



Spilyay Tyme

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Election season opens with Council nominations

BIA committee sets Constitution vote for April 11

The three districts held their Tribal Council nomination meetings last week.

Tribal Council was scheduled to meet on Wednesday morning of this week (after print time for this publication) to finalize the candidate list.

The official list of nominees will be available after the Tribal Council confirmation. The preliminary and unofficial list, based on the district nomination meetings, was as follows:

Agency District

There were 22 nominations, with one person declining the nomination; so there are 21 nominees. They are (alphabetically):

Mike Clements, Mona Cochran, Eugene Austin Greene Jr., Susan Guerin, Anita Jackson, John Katchia Sr., Cameron Smith Lucero, Toni Made, Dan Martinez, Demus Martinez, Carina Miller, Jeff Sanders Sr., Jason Smith, Jonathan W. Smith, Glendon Smith, Leona Ike Smith, Ryan Smith Sr., Wissie Smith, Terry Squiemphen, Val Switzler, and Gabriel Walker.

Caroline Cruz was nominated and seconded, but declined the nomination.

Seekseequa District

Shirley Allen, Reuben Henry, Wendell Jim, Vesta Johnson, Brigitte McConville, Scott Moses, and Lee Tom.

Simnasho District

Frederick Duran Bobb, Charles Calica, Orvie Danzuka, Priscilla Frank, Raymond Moody, Evaline Patt, Orthelia Patt, Sylvester Sahme Sr., Emerson Squimphen, Ron Suppah, and Raymond Tsumpti Sr.

Arlita Rhoan was nominated and seconded, but she declined. Both Arlita and Caroline Cruz said their jobs—Arlita is a language teacher, and Caroline is director of Health and Human Services—would not

allow them the time to dedicate to Tribal Council business.

The date of Monday, April 4, is the target date for the Tribal Council election.

Candidates forum

In the meantime, the Warm Springs Youth Council will host a candidates forum and community dinner on Monday, March 7.

The event is in partnership with the Let's Talk Diversity Coalition, and will be at the Agency Longhouse. Community members and all Tribal Council candidates are invited to attend the event. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m., followed by the forum at 6:30.

Constitution vote

The membership this spring will also vote on a number of proposed changes—15 proposed changes in all—to the tribal Constitution.

This will be a secretarial election conducted by the BIA. Members 18 and over will be eligible to vote.

The Tribal Council election, on the other hand, will be a tribal election with the minimum age being 21. Youth who are younger than 21, but who are married, are also eligible to vote in the Council election.

The BIA election board has been meeting regularly in recent weeks on this election. The BIA is planning to conduct the vote on the Constitutional amendments on Monday, April 11.

The Confederated Tribes, and partners PGE and Oregon Parks and Recreation, hosted the Twenty-First Annual Eagle Watch over the weekend. The Quartz Creek Drummers and Dancers (right and below left) are a popular part of the event: They performed on Sunday afternoon, at the conclusion of the gathering. A rehabilitated golden eagle (below right) was part of the education and eagle information display. The bird had been hit by a car, and lost its sight. Researchers have found that eagles live year-round in the Round Butte area by the dams.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Report on tribal health

Once every year Health and Human Services provides a comprehensive report on the state of tribal health, and the health care system. The report includes the most recent data compiled on tribal member health and health care services.

Health and Human Services Director Caroline Cruz in February presented the most recent report to Tribal Council. This article is the first in a series on the Annual Health System Report for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

There is some great news in the report, in regard to the overall health of the tribal membership. "The vital statistics of the tribal members have improved dramatically over the last few years," the report says.

The report, for instance, looks at tribal members' "years of productive life lost," a way to measure premature deaths. Years of productive life lost (YPLL) among tribal members is the lowest ever recorded in Warm Springs, the report says.

"The YPLL number for the latest three-year period was nearly half of the number recorded in the previous three-year period. Corresponding infant mortality and early childhood death have decreased significantly."

On another topic: For many years, teen pregnancies were averaging about 20 per year among tribal members. Then, in the most recent three-year period, the number decreased to an average of eight, a great improvement. (The 2016 health report was developed during 2015, so the latest figures are for the year 2014.)

Teen pregnancy is a youth risk factor. For instance, parenthood is the leading reason why teen mothers drop out of school. More than half of teen mothers never graduate from high school. Fewer than 2 percent graduate from college.

See EDUCATION on 3

See HEALTH on 5

Draft education agreement at Council

The Education Committee and Tribal Council have been working on a new policy agreement that will guide education services to tribal members, as provided by the Jefferson County School District 509-J.

Education Committee members—Ardis Smith Clark, Deanie Smith and June Smith—met last week with Tribal Council on a draft of the agreement. Ardis is a teacher at the Warm Springs Eagle Academy; Deanie is the Confederated Tribes' Language Program director; and June is the director of the Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club.

The tribes will share the proposal with the school district board, and then work toward a final multi-year agreement. The proposed new

Warm Springs will host a partnership meeting with state Department of Education on Thursday, March 10. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided. The location of the meeting was not yet finalized as of this Tuesday afternoon (listen to KWSO for the location announcement).

The meeting is chance for parents and students to share their thoughts on how to improve education services to tribal members in Jefferson County. The information will help the state in implementing the Oregon American Indian/Alaska Native Education Plan.

For more information you can contact Angela Bluhm of the Department of Education, 503-378-5152. Email: Angela.bluhm@state.or.us

agreement includes some significant changes, in comparison with the current agreement. "I think we'll see positive changes," said Deanie Smith.

The current education agreement, or memorandum of under-

standing, will expire this summer, and the Tribal Council and the Education Committee have been working over the past year on a new MOU.

One of the problem areas in the

current agreement is its vagueness in terms of measurable benchmarks, the Council and Education Committee agreed.

The proposed new agreement would provide for greater information sharing as to student performance, attendance, drop-out rates, expulsions and suspensions.

Specifically, a provision in the proposal states:

"The Jefferson County School District 509-J will provide data on minor and major referrals, expulsions, suspensions, attendance, number of students below, at, or exceeding benchmarks or grade-level..."

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