



Spilyay Tymc

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Honor Seniors Day on Friday

The Fourteenth Annual Honor Seniors Day is this Friday, May 14. The theme this year is "Under the Big Top." There will be clowns, belly dancers, a lion tamer, a high-wire act, among other attractions.

Each year between 900 and 1,200 people attend the Honor Seniors Day, held at the Agency Longhouse. The day begins at 8 a.m. with registration, then at 9 the ROTC cadets will bring in the colors. Any veterans in the crowd are invited to join in. Next is the invocation by Sister Pauline. At 10 a.m. is the Early Childhood Education Center Children's Powwow. The luncheon buffet begins around 11:30 a.m.

Veterans are then invited to march onto the floor for recognition. There will also be welcome speeches, and honoring of others in the crowd.

The majority of the afternoon will then be fun and games, and the final dinner will be sometime around 5 p.m.

Council to fill tribal committees

One of the first tasks of the new Tribal Council will be the appointment of members to serve on the executive committees of the Council. There are eight committees that carry out a variety of functions for the Tribal Council and the Confederated Tribes.

The Health and Welfare Committee serves as the advisory body to the Tribal Council in the area of health and welfare, including programs, funding and legislation.

The Culture and Heritage Committee acts in an advisory and recommending role for the Culture and Heritage Program director.

The Education Committee serves as an advisory body to Tribal Council in the development of education programs and opportunities for tribal members.

The Fish and Wildlife Off-reservation Committee cooperates and negotiates with affiliate organizations to insure protection of treaty rights and development of sound management plans and programs.

The Fish and Wildlife On-reservation Committee serves to protect and manage fish and wildlife resources of the reservation for present and future generations.

The Timber Committee serves as an advisory body to the Tribal Council on the management of forest resources.

The Land-Use Planning Committee reviews and recommends to Tribal Council issues of the Comprehensive Plan, zoning and maximum utilization of land.

The Range, Irrigation and Agriculture Committee serves as an advisory body to Tribal Council for development of irrigation, agriculture land and range programs.

Any tribal member interested in serving on one of these committees should submit a resume and letter of interest by June 3. The resume and letter should be addressed to Tribal Council Office, attention Doris Miller, P.O. Box 1299, Warm Springs, OR 97761. The letter should state you are interested in serving and state which committee you have an interest in. Include information on education background, work experience, training, etc. If you have any questions call Doris Miller at 553-3257.

New Tribal Council chooses officers

By David McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

After taking office last week, the twenty-third Tribal Council appointed a new secretary-treasurer and a new chief operations officer. This is traditionally the first order of business for the new Council, along with appointing a new Council chairman and vice-chairman.

The new secretary-treasurer is Jody Calica, taking the place of Charles Jackson. The new chief operations officer is Laurain Hintsala, taking the place of Willy Fuentes.

Calica will be in Idaho for the next couple of weeks, as he has been working as the superintendent of the Northern Idaho BIA Agency. He is finishing up his work there before moving back to Warm Springs.

Jackson will continue acting as secretary-treasurer through May 24. Jackson is also going to be working on some projects for the tribes for the next several months, as he is familiar with details of the items on the agenda of the secretary-treasurer's office.

Jackson has been secretary-treasurer for the past six years. Calica said he is expecting to have a smooth transition over the coming months. Calica was nominated for the position of secretary-treasurer by Paiute Chief Joe Moses, and then approved by vote of the Council.



Jody Calica

Hintsala had been meeting with the heads of the various departments that are under the chief operations officer. These include departments as diverse as Education, Natural Resources, and Human Resources. "I've been doing a lot of reading and meeting with people," she said.

While Hintsala is new in the top-level management positions of the tribal organization, Calica has experience in these positions.

Calica was the chief operations officer of the tribes before Willy Fuentes. This experience will help in serving as the new chief operations officer, said Hintsala.

"It's been in my career path for several years, but I didn't realize it until it happened. It's a big job, but I'm enjoying it."

