



# Spilyay Tymoc

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## Councilman Patt takes fisheries job

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoc

Tribal Councilman Olney Patt Jr. has decided to take the job of executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

His new job begins fulltime on June 16, and he will continue serving on the Council until June 13.

Until earlier this week Patt served as Tribal Council chairman. He served in that position for five years.

Patt has been a leader during a time when the Confederated Tribes took important steps toward gaming expansion and economic development, and construction of a new school in Warm Springs.

"This is one of the hardest decisions I've had to make in accepting a job," Patt said of the CRITFC executive director position. "It requires that I forego the final year of my term on Council, and I see some things as unfinished business."

The Gorge casino and the new Warm Springs elementary school, for instance, are still pending. "But these projects are well under way, and will be completed," said Patt.

As executive director of the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Patt will supervise 80 employees. In 1979 Patt worked for the



Newly chosen CRITFC executive director Olney Patt Jr.

commission as the public information officer, when CRITFC had just 12 employees.

From May 2000 to May of 2001 he served as CRITFC chairman, and was a commissioner since 1995.

CRITFC provides technical and legal support to the Columbia River tribes in protecting salmon, steelhead and other fisheries. The four treaty tribes of the Columbia - Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce - established the

commission in 1977. The fish and wildlife committees of these tribes make up the governing body of CRITFC. In the case of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Off-Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee serves on the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Representatives of the four CRITFC tribes were unanimous in selecting Patt for the position of executive director. Patt will be the commission's eighth executive director in its 26-year

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history. Patt, 51, will be the first member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to serve in the executive director position. In the past members of the Yakama and Umatilla tribes have served in the position.

In accepting the executive directorship, Patt will replace Donald Sampson of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, who served six years before announcing his resignation in March. Patt was a natural choice as the next executive director, said Allen Slickpoo Jr., CRITFC chairman and member of the Nez Perce Tribe. "He creates consensus and common ground among the various salmon interests in the region, including fisheries managers and politicians," said Slickpoo.

"He's worked in the Deschutes River Basin with the irrigation and ranching communities, as well as on land acquisitions throughout the John Day. He has fisheries in his heart," said Slickpoo. In choosing Patt for the job, the CRITFC representatives cited his experience in fisheries management, and his background with the Pacific Salmon Commission, the body formed by the U.S. and Canada to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

See PATT on page 6

## Vacancy to be filled

Councilman Olney Patt Jr. resigned earlier this week as chairman of the Tribal Council. The Council then named Garland Brunoe as the new chairman. Brunoe formerly was serving as Council vice chairman.

While naming Brunoe the new chairman, the Council also named Ron Suppah as the new vice chairman. Council Chairman Brunoe and Vice Chairman Suppah were sworn in to the positions on Tuesday afternoon, May 27.

On June 13, a vacancy will come open on the Council, as Patt will be resigning his seat to take his new job with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. As the June 13 date approaches, the Tribal Council will determine who will fill the vacancy.

The Tribal Constitution says the following in regard to filling a vacancy that comes open on the Council:

If a councilman shall resign, the Council shall declare the position vacant and appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term; provided that the person chosen to fill such vacancy shall be from the district in which the vacancy oc-

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cus. In the past when a position became vacant, the Tribal Council has looked to the most recent election for guidance in filling the vacancy. The vacancy that will come open is of the Simnasho District. The district will decide on the nominee to fill the position, said Patt. In the 2001 election, former councilman Earl Squiempfen received the fourth most votes for the Simnasho District, after councilmen Raymond Tsumpti, Vice Chairman Ron Suppah and Patt.

An example of a council position coming vacant happened in 2001, when Paiute Chief Vernon Henry passed away. Joe Moses became Paiute Chief, and Carol Wewa was appointed to fill the council vacancy. Wewa had received the next most Seekseekqua District votes in the 2001 election, held a few months earlier.

## Spring chinook run keeping hatchery busy

Workers at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery are busy, as spring chinook salmon are migrating upstream.

The fish began running in the Deschutes in April, and will continue through August. The busy time, though, is May and June, said Mike Paiya, hatchery manager.

The hatchery will keep about 800 fish for brood stock, said Paiya. The brood stock ponds at the hatchery are now about half full of fish, so the collection is on schedule, he said.

This stock includes Deschutes River fish and some that will be used for stocking of Shitike Creek.

