



Spilyay Tymoo

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Not enough voters for school referendum

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The tribal school referendum on Monday did not meet the one-third voter turnout requirement for a valid referendum.

There were a total of 3,066 ballots presented to tribal members who are eligible to vote. Of the total eligible, 648 members voted.

A minimum of 1,022 was required, so the referendum fell short by 374. Of those who did vote, 501 were in favor, and 147 were against.

As the referendum was not defeated, but failed for lack of response, the question can be voted on again at a later time.

The previous two referendums, the tribal adoption elections of a few years ago, also did not meet the minimum number of votes.

The lack of turnout does not necessarily indicate a lack of interest in the ballot question. Instead, opponents of referendums can choose not to vote, rather than to vote no, as this can be a more successful strategy, in light of the minimum response requirement.

Share of cost

Tribal Council voted in March to put the school matter to a tribal referendum. The Council resolution states,

"The Tribal Council believes that the only way a new k-8 school is to be constructed on the reservation is through a partnership with the school district, providing for an equal sharing between the tribe and the school district of the total cost of a new school, with anticipated federal participation..."

The referendum this week was



Duran Bobb/Spilyay

Most people who voted were in favor, but turnout was too low.

the second time tribal members have voted on a new school for Warm Springs.

In 2001, members approved an \$8 million expenditure for a school, provided the 509-J district repay

half the amount over the ensuing 20 years.

Despite approval, this measure was not carried out, as the tribes and district could not agree on questions such as school location, total cost and the repayment obligation.

School district bond

Meanwhile this week, the Jefferson County School District election was on Tuesday. Results of this vote were not available at press time for this publication.

The school district bond asked for close to \$27 million. About \$10 million would have been for a Warm Springs school.

A performing arts center in Madras was also on the district ballot, along with improvements at various district schools and facilities.

The quiet heroes, the caretakers

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Traditionally, there has always been at least one member in each family on the reservation who takes on the duty of caring for the elderly. Sometimes, the caregiver will forfeit opportunities that others have to make sure an elder can live a more comfortable life.

These are called the *nakt kwaniintla* in the Sahaptin language. "It's one who cares for an elder in a home," language instructor Arlita Rhoan said.

There are currently fewer than 10 formal, or paid, caregivers in Warm Springs, according to Diane Lofting, administrator for the Senior and Disabled Services branch of Department of Human Services (DHS) in Madras.

"Another program that we have is called the relative adult foster home," Lofting said. "We have three

people in that program from Warm Springs who are paid by the hour. The difference between this program and being a caregiver is the hours. In the foster home, a provider puts in more hours—up to 24 hours a day."

There is another class of caregiver, like Abraham Hunt, who volunteers his time and services to care for his elderly father.

"I do this out of love and respect for my dad," Abraham was saying recently. "I feel better about myself knowing that my dad has taken his meds and is resting comfortably after eating a good meal. I don't do this for pay."

Or as Charles Eastman (Santee Sioux) says on the DHS caregiver website: "Children must learn early on the beauty of generosity. They are taught to give what they prize most. In their simplicity, the Indians gave away all that they had... to relatives, guests, to other tribes and clans—but above all to the poor

and the aged, from whom they can hope for no return."

L.Raye Picard Squiemphen took care of her father George Picard Sr. after he suffered numerous heart attacks, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

"We were taught that it is the duty of the oldest daughter," she says. "So I had to fill out many forms, do a background check, and complete a physical to make sure that I was capable of lifting him if needed... and it was needed."

George Picard Sr. was the only tribal member to ever receive his private airplane pilot license, L.Raye remembers with a smile.

"The job of caring for someone doesn't pay very much, so it isn't the driving motivation there," L.Raye says. "I like to think that I was paid in a very different way... I had quality time with my dad, alone, and that makes up the difference. I love him, and I would do it all again if I had to."

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Fish matters brought to Council attention

Terry Courtney Sr., Wasco traditional fisherman, and Bruce Jim, chairman of the tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee, spoke with Tribal Council members last week about fisheries.

One topic of discussion was the marking of the spring chinook hatchery fish. This practice, mass marking of the hatchery fish, is having the effect of giving downstream sport fisherman a harvest advantage over the tribes, said Jim.

Hatchery fish are marked as juveniles by having their adipose fin clipped. Hatchery fish also have a coded wire implanted in the snout, which can be used to determine where the fish originated. These practices in themselves are disrespectful to the salmon, said Courtney.

The marking of the fish is not benefiting the tribes, both

Courtney and Jim commented. "The marked fin is more favorable to the state than it is to the tribes," Jim said.

The state Fish and Wildlife Department sets the spring chinook harvest based on a catch of marked fish. The total allowable harvest is split between the tribes and non-tribal fishermen.

