

Tribal member father asks, "Where is the justice?"

To the editor,
First of all I would like to thank Barbara Jim for everything that she has done for me and my family. Without her legal expertise I may not have been able to express the important details of my case to the Judge in the appropriate manner that it needed to be done. However, no matter how much legal knowledge we brought in I found that it was in vain because the Judge made it very clear that the experiences I was going through really didn't matter to her. But thank you again Barbara.

For those of you who know me are aware of the problems I have encountered with my ex-wife. Let it be said that this marriage was the worst decision I have ever made. If only I had allowed my parents to persuade me against committing to this marriage and I had the knowledge and wisdom I would not have made this terrible mistake that would eventually cost me my children.

I have been involved in a terrible divorce/custody battle for my children in our Tribal Court System. I have tried to be fair and to persuade the Judge that all I ask for is equal time to spend with my children without their mother's constant interference. I have provided documentation related to allegations the mother has presented against me which proved the mother had basically lied to the Judge. But I found that no matter how much I could prove how wrong she was the Judge just pushed my documentation aside and allowed herself to be persuaded by this woman's word alone and give judgments in her favor, a non-tribal member.

I used to believe that as a Tribal Member parent a part of our Tribal Court system that specifically deals with family related cases would somehow protect my rights and allow me to have equal time with my children. At the divorce hearing I did allow the mother full physical custody of my

girls, Alexis and Kristine Brunoe under the conditions that the children were to remain in the family home at Sunnyside Division and they were to stay there until my youngest daughter turned 18 years of age. Within 6 weeks of the divorce hearing their mother moved our children off of the Reservation to the Portland area without alerting the Judge to request a modification to change residence for my kids. I was very upset and later tried to persuade the Judge to allow me more time with my girls by extending my summer visits as well as changing custody to joint custody because the mother had violated the divorce decree that allowed her full physical custody of my girls. To no avail I was denied joint custody and not given the consistent time with my children which I needed to allow a healthy relationship to grow between my girls and my new family. I explained to the Judge that the mother would cancel court ordered visits at her discretion, wouldn't bring the children to me at the appointed times, and would call the children at my home and upset them while they were visiting with me, making the children want to return to her home. These episodes the mother demonstrated would hurt the children as well as take away crucial time needed for my girls to be with me without their mother's interference. The Judge would not hold the mother in contempt for violating court order visitations nor would she listen to my plea that I needed to have a neutral party involved to help with the transition of visits between my children. Always the Judge closed her eyes and ears to my problems that I have encountered with this woman.

I was up against the wall trying to ask for fairness and all I could perceive from our Tribal Judges decisions was that was biased and unfair. She always listened to the mother and granted her requests. Even when it came to the family home. The

mother had moved out of the area in 1996 yet she was allowed control over the home. The mother rented the home out several times and when it wasn't rented she used as a personal summer home during 1997. I was disgusted by this and requested the Judge to award the home to me because the mother failed to cooperate with the divorce decree which stated that she was to reside in the family home with the children full-time. Three times this issue was brought before the court and twice I had been denied access to the home that I already owned. The mother wasn't a Tribal member nor is she an Indian. I had provided the courts documents from Tribal Credit that reflected no payments were ever received from this woman since the time of purchase. Payments were paid by myself, while I was employed, or had been paid by her renters. It wasn't until March 1999 (the third time this particular issue was presented to the courts) when the Judge allowed me to have the home under the condition that the home was to be sold. Which meant the Tribes paid the mother \$10,000 to return a home to a Tribal Member who already had his name legally attached to the house deed since the time of original purchase, which took place in 1993. It makes me sick to think that this Judge who oversees our family court system cannot see or won't see what she had done to me or my children. She really needs to look at what her bottom line goal. Is she trying to keep Indian families together? Or is there just prejudice against fathers whether their Indian or not. I pay child support for my children, on top of this the mother receives Alexis and Kristine's per capita and yearly bonus. I can see how much the mother will lose if I were to have more time with my girls and it makes me angry to think that our Tribal Judge supports this. I thought it was important for children to have both parents ac-

tively involved with their children. Personally, I think the Judge needs to reassess what is important to our Indian children because somewhere along the line she has forgotten our Indian children need their Indian parents just as much as they need their non-Indian parents. I also know that I am not the only Tribal Member father who has experienced the unfairness of this Judge. What's going on? Does anyone in our Tribal System look into these particular issues and make sure this Judge is following through with the best interest of Tribal Members parents and their Tribal Member children? This is a divorce/custody issue. I do not abuse or neglect my girls when they are with me. All I had ever asked was to have more time with my girls. I wasn't trying to take them away from their mother nor was I trying to turn my girls against their mother, just time was all I ever wanted. Is that too much to ask for as a parent?

