



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Election important locally

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The outcome of Ballot Measure 28 will be important to the reservation, especially in the areas of health care and elder care, and schools. The vote on the measure is set for Tuesday, Jan. 28.

The Warm Springs Indian Health Services clinic and High Lookee Lodge could see direct and fairly substantial cuts in funding, if Measure 28 fails. The planned new Warm Springs Elementary School could see further delay, and some programs at the current elementary school could be cut, as would happen throughout the 509-J district. The cuts could be expected to school counseling programs, physical education and music, and all-day kindergarten.

Statewide polling this week indicated the outcome of the vote on Measure 28 is too close to call. The measure, if adopted by voters, would impose a temporary increase in the state income tax.

The increase, lasting three years, would raise \$725 million for the state in the years 2002 to 2003. Personal income tax would increase by a half a percent, from 9 to 9.5 percent.

If the measure fails, the state would see \$325 million in budget cuts during 2002-03, beginning next month. An estimated \$95 million would be cut from schools.

For the 509-J school district, passage of Measure 28 would bring in an additional \$600,000. That would help, said district superintendent Phil Riley, "but people shouldn't think that passage of the measure would solve all our problems."

The district, he said, is already facing a significant budget reduction even if voters carry Measure 28 at the polls.

On the reservation, mental health programs, including drug and alcohol treatment, could see budget cuts if the measure fails, said Jim Quaid, director of Warm Springs Family Services Branch. The cuts would be beyond the reductions in these programs that already have been imposed in recent years, said Quaid. Payments for foster care could also be reduced, he said.

If Measure 28 fails at the polls, then the Oregon Health Plan and Medicaid would see losses in revenue. This then would have a direct impact on revenue at the Warm Springs Indian Health Services Clinic, said Russ Alger, clinic director.

The same would be true of High Lookee Lodge, said Gayle Rodgers, director of Warm Springs Social Services.

High Lookee may be looking at a 28 percent reduction in the state portion paid for the tenants who are Medicaid eligible, said Rodgers. "It is a substantial reduction," he said.

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## Smith is distinguished principal

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

For nearly 30 years Dawn Smith has dedicated herself to teaching, and helping young people to learn. During those years, she has been a Warm Springs Elementary School teacher, counselor, vice-principal, and she now serves as the school principal.

Smith is also the special education coordinator and special education teacher. In these times of shrinking budgets, she takes on many roles at the school.

"This year with one less cook in the cafeteria, Dawn helps serve lunches to the students," said Sara Ohman, teacher.

Recently, Ohman recommended Smith for the National Distinguished Principal Award. Upon the recommendation, the Elementary School Principals Association for the central region of the state chose Smith as its nominee.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Warm Springs Elementary School Principal Dawn Smith

She was chosen from among the principals at schools from Hood River to LaPine.

"I've known Dawn for the nine years that I've been in the district," said Steve Johnson, middle school principal and

member of the association board.

"I'm always impressed by her energy, and her commitment to providing students with every opportunity to grow academically and socially. It's amazing

how much she gives to the community," said Johnson.

Smith first began teaching at Warm Springs Elementary School in 1973. Over the course of the years, she has come to know countless students and their families.

She has seen many changes, but at the same time some things have remained the same. For instance, Smith's office at Warm Springs Elementary School is the same room where she first started teaching all those years ago.

Another thing that has not changed over the years is the reason why Smith enjoys her work at the elementary school. "My favorite part of the job, by far, is being with the kids every day," said Smith.

She added, "I also enjoy working with a talented and dedicated staff. And the work is not the same day to day. There are always new challenges."

Dealing with the budget cuts in coming years will no doubt be a major challenge, Smith said.

## Tribes pay close attention to dam proposal

Tribal leaders are paying close attention to a Jefferson County Commission suggestion that a public utility district acquire ownership of part of the Pelton-Round Butte hydroelectric facilities.

"We are definitely going to watch this closely, and we'll be very interested in seeing how they might acquire the asset," said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

Manion also emphasized that the county commission suggestion would involve issues of great complexity. "There is much more to the picture than meets the eye," he said.

County commissioner Mary Zemke, who took office earlier this month, also said that acquisition of part of the dams by a public utility district (PUD) would require much planning. "It would be a long road," she said.

The Confederated Tribes own one-third of the Pelton-Round Butte facilities. Portland General Electric (PGE), an asset of bankrupt Enron Corp., owns the other two-thirds, valued at \$1.8 billion.