Jim said the system allows for a larger catch for the downstream sport fishermen, compared to the amount that remains for the tribes.

When marked hatchery fish return upstream, they are removed at the hatchery, such as at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. The wild fish are allowed to migrate upstream to spawn naturally. The clipped fin is how the fish are identified as either hatchery or wild.

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Great potential for campus development

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

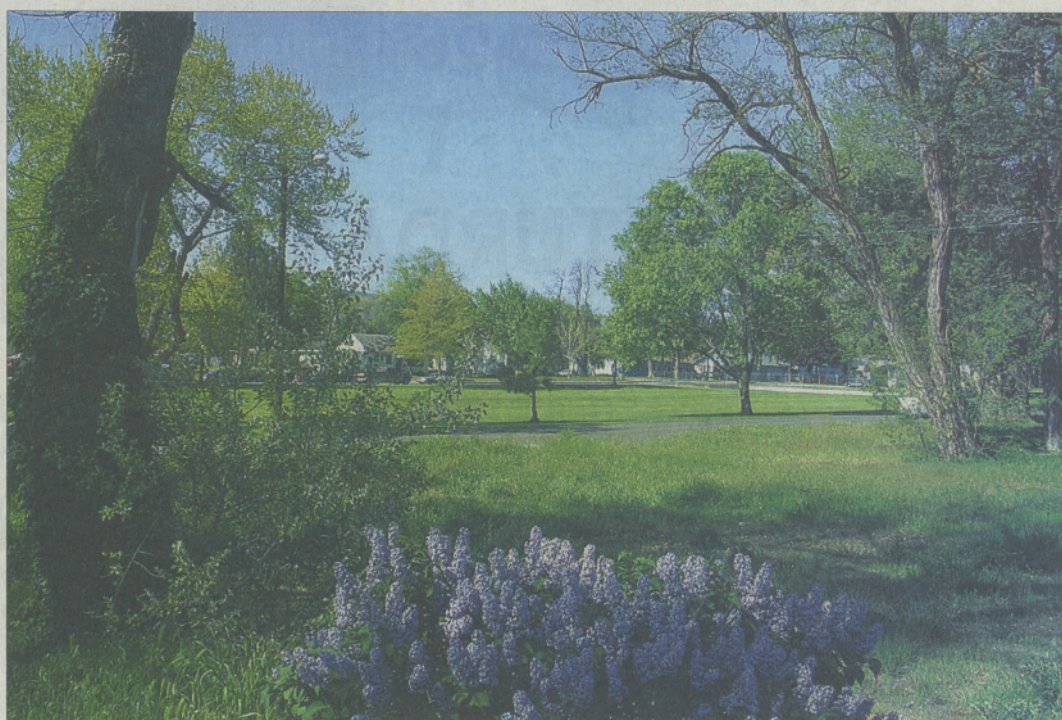
The campus area of Warm Springs would be ideal for new business development.

The campus is centrally located in the community, and has Highway 26 running along the north side. The area would serve local residents and people passing through town on the highway.

The tribes are now moving forward with plans to develop the campus area. A set of preliminary plans were presented at a hearing last week at the Agency Longhouse.

Tribal planner Lonny Macy explained that the BIA has the responsibility to remove the old buildings and infrastructure at the campus. This would be a first step toward new development, clearing the way for new commercial buildings.

Last year, the BIA asked whether the tribes wanted to take ownership of the old buildings and infrastructure. The tribes declined the proposal because the buildings are outdated, containing asbestos and other problems.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The nine-acre campus is the central are of the local community.

The water lines and other infrastructure, while currently serving some buildings in the area, also need to be replaced, Macy said.

The BIA has not acted to remove the old structures; so the tribes are moving forward, intending to bring the BIA on board as the project

progresses.

"The tribes are very interested in economic development, and keeping money on the reservation,"

said Macy. Tribal leaders, he said, want to see development at the campus, or downtown area, which is identified as the best place for new business and related development.

"The BIA has not moved on the tribal request," Macy said, "so the tribes need to do some of the preliminary work ourselves. But it is (the BIA's) job to do this. We want to develop the area, and we're hoping this helps to get the BIA in gear."

The preliminary plans include an infrastructure inventory map, identifying that all the infrastructure needs to be replaced.

One of the planning maps shows the campus area divided into three main areas: a primary local service area, a tourist area, and a tribal celebration park.

The local service area could include businesses such as a Laundromat, pizza parlor, sandwich shop, as examples. The tourist area might include a restaurant, plant nursery, crafts, pottery store, etc. And the park would be for open space.

See DOWNTOWN PLAN on 2