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Poet Laureate of Oregon

Elizabeth Woody is an award-winning author of poetry, short fiction and essays. She is an educator and practicing artist.

She won the American Book Award for her first book of poetry, *Hand Into Stone*. She later won the William Stafford Memorial Award for Poetry, among other literary awards.

Elizabeth was a founding board member of the national Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and was a founding member of Soapstone, a group dedicated to supporting women writers.

A member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Elizabeth will soon be the next Oregon Poet Laureate. Gov. Kate Brown made the announcement last week, on the recommendation of the Oregon Humanities.

"It was a real pleasure to watch the selection committee coalesce around the recommendation of Elizabeth Woody as Oregon eighth Poet Laureate," said Adam Davis, Oregon Humanities executive director. "Committee members from all parts of the state pointed to the power of Elizabeth's poetry, the energy and dignity she would bring to the position, and the resonance of her voice."

Gov. Brown said, "The energy



Elizabeth Woody, Oregon Poet Laureate

courtesy photo

of Elizabeth's words bring to life the landscapes, creatures and people who make Oregon special. As Poet Laureate, she will be a great asset to our state, using vivid storytelling to help understand who we are as a

larger community."

Elizabeth is Navajo, Warm Springs, Wasco and Yakama. She was born in Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation, but has lived most of her life in Oregon.

"The power of language in poetry, song, story and legacy has kept Oregon's communities vibrant," Ms. Woody said. "The literature of this land is the sound of multiple hearts and the breath of many listened to while forming as individuals in this world. It is an honor to be Oregon's poet to serve our state's communities in the next two years and reflect upon their strength."

Elizabeth studied in the early 1980s at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe. She then earned a bachelor's degree in Humanities with an emphasis in English from Evergreen State College in Olympia. In 2012 she received a Master of Public Administration Degree through the Executive Leadership Institute of the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University.

Ms. Woody will assume the Poet Laureate role in late April, at a public ceremony. The Poet Laureate fosters the art of poetry, encourages literacy and learning, addresses central issues relating to humanities and heritage, and reflects on public life in Oregon.

Tribal Council election

The membership on Monday, April 4 will elect the Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

In this publication are statements from many of the candidates of the three districts. The candidate statements are arranged in roughly the order in which they were submitted, rather than alphabetically. They begin on page 6.

Healthy savings

The Confederated Tribes' Managed Care program, and other tribal health programs, have seen a significant savings in tribal dollars over the past few years. This is due mainly to the increased billing opportunities.

"The Affordable Care Act is working for the tribes," said Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services.

In recent years the tribes and IHS have focused on having as many people as possible sign up for health insurance, such as through the Oregon Health Plan, or Medicaid.

The Annual Health System report for the reservation, published by the Joint Health Commission, explains the savings the tribes have been seeing in recent years:

Managed Care saw a spending reduction of more than \$2.2 million—or 43 percent—from the year 2011 to 2014 (the most recent year for which the data is available). Community Counseling saw a decrease of nearly \$900,000, or about 37 percent. These savings correspond to increases in collections from outside sources.

"Since 2011, tribal collections (for health services) have doubled," the Health Report says.

Since the Affordable Care Act took effect in 2012-13, Health and Human Services has focused on an improved billing department. Sharon Jones is the billing director. She works with Tina Bolton.

They are able to bill to outside insurance sources for services, such as at Community Counseling, that in earlier years were paid by the tribes.

The improvement has been significant since 2011, but there is room for greater savings, such as for services at CPS, Caroline says.

The Health and Human Services billing department is planning to move soon to the clinic, and they are planning to add one more person to their staff.

Housed at the clinic, the Health and Human Services billing team will have better cooperation and training opportunities with IHS billing experts.

Ballots coming in on Constitution election

The membership is set to give a definitive answer to proposed changes to the tribal Constitution and By-laws. For the April 11 election, 987 members registered to vote.

The total number who were eligible to register was about 3,550; so nearly 1,000 registrations are a good voting percentage of that total.

For those using the mail, ballots must be received at the Warm Springs Reservation Post Office no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, April 11.

