

Letters to the editor

Participants thanked

To the editor:
We'd like to take the time now to thank everyone who participated in the workshop during the month of March called "Honoring Good Medicine," and for the rap concert with BRUTHAZ GRIMM. We really hope it was beneficial for you all in some way.

The All Nations Fellowship and support group would like to offer you spiritual support in our prayer gatherings on Thursday nights, our youth night, ages 12 years and older. We meet at 6327 Sunnyside Drive from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

We would like to offer this to you because you mean a lot to us, and much more to Jesus Christ who loves you. If you feel you'd be interested and need a ride please call us.

Billy Joe and Wanda Berry
553-5938 or 410-7227

Grateful for volunteers

To the editor:
The Museum at Warm Springs would like to send a great big "Thank You" to the following volunteers: Albert Comedown, Randall Wallulatum, Nicholas Heath, Buford Johnson Jr., Justine Wallulatum, Elmina Johnson, Wacy Wallulatum, Cameron Wallulatum and Norman Libby.

We appreciate your service in helping assemble the large project of 1,000 name tags, for the 2001 "Honor Senior Day." Assembling the nametags included cutting, pasting, decorating and stringing beads. Each nametag was uniquely decorated by the volunteers. Again, thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,
The Museum Staff

Drug test 'too clean'

To the editor:

This letter is to inform you that if I take this drug test that I have compiled with the Drug Free Workplace Policy and if I'm told again after this test that I'm too clean and that my sample specimen is diluted. I'm going to press charges on Mt. View Hospital cause the last time I took this test the nurse or person that give me my test told me that my specimen was clean and diluted before my test was even sent in to be analysis. I didn't receive my job that I'll be unable to start working. I was so upset that I told my job (Construction Department) within the tribal organization that I'll take my next test when their major project start up this season. I've worked for this department almost every year since 1988 off and on with different companies and with the Warm Springs Tribal Construction Department. I had failed some test but didn't do nothing about it cause I was in the wrong until now. Since I've been clean and off of drugs I feel

that I better start receiving personal assurance on my integrity regarding this test. I know my urine sample is clean and has been clean since my last test I took for the Construction Department. I lost over a months work at the cost of \$14.50 per hour this time and I want them to pay for my lost time for not starting on my livelihood. This is my job that I do good at and that I'm a seasonal worker. I don't want to work for no one else except for Tribal Construction. I enjoy all the people, my bosses, and co-workers at work.

I've been asking questions to fellow workers that have taken the urine test and had to take over at least two times or three times before they could go back to work. I've found out that this test cost the tribe about \$17 a test from the Mt View Hospital. If you add the cost this is no cheap price to start back to work for the tribe. If you add all the other departments that have to do retakes on the urine test that's a lot of tribal money going out to Mt. View Hospital. Since we cut them out on paying their high price on being in the hospital, are we being charged to fund them in another way? I never had a problem with Mt. View Hospital until now. I'd like to see a better way on handling this problem.

Sincerely,
Lloyd G. Smith Jr.

New name questioned

To the editor:

All my life since I can remember I have been very proud of our Kah-Nee-Tah Resort. Even when the Freeland's owned it. Just the name Kah-Nee-Tah is a landmark and has a legacy of why an Indian name traditionally cannot be destroyed. First the boards, Gaming and Kah-Nee-Tah board takes it upon themselves to merge the two enterprises then they take it upon themselves to call it High Desert? In our neighboring town, Bend, the citizens are asking why? They are concerned because they claim the High Desert name for a museum and other businesses and they have a right to question it.

What is it going to cost us now to change the Indian Head Casino neon signs? And the Kah-Nee-Tah signs. Not to mention the ugly billboards along the highways and Portland.

We the people are constantly reminded of the budget cuts and we should be involved at all times so we wouldn't be suspicious of unnecessary travels by the full Council and the actions done by the gaming board and the High Desert Resort board?

We certainly need better communications with both boards, Tribal Council and the people. We definitely need a system to improve communications and you can start now by proving to the people how you are going to make the budget cuts.

Neda Wesley



Photos by Mike Van Meter

Heeding the future

Students from Jefferson County School District 509-J's elementary schools gathered at the Museum at Warm Springs last week for "Seeds of Discovery" activities. Rosalind Sampson, education director for the museum, said the 350 to 400 students came from Warm Springs, Metolius and Westside Elementary Schools. With funding from a NASA grant, volunteers from OMSI, the Tribes' Natural Resources Branch and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department gave presentations on subjects that included water, fish and wildlife (including snakes, middle and bottom right), the ATLATL or throwing stick (bottom left), forestry, nature games (polar bears and seals, top left), insects (top right), forestry, birds of prey, plants, fossils, storytelling and petroglyphs.



Of brain chemicals, electricity and hugs ...

Hello from Pastor Rick.

Reading a news magazine: U.S. News Reports. It was telling the latest news of addiction issues. It seems that alcohol and drugs do short term, temporary things to our brain. Duh, it's called getting drunk. Then it begins long-term changes to the brain chemistry.

The long-term stuff makes people think differently, act differently and become someone else. The good news is that knowing the chemistry

changes in the brain, medicine may be able to find more tools to help people break the chains of addiction. VERY COOL.....

