

# Spilyay Tymo

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## What you need to know about the adoption election

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is preparing this week to mail out the voter registration forms for the Oct. 11 tribal adoption election.

The process of mailing out the registration forms was delayed for a few days, as the local BIA staff was committed to working on administrative aspects of the agency response to the wild fires that have been burning on the reservation.

Lori Anderson, BIA administrative officer, said she would be meeting with Madeline Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statis-

tics, this week to arrange for the mailing of the registration forms.

About 4,000 envelopes will be mailed out, said Anderson. The envelopes will contain the registration form and a stamped return envelope. Tribal members who are interested in voting in the election will have about a month to return the completed registration form, said Anderson.

### Changes in election

It is important for tribal members to be aware of the changes to the adoption election process, said Louie Pitt,

director of tribal government affairs.

The registration process is one important change, Pitt said. Other tribal elections have required members to be qualified to vote, but have not required registration.

The second change is that all of the adoption candidates on the ballot will be either voted into the tribe or not.

Previous adoption elections have considered each candidate individually.

The candidates on the ballot on October 11 also were not required to live on the reservation for the previous three years, as has been a qualifi-

cation in the previous two, unsuccessful adoption votes.

The standards to qualify for the ballot are that the person have one-eighth Indian blood and be a descendant of a tribal member.

There are over 230 candidates who will be on the Oct. 11 ballot.

A main reason why there is a relatively large number of adoption candidates — 230-plus compared to 76 during the 2001-02 elections — is the lack of the residency requirement, said Madeline Queahpama.

## Homeless camp by river vacated

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymo

The homeless camp at the Rainbow boat launch area on the Deschutes River had become an increasing problem in recent months and needed to be dealt with, community members decided recently.

The boat launch area is partly tribally-owned, and partly state Parks property. The area is subject to tribal and Jefferson County law enforcement jurisdiction.

About 20 people attended a recent meeting on the issue. In attendance were community counselors, tribal land-use, housing and law enforcement officials, and officials from non-tribal agencies such as the county, state Parks, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A main concern has been the unpleasant encounters at the Rainbow area among the homeless population and members of the general public. The encounters included aggressive panhandling, public intoxication and harassment.

Other problems include thefts and vandalism to vehicles, littering and damage to the public property, said Urbana Ross, tribal lands services administrator.

See HOMELESS CAMP on 11

## 3 fires burn across 4,900 acres on rez

Fire crews are doing mop-up this week on three fires that have burned since July 12 on the reservation.

The largest of the three fires was the Biddle Pass fire, which burned across more than 3,000 acres.

The Warm Springs Hot Shot crew has been working on the Biddle Pass fire, constructing a line along the fire's edge.

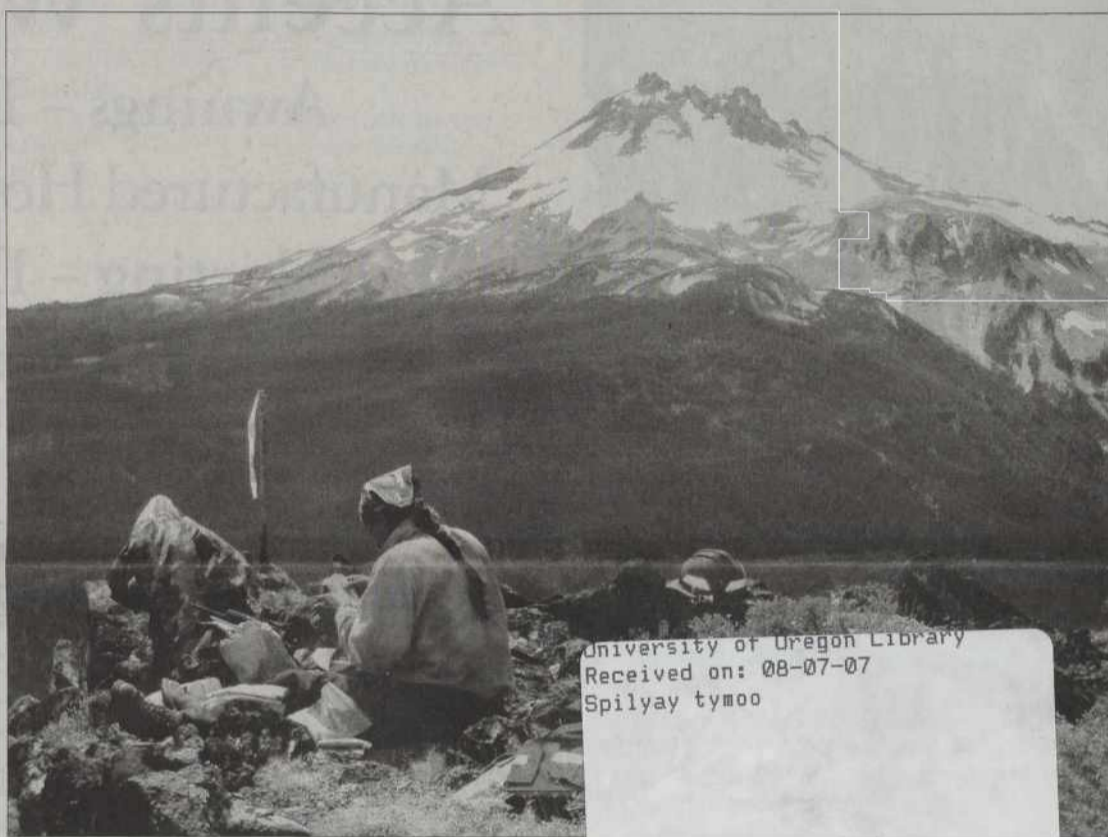
This week a crew from the John Day Rapell Base were scheduled to arrive at the Biddle Pass fire to assist the Hot Shots.

