



Jefferson County 509-J school board candidates

Position no. 2: Gary Sisk

Gary Sisk is running for position #2 on the Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors.

Gary has spent 31 years working in education, mostly in a Support Services role.

He handled facilities management, transportation and food service.

He also spent time in classrooms, experiencing teacher-student interaction and the school environment on a daily basis.

Gary was born in Redmond, and spent his first five years in Warm Springs, his father working for the



BIA.

The family then moved to Fort Washakie, Wyoming, then the San Carlos Apache reservation in Arizona.

His school years were spent on reservations or being bussed off the reserva-

tion.

Asked about what he would like to see in the 509-J school district, Gary says:

"I believe the same thing has been done for the past 200 years. I don't feel this has gotten the best out of kids."

Mr. Sisk wants to find alternatives to get kids the best education, allowing them to pursue their dreams.

He is an advocate for students, and sees the need to support them in getting through school. *(Comments courtesy of radio interview*

Position no. 3: Alyssa Macy

My name is Alyssa Macy and I am a candidate for Jefferson County School Board, Position #3.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity, and I am asking for your vote.

I graduated from Madras High School in 1993. Following graduation I left to pursue higher education and to develop my professional skills.

I have been blessed with great mentors and professional opportunities that have challenged me and helped to develop a strong skill set that I will bring to the school board if elected.

These skills include the ability to see the big picture, strategic planning, communication, budget management, working with diverse communities and problem solving.

Following are a few areas that I would like to focus on as a member of the school board:

District wide strategic planning

The 2014 Strategic Plan as it stands is a visionary document that contains strong statements about where the district would like to see itself in the future.

It is critical to map a course that lays out the steps that will be taken to



turn this vision into a reality. This must include benchmarks, when and how progress will be evaluated, and alignment with annual budgets.

Equity

It is important to recognize that some of our students enter into the school system academically behind their peers.

To ensure that these students succeed, we must ensure that adequate resources are made available to them so that they can catch up and close that achievement gap.

As a board member, I will work to ensure that we are investing resources in staff and activities that will close the achievement gap.

Wise fiscal management

There are increasing unknowns at the state and federal levels on education funding. Wise fiscal management will be key to ensuring that the district has the necessary resources to

meet its mission.

By planning and evaluation, the board will be better poised to make financial decisions based on targeted outcomes.

In addition to managing resources wisely, I believe that being transparent in the process is key to establishing and maintaining trust with stakeholders.

Background

- Madras High School graduate Class of 1993
- B.S. Justice Studies, Arizona State University, 2000
- Masters of Public Policy, University of Minnesota (finalizing)
- 40 under 40 Award, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, 2014
- Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellow, 2007
- Mark O. Hatfield Fellow, Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, 2000

Community Service

- Advisor, Warm Springs Youth Council
- Member, Oregon Community Foundation, Central Oregon Leadership Council
- Co-Chair, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians International Affairs Committee
- Board of Regents, Museum at Warm Springs
- Oregon Arts Commissioner

Position no. 3: Tom Norton Jr.

I'm Tom Norton Jr. I'm running for position 3 on Jefferson County 509-J school board. I've been on the board for two terms.

I'm married to my wife Stacy and we have three children. They will be the third generation of my family to go through this school district.

I'm a 1993 graduate of MHS and was elected to the school board in 2008. It's important to remember that at the time of my election this new school board had less than 10 years combined experience, and was replacing a board that, just 4 years prior, had over five times that experience.

At that time our district had just hired its fourth superintendent in four years, trying to find a replacement for Phil Riley, who had been a steadfast leader for 20-plus years.

Our country was also going through one of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression, resulting in severe budget cuts. Think what would happen if you removed Phil Night from Nike along with his most senior board members and simultaneously cut there budget.

I think it's fair to assume Nike would suffer. Likewise, our district suffered through these times. It's been a long 8 years since



these times and many tough, unpopular decisions were made, but I'm more excited now than ever for our district.

The tough decisions that we as a board have made the last 5-8 years have brought us to a better spot, and the momentum is changing.

For starters our kids are being educated in a brand new school in Warm Springs. This is something that had been talked about for years but never accomplished.

With good communication and hard work we worked together with Tribal council to accomplish this. I'm very proud of that accomplishment and the positive example it gave our kids on what can happen when we work together.

Our test scores are trending in a positive direction. Our freshman high school on track to graduate num-

bers have increased by 30 percent in the last two years.

We have a strong healthy budget that allowed us to bring back our career classes at the high school.

This data and progress can't be ignored. It strongly signals decisions we have made are heading the district in a correct direction.

Yes it has taken longer than I would have liked, or would have expected in a private enterprise, but we have finally turned the corner. Are we there yet? No, but this momentum will snowball in the next few years.

