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Spilyay Tymo

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New Tribal Council takes office

Seekseequa elects Wewa, Jim

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

The Twenty-Fourth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs took office on Monday of this week, May 7.

Five of the eight elected members are new to the Council this term, while three members were re-elected by their districts.

The two Seekseequa District members were elected last week. Seekseequa elected Wendell Jim and Wilson Wewa Jr., as its two Tribal Council representatives.

Wewa, who work at the Senior Center, received 42 votes.

Jim, general manager of the tribal Education Branch, received 41 votes.

A total of 150 votes were cast in the Seekseequa District election, including 28 absentee ballots. There are 210 eligible voters in the district.

Wewa and Jim join three others who are new to the Tribal Council. The three other newly elected members are Eugene Austin Greene Jr., Aurolyn Stwyer and Rafael



The Twenty-Fourth Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs took the oath of office on Monday morning, May 7.

Queahpama. In the recent election, Ron Suppah, Stanley "Buck" Smith and Bernice Mitchell were re-elected.

Councilman Suppah will continue as

the Council chairman. He was elected chairman by a 6-4 vote. The vote on the chairmanship was at first tied 5-5 between Suppah and Councilwoman

Stwyer. A second vote, after comments from Stwyer and Suppah, resulted in the 6-4 vote. Stwyer was then elected vice-chair.

The Council, at the suggestion of Councilman Jim, then agreed by a unanimous vote to advertise the positions of secretary-treasurer and chief operations officer. The new Council members also indicated they would like to review recent recommendations, from the consulting firm Hamstreet & Associates, on how to improve the efficiency of tribal government.

Seekseequa votes

Being the smallest reservation district, in terms of population, the Seekseequa election was close, the outcome being determined by just a few votes. Besides Wewa and Jim, the other candidates fared as follows:

Reuben Henry, formerly on the Council, and a Kah-Nee-Ta employee, received 39 votes.

Julie Quaid, director of Adult Education, received 36 votes. Former councilwoman Brenda Scott received 36 votes.

Tribal Chief Operations Officer Laurina Hintsala received 32 votes.

Myra Johnson-Orange, director of Culture and Heritage, received 26 votes. Alvis Smith III, project manager of the Warm Springs Housing Authority, received 16 votes.

Different approach to adoption election

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

The tribal Vital Statistics department has been working with the BIA on the upcoming adoption election. The list of adoption candidates is almost final, and will soon be presented to the Tribal Council and the BIA.

There will be a 90-day period from the time when the list is turned over to the BIA until the election. So tribal members can expect the election to be sometime around August.

For this adoption election, tribal voting members will see significant changes from the previous adoption election, which failed because of a lack of voter turnout.

Part of the change in the upcoming election is to address the problem of the election failing for lack of turnout.

Through a tribal election, half of

all eligible voting members of the tribes must vote in order for the election to be valid.

This is a very difficult standard to reach, said Paul Young, BIA superintendent at Warm Springs. Even some Presidential elections don't see a turnout of 50 percent of all eligible voters. So it is understandable why the tribes may not want to apply that standard to the adoption election, said Young.

Instead, through a BIA supervised election, or through a BIA secretarial election, a turnout of half or more of registered voters, not all eligible voters, is required for the election to be valid.

So, for the upcoming election, tribal members who are interested in participating will need to register in order to vote.

If half of those who register turn in a ballot, then the election is valid.

There are other changes. For instance, in previous adoption elections, the voters were asked to decide upon each individual candidate who is seeking adoption into the Confederated Tribes.

For the upcoming election, the voters will vote either yes or no on the entire list, rather than on the individual candidates.

This is being done because of the great difficulty the BIA would have in counting the votes if each individual were considered separately, said Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics. Voter registration will be available to tribal members who are 21 years or older, or married. That is the tribal standard.

The BIA decided to use the tribes' own standard rather than the 18-year age minimum of the federal standard.

To qualify for inclusion on the bal-

lot, a person must be at least 1/8 Indian, and a descendant of a Confederated Tribes member or former member. There is no residency requirement for the upcoming election. Also, a person cannot already be a member of another tribe; and receive the majority vote of 50 percent of the eligible registered voters.

The current list of adoption candidates is at 140, said Queahpama-Spino. The list had been at 144, but four names were removed for lack of sufficient blood quantum. She was expecting maybe 10 more names to be added to the list before it is turned over to the BIA.

The last adoption elections were held in the fall of 2001 and then in early 2002. Both of these failed for lack of turnout. The last successful adoption election was conducted in October 1996.

Honor Seniors Day is Friday

Seniors will unite tomorrow, Friday, May 11, for a day of activities at the Agency Longhouse.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and ECE will host a children's powwow that begins at 10 a.m.

The theme for this year's event is "A dream come true."

This is the 17th annual Honor Seniors Day. The event is hosted by the Warm Springs Senior Program.

Each year the popular event draws hundreds of visitors to the reservation for a day of activities and entertainment.

Early Childhood Education will be providing decorations in addition to hosting a children's powwow.

Calica faces challenges, rewards as tribal liaison

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymo

The job can be a difficult one because the territory is large and the issues are complex and often very divisive. But there are great rewards as well.

"The part of the job I enjoy the most is getting out and meeting with the different tribes," said Dorelle Calica, Northwestern Division Tribal Liaison for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"The interaction with the tribes is what I love," she said.

And there are many Indian tribes in the Northwestern Division, which covers 14 states of the Columbia and Missouri river basins.

The region includes over 100 federally recognized tribes, and aboriginal territory of over 300 tribes.

It is Calica's job to work with the tribes, the Corps and other federal agencies toward finding a solution that is mutually beneficial. This can be very difficult because tribes and the agencies are sometimes at direct odds over vital issues such as water and fisheries.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for instance, owns and operates the hydroelectric dam system on the Columbia.

For this reason the Corps interacts often with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which represents the tribes with treaty fishing rights at the Columbia, including the Warm Springs tribes. Calica serves as liaison between the Corps and CRITFC.

She estimates that about 60 percent of her work time is dedicated to issues facing the Columbia River. Recently, she traveled with Corps commanders



Dorelle Calica

to Celilo, where the village and the tribes were marking the anniversary of the loss of Celilo Falls.

Fish are often at the center of work

in dealing with tribes of the Columbia, while the Missouri River basin tribes face a different issue involving a long-term drought, said Calica.

"The tribes there want water," she said. "The drought can leave some reservations with no municipal water."

Just before Thanksgiving last year, she said, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe lost its water supply. The Corps is involved in the development of more water in-take systems.

Calica has been the tribal liaison with the Corps of Engineers since 2005, shortly after she graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School, where she focused on environmental and Indian law.

She went to undergraduate school at Portland State University and studied political and social sciences. She was a Hatfield Fellow in 1999-2000, working with Sen. Smith and the legislative

assistant for Indian Affairs.

Calica grew up in Warm Springs. Her parents are tribal Judge Marie Calica and secretary-treasurer Jody Calica.

The Army Corps of Engineers, she said, is making progress in its responsibility toward Indian tribes. There has been a need for a change in the corporate mind-set among federal agencies, and "for the Corps I think we're moving forward in responsibility," she said.

Finding solutions that are beneficial to all parties, she said, is a very rewarding part of her work.

Another rewarding experience happened to Calica earlier this week, when she learned that she had passed the Oregon State Bar exam. She becomes the Confederated Tribes' most recent licensed attorney.

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