Otherwise, ballots can be hand delivered to the Warm Springs BIA office, at tribal administration, until 4 p.m. on April 11. If you are registered and have not received your ballot, you can reach the BIA office at 541-553-2411.

Each ballot packet includes an absentee ballot envelope, and a pre-addressed postage-paid mailing envelope. The ballot itself is 16 pages: one page of instructions, and 15 separate ballot questions.

Each ballot question includes a statement of the current Constitutional provision; the result of a No vote; the proposed change; and the result of a Yes vote. As an example of the one of the ballot questions, regarding the organization of Tribal Council:

Current Constitution: Apportionment—Representation from the districts shall be as follows: Simnasho District, 3 elected mem-

bers and the recognized chief of the district, or his successors; Agency District, 3 elected, one of whom shall represent the Sidwalter area, together with the recognized chief of the district, or his successors; Seekseequa District, 2 elected members and the recognized chief of the district, or his successors.

Result of a No vote: Constitution remains the same.

Proposed change to the Constitution: Apportionment—Tribal Council members will be selected from the tribal membership that are 21 years of age and who are eligible, entitled and qualified voters.

Result of a Yes vote: The proposed change would remove districts; Council would be chosen from members at large; Chiefs would not be members of Council.

Tribal explanation

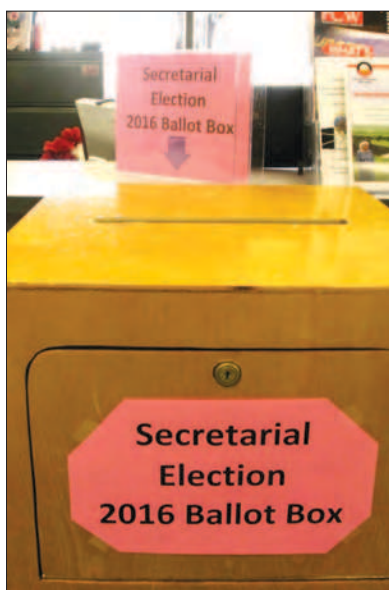
The Confederated Tribes sent a letter to tribal members last week, explaining the Secretarial election on the tribal Constitution. The letter explains each of the proposed Constitutional changes.

You can view the entire document on the KWSO website, kwsso.org

Copies are also available at mail and reception, and the tribes will have full copies at upcoming district meetings. The cover letter is being to the out-of-town tribal members.

The introduction reads as follows:

Dear Tribal Member:



D. McMechan

Ballot box at the BIA office.

The BIA recently mailed a notice to tribal members 18 and older regarding a Secretarial election scheduled for April 11, 2016. The purpose of the Secretarial election is for eligible tribal members to vote on 15 proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. The proposed amendments relate to Article IV of the Constitution—"Organization of Tribal Council," and to articles in the By-Laws pertaining to "Qualifications," "Salaries," and "Meeting and Procedure."

The proposed amendments were initiated and brought forward by petitioners, or a group of tribal members, through the process outlined in our current Constitution under Article IX—"Amendments."

The Secretarial election process is a federal process that the BIA is responsible for overseeing. The federal regulations are set out in 25 CFR Part 81.

The BIA-appointed Secretarial Election Board (SEB) is responsible for implementing the process and is made up of representatives from the BIA, petitioners and the Tribe. Tribal members were required to register to vote by the March 14, 2016 deadline in order to participate in the election. A total of 973 individuals registered to vote in the Secretarial election. For the election to be valid, a minimum of 30 percent of the registered voters, or 292 voters, must cast a ballot (25 CFR §81.39).

The Official Ballots were mailed on Monday, March 21, 2016 only to those individuals who have registered to vote. **All ballots must arrive by US Mail on April 11, 2016 or can be hand-delivered to the BIA – Warm Springs Agency no later than 4pm on April 11, 2016.**

Following Election Day, the SEB will post the "Certificate of Results of the Election" with the results of the election. Any qualified voter who has registered to vote can challenge the election results within three days of the posting (25 CFR §81.43).

See CONSTITUTION on 3



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