



**Brenda Scott**

At the Seekseequa District meeting, Brenda Scott said she hopes all members of the district vote for the candidate they will support on Council. When a person is serving on Council, said Scott, the person can get picked on by people who are unhappy with a situation. "People think it's an easy job," she said, "but it's not."

A key problem facing the tribes, Scott said, is money. All programs – education, public safety, health and so forth – require money. "It is the Tribal Council's job to find that money," she said.

In the end, Scott said, she encouraged people to vote for the candidate they support, and then show support once that person is in office.



**Wilson Wewa**

We need strong leadership on our whole Council. We used to be the lead reservation in the Northwest and we

no longer sit in that position anymore. We need people that understand the issues. We need leaders that will go out and speak up.

**Southern Oregon University hosting spring powwow**

The Twelfth Annual Spring Powwow of the Southern Oregon University Native American Student Union is set for April 10-11.

Grand Entry will be at noon and 7 p.m. on Saturday, noon on Sunday. Dinner is at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Friendly competition is set for all categories. All dancers, drummers and vendors are welcome.

All events are held at McNeal Pavilion in Ashland. For more information call the SOU Native American Student Union at 552-6463.

**Warm Springs team working on root causes of poverty**

By Shawnele Surplus  
*Community Advocate*

Upon their inception, the Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) and the Central Oregon Partnership researched what we call "Root Causes of Poverty." Among the nine root causes that we identified was a lack of "civic engagement."

People in poverty, due to demands on their time, energy and money as well as being disillusioned with society, do not engage in their communities as much as those who are not in poverty.

Unfortunately, this understandable decision results in a lack of "voice" for those in poverty and they are often overlooked, or the solutions to issues of poverty are irrelevant to them.

Currently, the WSCAT is engaged in two projects with the intent of breaking this root cause of poverty. In spring of last year, WSCAT staff was approached by staff from Rural Development Initiatives (RDI) to apply on behalf of Warm Springs to participate in community leadership training. While the curriculum for this training was created by the Ford Family Foundation out of Roseburg, RDI had been selected to deliver the training throughout rural Oregon.

As requested, the WSCAT applied, and Warm Springs was selected along with Madras. Eventually RDI and WSCAT staff selected a handful of people to act as the "nominating committee" for actual participants in the program. When the nominating committee met last month, they selected a number of people in the community (from youth to elders, from all tribes, and from all walks of life – some people selected are already looking to lead, others are those considered to be emerging leaders) who have been contacted about participating in the program and have completed their applications.

Of these, ten will be selected

to participate in the program. After completion of this program, these people will be expected to use their newly honed skills to conduct a project with their "classmates" before beginning to help prepare for the next group of trainees to begin the program next year.

The plan is to conduct at least three such classes in the next three years, eventually impacting the entire Warm Springs community. Because there has been so much interest from Warm Springs youth in leadership training, the WSCAT is working with RDI and the Madras area Community Action team to investigate the feasibility of a school-year long leadership training program for our youth.

**Get out the vote**

Another project that the WSCAT is pursuing in hopes of increasing civic engagement is a "Get Out the Vote" project.

Traditionally persons in poverty as well as Indians on reservations do not have a high rate of voter turnout. As a democratic society, the opportunity to vote is not only one of our greatest assets, but it is truly powerful.

This spring the WSCAT and community partners like KWSO and Governmental Affairs as well as interested community members will be out and about helping Warm Springs residents get registered to vote. We will be going door to door as well as having booths at community events. Come get registered and pick up your Native voter bumper sticker later this spring. After our initial registration effort we are bringing in a representative from Project Vote Smart to talk about the different tactics that candidates and proponents and opponents of political measures use to confuse issues and frustrate voters.

We will also be hosting community forums for candidates to come to Warm Springs and tell us how voting for them will benefit our community – and re-

mind them that Warm Springs does have a voice and intends to use it.

We will also be requesting platform information on topics important to Warm Springs. Keep listening to KWSO and reading the Spilyay to get that information.

Finally, we are requesting to have a ballot box placed in Warm Springs and will be gathering ballots for those who can't make it to the ballot box to cast their votes.

**Root causes of poverty**

The "Root Causes of Poverty" that the WSCAT is addressing are:

1) A Family History of Poverty. When one grows up surrounded by poverty, it's often the only environment they know and when, in turn, they grow up, it's the environment they most often re-create in their own families.

2) Chronic Poverty. Those who are severely disabled, addicted, or the very elderly and poor often lack the capacity to help themselves economically or socially.

3) Limited Economic Opportunity. Without the opportunity to work, grow and advance, or to make sufficient wages to support a family or own a home – poverty and its effects often follow.

4) Inadequate Educational and Training Opportunities. In a society that favors and pays

for knowledge and skills, access to education and training is imperative.

5) Racial/Cultural Isolation or Discrimination. When cultures or races of people are excluded from full participation in opportunity, social and economic divisions follow.

6) Weak Family Structures. When young people are without the support and nurture of a loving and supportive family, educational values often break down; substance abuse, crime and anti-social behavior can in-

crease; and a sense of disconnection from the community often ensues.

7) Weak Traditions of Civic Engagement and Limited Social Capital.

8) Limited Community Awareness of (or interest in) Poverty. Knowing about a problem and being concerned about it are the first steps in solving that problem.

9) Catastrophic Life Events. The degree of control a person has over the occurrence can be minimal to none. Health crises,

accidents, employment changes such as a plant closing. Initializing events can also be caused by poor decisions or bad judgment.

If you're interested in joining us to help engage the community, or are interested in any of our projects, then give us a call at the WSCAT office at 553-3148, or stop by our office in the Plaza.

You can also join us at our meetings on the first and third Thursday of every month at 4 p.m.

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**Small Hands to Hold Love ... Not Fire**

**Fact:** Children from age two to seventeen start fires that endanger lives, cause injuries, death and burn millions of dollars in property.

**Fact:** Children under the age of three cause a majority of these fires and lose their lives in the process.

This does not have to happen. Parents need to teach their children about the dangers of fire and create a fire-safe home.

**Install Smoke Detectors ... Plan an Escape Route**

AMERIND offers Home and Fire Safety Training to Children in Indian Country.

Contact AMERIND's Loss Prevention Team for more information:  
www.amerind-corp.org 800-352-3496



**AMERIND: A Consortium of Tribes Protecting Tribes and Their Families**



**Early Bird Easter  
Treasure Hunt**

Where? The Museum at Warm Springs.

When? Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m. till 2 p.m.

How? Bring your own container and hunt for treasures hidden in the west field of the museum grounds.



*Seek to the heart's content.*