Laurain Hintsala
Chief Operations Officer



Laurain Hintsala

His other work for the Confederated Tribes includes the job of general manager of the Natural Resources Branch.

The Council last week also appointed a new Tribal Council Chairman and a vice-chairman.

The new Chairman is Councilman Ron Suppah, taking over from Garland Brunoe.

Buck Smith was named the vice-chair. Some of the items on the Council agenda in coming days include state legislative briefing, Tribal Information Day at the state capitol in Salem, and the 2004 mid-year Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) conference.

Reservation expecting busy fire season

By Bill Rhoades
Spilyay Tymoo

Last winter's above average snowpack hasn't done much to alleviate fears of wildland fire in Central Oregon. Fire managers throughout the region are bracing for another frantic fire season as forests and rangelands are already starting to dry out.

The snowpack, well above average in February, was depleted as a result of unseasonably high temperatures in March and April. As of this week, snow measurements in the Cascade Mountains were only 51 percent of normal and reports were being issued to warn of impending threats.

"The snow went off quick and the past two months have been very dry," said Warm Springs Fire Management Officer Gary Cook. "The recent rains have cooled things temporarily, but they're also going to make the grass grow."

Cook said years of fire suppression have resulted in heavy fuel loading in

As the grasses dry out they are easily ignited and have the ability to carry fire rapidly over large tracts of land.

the forests, both on and off the reservation. Stands of densely stocked trees and areas with heavy underbrush create hazardous conditions during the summer and early fall.

Small trees and brush were kept in check during pre-management times by periodic fires that created more open and natural stands of timber. Under present conditions, however, when wild-fires do occur they are more likely to reach catastrophic proportions.

Recent spring rains have dampened the surface, but they also provide the perfect setting for a flush of growth, especially to fine fuels such as exotic, annual grasses. As the grasses dry out they are easily ignited and have the ability to carry fire rapidly over large

tracts of land.

There are no fire-related restrictions being imposed for the region at this time, but Cook says people may want to take some precautions to minimize the threat close to home. He said homeowners should create a defensible space near dwellings by having a buffer of green grass around structures and by limbing trees 3-4 feet off the ground.

Fire Management has curtailed controlled burning on the reservation, but they continue to move brush and cut fuel breaks around rural communities. Detailed information about creating defensible space may be obtained by calling 553-1146.

It's still too early to determine what sort of fire season central Oregonians will be facing, but indicators thus far have raised concerns.

If the situation persists, residents may have to relive the smoke-filled days that plagued the region less than a year ago.

Woman sentenced for child's death

Lillian Blackwolf was sentenced last week to 108 months in prison for the death of her child in January of 2003.

The 108 months, or eight years and eight months, includes credit for time that Blackwolf has already served.

She has been in custody since February of 2003.

Blackwolf was arrested last year after her child passed away from an injury to the head. At first Blackwolf said the child had been injured in a fall.

However, an autopsy and investigation indicated that the child had suffered a blow to the head.

The U.S. Attorney had suggested that Blackwolf be sentenced to ten years.

The judge, however, after listening to witness testimony at the sentencing hearing, imposed the lesser sentence.



The Class of 2004 at Madras High School includes many students from the Warm Springs reservation. Graduation this year will be Sunday, May 30 at 3 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. This year there are about 30 students from the reservation who will be participating in the graduation ceremonies. Look in the next edition of the Spilyay for pictures of the graduates.

Wasco meeting is May 22

The Wasco Chieftainship, and discussion of the tribal Constitution and by-laws, are items on the agenda of a meeting set for Saturday, May 22. The meeting will be at the Agency Longhouse.

The morning will be a time for memorials, then lunch will be at noon, with the chieftainship and Constitution and by-laws items afterwards.

The meeting is called for the Elders of the Wasco people; others interested are encouraged to attend.

Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum has called for a meeting of the Wasco Elders to determine the future of the chieftainship.

On June 2 of this year Chief Wallulatum will have served for 45 years as the Wasco Chief.