Combine this positive momentum with our incoming superintendent, who has a proven track record in turning schools and districts into success stories, and it explains why I seek your vote to continue on school board.

At no point in my prior time on the board have I been this excited about what's to come for this district and confident it's going to happen. It already is happening.

I respectfully ask for your vote in hopes of seeing this through in the next four years.

Please vote Tom Norton Jr. for position 3 Jefferson county 509-J school board Thank you.

Tom Norton Jr.

Car seat observations in W.S.

In preparing for a new car seat grant, Warm Springs Community Health is collecting data on car seat use in the local community.

Don't miss your chance to participate at an observation site, and earn a \$5 voucher for the Warm Springs Painted Pony Espresso.

Bring your kids in their car seat exactly as they would be strapped in on any other day. Here are the upcoming ob-

servations times and places:

Thursday, May 11 at 7:50 a.m. at the Warm Springs Academy. First 40 vehicles.

May 16 at IHS at 8 a.m. First 20 vehicles.

May 18 at 7:30 a.m. at the ECE daycare entrance: first 40 vehicles.

May 23 at the ECE Head Start entrance, 7:30 a.m.: first 40 vehicles.

May 24 at the Warm Springs Academy at 7:50 a.m.:

first 15 vehicles.

May 25 at ECE, 7:20 a.m.

First 15 vehicles.

May 26 at HIS, 7:20 a.m.:

First 15 vehicles.

One \$5 voucher per one driver per day. All children must be under the age of 12 and in the vehicle with you. For more information contact Community Health at 541-553-2460.

Language Bowl: three options for learners

(Continued from page 1)

A first-place award went to the AIS #1 team: Alina Smith, Kaiwin Clements, Keeyana Yellowman and coach Merle Kirk. Second place went to Ashumnashu Spilyayua: Marissa Andy, Vanessa Andy, Shannon

Hudson, Violet Heath and coach Dallas Winishut. And third to The Nukwshals: Katrina Greene, Adrianna Switzler, Thyreicia Simtustus and coach Jermaine Tuckta.

All participants have been attending one of the classes with the Warm Springs Acad-

emy Rise & Shine program; or Culture and Heritage Home Based classes, or Culture and Heritage After School Classes.

Congratulations, and Great Job to all the students who took part in the Language Bowl 2017.

Warm Springs Red Cross training Thursday

There is a Warm Springs Red Cross training scheduled for this Thursday evening, May 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Family Resource Center.

Warm Springs currently relies on outside Red Cross assistance, during fire season for instance.

A goal is to have a local Red Cross team, said Rose Mary Alarcon, disability coordinator with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Rose Mary, know to many as Mushy, is helping organize the Warm Springs Red Cross project.

The need for the project

is clear: Last summer, during fire season, there was a Red Cross shelter for several weeks in Warm Springs.

This service could best be provided by a local team.

There are about five people involved so far, and about 10 would be needed for a full team, Rose Mary said.

Community Health plans Health Fair 2017

The Confederated Tribes and Health and Human Services will host the annual Pi-Ume-Sha Health Fair in June.

The theme this year is 'Water Is Life.' The health fair will be on June 21, the Wednesday before Pi-Ume-Sha, at the community center.

The objectives of the fair are to increase health awareness by providing health screenings, activities, materials, demonstrations and information; increase awareness of local, state and tribal health services and resources; and to motivate participants to make positive health behavior changes.

For additional information contact **Katie Russell** at Community Health at the clinic, 5410553-1196. Or email:

katie.russell@wstribes.org

Or call **Edmund Francis** at Community Health Services, 541-553-2460. Or email:

edmund.francis@wstribes.org

Drones conference re-set to Sept.

Eagle Tech Systems, a subsidiary of Warm Springs Ventures, has announced the post-ponement of the Drones and Public Safety Conference.

The conference had been set for later this month. In-

stead, the event has been moved to September.

This will allow coordination with the Association of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles System International at Kahanee-Ta High Desert Resort and Spa.

To learn more, please contact Aurolyn Stwyer, Ventures business development and marketing manager, 541-541-553-3565. Or email:

aurolyn.stwyer@wstribes.org

The website is wsuas.com

Around Indian Country

Evidence of early human activity in Calif.

Humans were living in California some 130,000 years ago, according to a new study.

An analysis of the bones and teeth of a mastodon showed they were manipulated by hu-

mans, researchers recently reported. The claim pushes back the presence of the first Americans by more than 100,000 years.

"The evidence we found at this site indicates that some hominin species was

living in North America 115,000 years earlier than previously thought," said Judy Gradwohl, the president and CEO of the San Diego Natural History Museum.