



Spilyay Tymo

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Miss Warm Springs 2018 Thyreicia Simtustus

Thyreicia Simtustus likes to keep busy. She goes to college in Bend two days a week—studying to become a professional helicopter pilot—and works in Prineville on the other weekdays. Now she will have even more things to do, as Thyreicia is Miss Warm Springs 2018.

After the Pageant, her first appearance as Miss Warm Springs was at the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, where she was well received by all.

The tribal royalty part of her new position—skill at horseback riding, for instance—will be familiar to Reicia: She was the 2017 Miss Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Queen, and the 2014 Miss Pi-Ume-Sha Princess.

Thyreicia, 19, is a 2017 graduate of Madras High School. A memorable event during her high school career was with the White Buffalos Swim and Water Polo team. During her senior year the water polo team was dominant, winning the Oregon State Championship.

Thyreicia now goes to Central Oregon Community College, where she studies in the COCC Aviation program, focusing on commercial helicop-



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

ter piloting. Potential career courses with this degree, she says, could be as a Medivac, with a fire agency, or in forestry, for instance.

The course study so far has involved knowing essential regulations and technology, plus simulation flights. Her first time piloting an actual helicopter will be next semester.

She has been interested for some time in being Miss Warm Springs. "I want to be more involved with my community," she says, "and to help preserve our culture and languages."

Thyreicia is the Forty-Second Miss Warm Springs. As an ambassador of the Confederated Tribes, she will represent Warm Springs at the local powwows and community events, as well as at powwows and county fairs throughout the region.

The month of April will see the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Thyreicia and other royalty from many tribes will compete in the Miss Indian World competition.

Miss Warm Springs 2018 Thyreicia Simtustus is given the crown by Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf.

Positive report from CPS

Tribal Council heard a promising report this week about Warm Springs Children's Protective Services. CPS director Cecelia Collins and Health and Human Services general manager Caroline Cruz met with Council for an update on the building renovation, and the state of CPS overall.

CPS had been without a permanent director for a period time, until Ms. Collins last year agreed to stay in the position. She had been serving as acting director.

The conditions for staff have greatly improved over the past several months, she said. Cecelia came to CPS from the courthouse, where she was the juvenile prosecutor.

When she started at CPS, there were three caseworkers handling more than 200 individual files. One of the workers had 90 cases. Each case requires weekly attention, including appearances at court, so the situation was untenable.

This is being addressed, with improvement already evident. Another promising point: The foster care program now has a coordinator.

And the CPS building itself will re-open soon, wholly renovated, with the nearby Vern Jackson Home, also renovated, adding to the resources available to staff.

Co-managers discuss options for hatchery

Tribal Council and the Branch of Natural Resources met last week for a two-day summit with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discussing the condition and future of the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

There are fundamental questions facing the hatchery, as well as significant recent improvements to the facility.

The first day of the meeting was for in-depth review and discussion. The second day included a tour of the hatchery.

The facility is on the Warm Springs River a few miles from Kah-Nee-Ta. Because of the location, water temperature at the hatchery is an ongoing issue.

The temperature issue has come to the forefront in recent years: In 2014 the summer heat required emergency removal of fish to a cooler facility, as the water temperature in the Warm Springs River at the hatchery site reached the mid 70s.

The following year the fish were moved in order to allow workers to upgrade and expand the cooling system at the hatchery.

Then last year the work involved a major electrical system expansion. The hatchery is one of the largest Wasco Electric energy customers.

Another recent improvement at the facility is the development of lamprey passage.

About the water: The temperature can be effected by nearby hot springs, plus a buildup of silt be-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Council, Natural Resources, and Fish and Wildlife officials at the fish intake area (above), and by the rearing pools (right).

hind the fish-intake weir. With years of debris and silt buildup, the pool behind the weir is shallow, creating warmer temperatures.

The tribes and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are partners in the management decisions of the hatchery.

The management plan, though, needs to be updated. The five-year plan of 2011 has expired, and the sides will be working toward a new agreement, addressing issues that have been developing, and continue to evolve.

The fish hatchery opened in



1978, thirteen years after the completion of the Round Butte dam.

Some time after completion of the dam—among other factors—the tribes petitioned the federal

government to address the loss of salmon and steelhead in the region. This led to the eventual funding, planning and construction of the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

Longhouse closed for a time

The Agency Longhouse has been closed for the past few weeks, and will remain closed possibly through March. Chief Operations Officer Alyssa Macy and Warm Springs Housing Authority director Danielle Wood earlier this week updated Tribal Council on the situation.

Executive Management closed the longhouse after at least two areas inside the building tested positive for the presence of methamphetamine residue.

Additional areas were tested, including kitchen area, and results were positive. The only area that did not turn up positive was the main entranceway of the building. The person or people responsible were likely using the drug in areas of the longhouse where they had some privacy, Ms. Macy said.

The smokehouse behind the longhouse may also be contaminated. Due to unfinished wood used in the structure, if positive, it would likely have to be demolished, she said.

The level of contamination indicates that the person or people had been using the drug in the longhouse for some time, said Ms. Wood.

At Housing, she contends with the hazardous and costly problem of methamphetamine contamination of the Housing units. The residue of the drug is toxic to others who enter the building, affecting the nervous system.

See LONGHOUSE on 7

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