



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## A thank you to Principal Smith

It's not easy to keep a big secret in Warm Springs, because some way or another everybody knows each other. So the assembly last week at the elementary school was unique.

Principal Dawn Smith was taken by surprise. Everyone had kept it a secret, though most everyone knows her. It was a way of saying, You are a special person in the community.

Principal Smith has been at Warm Springs Elementary for 40 years, as a teacher, coach, counselor, parent, mentor and school principal. "I've known Dawn all my life," Jake Suppah said during the assembly.

"She was best friends with my mom. I've always thought of her as a true leader," he said, "and I've always looked up to her. She's done many great things here." Jake served as the master of ceremonies at the assembly, held in the gym.

All of the students, teachers and staff had gathered there a short time before. They were joined by many from community of all ages who have come to know Dawn.

Everyone kept quiet as teacher Kevin Rodin led her into the gym.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Dawn thanks the assembly for the kind words.

By some pretext he had her blindfolded. When she entered the gym and took off the blindfold, everyone stood and cheered. It was overwhelming.

This has been Dawn's last year as principal at the Warm Springs Elementary School. Everyone gathered last week to thank her and wish her luck in whatever she takes on next.

At the assembly Dawn joined

Jake and others on the gymnasium stage. Chief Delvis Health gave the opening prayer and song. A group of young students presented her with a Pendleton blanket. Arlene Graham gave her shawl. "This represents the love you've blanketed the community with," Arlene said.

Shirley Heath gave her a necklace with a turtle pendant. "She loves turtles," Shirley said.

School staff Ellen Ames and

Lucinda Heath presented her with a turtle foot rest. The Culture and Heritage drum group performed an Honor Song.

Dawn's daughter Ardis Smith-Clark read a letter from Dawn's father, telling of how Dawn first got into education, starting back in 1973.

She was in school in Colorado at the time, and applied for a teaching internship at Warm Springs Elementary. Two years later, after graduating from Oregon State, she became a full-time teacher at the school.

She became principal 20 years ago. One of her first tasks was to stop the high turnover rate among the teachers and staff. This and other accomplishments earned her the National Distinguished Principal Award in 2003.

Another highlight of the assembly was a video presentation, presented by Sue Matters. There were pictures going all the way back to Dawn's own elementary school days; pictures of her as a teacher; and a dance video from the back-to-school barbecue.

— Dave McMechan

## Renewed interest in motorsports

People in the motorsports business have a growing interest in developing a professional motorsports park in the Northwest. The national market for the sport is strong, as shown by the recent ten-year \$8.4 billion deal between NASCAR and NBC.

NASCAR began in the Southeast and remains strong in that region. Over the years the sport has expanded to the West and Northeast and Midwest, but not yet to the Northwest. Investors with Lionshead Development for some years now have been working on developing a motorsports park somewhere in the Northwest.

After studying the region, the group determined that the Warm Springs Reservation has great potential to expand motorsports. The reservation has dry and sunny days, and a central location between California and Vancouver B.C. They also find the terrain and views to be ideal for a motorsports park.

The tribal investment would be the land for such a venture: the preferred site is 900 acres in the North Miller Flat area. Benefits to the tribes would be a major new source of income, and hundreds of jobs.

Tribal members are already aware of this information, as the tribes last year held two referendums on the proposal.

Both of the votes saw a majority in favor, but both referendums did not see the required one-third voter participation. The second referendum, in July 2013, almost passed. It fell short by 46 ballots. More than 46 absentee ballots arrived the following day, too late to count. On-reservation voter participation was 40 percent, a high number for an election.

Tribal Council and Warm Springs Ventures are putting the motorsports question to another vote on July 1.

See **MOTORSPORTS** on page 8

## Mill Creek restoration at Potter's Ponds

By J.P. Patt  
W.S. Natural Resources

Beginning in June, Mill Creek at the site of the old Potter's Ponds will see the beginning of a comprehensive makeover, including the placement of over a thousand trees and tons of boulders, major earthmoving, and replanting of native vegetation—all in an effort to return the creek to a state roughly similar to what it was before the log

ponds were built.

But what was there before the ponds were built? Was there a population of salmon or steelhead that made an annual spawning run to Mill Creek?

One indicator, the steep gradient of the creek from its confluence with the Warm Springs River to the project site, suggests limited spawning and rearing habitat, yet biologists routinely find redds (spawning "nests") upstream of the project

site.

Given the tenacity and resilience of salmon and steelhead, the answer is most likely that Mill Creek was home to such populations, as are most surrounding streams.

So, the purpose of the Mill Creek Restoration Project is to create an environment that would be conducive to repopulation by salmon and steelhead. But first, a little history:

### Log storage ponds

In the 1940s, Warm Springs Lumber Co. built two large log ponds on Mill Creek approximately seven miles upstream of the Highway 26 Bridge. The ponds consisted of thousands of cubic yards of earth and rock—material that was once the streambed—pushed up in the path of Mill Creek just above the current B-100 Bridge.

See **MILL CREEK** on page 12

## Concert season opens at casino

Indian Head Casino hosted a three-day series of concerts over Memorial Day weekend. These were the first shows of the summer at the casino. The stage, seating and hospitality tents are set up just outside the casino. The first show on Friday evening was by Garratt Wilkin and the Parrot Heads (right), a Jimmy Buffett tribute band. The next evening featured a Country and Rock Salute to the Armed Forces; and on Sunday, Grupo Antifaz performed. Look for more shows coming up this summer.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

## MHS graduation June 7 at JCMS

The graduation ceremony for the Madras High School Class of 2014 is at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 7.

The high school stadium is under construction; so graduation this year will be at the middle school. **To all tribal member graduates of 2014:**

You are invited to the Graduation Banquet on Thursday, June 12 at the Warm Springs Community Center. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. Organizers are asking for RSVP by June 5. Call Carroll Dick at 541-553-3311; or Becky Picard at 541-553-3259. (See pages 6 and 7 for graduates.)



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See page 12 for details.