

Spilyay Speaks

Casino proponents should consider Highway 26 site

Lately there have been articles in the newspapers saying the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are going to build a casino at Hood River, Oregon. And there have been pro and con, exceptions to the whole idea. Opposition mainly comes from the residents of that community who present a good argument of the plan. The Confederated Tribes' stand is the Trust Land owned there, and even the governor can't stop this from happening.

As an individual Tribal Member I feel that the entire membership should have had input on the subject and that everyone be in complete agreement before statements are made to the media, or to the public. We should discuss the issue from front to back to clear any doubts that may be present, because there are so many if's, and's and but's to be cleared up. I don't believe in one man's opinion on what's best for us. Just because he may be a consultant, doesn't mean that he's always right. One thing for sure ... he gets quite a chunk of pay for whatever he says. That's beside the point.

I believe that any project undertaken should be thoroughly investigated and all questions answered before we jump into the fire. When they come at you from the front, you should also know what's on the back side.

There are some things that I can't understand, and why does everyone go along with them; they say here on the reservation, the only way we can make any money is by expanding the Indian Head Casino. How in "H—!" will that create any improvement on what's already there? They are afraid of losing money on building a casino along Highway 26, which would pay for itself in now time at all. Expanding the Indian Head Casino will not increase the attendance by any means. If that is the plan then we are sure to lose money as they are afraid of. No matter what we do or where we build it's going to cost a pretty dollar, and you can't get around that.

I wonder how our present casino ever draws as many as it does. The sign along the highway should be colorful, something that stands out and is attractive, like those casino signs in Washington. They are colorful and are noticed, but the main downfall for the Indian Head Casino is its location. I have heard this so many times down town, Portland, that if the casino was located along Highway 26, they would be more than willing to stop and relax, playing the machines. They say the casino at its present location is just too far out of the way for them to swing by.

I firmly believe that we should close the Indian Head Casino and build one along Highway 26, compare this to expanding at the present casino, where we would lose money in a hurry.

Has anyone ever taken notice of how much traffic that passes by here in Warm Springs? It's surprising to see all that traffic going by and I'll bet a dollar to a donut that many would stop ff at the casino, along Highway 26. I don't need a consultant to tell me that.

The committee is worried of spending too much money; how much will it cost to construct the one at Hood River? Well, I'm just rambling, but I do hope someone will see what I'm saying. I do feel that there are some points of importance, and should be considered. Well, maybe I'm sick and don't know what I'm saying. AH-NAH-CHI-TOON!!!

— Sid Miller

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.

Spilyay strives not to print any unverified or malicious representation which hurts the reputation of a person; exposes that person to hatred, ridicule or contempt; injures that person in his or her occupation; or financially damages the firm he or she works for.

Response to terror: Continue with life

Hello from Pastor Rick.

Well, reading this article will put the bombing of New York and Washington about a week ago. Other things may have happened since the writing of this piece. So, what can you say living here in Warm Springs, a nation within a nation? Thousands dead, people confused, angry and depressed. What can Warm Springs offer to the USA? What does Warm Springs know about how to handle death? Wow, what a dumb question to ask; does Warm Springs know how to handle death? Warm Springs know all to well how to

handle the effects of death. It has been my observation that our community handles death by making life a priority. Someone dies here, with the focus and experience of centuries people step up to begin the work of living. A home is cleared for prayer. People come and cook and clean and watch the kids. Prayer continues through formal services at the dressing, longhouse/church and burial. For meals to follow the services people continue to donate time, funds, food and prayer. You see the thing that happens here is that life does not stop. Life and living continues

even when you wrestle with death. Maybe that is what Warm Springs can offer to America. A message of move forward, don't give up. Pray. Pray. Pray. You see, I believe people want to hurt us because they believe that we are a dead nation.

To move forward and to pray makes us a nation that is not dead. We are a nation living life. Oh, yeah, remember Easter and Jesus on the cross. That was not the end. It was a new beginning for us all. Even God continues to move forward in life. So, to those who see us dead we pray for true 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, then stay home. Read the Bible for its effect on your heart. Pray to God to the point of your hearing Him. Honor someone each day. Love yourself. See you in Worship.

Warm Springs Presbyterian Church. Sunday School at 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. On the Campus.

Pastor Rick R. Ribeiro
553-1237

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for support

We wish to thank everyone who came to be with my father Delbert Frank Sr. during his illness.

Thank-you to those who helped without being asked, to those who came to support the family, and especially those who came to visit him while he lay sick. Thank-you to the Drummers, to the Shakers, and to those who traveled great distances to be here for the funeral.

