means of addressing immediate school funding needs.

True, the measure is a temporary solution, "but it buys us time to find a permanent solution," said Manion.

See **SCHOOL** on page 7

## Need for housing

### Tribal members contend with overcrowding, long waiting lists for homes

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo Staff

New housing is one of the great needs on the reservation.

For this reason the subject of housing can be very controversial.

"Even the word housing is almost like a dirty word in Warm Springs," said Chet Van

Pelt, director of the Tribal Housing Department.

Many tribal members who would like to have their own homes are forced to live with relatives or friends in already-

crowded dwellings.

In some cases, two or more families are living in the same house. Some people live in trailers parked on the property of a friend or relative.

In the very worst cases, and there are several of them, tribal members live out of doors.

One tribal member told of working full-time on the reservation while having to live in a teepee, and later in a tent.

She finally moved into a small trailer, where she now lives with two brothers who cannot find anywhere else to stay. There are many stories like this.

The lack of housing on the reservation is clearly demonstrated by the long waiting lists for rental units and for homes that people would like to purchase.

There are about 140 tribal member names on the waiting list for rental units, and over 100 names on the list to purchase a home.

People are on these lists for years before their name finally comes to the top.

Recently, Morris Holliday, who works in the Tribal Utility Department, received word that his name was at the top of the list for an apartment. Holliday had been waiting a long time.

He first put his name on the list about six years ago. Once on the list, though, you have to renew your status every six months, or your name is removed. This happened to Holliday, setting him back a year or two.

*"People need more space. Young people and elders especially need more privacy."*

Elton Greeley  
Housing Authority board

When tribal member Lynn Fluhr lived in Warm Springs, she was on the housing waiting list for years. Then in 1999 she moved to the town of Grass Valley, and within two days had located a home that she is purchasing with her husband.

In some instances, tribal members live in Madras and commute to work in Warm Springs, because they cannot find a place on the reservation.

It takes a long time to move to the top of the list because the demand for housing is much greater than the supply.

"I see a definite need for more housing," said Elton Greeley, chairman of the Warm Springs Housing Authority Board of Directors, which oversees the Housing Department.

"We have many people living in over-crowded homes," said Greeley. "People need more space. Young people and elders especially need more privacy."

All tribal officials - and probably the entire membership - agree that the reservation needs more housing.

See **HOUSING** on page 10



A construction crew with Workforce Development, including Ricky Smith (above), is working on three new homes in the Sunnyside area. New homes are needed to meet demand.

## Gang activity a serious problem

### Forum looks at possible solutions

The speaker said to the people in the audience, "Raise your hand if your life has been directly affected by gang activity."

Nearly everyone - from young people to elders and other adults - raised their hands. "That's good," said the speaker, Wauneta Lone Wolf. "I'm talking to the right audience - I don't have to convince you there is a problem in this community."

Lone Wolf, known to many young people as "Momma Wolf," was in Warm Springs last weekend, discussing problems that youth gangs bring to the reservation.

These problems include drug and alcohol addiction, early teenage pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, shootings and other violence, and the loss of young people's lives.

Police have estimated that about 100 young people on the reservation are part of youth gangs. Wali Murray, a former Los Angeles gang member who travels and speaks with Lone Wolf, said the gang problem on the reservation is worse than he expected.

After meeting with a group



Wauneta Lone Wolf

of youths who are in trouble with the law, Murray said that gang activity on the reservation is as serious and harmful as in some of the major cities.

Gangs are leading many tribal youths into lives of crime, said Char Herkshan, counselor at the Warm Springs Community Counseling Center. The Counseling Center with the police department and Title IX sponsored Lone Wolf and Murray's recent visit, which included a two-day gang prevention forum at the Community Center.

The presence of gangs, said Herkshan, is one of the most serious problems facing the reservation, with children and youths ending up in prison, addicted to drugs, or being shot or stabbed or beaten.

To help address these prob-

lems, Lone Wolf's motivational group Dream Weavers, devoted to workshops on gang prevention, was invited to Warm Springs.

