



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Pi-Ume-Sha cancelled this year

Tribal Council on Monday voted to cancel the 2020 Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow and related Treaty Days community events like the rodeo, parade, health fair and run.

Council made the decision based on the recommendation of the tribes' Covid-19 Response Team.

Pi-Ume-Sha usually happens in late June. The powwow annually brings hundreds of visitors to the reservation: The potential for visitors bringing the coronavirus to the reservation was the factor in the Council decision.

"June is too early for such a large gathering," said Hyllis Dauphinais, director of the Warm Springs Clinic, chair of the Response Team. His recommendation had the support of Dan Martinez, Emergency Response director, Caroline Cruz, general manager of Health and Human Services, and ultimately Tribal Council.

"Until we have a vaccine this is going to continue to be a serious issue," Mr. Dauphinais said.

Just because people around the state, including Jefferson County, are loosening some social distancing, safety and business closure restrictions does not make the situation safer, he said.

"Even by fall I think we will still not have large gatherings," Dauphinais said. "And I think cancellation of the powwow (rather than postponement) would send the right message."

Ensuring a safe environment would not be possible while bringing in a large number of people from outside to the reservation: "We just don't have the resources to keep everything clean," Dan Martinez said.

Pi-Ume-Sha celebrates tribal sovereignty and the Treaty of 1855, signed on June 25 of that year—One-hundred and sixty-five years ago this year.

### Fourth of July

A week after the traditional Pi-Ume-Sha date is the Fourth of July. Council members discussed whether to cancel these activities as well, with a final decision coming next week.

The Response Team recommendation is that July 4 events be cancelled as well, though there could be a safe way to have fireworks by the community center.

People could stay in their cars and watch the fireworks, for instance. This approach could also help keep people around the community center during the Fourth of July evening: This could help reduce the risk of fires breaking out from people lighting fireworks around the reservation—during what is projected to be a very active fire season. This decision will require more consideration, and Council set next Monday to resume the discussion.

## 2020 Graduation set for June

Like all graduating classes, the Class of 2020 is unique, though the graduation ceremony this year will be especially memorable.

The seniors at Madras High School and Bridges who have met all requirements will graduate on time, in June, as is the custom.

This spring there had been some question as to how the graduation ceremony could happen while keeping everyone safe from the coronavirus.

To address the question, the school district asked the seniors and families about what they would like to see for the graduation ceremony.

The district received nearly 200 responses; and these ideas will be incorporated into the ceremony.

Graduation Day will be Saturday, June 13 at the high school. Details are still being worked out; though each student will get to walk across the stage to receive his or her diploma.

The ceremony will tentatively begin at 9 a.m., and will likely take most of the day. As the date approaches, graduates and families should prepare for cautious participation, as a result of the social distancing requirements.

"We are so thankful for the seniors, their families, and the community's patience while we work to create a memorable



valuable information that helps us to plan the event and maintain the focus that is our seniors."

The Warm Springs community is also planning a parade to celebrate this year's graduates. The parade will be conducted with precautions, such as all participants staying in vehicles throughout the parade. Details of this are still being worked out.

Tribal Council this week heard an initial report on the Warm Springs graduates parade from the Covid-19 Response Team.

Mid- to late-June for the parade appears to be the schedule for now.

— Dave McMechan

graduation ceremony that also adheres to current social distancing requirements," said Brian Crook, Madras High School principal.

"I really want to thank our seniors and families for their input," said Jay Weeks, Bridges High School principal. "It provided

The Warm Springs Police Department in May show their appreciation for health care workers at the Indian Health Services clinic.

Police officers presented the IHS workers with gifts on a day that also happened to be the Friday of Nurse Appreciation Week, which also happened to be Corrections Officer Appreciation Week.

Crystal Greene  
photos/WSPD



## BIA, Housing matters at Council

The Tribal Council endorsed the hiring of a new BIA superintendent for the Warm Springs Agency.

The presentation of the hiring recommendation was at Council this Monday, via teleconference, with BIA regional director Bryan Mercier.

Council and Mr. Mercier had earlier interviewed two finalist candidates for the position, and came to a unanimous decision on the hiring.

The new Warm Springs Agency superintendent will likely arrive in two months, Mercier said, as the background and other requirements are met.

The current superintendent, Floy Lori Anderson, will stay on for the first month of the new superintendent's tenure, for the job transition process. In other Council news from this past Monday, May 18:

### Affordable housing

Council approved an affordable housing project request from Warm Springs Housing Authority director Danielle Wood.

The tax credit project will renovate 18 units in the West Hills area, and two duplexes on

Elk Loop. These are tribally owned units on tribal land.

The project carries out the Council priority of providing safe, decent and affordable housing for tribal members.

Working through the funding process, the construction work should start in February of next year, Ms. Wood said.

### Kindred Spirits

Tribal Council approved a proposal for an education and language program grant presented by Valerie Switzler, Education general manager.

The grant would help fund an education program coordinator, youth culture coordinator, elder teachers and tutors, supplies and some travel expenses for field trips.

The program is called Kindred Spirits, with funding from the Spirit Mountain Fund.

There are more than 1,100 students in the 509-J district, and the grant will benefit tribal member students, and all others as well, Ms. Switzler said.

Tribal Council also approved a new contract for attorney John Ogan, who works on tribal projects such as *U.S. v. Oregon*; and repeal of the 1865 Huntington 'treaty.'

— Dave McMechan

## Howlak Tichum

Ken Smith ~ 1935-2020

Tribal member and leader Ken Smith passed away on Wednesday, May 13 at his home in Warm Springs. He was 85.

Mr. Smith was born in The Dalles on March 30, 1935, into a poor family. He would grow up to be one of the most important leaders of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Ken had a charisma that brought others to him throughout his life.

He was raised by his grandparents, Wesley and Annie Smith, on their Dry Hollow Ranch, south of Warm Springs.

Ken in the past recalled, "I learned what self-reliance was growing up on the ranch with my grandparents. They taught me good work habits . . . to always show up 15 minutes early; and they taught me the value of an education."

Ken grew up without electricity, running water, or paved roads. In winter months, the Smiths would travel to Warm Springs on horseback or by buggy. "As a kid, Grandma, Aunt Zelma, and I went to the valley every summer and picked strawberries, raspber-



ries, and such. In the fall, we worked in the potato fields."

Ken remembered fishing at Celilo Falls with his grandfather when he was in high school.

He attended boarding school in Warm Springs from the first through sixth grades. He attended junior high, and graduated from high school in Madras.

He was the junior class president in high school, where he excelled as running back in football; and was a 100-yard sprinter for the track team, as well as excelling at the long jump.

Please see **KEN SMITH** on 6



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