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Proposed changes to enrollment requirements

Referendum in February 2019

A tribal referendum set for February 15, 2019 will ask tribal members to vote on changes to the how blood quantum is determined for the purposes of automatic enrollment.

Specifically, the referendum will ask: "Should Resolution 12,157 determining the blood quantum for the purpose of automatic enrollment be approved?"

In April 2016, the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council adopted Resolution 12,157, changing the rules for determining blood quantum for automatic enrollment.

The change would be the addition of the 1980 census to the list

of baseline census years for determining the Confederated Tribes blood quantum.

Simmasho District Tribal Council representatives invoked Article VI of the Constitution and By-Laws to call for a tribal referendum on the resolution.

The Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council approved a referendum date seeking input from the membership on the proposed change.

Warm Springs Enrollment Ordinance 94 outlines the requirements for automatic enrollment and adoption.

Currently, an individual is eligible for automatic enrollment if they have at least one-quarter of Confederated Tribes blood; that is, Warm Springs, Wasco, or Paiute.

Resolution No. 10,934, passed

in September 2008, allows individuals to also consider blood quantum from neighboring tribes based upon valid traditional kinship and ancestral ties that can be documented and confirmed as traceable to legitimate treaty and pre-treaty family affiliation connected to the Warm Springs (Sahaptin or Ichiskin); Wasco (Chinookan or Kiksht); or Paiute (Shoshonean or Numu).

Adoption enrollment

Individuals who do not meet the automatic one-quarter blood quantum requirement may get enrolled through the adoption process.

To be eligible for adoption, individuals must have one-eighth blood quantum of Indian blood,

descend from a current or former tribal member, meet the residency requirement, not be enrolled in another tribe, and receive the majority of the vote in an adoption referendum.

Recent tribal adoption referendums have failed for not meeting the required 50-percent voter participation requirement. This includes the June 13, 2016 referendum—987 votes of the required 1,600 votes—and the May 15-16, 2007 referendum.

The last adoption referendum to meet the 50-percent requirement occurred on October 16, 1996.

See **ENROLLMENTS** on 8

Report outlines water options

Testing shows the Warm Springs domestic water is perfectly safe to drink. That is the good news.

On the other hand, the tribes are facing critical and expensive issues regarding the future of the Warm Springs domestic water system.

The Dry Creek Water Treatment Plant must be expanded and improved, or replaced entirely by a new plant, according to a recent study.

Meanwhile the water distribution lines are leaking, most clearly shown by the many small wetland areas in neighborhoods and around the community. There are likely many more leaks that are not immediately visible.

As a result of leakage and over-use, the Warm Springs system consumes relatively much too much water.

An investment of \$16-to-\$22 million would provide a water system serving the community for decades to come, said Alyssa Macy, chief operations officer.

There is no longer a choice as to whether or not to make this investment. "We're really beyond the point of no return," said tribal Utilities' Chico Holiday.

Tribal Council, management and Utilities have been working toward a solution, the challenge and goal being the necessary funding.

This week the tribal committees met with management, Utilities, and commission officers and engineers with the Indian Health Services.

The tribes are working with IHS, and other federal agencies such as the EPA and HUD, on finding a solution to the problem.

Community meetings will happen over the coming months and years as the tribes develop and implement a long-term solution.

The joint tribal committee meeting this week was called to review a newly published engineering report on the existing water treatment plant, and options to consider for the future. IHS commissioned the report, produced by Century West Engineering based in Coeur d'Alene.

An initial evaluation was the identification of the potential sources of domestic water for the Warm Springs community.

Groundwater is not an option, as this could not come close to meeting the demand, the report says.

The report also looks at the possibility of using either Shitike Creek or the Warm Springs River as a new source of domestic water.

Both of these options, though, have significant drawbacks. In time the demand would require removing a large percentage of the flow from the Warm Springs River, and especially from Shitike Creek.

Costs of building these new treatment plants would also be prohibitive.

See **WATER** on page 5

Pewee bareback rider earns spot at Finals

Siddalee Spino-Suppah has been riding bucking ponies bareback for two years now.