To say the least, this battle has been on-going for the last three years. I have finally thrown in the towel. The mother asked me at the second to the last hearing that if I stop all visitations with the children and relinquish my parental rights she will stop the fighting and the child support payments. It had taken me several weeks to ponder this request. I know there will never come a time that this woman will ever soften towards me and allow me to spend time with my girls without her influence or interference. I also know the Judge won't hear me when I tell her that the mother is non-compliant. My girls are aware of the strain that exist between their mother and I and I know they are hurting. So I have come to the decision to relinquish my rights. Too many times my rights were violated when it came to my kids and now I have nothing left to fight for. The mother has manipulated the system and the Juvenile Judge had allowed her to do that, I know I don't have a

chance. It also doesn't help when the Judge reminds me in every hearing that I have a new wife and family and it's time for me to move on. Well, JUDGE I am moving on. My only hope is that when my girls finally do reach legal age that they will come to me so that I may try to re-establish my relationship with them. I miss them and love them both very much and I hope they never forget that.

To other Indian fathers out there. PLEASE seriously think about what it means to give mother's full physical custody of you Indian children (if you find yourself in this familiar situation). Remember that whatever those promises she makes, think that there is a possibility she may never follow through. That was my lesson I learned the hard way. Always whenever you can ask for joint custody and don't allow the Judge or the mother to influence you into less than what your given right is al-

lowed. Remember those children need you just as much as they need their mother.

Also, I would like to add that at the last hearing the incident that the mother and her best friend (our Tribal Deputy Prosecutor) pulled was very immature and it only showed just how ugly both of your hearts can be. I know the Deputy Prosecutor used her job title to pull the stunt she did. All I can say about this is that it didn't hurt me the least. I knew both of you were behind this and I just laugh and realize just how mean and jealous both of you can be because personally, I know what all of that boiled down too.

Thank you, Warm Springs Community for your time and hearing my story.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Brunoe
(Tribal Member) & family

Family says "Thank you" to all

To the editor,

To our family & friends. We the family of Eugene "Cougar" Greene would like to express our long overdue appreciation to ALL that supported our beloved husband, father & grandfather (and us) during his numerous and prolonged hospital stays.

A heartfelt Thank you to those that came to visit offering words of encouragement, a prayer, or a thought. Barbara Bobb, your words and prayer for him were uplifting and gave encouragement that will forever be remembered. Marlene Badroad, thank you for providing the transportation.

Phillip David, thank you for making time to honor his and our requests. His regular visitors: Mark Fritsch, Howie Arnett, Levi, Crissie & Terry Keo, Zack del Nero, Rudy, Anna & Trudee Clements. Those visits were always welcomed. Pastor Rick & E. Hunt, thank you for your prayers.

Emily "Casha" Yallup, your moral support to our mother and beloved father when we couldn't be there will always be remembered. That was an act of love, we'll always remember. Thank you.

On the last day: W. Rudy Clements, Jacob & Winona Frank, Wilford & Jeri Jim... your songs were comforting to him and us. Thank you.

During our deepest sorrow, Anson, CR, Mackie & Jodi Begay, your willingness to jump right in cooking for us and cleaning the home as per tradition, is appreciated more than you know. Fern, thank you for the caring, understanding moral support to your sister. Thank you to our Aunts & Uncles who were there for

guidance and support.

Tribal Council, your thoughtfulness will forever remain in our hearts. Bernice Mitchell, drummers, cooks, utilities, undertakers, thank you. Your roles are important and we are grateful.

Carl Howe, thank you for the elk meat. That gesture was thoughtful and appreciated-especially coming from such a young man. Your parents have the right to be proud. To all that brought food and/or donations assisting with the give-away, for your kindness & generosity, we are thankful.

Our loved one has passed on...without him we are one less but because of him, we are so much more. He was our leader. Therefore, will abide by his wishes and carry on. If there was anything he enjoyed more, it was powwow. As family members are on the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow Committee, we will be having a give-away and dinner releasing family members to participate and assist with the upcoming powwow. This will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2000 in the Simnasho Longhouse. In November, 2000 we will have the memorial and stone setting ceremonies.