On hand for the two-day workshop were representatives of the local schools and law enforcement. During the first day of the forum, Lone Wolf discussed ways that the community can reduce gang activity on the reservation.

Some suggestions include development of a citizens advisory and review committee on gangs; identify youth leaders, and have them mentor the troubled youths; involve the whole community in raising the youths.

Most importantly, the solution to the problem begins in the individual homes.

"A lot of this has to do with what is happening in the home," said Don Courtney, director of Warm Springs Public Safety. There is no single cause of the problem, but a lack of being held responsible is one factor, said Courtney.

A lack of youth activities in the community is another factor, said Char Herkshan.

The community center and the Boys & Girls Club are doing a good job, she said, but these kinds of programs need to be expanded.

*"A lot of this has to do with what is happening in the home."*

Don Courtney  
Chief of Police

Involving elders is another important part of the solution, she said. All members of the community are invited to the next forum on gang prevention forum, to happen within coming months, said Herkshan.

## Rodeo ready to buck

It's back, the Root Feast Open Jackpot Rodeo.

If you're looking for some great family entertainment and barrels of fun, the Warm Springs Rodeo Arena is the place to be on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28.

The all-new members of the Warm Springs Rodeo Association will be hosting this must-see, wild and woolly rodeo. Some of the exciting events include:

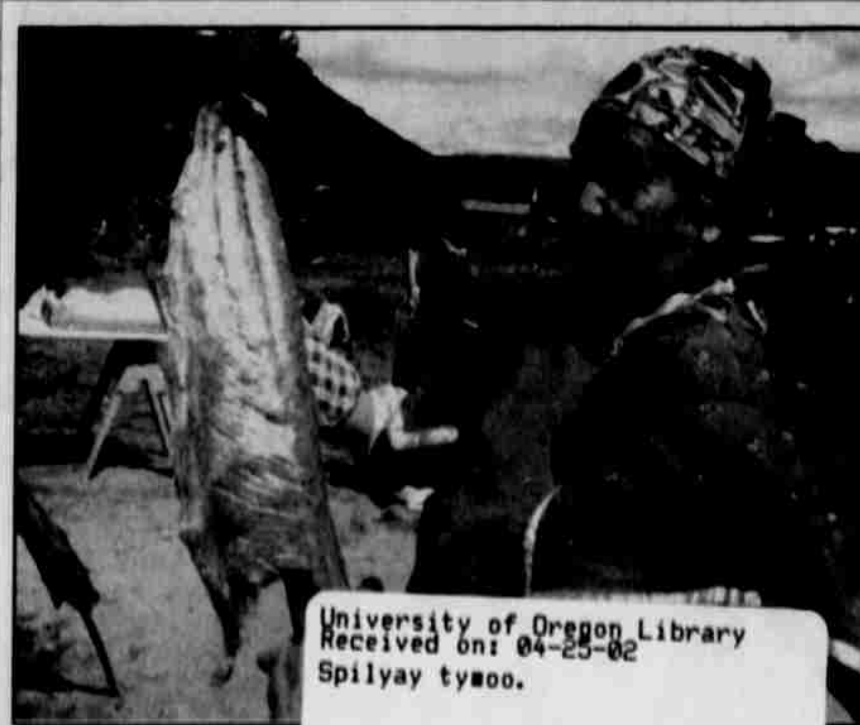
The bareback and bronc riding, breakaway and calf roping, steer wrestling and team roping. And what rodeo would

be complete without extreme bull riding.

Other added attractions include kids calf riding, junior barrel racing, the hilarious calf scramble and the always-entertaining wild horse race.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12, seniors and children under 6 are free. Rodeo action begins at 1 p.m. each day. So plan to take your family, and head on over to the rodeo arena on April 27 and 28 for great family entertainment and barrels of fun.

See **RODEO** on page 6



## Root Feast

Agency Longhouse was the scene recently of the Root Feast. At left, Geraldine Jim helps prepare the salmon.

University of Oregon Library  
Received on: 04-25-02  
Spilyay tymoo.