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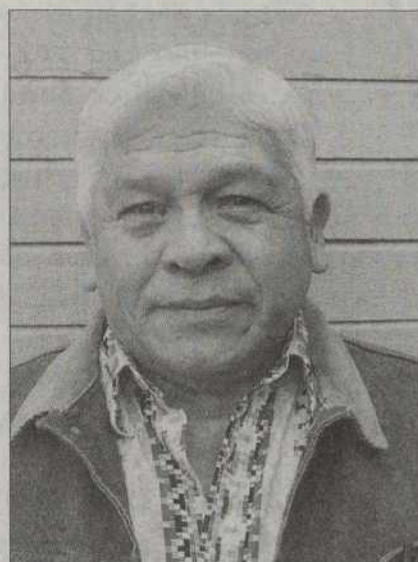
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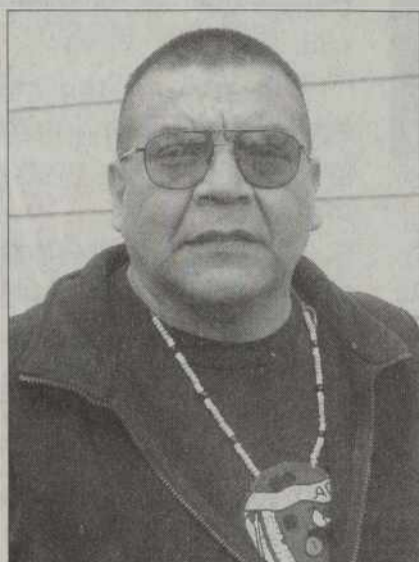
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Agency, Simnasho elect Council members



Stanley "Buck" Smith



Eugene Austin Greene, Jr.



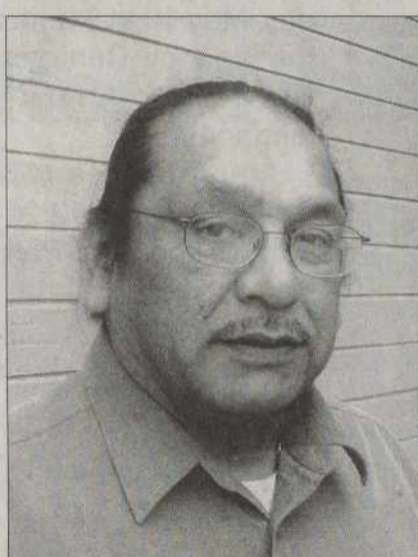
Bernice Mitchell

Elected by the Agency District:

Stanley "Buck" Smith, 228 votes.

Eugene Austin Greene Jr., 225 votes.

Bernice Mitchell, 160 votes.



Ron Suppah



Aurolyn Stwyer



Rafael Queahpama

Elected by the Simnasho District:

Ron Suppah Sr., 178 votes.

Aurolyn Stwyer, 108 votes.

Rafael Queahpama, 105 votes.

Seekseequa votes April 30

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Eugene Austin Greene Jr., Aurolyn Stwyer and Rafael Queahpama are newly elected members of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Bernice Mitchell, Stanley Buck Smith and Ronald Suppah were re-elected to their positions on the Tribal Council.

The Seekseequa District is scheduled to elect their two Council representatives on Monday, April 30.

Seekseequa is voting separately due to a misprint on the earlier ballot.

Initially following the April 2 election, there was some speculation that the Agency and Simnasho results would also be rejected, and a full re-vote scheduled. This turned out not to be the case, though, as Tribal Council on Friday, April 6 accepted the results of the Agency and Simnasho ballots.

Of the newly elected members, Greene works as director of the tribal Recreation Department; Stwyer works as a consultant; and Queahpama works in the tribal Forestry Department.

Greene said he is currently working out how his election to Council will impact his position at the Recreation Department. Greene received 225 votes — second most after Smith — in the Agency District.

Aurolyn Stwyer said her business schedule can accommodate her time working on Tribal Council.