She had a hectic start to her young rodeo career, at first trying sheep riding. She did that maybe twice, then switched to calf riding—winning her first event in 2016.

Next, Siddalee went right into riding mini-broncs bareback and steers, competing in the Northwest Youth Rodeo Association.

So when it comes to Junior Rodeo, Siddalee has seen and done it all, with one goal in mind: To win a buckle for Mini-Buckers.

That goal had gone unachieved but not forgotten—until Friday, August 3 at the Yuba-Sutter County Fair in Yuba City, California.

At the Yuba-Sutter Rodeo, Siddalee overcame the odds, riding against six boys, all com-



Siddalee Spino-Suppah with Regional Finals Pewee Bareback Buckle.

peting for a chance at the Junior National Finals Rodeo.

Siddalee not only successfully

won the West Coast Regional Finals for Pewee Bareback, she achieved her dream, earning a spot to compete in the Junior National Finals Rodeo, ranking with the top pee-wee bareback riders across the country.

However, that was not her initial goal: At first she just wanted the chance for her three siblings and herself to see and experience new things and places. And this will surely happen at the National Finals in Las Vegas.

Her aunt Paleena Spino explains how it's all come about:

"The paperwork for the Junior Rodeo Association for Siddalee was just something we thought we'd try out, when she attended Wild West Buckers Saddle Bronc and Bareback clinic in Yuba City, just to see just how far she could make it."

"She's ended up earning herself a spot in the Junior NFR," Paleena says. "This is an accomplishment



The logo from the 2018 JNFR, coming up in December at Las Vegas.

in itself, with so many youngsters gunning for the same opportunities."

Siddalee's family is now preparing for her trip to Las Vegas for the Junior Finals in December. They will be holding fundraising events and sales in the near future, so Siddalee can represent the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in the 2018 Junior National Finals Rodeo. *All of your support will be greatly appreciated!*

River lawsuit dismissed against tribes, PGE

A federal judge this month has ruled in favor of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric, in a lawsuit alleging violations of clean water regulations.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael H. Simon ruled that undisputed evidence showed that the tribes' and PGE's Pelton Round Butte hydroelectric project is operating consistently with conditions of its water quality certificate from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The specific legal action by Judge Simon was to dismiss a motion for partial summary judgement from the plaintiff Deschutes River Alliance, while granting motions by the tribes

and PGE.

With that action, the judge dismissed the lawsuit.

The tribes and PGE are co-owners and operators of the Pelton-Round Butte system, including the selective water intake tower designed to facilitate fish passage above and below the dams.

"Salmon and steelhead runs on the Deschutes are at the heart of our culture. They're a basic necessity for us to continue our traditional way of life," said Robert Brunoe, the tribes' Branch of Natural Resources general manager, after hearing the judge's ruling.

"We understand the heartfelt concerns of the lawsuit's supporters," Mr. Brunoe said.

See **LAWSUIT** on page 5

New phase for W.S. Chamber of Commerce

There is a great need for more small businesses on the reservation: A recent study found the local small businesses provide fewer than 200 jobs. That is far below the 1,000 small business jobs that would make a stable and healthy local economy.

Small business development is a focus at the Warm Springs Community Action Team. A noteworthy milestone at the WSCAT: The Warm Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is now an official non-profit organization serving the tribal business community.

The non-profit 501(c)3 designation is essential for many areas fundraising. In getting started, goals of the Chamber are to have an executive director, and an office building probably on campus, said Dustin Seyler, Community Action Team

small business coach and financial counselor.

The Chamber office would serve as a one-stop service center for business people, Mr. Seyler said. This would be for existing and potential businesses, and for people who are visiting the reservation. The Chamber will also serve as the advocate of business interests among its members.

The Warm Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is unique in that it is the only Chamber in the U.S. located on a reservation.

While the Chamber just received its non-profit status, the idea of a Warm Springs Area Chamber goes back some years.

See **CHAMBER** on page 5



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