And to my brother, Delbert Jr., who was here in spirit, we'll come visit soon. Thanks also to Vic Atiyeh, the Portland Area Office, and the Oregon Fish Commission representative, who presented a photograph of Delbert Frank Sr.

And to the many more who were there, we thank you.

From Myrna Frank and family, and grandsons.

Thoughts on sovereignty

Hello my people of Warm Springs! I would like a bit of your time to express my concerns in this letter and I hope that maybe some of you out there might feel the same.

First of all let me tell you about me. My name is William Clements, Indian name Siquo. Parents are Grant and Sandra Clements. Bloodline from the Stacona and McCorkle family. 7/8 of blood. Thirty years of age. Acquired a GED and obtaining a degree in business administration.

Some of the things that I would like to talk about concern us as tribal members. I would like for you to think of what the word sovereign means to you. Sovereign to me is one unto itself. Independent from anything or anyone else. The State Oregon is a sovereign, just like Warm Springs.

Now, can one sovereign dictate to another? In other words, can the United States tell Europe how they should govern themselves? So how do we as a sovereign Nation let others tell us how to govern our reservation?

Over the years that I have been here, I have seen our elected leaders wheel and deal our sovereign treaty rights away. For what? For the greater good of the people of Warm Springs? Who are the ones that have benefited from all of the wining and dining over the years?

When do we as tribal members begin to see any of the promises or get any crumbs that may fall from our all mighty administration? When do we as a tribe say enough is enough? Who is going to stand up for the people? It is obvious that our own tribal elected officials will not.

They are too busy looking out for number one. We happen to be at the bottom of their list of important things, just below their new raises or bonuses. We as enrolled tribal members of this reservation need to stand up and take our reservation back. Our elected officials have forgotten why they were elected. We are being dictated and not represented.

Why do we treat our own people so badly? Isn't it bad



Photo by Dave McMechan

Mourning for tribal leader Delbert Frank Sr. and remembrance of the lives lost in New York gave cause for flags to be flown at half-staff in recent days.

enough that the white man does it? If we do not stop and take a look at what is going on, we are not going to have a reservation for long. I say these things for my children's sake and all of the people of this reservation.

We need to do what is right for our people and its future. Start getting involved at the district meetings. Find out what our elected officials are doing for us as tribal members. Make a difference.

William Clements
Siquo

Proud of friend

To the editor,
"Annette Frank-Arce" my dear friend throughout all your trial of tribulations I'd like to let you know that I'm so proud of you for being all so strong hearted.

Keep your head up lady your doing everything your will can help you with. The Lord is by your side. Keep praying Annette.

I want you to know you're very much appreciated for everything you do. You're a real good friend, a special friend that I'd like to say I miss you and I'm praying for you and your family.

Stay strong, and take care.

Your friend always
Louisa Tuckta

Training update

(Editor's note: The following letter was received prior to the events of Sept. 11, but bears weight as a reminder to all of us that many of our young people are serving in the military during these challenging times.)

To the editor,

Hello, I hope I am finding everyone in good health. Well I qualified at the rifle range (long story to be explained at a later date). We start A-line tomorrow. A-line is getting down and dirty.

Next week we have BWT (Basic Warrior Training). During BWT we have our final drill competition and our P.F.T (Physical Fitness Test) BWT week is the gas chamber, repelling, and qualifying for a tan belt on hand to hand combat.

I only have three weeks left on this gosh darn island. Also some new babies picked up blow us they're platoon 4035. I think there's an Indian, her name is Begay. I haven't gotten to meet her but I hope to so I can encourage her.

Thank you for the letters, for those who have written to me. Please continue. Good luck at school for all the children attending. I'd like to tell you to make the most of your education and not to follow all of the fads. Be yourself, a leader and not a follower. That is what will help you. Don't slack off in school or you'll pay for it. We have to become a stronger tribe and people, we can't let the stereotypes be true. Strive to do your best.

I love you mom & dad, Kenny, Jesse, Sonny, Stevie and Naydra. I'll finish for everyone. The crucible is in thirteen days. That's the defining obstacle that makes Marines.

Love you Granny Goose, Emmitt, Ann, Faron, Aunt Rachel, Aunt Nora, Aunt Orthelia, Grandpa Patt, Uncle Ab, Uncle JP, and everyone else (you know who you are). Not enough room to write everyone. The list would go from here to Warm Springs. Just teasing.

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