



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Wasco Chief Smith joins Tribal Council

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Sr. joined Tribal Council last week. Chief Smith took the oath of office during a ceremony outside Council chambers, with many supporters on hand for the historic occasion. Chief Smith is now the fourth Wasco Chief to serve his people since the formation of the modern tribal government in 1938.

Chief Smith won the recent election conducted among the Wasco people, although he was not a supporter of the election process. The successor to atwai Chief Nelson Wallulatum, who served for over 50 years, should have been chosen by tribal tradition, rather than by election, Chief Smith said.

Still, the election process appeared to be the only way to bring about a consensus on the matter. The Wasco Chieftainship position on Council had been vacant for almost two and a half years, while at least five other people claimed a right as successor.

In the end Chief Smith received the most votes in the election process, and Tribal Council acknowledged the result by resolution. Secretary-treasurer Jody Calica explained that Tribal Council was taking recognition of the decision by the Wasco people, rather than acting to approve Chief Smith to the



Chieftainship.

The election was a decision of the Wasco people as a previously existing sovereign, pre-dating the tribal Constitution and By-Laws, Calica said before the swearing-in ceremony.

Wasco Elder Earl Tufti initiated the ceremony with a prayer and encouraging comments. Chief Smith then took the Tribal Council Oath of Office, as administered by BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent John Halliday. The position of Chief on Tribal Council is held for life.

### Background

Chief Smith was asked recently for comments about his life and

background. The following is a brief summary of some of his comments.

Chief Smith was born in Warm Springs in 1940 to parents Lucinda (Scott) and Alfred Smith Sr. He grew up at Sidwalter. The family lived by ranching and farming. They raised wheat and hay. In those days they used horses for the plowing and harvesting.

They hunted for food, deer mostly, and fished. "There were big fish back then," Chief Smith says.

As a youth, he attended the boarding school in Warm Springs. "It was like the military," he says. "We had to march wherever we went." And with the other students he went to church three times a week.

He attended high school in Madras, and then joined the Army. He became an Airborne Ranger, and studied field communication and cryptology, the science of decoding encrypted messages. He became a radar operator, and then served as guard for the base's paymaster.

See CHIEF on page 12



Wasco Chief Alfred "JR" Smith (picture at top) takes the Tribal Council Oath of Office, as administered by BIA Warm Springs Agency Superintendent John Halliday. Many people showed up for the swearing-in (picture at left).

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

## Noree's Plume opening soon

Noree Guerin had a dream to open her own business. Over time she had come to love working with Pendleton fabric. She especially loves making Pendleton vests. "When I sew, I put pride and joy into my work," Noree says.

Her sewing technique is highly professional. The stitching is hidden. Her traditional Pendleton vests are reversible. "You don't want to put a lining in the vest because that would cover the fabric. Pendleton fabric is too beautiful to cover up," she says.

Her dream was to open a small business specializing in Pendleton fabrics. This is coming true with her shop Noree's Plume, opening soon at the Warm Springs Plaza.

Noree has a unique wholesale agreement with Pendleton Woolen Mills. At her shop she will sell Pendleton fabrics by the yard, and will also offer finished items such as the vests, blankets, purses and hats. She will also offer classes on how to make the traditional vests.

Noree's Plume will be the first Pendleton outlet in Indian Country.

Pendleton Woolen Mills had been wanting a closer relationship with Warm Springs, as the company does a lot of business among the membership, Noree says.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Noree Guerin will be opening Noree's Plume at the Plaza.

As a loyal customer, she had come to know the people at Pendleton Woolen Mills. They appreciated how much she really enjoys working with Pendleton fabric. So Noree was the natural choice to open the Warm Springs outlet.

Still, the decision to start Noree's Plume was not one to be taken lightly. Noree has worked for 35

years at the Warm Springs Construction enterprise, where she is the accountant.

Quitting a long-time job and starting her own business would take courage and determination. "But at some point," Noree says, "you decide to do what you like."

See NOREE'S PLUME on 12

### K-8 School update

## Community forums consider design aspects

The tribes have conducted one community forum on the design of the new school, and a second meeting is coming up in December.

The design guidance team has been approved. The members are Scott Kalama, Bridgette Scott, Arlene Boileau, Mavis Shaw, Ashley Aguilar, Paulette Henry, Wayne Miller, Levi VanPelt and June Smith. The design guidance team is meeting every Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at the Credit Enterprise building.

About 40 people attended the community forum last week. The architect, EBT from Bend, and the project manager, the Wenaha Group, were on hand for the meeting.

Community members were asked for design ideas, and any other input they might have. "We heard the idea of having a truancy officer at the school," said Chief Operations Officer Urbana Ross. "And we heard an idea of having school uniforms."

Surprisingly, she said, the uniforms idea came from some of the students themselves.

Comments from the community have emphasized safety, said Ross. Some have commented that the design should represent the three tribes of the reservation, and there should be greater emphasis on Native languages at the new school.

There should be plenty of basketball courts, and a swimming pool, according to some who have commented.

The next community forum on the school will be on Monday, Dec. 3, light dinner at 6 and meeting to follow.

### Starts in spring

Construction of the school is scheduled to begin in the spring. The building phase will take about 14 months.

Over the course of that time, the school construction will create about 200 local jobs. Some of the positions would be for a shorter duration than the 14 months. The tribes and the school district are spending about \$10 million each on the Warm Springs k-8 school.

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