The Biddle Pass blaze is located in the area of the most difficult terrain in the fire complex, requiring support from the rapell crew, a helicopter and engine resources.

Close to 700 personnel have been on the reservation fighting the fires, which were caused by lightning.

This week many of the personnel were returning to their home units, as their 14-day assignment periods were concluding.

The two smaller fires were the Trail 3, which burned over 1,400



Fire fighter Vernon Suppah on lookout for the Warm Springs Inter-Agency Hotshot Crew.

acres, and the Lion's Head fire, which burned across fewer than 300 acres.

Most of the personnel still on the scene are working on mop-up of the

Biddle Pass fire.

Helicopter crews were using an infra-red device to detect hot spots, which are then extinguished by the

crews on the ground.

As of Tuesday, there were no fire-related closures this week on the reservation.

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Photo by Rich McConnell

## Council appoints committee members

The Tribal Council has filled the positions on the tribal committees.

The committees serve the necessary function of helping the Council conduct the business of the tribal government.

There are eight committees: Culture and Heritage, Education, Fish and Wildlife On-Reservation, Fish and Wildlife Off-Reservation, Health and Welfare, Land Use Planning, Range, Irrigation and Agriculture, and Timber.

The committee appointments last for about three years, until the next Tribal Council takes office. A swearing-in date of Wednesday, Aug. 8. The appointments are as follows:

Culture and Heritage Committee: Paiute, Lonnie Rose Tom and Eileen Spino; Warm Springs, Edna Gonzales and Margaret Suppah; Wasco, Emily Waheneka and Radine Johnson.

Education Committee: Mavis Shaw, Louise Katchia, Laurie Danzuka and Margie Tuckta.

The Fish and Wildlife On-Reservation Committee: Anson Begay, Terry Coutney Jr., Jonathan Smith and Emerson Squimphen.

Fish and Wildlife Off-Reservation Committee: Leslie Bill, Bruce Jim Sr., Harold Blackwolf Sr. and Ryan Smith Sr.

Health and Welfare Committee: Janice Clements, Urbana Manion, Moses Kalama and Earlyne Squimphen.

See COMMITTEES on 11

## Tribal Council defines, commits to priorities

By Maren Cohn  
Warm Springs Ventures

Tribal Council members attended a three-day orientation and priority-setting retreat last month at the Oregon Coast. All 11 Council members participated in the session.

On the final day, they unanimously passed a resolution and proclamation setting forth the Twenty-Fourth Council's priorities for the next three years.

"The proclamation is an important early step for this Council," said secretary-treasurer Jody Calica, who organized the retreat.

"It represents their consensus on where to commit tribal resources and gives direction to the tribal organization so we can carry out Council policy."

The retreat opened with tribal attorney Howie Arnett presenting an historical overview of the tribes' basic documents and federal Indian policy and law from Colonial times to the present.

As part of the overview, Tribal Council members discussed the 1855 Treaty, the tribal Declaration of Sovereignty, the Constitution and By-Laws, Charter, and the Management Plan.

### Better Communication

The second day moved from looking at the past to addressing present challenges and goals. As a prelude to asking Council to set the priorities for its term, facilitator Roy Sampsel, Executive Director of Portland State's Institute for Tribal Government, pointed first to Council's way of doing business.

"Everyone in this room is interested in making this Council cohesive and responsive to the people," he said. "How to accomplish this? Establish basic ground rules, rules Council imposes on itself, as to how it does business. What does this Council need to do to meet its goals?"

Discussion of that question took up the rest of the morning. The need for better communications within Council and between Council and the tribal organization and membership dominated the session. Some early tensions were dispelled when Paiute Chief Joseph Moses took the bull by the horns.

"It always happens that we start these things out by poking each other in the eye," he said. "That should be one of our ground rules—to stop doing that." Another participant emphasized the same point, urging Council to put aside divisive topics and focus instead on

*Council members were very sensitive of the need to hear from the people before committing significant funds to Bear Springs.*

what it can do together.

"If there are certain issues that get in your way, agree not to talk about them for a while. Learn to work together and trust each other by accomplishing goals in other areas that you all care about and can agree on."

Another important theme was the need for Council to lead by example, to police itself, and to comply with rules that already exist. "People are looking to us," said Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum. "We have to show by example."

"We have a chance to be a good link in the chain," said Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, "if we do what we say. I hope people will have more respect for this Council."

The round-table discussion on Council's own practices led to the creation of a chart of Council priorities for conducting its own business. At the

### Proclamation of Priorities

The Secretary-Treasurer then pointed to the priorities set by previous Councils and stressed the need for the Twenty-Fourth Council to spell out goals toward which the tribal organization should strive. Council members agreed that giving clear directions to subordinates, ensuring they have the resources needed to carry out those directions, and then letting them do their jobs would be essential to becoming an effective governing body.

As the first step in establishing the Twenty-Fourth Tribal Council's official priorities, the group reviewed and discussed the 2006 membership survey, paying particular attention to how members said they would like to see tribal resources allocated.

See TRIBAL COUNCIL on 11