

# Chief: tribes facing critical financial time

(Continued from page 1)

In those times, Chief Smith said, "the military paid their personnel in cash. I would guard four- to five-hundred-thousand dollars in cash every payday."

He was then stationed in the Dominican Republic. This was at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Dominican Republic is located just a couple hundred miles from Cuba. Chief Smith served as the base commander's body-guard.

"My job was to make sure no harm came to him," he says. Armed with a rifle, "I used my own judgment in carrying out the job."

By the time of discharge, in 1965, "I was homesick. The commander asked if I would extend my commission, but I decided to come home."

He joined his brother Russell Smith in the logging business, the first on the reservation. He attended



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Tacoma Technical-Vocational Institute (now Bates Technical College), where he studied Diesel Mechanics.

He returned to the reservation and continued his logging enterprise. "I've been at it now for 38 years, going on 39," he says.

The logging business has changed over the years, he says. The logs are smaller now; and out of necessity the industry is more mechanized. With the right marketing, he says, there is still money to be made in the business.

### Tribes' future

The next Tribal Council election is in the spring of

2013. Chief Smith sees this as a crucial time for the tribes. "The next Council is going to make or break the tribes," he said.

His hope is that the membership will elect the most qualified individuals, as the tribes are facing perilous financial times. "Elect someone who will do a good job and help us out of this financial disaster," he said.

"Progress and politics don't mix very well," he said of the task facing the next Tribal Council. The tribes' financial situation, he added, is similar, on a smaller scale, as the one facing the U.S.

The tribes have to survive as a modern-day government organization, while maintaining the languages and traditions that define the tribes. "You have to keep up with what people are doing off the reservation while keeping our own culture," he said.

Earl Tufti (right) gave the invocation at the swearing-in ceremony. Pictured with Chief Alfred Smith are Tribal Council Chairman Buck Smith, Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, and Jonathan Smith.

## Noree's Plume: opening at Plaza

(Continued from page 1)

A while ago she offered a class on how to make traditional Pendleton vests. She had to charge a fee to the participants, in order to cover expenses.

"I didn't think many people would show up because of the fee," Noree says. "I was shocked that the class was full."

This was encouraging, and showed that the local market for Pendleton fabrics is strong. Noree also made sales contacts with other tribes and

with gift shops at other casinos. She recruited some of the local craftspeople to help with the sewing.

She developed a business plan and applied for funding. Hers was the first proposal to receive funding from the Private Business Revolving Loan program. "This has taken a lot of work and a lot of research," she says.

The reward for this work will be the opening of Noree's Plume. A grand opening date is not yet set but will be soon. "I was trying to

open by Thanksgiving but I got too busy," she says.

A couple of interesting vests that Noree has been working on lately include one for Jacoby Ellsbury. The vest has his name and number, the Red Sox logo and baseball bats stitched on the back.

At the request of Warm Springs Catholic Church members, Noree made a Pendleton vest for Father Luis Flores-Alva. He wore the vest during the church's pilgrimage for Blessed

Kateri. Noree also made a Pendleton vest as a gift for the Pope.

For the Museum at Warm Springs member art exhibit Noree entered a cow-hide vest that includes rare "Let 'R Buck" Pendleton fabric on the back.

If you have a Pendleton item in mind that you would like to order, you can reach Noree at 541-325-2115. Or email at:

noreecleo@gmail.com

— Dave McMechan

### Teepee Arcade!!!!



Located next to the CASINO!

### School

(Continued from page 1)

The tribes and the school district approved the funding earlier this year in a county measure and tribal referendum. The tribes are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on secur-

ing a loan guarantee.

The school will be located on 20 acres at Tenino and Chukar roads.

The 80,000-square foot school building will be about the size of the Jefferson County Middle School.

### Holiday Bazaar Dec. 8

The Warm Springs Recreation Department will present the Thirty-Seventh Annual Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 8. The bazaar will be at the Community Wellness Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

This is a great chance to find the handcrafted gifts that are unique for the special people in your life. For more information, contact the Recreation Department, 541-553-3243.



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