A story from Paul Dawson, Pendleton. While visiting Coulee Dam, my family and I were surprised to see that the visitor's center was dark, even though it was a sunny day. As we got closer we saw there were no lights on. We went in and saw that none of the displays was working. Suddenly it became clear;

there was no power to the center. The visitor's center that sat only a few hundred feet from a hydroelectric dam had no electricity.

How could something be so close to the power source, yet not be plugged in the power? Read Phillipians 3:10 and 2 Timothy 1:7.

Okay Warm Springs, here is my world famous list of things to do out of your life. Hug someone you love. Hug someone you dislike. No alcohol or tobacco for children. One day

at a time. Buckle up the kids and yourselves. Don't hit or beat on yourself. Pay your bills before gambling, and then stay home. Read the Bible for its effect on your heart. Pray to God to the point of your hearing Him. Honor someone. Love yourself. Like yourself. See you in church. Worship at 11 a.m. Warm Springs Presbyterian Church on the campus.

Pastor Rick R. Ribeiro
(541) 553-1237

Editor's Note

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes letters from its readers. All letters, preferably 350 words or less, must be signed by the author and need to include a phone number for verification or questions.

Letters will not be printed unless signed. All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of Spilyay Tymoo.

Spilyay Tymoo reserves the right to edit all copy or decline publication of material that exceeds length guidelines or contains libelous or malicious statements.

We've got mail, and we want more, but be respectful

By Mike Van Meter
Spilyay Staff

Why does one letter get printed in whole while another is edited or filed away? What's with that big picture of the white girl and her boyfriend on the back page and why aren't there any Indians in the picture?

These are good questions.

The second question, regarding the full page submitted to the Spilyay by the state of Oregon's Adult and Family Services division, is easiest to answer: It's a paid advertisement.

Now, just because someone pays for an ad doesn't mean they get to run anything they want - the Spilyay won't be accepting advertising for get-rich-quick schemes anytime in the foreseeable future, for instance. Scurrilous accusations against other people won't be accepted. However, we give fairly wide latitude and only rarely could consider controlling content of advertising. This particular ad and its message is scheduled to run for several issues.

The questions of cultural sensi-

tivity that the AFS teen pregnancy prevention ad raises, though, are worth bringing to the attention of those who produced the ad. People may wish to call the number in the ad or write: Adult and Family Services, 500 Summer St. NE, Salem, Ore. 97310, or the producers of the ad, Neiworth Media Group, 3563 Aldous Ave. S., Salem 97310.

The advertisement was produced to run in both the Madras Pioneer and the Spilyay, so it may be worth considering that creation of an ad that is reflective the broad range of culture in Jefferson County poses a significant challenge. (Hang out at Collage of Culture in Madras this weekend if you have any doubts about the human richness of this region.)

Advertising is something folks will see more of in the Spilyay in coming weeks, months and years. Traditionally, the newspaper has not accepted paid advertising but has survived almost solely on funds allocated by Tribal Council. As the tribal budget overall becomes tighter, the demand for outside revenue sources has risen. Spilyay staff

and advisors are endeavoring to create an advertising system that maintains or strengthens the editorial independence that is the long-held goal of the newspaper.

Letters policy is a much less focused topic. A good starting point is the note printed on this page pretty much every issue - hold your letters to 350 words and don't libel anyone. That's simple enough.

We sincerely want people to keep sending us letters - they have been and will continue to be a backbone of the Spilyay's content for many years.

Generally, free speech rules apply - folks are free to speak, but they (and this publication, when it prints letters) must also be responsible for what is said.

Things you CAN do with a letter you want printed: Criticize Tribal Council. Criticize the Spilyay Tymoo and its letters policy. Pick on high-level tribal administrators. Write about how pretty the wildflowers are in the high country. Say nice things about your neighbors, Tribal Council, Spilyay staff and tribal administrators. Throw out a

hug (Pastor Rick will probably like that.)

Things that WON'T do if you want a letter printed: Accuse people of embezzlement, theft or other crimes. Be malicious for the sake of being malicious. Direct personal criticism toward a relative or other individual.

If you submit a 900-word letter, it's not going to run. We'll file it away. If the substance of a letter is libelous or malicious, the action will be the same. Those are easy calls.

Sometimes, though, decisions regarding letters are much less cut-and-dried. If a letter is 450 or 500 words long, there's a good chance we'll pare it down a bit and run it. If a letter has a couple of sentences that are libelous, we'll probably cut them out and run the rest of the letter.

If we've edited or filed your letter and you have questions about it, please feel free to call.

Both length and a few words of libel were the case in a letter we received for last issue.

It would have been easy to shelve the letter, but instead we edited out the libelous statements and in the

process brought the length down. The result was a letter that remained harsh in its criticism, but meets our letters guidelines. While I personally found the letter offensive (I would like to know whether I'm Larry, Curly, Moe or Shemp), and public officials were stung by its criticism, those aren't reasons to refuse publication.

Letters policies are nothing new at the Spilyay, nor are questions about what is printed in the Spilyay. Twenty-five years ago, during the first year of publication, a reader raised questions about administrative appointments by Tribal Council. In opening the letter in the May 14th edition, she wrote: "I don't know how strictly the Tribal Administration censors your articles, but ..." A note from the editor in the same issue discouraged "the use of the paper as a means of exposing personal grief, slander or harm to the tribal organization."

Questions will continue to be raised, and we'll continue to try to find answers. In the meantime, keep those cards and letters (and faxes and e-mails and telephone calls) coming.