In all, about 5,000 to 6,000 Warm Springs hatchery chinook salmon will come up the river, said Paiya. About 1,000 wild fish

will also migrate up stream. The hatchery will use about 35 of the wild fish for brood stock. The rest pass by the hatchery to spawn upstream.

Fish that are used for brood are later stored for ceremonial and other use by the tribes. Also, some fish are distributed to tribal members.

The Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery is one of two on the 6th Deschutes River. The other hatchery, the Round Butte hatchery operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is also busy with the spring chinook run.

Because of the good run of spring chinook in the Columbia Basin, tribal fishermen were able to open their second commercial gillnet fishing season in as many months.



Students to graduate

Twenty-five tribal members are graduating this year from Madras High School. Some of the graduating seniors are pictured above. Graduation ceremonies are at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 1, in the school gym. See page 5 for more senior photos.

## Museum celebration is Saturday

This Saturday, May 31, is the Museum at Warm Springs Tenth Anniversary celebration.

For the occasion the museum and the tribes will host a memorial horse parade, museum blessing and rededication, and a powwow on the museum grounds.

The horse parade will begin at 10 a.m. The museum blessing and rededication will be at 1 p.m., and the powwow begins at 2 p.m.

A Korean War veterans memorial tree-planting event will also be part of the day's events. (See page 2 for more information on the veterans ceremony.)

For information on the museum anniversary celebration, contact Rosalind Sampson at the museum, 553-3331.

## Tribes, BPA conduct three-year eel study

A unique project determines the abundance levels of lamprey in the Deschutes River sub-basin.

By Shannon Keaveny  
Spilyay Tymoc

This summer fish technician Joel Santos and biologist Jennifer Graham will be busy collecting information about eels in over 47 locations in the Deschutes River sub-basin.

The effort is part of a three-year collaboration between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Bonneville

Power Administration to assess what types of eels exist in the Deschutes River sub-basin, their distribution and abundance levels.

The project is being funded by the BPA.

The study is the first of its kind on the reservation.

"We've discovered Pacific lamprey in the Shitike Creek and Warm Springs River this year. We're potentially looking for three types of lamprey. But because nothing has ever been done in this area, we're basing that potential on information we found in books," said Graham.

The Pacific lamprey is the eel commonly found in this area. It is an anadromous parasitic fish that sometimes catches a ride

back up river by attaching itself to a salmon.

Western brook lamprey, a yellowish-brown freshwater eel, has also been known to be in this area, but is less common. The third possibility, although unlikely, is the river lamprey.

A river lamprey hasn't been spotted in the Columbia River Basin since the early 1980s.

Like salmon, in the last century Columbia River basin lamprey populations have dropped significantly.

Water quality and dams are held largely accountable for the decrease.

An important part of the Columbia River tribes' traditional diet, lamprey has been forced to have a decreasing role

in ceremonial feasts due to lack of abundance.

"There's no place for eel at feasts anymore. They used to be at every meal," said Harold Blackwolf of the Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife Committee.

"Lamprey is just as important to the tribes as salmon," said Santos, who is also a tribal member.

Creeling the status of eels and assessing the abundance levels of eels in the Deschutes River sub-basin for the three-year project could pave the pathway for future eel restoration plans, said Blackwolf of the current study.

There are four part of the study. Last year Santos and Graham learned to identify the lar-

val lamprey, based solely on their tail pigmentation. For example, a Pacific lamprey has a distinct yellow outline on the ridge of its tail.

This year they are concentrating on another part of the study. Each day Santos and Graham visit a different tributary of the Deschutes River, primarily on the reservation, and collect eel samples.

An electrical current is generated in the water that temporarily stuns the eels. The current encourages the eels to come out of their burrows in the mud and to the surface of the water. Then they are caught with nets and weighed, measured, and assessed for any unique characteristics, such as parasites.

Immediately they are released back into the water at the same site unharmed.

Another aspect of the study is to use rotary screw traps to collect emigrant eels. Emigrant eels include both larval and transformed eels.

The large rotary screw trap allows water to flow in through a large rotating cone where fish are temporarily caught in a holding tank.

Eels caught are marked with an elastamere dye by injecting multiple colors into the eel. "We use a different combination of colors to indicate actual days and other information from when they were caught," explained Graham.

See EEL STUDY on page 10