Norene Greene,
E. Austin Greene & family
Teeny Tappo & family
Birney Greene-Boise & family
Marge Tuckta & family
Angie Spino & family
Sandra Greene-Sampson & family
Checks Boise
Jolene Boise & family
Serina Wolfe & family
Sheylene Black & family
Dorian Tappo & Louisa Tuckta

Title IX Parent Advisory to meet

The Title IX Parent Advisory Committee will meet at Warm Springs Elementary Library on Tuesday, February 8, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. Steve Nelson, from the Northwest Regional Lab will be the featured speaker.

Title IX meetings are open to all members of the public. The Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Warm Springs Elementary Library on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have disability, please advise the District 509-J Support Services office about special arrangements that may allow you to fully participate in the meeting. Please call Georgia Sosa at 475-6192.

Orientation set

Eastern Oregon University's Division of Extended Programs will hold an orientation session at 3 and 6 pm on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the conference room of the COCC Chandler Center on the corner of 10th and NW Trenton. There is no charge for these sessions. Registration is preferred, but not required. The meeting will provide information about external degrees in liberal studies, business/economics, philosophy, politics and economics, physical education and health, and fire services administration.

For more information, call 385-1137, or e-mail bdekalb@eou.edu.

Thanks to all

To the editor,
I would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped me in the time of need. You know who you are, the people who helped clean out the house, the cooks at the house & Longhouse, very good job. All the drummers and the leaders at the services. I especially want to thank the veterans, who did a very nice job. Everything went according to the plan, my husband left behind how he wanted things done for him. Thank you, Utilities for taking care of the transportation, and grave site. Natural Resources for their donation of fish & deer meat. A special thanks, to the fellow who came back after everything was over and finished the big job behind the house. I did not name any names, because there were too many. Thank You!

Respectfully,
Emily Waheneka

Apologies sent

To the editor,
Dear Family & Friends: our deepest apologies to everyone whom felt offended for not receiving an Invitation to our small wedding ceremony. The ceremony was small but with all your attendance it was a perfect one. Sorry to everyone for the "short" notice.

Thanks to the following: Peggy Guerin for doing the ceremony, Gayle Campbell for the lovely cake, Nola Queahpama (BD) dress, Shirley & Lucinda for last minute touch ups. Thank you again.

Here's a few more: Flora "Fawn" Frank from Pendleton, Gramma Ida Stahi from Celilo, Bill & Bobb Stahi from Redmond (they all traveled); Shirley Heath & family, Effie Culpus, Nola Queahpama & family, Nettie Showaway, Lucinda Heath & family, Yahtin Frank, Winona Frank & family, Douglas Williams, and Roger Stwyer & family.

Anyone else who was there in heart and mind (I cannot name you all)

Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Greene

Happy Birthday to my son Sage I love you bigger than the Universe! Dad

Happy Birthday to my grandson Sage I love you! Nanna

Happy 4th Birthday Sage! We love you very much!! Micha, Seth, Orrah, Mom & Papa-man

We wish you the Happiest Birthday Sage. We love you! The Hollidays! Chico, Binky, Isaiah, Jimmy & Phillip

A business with an original name is named business of the month



Brigitte Scott-Whipple holds a beaded hand purse designed by her

January's Business of The Month in Warm Springs is unique in what it produces, and has a one-of-a-kind name.

An Original To Remember By Brigitte of Warm Springs is the name, and custom designing, sewing and beadwork is the product. Brigitte Scott-Whipple, the daughter of Tribal Councilwoman Brenda and Gordon Scott of Seekseekqua, is the owner of this unusual business. Whipple is a full-time employee for the Confederated Tribes, serving as the Tribal Cul-

tural Anthropologist/Ethnographer for the Natural Resources Branch.

Brigitte is the mother of a boy and a girl, and is married to a Rosebud Sioux Indian. Brigitte's husband is a rancher in the Madras area. Brigitte started sewing when she was 6 years old. She made her first braid tie and necklace set when she was 7. She learned most of her beadwork from her mother, grandmother and aunts. "That's how I learned to create designs of my own...by watching them at an early

age," Scott-Whipple said. "My business came about because of all the different designs that I've made and have used. They are original designs made by me. The clothing that I make come from the patterns also made by me, and not store bought patterns." With a few regular customers already, An Original To Remember By Brigitte, has only been in business for one year.

