



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Trust fund continues to encourage education

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

About 1,850 tribal member youth are enrolled as beneficiaries of the tribes' minors trust fund.

The trust fund this year is 50 years old, having been established in 1958.

In that year the tribes entered the minors trust agreement with U.S. Bank, which is still the trustee of the fund.

In the first year of the program there were 791 youth enrolled as beneficiaries.

"The trust fund was originally set up so minors would have funds available for their education," said Madeline

Queahpama-Spino, director of tribal Vital Statistics, the department that manages the disbursement of trust payments to the beneficiaries.

The fund operates as follows:

Each month the tribes make a payment of \$25 per enrolled beneficiary into the minors trust fund. The money is from non-casino sources.

Beneficiaries are tribal members who are minors under the age of 18. The \$25 is part of each individual's monthly per capita.

Twice a year—usually in March and September—the tribes disburse payments to the individuals whose benefits are due.

Mostly, the disbursements are made in various increments to tribal members who have just turned 18, 19, 20 and 21 years old.

### Changes to agreement

The purpose of the minors trust fund remains the same—to help young tribal members to pursue their education—but some aspects of the fund agreement have changed over the years, as times have changed.

A significant change happened in 1999, when the Tribal Council acted to re-emphasize the fund's original purpose, amending the original agreement by adding education conditions.

An example of the 1999 amendments reads as follows: "Those tribal members who have not completed high school or have dropped out of school, and who have consistently held below a 2.0 grade point average shall not have trust funds disbursed to them until they reach the age of 21...."

The 1999 amendment also says that a youth who is found to have committed an offense resulting in property damage may forfeit his or her trust fund in order to pay for the damage.

See TRUST FUND on page 9

## 4 inmates escape briefly from jail

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Four inmates escaped earlier this month from the Warm Springs Jail.

Three of the inmates were taken back into custody within a short time. The fourth turned himself back into custody after several days at large.

The inmates escaped through the roof of the jail.

The original construction plan for the jail included a design flaw that was undiscovered until the escape, said Raymond Tsumpti, director of the tribal Public Safety Branch. The flaw has been corrected, he said.

This was the first time that inmates had escaped from the Warm Springs Jail. There had been earlier escapes from the outdoor exercise yard, but never from the building itself, said Tsumpti.

The jail is operated by the tribes, but is owned and regulated by the BIA. It was built in 1986. Inmates serving time there have been convicted of misdemeanors, as felonies on the reservation are handled federally.

The inmates who allegedly escaped are Ulysses Jefferson, Vernon Smith Jr., Mackalin Kalama and Johnny Smith, according to the Warm Springs Public Safety.

Two of the inmates were injured during the escape, as they jumped from the roof of the jail.

One of the inmates suffered a broken ankle, and another suffered a broken heal. The inmates escaped on the evening of October 9, said Lt. Bruce Fones, jail manager.

The Warm Springs Jail was originally designed to hold 40 inmates. In the 1990s the number was increased to 48, and then this year to 51.

There are 16 full-time jail employees.

## Carnival, night out, costume party on Halloween

The Warm Springs Recreation Department will host a number of Halloween events in the coming week.

On Monday, Oct. 27, the department will host the Spooky Indian Night Out at the Community Center.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Drummers jam, powwow and games start at 7.

The tribal employee costume party is from noon to 1 p.m. at the Community Center on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31.

Prizes awarded in many different costume categories.

The Halloween carnival is at the Community Center on the evening of October 31, beginning at 6 p.m. Vendor set-up begins is from 3:30-5:30.

The carnival will include a costume contest, a decoration contest between vendors, and fun for the whole family.

For more information please contact the Recreation Department at 553-3243.

Also on Halloween, the Early



Orrah David, JaDe Smith and Camisha Smith (from left) traveled with the Recreation Department to Boring to get their Halloween pumpkins.

Childhood Education Center will host the annual Lil' Pumpkins Parade from 9:30-11 a.m.

ECE is extending an invitation to all the Warm Springs administration departments and enterprises to donate and

participate in a variety of ways. (See page 2 for more information.)

## Allen returns as the new Early Head Start administrator

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Shirley Allen is back in Warm Springs after 17 years.

Allen is currently working as the new Early Head Start Administrator for Early Childhood Education. Allen began working for ECE last month.

The daughter of Alfred and Francis Allen, she grew up in the Seekseequa district. Allen has relocated to the area with her son, Hunter Onstad, and her fiancé Louie Paul.

Allen has spent years teaching in a variety of positions throughout Arizona, Montana and Oregon.

The decision to go into the educational field was prompted by work with children as well as a best friend who also became a teacher and moved to Arizona with Allen as roommates at Northern Arizona University.

Allen went from teaching positions in Arizona to teaching in Montana, where she later gained experience in administrative work like grant writing. She has also coached basketball over

the years.

Her experience has led her to teach in a variety of areas, ranging from early childhood education to sixth grade science.

For several summers Allen came back to Warm Springs and led summer youth workers at Natural Resources. After encouragement from family and community members, Allen decided to apply for the administrator position at ECE.

Now she's working to complete her master's degree as well as to improve ECE in any way she can.

"I hope to maintain a consistency here," Allen said. "I truly believe that this particular program has not hit its potential yet."

She can list of many goals for the program, but Allen has a few specifics that she plans to complete as soon as possible including obtaining better technology, developing a symbol for ECE, and maintaining a positive image in the community.

Allen also hopes to return to Head Start program to a traditional ten-month school year rather than operating year-



Shirley Allen with son Hunter and fiancé Louie Paul.

round.

That would decrease costs, she explained, which is necessary with the current economy. In addition it would give them time to make necessary repairs and work on things that can't be completed during the school year.

"There's so much preparation and work that it takes to operate," Allen explained.

One common misconception involves community members thinking that all ECE does is provide childcare. While there is a tribal daycare through ECE, Allen said, Head Start and Early Head Start are in the same building and are a separate program that provides educational services.

While there are educational requirements for Head Start staff, Allen added, the daycare staff is not required to have a college degree.

"There is a difference and we need to honor that," Allen said.

Because of a mandate requiring early childhood education teachers to hold a bachelor's degree by 2013, Allen said, some of the current teachers will be completing their degree as soon as this year. That will involve lobbying for pay increases and writing those into the budget, Allen said.

Technology is another area that Allen intends to improve at ECE.

Currently a committee and team are working to develop the technology at ECE—that includes writing grants for additional funds.

She is working to purchase a pro-

gram that will allow them to function electronically, including tracking things like attendance, budget, and more.

After the tribes deemed ECE one of the essential programs on the reservation, Allen said, she wondered why there wasn't a universal symbol to identify ECE. Because of that, they held a contest and will soon be featuring a consistent ECE symbol on t-shirts, a flag, letterheads and more. The symbol incorporates the national Head Start logo as well.

Allen's goals don't just stop with Early Childhood Education—she's also striving to find out how ECE staff can help the community. For instance, during a teacher in-service day in the spring Allen plans to have staff members volunteer their time in the community.

They also work with a Tribal Council liaison, Allen said—currently Austin Green is assigned to the position, while Wilson Wewa serves as an alternate liaison.

As for her goals for ECE, Allen said, "They are all attainable." Next month ECE staff will host an open house for the Warm Springs Community.