Stwyer said, though, that her election to Council means she would have to resign her seat on the tribal gaming commission, when she takes office on Council within the next several weeks.

Stwyer received 108 votes — second most after Suppah — in the Simnasho District.

Rafael Queahpama received 105 votes in the Simnasho District.

The vote tallies in the Agency and Simnasho districts are as follows:

See ELECTION RESULTS on 8

Native languages focus of conference

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

They may not be striving to teach the same language, but teachers from across the state came together recently to focus on a common goal: bringing back native languages.

Teachers united at the Pshwayii Native American Language Teachers Conference on March 29.

The two-day conference took place at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and featured Jerry Minnick as the keynote speaker.

Teachers attended sessions regarding topics ranging from classroom management and ef-

fective strategies to licensing and native ways of learning.

Model programs offered presentations showcasing their efforts—including the Warm Springs Language Program.

Myra Johnson chronicled the program's 12 years of progress for the crowd.

"We are teaching all three of our languages and we treat them all equally," she said.

In Johnson's opinion, reviving the Native languages is strongly connected to the culture.

According to Johnson, "Our culture and our spirituality is in our language."

Johnson said the program works in a variety of ways: sometimes they aim for total

immersion, other times for bilingual classes, and in several cases with the master and apprentice method—meaning those with the program study under a fluent speaker in order to teach the language.

Ultimately, they hope to be able to expand their language classes to include teaching students in the language entirely.

"We've always said our children would become our teachers, and sure enough, that is what's happening," Johnson said.

Johnson emphasized the importance of technology, speaking of the program's ability to record the language. She played clips of students singing in each language for those in atten-

dance. In addition, Johnson said, support from local governments in key.

"We have full support of our tribal government," she said.

Mildred Quaempts, from the Umatilla Reservation, spoke of their program's cultural basis.

They use events such as their root feast and moccasin making to teach the language, she said.

Their program also focuses heavily on classroom involvement.

"The students have to be involved in their class time," Quaempts said.

See LANGUAGES on page 8

Pelton Round Butte achieves rare 'green power' designation

The Pelton Round Butte hydroelectric project is now officially generating green power—a designation achieved by only 26 hydro plants in the U.S.

Last week the Low Impact Hydropower Institute Board certified the Pelton Round Butte project as low impact, based on an array of planned environmental protection measures.

The measures include a new fish passage system that will be under construction this fall.

The Low Impact Hydropower Institute Board certifies hydro projects after they have passed a rigorous series of tests that demonstrate minimum impact on fish and wildlife. Pelton Round Butte is unusual in that most certified projects are small dams, sometimes built in streams that have few migrating fish to begin with.

Pelton Round Butte, co-owned by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric, is the largest hydroelectric project totally inside Oregon's borders.

Pelton Round Butte is now the second largest hydro project in the U.S. to receive the green power designation.

"The Confederated Tribes are finally beginning to see the benefit of efforts that have been undertaken during a long licensing process," said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

The tribes and PGE will restore passage with an innovative system expected to be operating by the end of 2009.

"The commitment to restore the environment above the project has been a high priority for the tribes."

"The Confederated Tribes," he said, "is the first tribe to take an ownership interest in a large hydroelectric complex.

The tribes have committed revenue that is not recoverable in a rate base to restore the fisheries that are vital to our culture."

Because of the impact on fish and other environmental factors, electricity from a U.S. hydro plant may not be considered eligible to be sold as "renewable" power until the related generating project has received green power certification.

Wind, biomass and geothermal energy have been historically accepted as renewable.

Pelton Round Butte impounds the Deschutes River, a federal Wild and Scenic River and tributary of the Columbia, about six miles west of Madras.

Its three dams have blocked fish passage, including that of wild salmon and steelhead, since 1968.

See DAMS on page 8



Students from Early Childhood Education enjoyed the spring sunshine at an Easter egg hunt on April 5.

Classes from ECE gathered at the Community Center to find the eggs hidden in a field.



Leslie Mitts photos