



# Spilya Taimu

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## The Wasco Chief Alfred 'JR' Smith passes

Wasco Chief Alfred 'JR' Smith passed away on September 26. Chief Smith took office in November 2012, serving almost 10 years as Chief and on Tribal Council.

Chief Smith was born in Warm Springs in 1940 to parents Lucinda (Scott) and Alfred Smith Sr. He grew up at Sidwalter. The family lived by ranching and farming, raising wheat and hay, in a time when they used horses for plowing and harvesting. They hunted for food and fished.

Growing up, Chief Smith attended the boarding school in Warm Springs. Later, he at-

tended high school at Madras Union High. After graduating Chief Smith joined the U.S. Army, becoming an Airborne Ranger, studying in the field of communication and cryptology, the science of decoding encrypted messages.

He became a radar operator, then served as guard to the base paymaster. In those years the military personnel were paid in cash, so the payroll office would have hundreds of thousands of dollars on hand, requiring strict protection.

Later in his military career, Chief Smith was stationed in the Dominican Republic, not far from Cuba, during the era of the Cuban Missile Crisis. He served as body-

guard to the base commander.

The Army asked him in 1965 to extend his commission, which he declined; instead, after honorable discharge, he returned to the reservation, joining his brother Russell in the family logging business, the first on the reservation.

He later attended Tacoma Technical Vocational Institute, now the Bates Technical College, where Chief Smith studied diesel mechanics. Returning again to the reservation, he continued with the logging business. He did this full-time for 38 years, until 2012, when he was chosen as Wasco Chief.

At the time the Wasco Chieftainship had been vacant for two



Chief Smith in 2012 takes the Oath of Office, joining the Tribal Council as Wasco Chief.

and a half years. The previous Chief, Nelson Wallulatum, a relative of Chief Smith, had passed in 2010, following his Chieftainship of 51 years.

The two-and-a-half year vacancy meant for Tribal Council

that the Agency District was one voice short of the four provided in the tribal Constitution and Bylaws. To resolve the matter the Wasco people decided to vote on the question.

Please see CHIEF SMITH on 10

## District budget meetings in October

The district meetings on the proposed 2023 tribal budget are coming up in October. The meetings are as follows, with dinner at 6 p.m. and meetings at 7:

Monday, October 17: **Agency District** budget meeting at the Agency Longhouse.

Tuesday, October 18: **Seekseequa District** budget meeting at the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

Wednesday, October 19: **Simnasho District** budget meeting at the Simnasho Longhouse.

Meanwhile, the following are some of the other items coming up on the Tribal Council agenda during the month of October (subject to change and addition at Council discretion):

**Monday, October 10** – Enterprise quarterly updates.

9 a.m.: Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises with Cathy Ely.

9:30: Warm Springs Composite Products with Jake Coochise.

10: Telecom with Tim York.

10:30: Credit Enterprise with Lori Fuentes.

11: Warm Springs Ventures with Jim Souers.

11:30: The Housing Authority with Danielle Wood.

1:30 p.m.: The Timber LLC with Brian Pater.

2: The Museum at Warm Springs with Elizabeth Woody.

2:30: High Lookee Lodge with Lonnie Parsons.

3: Indian Head Casino and Plateau Travel Plaza with Margie Tuckta and Tim Hogencamp.

3:30: Tribal Gaming Regulatory Authority.

**Monday, October 17**

9 a.m.: Secretary-Treasurer update with Robert Brunoe.

10: The November agenda and review minutes with the S-T.

11: Draft resolutions.

1:30 p.m.: Federal and state legislative update calls.

Please see AGENDA continues on 7

## National award for tribes' Language program

The Language teachers of the Confederated Tribes are leaders in the field of language preservation and culture-based teachings. The tribes' Language program is a key part of Culture and Heritage and the Education Branch; and is praised by colleagues and organizations across Indian Country.

The National Indian Education Association—the NIEA—this week is presenting the Language teachers with the 2022 NIEA William Demmert Cultural Freedom Award. The NIEA letter of award explains:

“Your program is a testament to the strength of our tribal community leaders by showing both humility and passion for this work in giving our Native students access to culture, language, history and the education they need.”

The NIEA will present the award at the Fifty-Third Annual NIEA Convention and Trade Show in Oklahoma City. The award is an honor and tribute to the program teachers, said Valerie Switzler, Education gen-



D.McMechan/Spilya

The Culture and Heritage language teachers with a Warm Springs Academy language class.

eral manager.

Next week the Papatxsimisha team will host the NIEA Community Report Back Dinner and Presentations on Tuesday, October 11 (location at this time to be determined). Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and presentations from 6 to 7:30.

Papatxsimisha invites the com-

munity to attend and enjoy the Report Back Appreciation Dinner and Presentations.

The NIEA conference theme this year is *Education Sovereignty—Our Choice*. Details about the Confederated Tribes Language program will be featured during the awards ceremony and on the NIEA

website. The Language program of the Confederated Tribes teaches young tribal members the three languages of the tribes—Ichishkiin (Warm Springs), Was'qu (Kisht) and Numu (Paiute)—at all grade levels in the school district (*more on the Language program on 6*).

## Register to vote by October 18 for November election

The deadline to register to vote in the November 8 election is October 18. You can register at the website:

oregonvotes.gov/register  
Another online option is at jeffco.net

Or stop by the Jefferson County Clerk's office in Madras; or for residents of Wasco County, the Wasco County Clerk's office is on Washington Street in The Dalles. For help, their phone number is 541-506-2530.

Another option is to stop by the Three Warriors Market in Simnasho. The market has available registration cards that you can fill out and mail in.

If you have changed your name, moved or recently been released from incarceration, you may need to update your voter registration information online before October 18. For information see the website:

Oregonvotes.gov/MyVote

Some other dates coming up in advance of the November 8 election:

October 10: Out of state, permanent traveler ballots will be mailed.

October 19: Mass ballots mailing date, and open drop sites.

This year, you may hear about a new law that applies the 'post-mark rule' in Oregon. The post-mark rule allows ballots post-

marked on or before Election Day to count, even if they are received up to seven days after Election Day.

The new rule may delay the results of close races because it will take a few days for all the votes to be counted. Only votes cast on time are counted.

Local, state and federal questions will be decided in the November election. One ballot question will determine a Jefferson County Commission position. The candidates are Mae Huston, incumbent, challenged by Mark Wunsch.

The Madras Aquatic Center Recreation District has a bond levy measure on the ballot. The MAC

is supported by property taxes within the district:

Passage of the MAC levy would maintain their efforts to continue programs and services. The district could maintain at least its current hours of operation, and may expand them.

If the levy fails the MAC would have to reduce staffing by 50 percent, and reduce its operations significantly. Passage of the Aquatic Center property tax levy would not affect reservation land.

For the state Representative election, the reservation is now part of Oregon State Representative District 57.

Please see NOVEMBER 8 on 10



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