"I also do sewing for Miss Rodeo Oregon, and will continue until the year 2005, and have also done some sewing for the current Miss Warm Springs, Alyssa Macy," Brigitte says. "I've done some work for various Pow-wows such as shawls."

The young lady is busy with her many activities. She is involved with 4-H, and instructs a girl's sewing class that meets once a month. In the fall of 1998, Brigitte attended and completed the required 10-week Small Business class that qualified her for a micro-grant through the Warm Springs Small Business Program.

The micro-grant helped her improve her business by purchasing the required sewing supplies and sewing equipment she needed. Brigitte also used some of her money to do advertising for her business.

Brigitte is working out of her home and has some of her work on display at places such as Levetz Western Wear, The Spotted Mule, both of Bend, and Sunny Bucks and Sister Susan Western Art Gallery of Prineville. They have a denim vest that is beaded with an old historic design that Brigitte's grandmother did. Brigitte says, "I just redid the

colors. They will also be displaying my wedding dress, which includes buckskin and roses on it. The dress is just a regular gown but it has a lot of beadwork on the head dress area."

You may soon be able to see some of Brigitte's work displayed at Hatfields' Department Store in Madras. Brigitte's goals for the year 2000 is to create more designs, complete a business brochure, and start a business Web site. "This should help me get more customers interested in my work," explains Brigitte. "I don't sell off the rack. I only work with one person at a time, and I don't duplicate anything."

Brigitte has some advise for bead workers wanting to start their own business. "Don't underestimate your work. Beadwork is time consuming. As an Indian person, I take my beadwork to heart, as well as my sewing. I don't sew or bead just to do it, I sell my work for what its worth. That's the reason why the business is called An Original To Remember By Brigitte," says Scott-Whipple.

An Original To Remember By Brigitte is now open for business and offers handmade jingle dresses, wing dresses, high top moccasins, shawls, and more.

For more information about the business, to make special orders, please contact An Original To Remember By Brigitte, 1250 Kotnum Road, P.O. Box 898, Warm Springs, OR. 97761. Their telephone number is 553-8208, Fax: 553-1996.



Happy Birthday January 31st "Charisse Heath" Across the miles... Love your auntie Juleigh & The Crooked Arms

Happy Birthday Dad-George Danzuka Sr Jan. 20 Aston Smith February 13 Blanche Mitchell February 8 From, Masami, Tyrone, David & Tashina Smith

Happy Birthday Dad We just want to wish our "old man" a Happy Birthday We love you. From your babies, Lil "D", Lil Evey, Meredith Don't forget Tippy loves you too.

To My Family, Friends, Relatives of the Warm Springs, Wasco, Yakama, and Nez Perce Nations:

My name is Raylene Ike-Thomas, Indian name Kliss-taw-nee. I am the daughter of Lovie Ike and Ron Thomas. My grandparents are Fred and Daisy Ike; Leslie and Roberta Lucei Thomas.

I currently hold the title of Jr. Princess for the 1999 Lincoln's Birthday Celebration, Simnasho, Oregon.

This year my family and I will be sponsoring a special contest for the Golden Age Women, 65 years and older, Traditional. I will be using the prize money I have won through out the year of 1999 while representing the Lincoln's Pow-wow.

This year I have traveled to Pullman, Seattle, White Swan, Washington, Post Falls, Idaho, Gathering of Nations, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Grand Ronde, Chiloquin, Celilo, Oregon and Pi-ume-sha.

During this time I danced in the All-Around specials placing in all categories of traditional, jingle, and fancy.

I would like to thank everyone for your support by purchasing raffle tickets and letting my family stay during our travels.

Sincerely,

Raylene Ike-Thomas
Past Titles: Little Miss Warm Springs, Jr. Miss Tiinowit



Happy Birthday Sage! Get lots of pizza and eat your presents Love from Grandpa & Grandma David & Lorien too!



Happy Birthday Dixon No, we didn't forget you're ANOTHER YEAR OLD So Happy Birthday From, Annette, Lucille, JT, Willis, Carol, Wayne, Sage, Morris, Wes and last but not least "Buddy"



Grandma Neda & Grampa Jimmy It's sure a treat to be with you. We sure do think you're fun! You always chase the clouds away with rainbows and the sun. So here's a loving wish Grandma & Grampa When all is said and done we sure do hope your day will be a happy one. Love you, Martina Stwyer, Jamey Wesley, Curtiss Dickson & Theo. Stwyer-Greene