As part of the bankruptcy, PGE is for sale, and it is possible that a tax-exempt entity could acquire the company assets. In that case the county could stand to lose a large

source of tax revenue.

This possibility led county commissioners Zemke and Walt Ponsford, who also took office this month, to consider the idea of a PUD that would acquire the dams through the process of condemnation. The third commissioner, Bill Bellamy, said he did not favor the idea.

Residents within a proposed PUD area would vote on whether or not to form the new district. Such a vote could happen this year, said Zemke.

Whatever the outcome of this idea, the tribal interest would be protected, said Manion.

"The agreement between PGE and the tribes speaks to

*"There is language (in the agreement) that protects the tribal interests."*

Jim Manion  
WSPE general manager

the sale by PGE to a third party," he said. "There is language that protects the tribal interests."

Zemke said, "I would want to honor the agreement that the tribes have with PGE." She said, though, that the PUD would have its own five-member board of directors, which would set policy for the district.

## 2003 Miss Warm Springs

Tilda Walsey, 22, was named Miss Warm Springs 2003. The pageant was last Friday at the Agency Longhouse.

Walsey, who describes herself as a "powwow baby," displayed extraordinary talent by singing along with the drums of her brothers and father.

She also demonstrated her ability to dance traditionally.

Another talent she shared with the pageant audience was her ability to sew traditional clothing. Walsey brought several items she has sewn, including her first scarf, made for a cousin, and a beaded vest made for her brother.

She also sews her own powwow dresses.

"I'm drug and alcohol free, and sewing keeps my mind off it," Walsey said.

Walsey's traveling experience with powwows appeared especially well-suited for the public relations skills expected

of Miss Warm Springs.

"I've traveled all over the United States," she said.

Walsey competed with one other contestant, Tashina Smith, 21. The final score for the two contestants differed only by 38 points. Judges said both contestants had "maximum excellence in all categories."

The categories included contemporary talent, questions and answers, and traditional talent and dance.

Michael Bobb provided the flute music. Lola Sohapp offered the invocation.

Keynote speaker Urbana Ross spoke of the importance of competing, and not necessarily of winning.

Miss Warm Springs 2002 Cecilia Herrera visited from Colorado, where she attends the university, to pass the crown on. Many former Miss Warm Springs attended the ceremony. Approximately 100 tribal members attended. Dinner was served afterwards.



Shannon Keaveny/Spilyay

Tilda Walsey, the new Miss Warm Springs.

## Report on gym fire presented

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoo

An insurance adjuster last week briefed the 509-J school district board on the fire damage to the Warm Springs Elementary School gymnasium.

Three tribal members from the Warm Springs Education Branch attended the board meeting, and expressed their desire for the gym to be replaced.

The adjuster said an estimate for an insurance claim on the school's loss should be available in about a month.

After the final appraisal is provided, the district has 180 days to declare a replacement plan.

Urbana Ross, chairwoman of Education Committee, commented to the 509-J board, "As an advocate for Warm Springs, I would like to see the gym replaced, and a new school."

Ross added, "We need it as soon as possible. The gym is not only for the students, but is also used as a community building in the evenings."

Jo Ann Smith, of the Head Start Advisory Council, explained the historical importance of the gym to the community.

"The absence of the gym leaves a void for the community, and an empty history. The loss is devastating. We hope replacement is expedited, and is done as soon as possible," said Smith.

Tribal member Martha Winishut agreed with her colleagues.

The school district board members used the opportunity to confer with Stone on the possibility of using the insurance claim money to build a new gym at a different location.

Stone assured that a different location was an option.

He said that although the building has been valued at \$1.2 million, adjustments could be made to account for upgrading of the building codes.

Board member Jeff Sanders expressed his concern regarding long-term water damage to the building.

Sanders and Steve Earnest pressed for information on compensation.

Although storage costs are covered this year, Stone said he was unsure whether new modulars could be built with insurance money.

He said walls in damaged classrooms were cut about four feet up to reveal floor damage. Water four to six inches high tunneled through parts of the school when firefighters attempted to extinguish the blaze, which happened Dec. 20.

Other important news at the meeting last week was that the board granted district superintendent Phil Riley early retirement, effective Jan. 1.

Riley is taking early retirement in order to take advantage of the current Public Employee Retirement Services (PERS) rates. Riley said he would not retire before his contract is up in July of 2004.