

## Guest Editorial

### Member says "Back the tribal council"

#### Attention People!

Do you want a bonus this year? Do you want a bonus payment for the years to come? Do you want more jobs to be here or funded through our tribe? Do you want more assistance for your emergencies? Do you want your children to keep getting a Trust Fund? Do you want to get elder Pension payments? All of these questions you want to ask yourself, if you are over the age of 21. It's important to back your Tribal Council representatives now; we have waded in the puddle long enough.

We started out by "wading in the water" to test the gaming issue out and see how we do. It is my opinion that we have waded long enough; it is time to do business. Our Tribal Council persons need to move forward and continue with the Gaming issues immediately. We need to pursue the casino building immediately and not wait. The longer we wait the longer we will be the way we are sitting back and waiting for someone else to build along our river.

We have been here for generations. How long has any other tribe been here? If it was not for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, no other people would have been federally recognized, is this not true?

You young people, you hold the key to everything on the reservation, you can make this decision for all the generations to come, and this is your future and the future of your children. The people between the ages of 21 to 40 years old hold the key to our future. Please back your Tribal Council people now, we need to go forward, not backwards. Waiting for someone to move is like waiting for time to stand still. If we don't move now it will be the end of us.

If you are thinking of the natural resources, they have been depleted a long time ago. The timber market is down and there is no sign of change in the foreseeable future. We can no longer count on timber as our major source of income.

We must think of our future and generations to come. We are spending too much money on the casino we now have. We should be saving our money to spend on a new casino in the Columbia Gorge.

Why are we waiting for a decision from the people to vote on this? The Council has already had the permission to continue seeking more revenue for our people. Why do we have to vote on this issue? We gave them the permission when we entered into the casino business.

It should have been built at the Columbia Gorge in the first place. We wouldn't be sitting here wondering if we were going to have jobs or not. And if you are thinking about "more jobs for tribal members" you can quit thinking about it. If the people wanted to work at the casino or were able to work at the casino, it would be 100 percent tribal members now. If you visit the casino now, only 20 percent of the personnel are tribal members working there. So one argument is "jobs" for tribal members. Don't even think of this as an argument or reason not to make a decision.

The "Indian Head Casino" will always be here, so if the concern for jobs for tribal members, then this will assist in helping the tribal members work here. (Kah-Nee-Ta has always been here and always will be.)

The casino in the Columbia River Gorge will be a benefit - let the people work for us and make us revenue (money).

People talk about the past, what our ancestors taught us, then let us teach the generations to come, to teach our people how to band together as one people. The casino's profits are now, majority is that of the tribal members, our own people are spending their hard-earned monies at the casino. It has been this way since the beginning or opening of the casino. Some tribal members spend most or all of their earnings, so it would be a benefit to move the casino to another location off the reservation, away from here.

#### To the Tribal Council:

Don't sit back and wait for something to happen, move forward, stop thinking about wading in the water, or getting your feet wet. You have waded long enough, you got the experience and knowledge now about gaming/casino.

You have been to many conferences pertaining to the casino business; time is of the essence. We need to hire real consultants who know the business, consultants that know what they are doing, not what they can learn from us.

We voted you in to represent us, it is time to do your job, don't sit back and wait for us to make a decision. We made that decision when we first voted on it. That decision still is in effect; we are still in the business.

I thank the people for their time and consideration to reading these issues, but my/our words go out to all the young people. Think about the issues around you. Think of your lifestyle; do you want more provided to you and your family.

If you don't make a decision, then you can keep on wanting whatever your dreams are. Make the dreams come true for you and your family.

Thank you,  
Bruce & Barbara Jim & Family

### 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 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.

## Shaw shares news from Washington D.C.

"Fun" just doesn't come in bigger packages than moving to Washington, D.C., when our country is at war. Add a bit of anthrax to the mix and, well, you see my point. Yeah, it just doesn't get much better.

So off we headed in our van not necessarily with visions of grandeur, but with visions of survival. The trip was a whirlwind: 3,211 miles, 14 states, 322 cities and 16,032 telephone poles. But you know what, we made it to the Nation's Capital; the home of George W., anthrax spores and, of course, Michael Jordan. All this to be because I was now the new Mark O. Hatfield Fellow.

The Mark O. Hatfield Congressional Fellowship is really a unique tribally funded program. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde established the Fellowship as a living tribute to the Senator. The Fellowship is meant to honor Sen. Hatfield for his accomplishments as Governor of Oregon and United States Senator on behalf of the Grand



Bodie Shaw

Ronde Tribe, Native Americans, Oregonians and all Americans.

The Hatfield Fellowship helps to ensure that Mark Hatfield's legacy of integrity, strength and effectiveness in public service will endure. Each year, a Native American from a federally-recognized tribe from the Pacific Northwest is selected to serve as a member of the staff of one of Oregon's Congressional delegation. The Hatfield Fellow serves as liaison between the Congressional member and

northwest tribes on issues that affect Native Americans and as a resource for the entire Oregon delegation. This year the Fellowship is based in Congressman Earl Blumenauer's office. The Congressman not only represents the greater Portland area, but his district also includes portions of many tribal ceded lands including Warm Springs.

In addition, the Hatfield Fellowship will put forth capable, motivated individuals who not only know their way around Washington, D.C., but are also familiar with the inner-workings of our federal government. Undoubtedly this will and has produced long-term benefits for all tribes and the Pacific Northwest. From all indications, the past Hatfield Fellows have done just that. Kudos to Pete Wakeland, Direlle Calica and Alyssa Macy. I might gloat a bit by mentioning that this is the third year Warm Springs has sent a representative to Washington, D.C. In my mind, this speaks volumes as to the types of people Warm Springs can produce.

The Hatfield Fellowship is an excellent example of promoting aspiring tribal members looking for a stimulating and nurturing environment, promoting tribal involvement in federal government, and best of all, seeing the world from an entirely unique perspective.

The unique perspective extends to developing relationships with other Congressional Fellows who come from entirely different backgrounds but have similar interests. Representatives in this year's class include six medical doctors, eight university professors and

international participants from Korea, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany and Belgium.

However, the most enjoyable aspect of this Fellowship is having my family with me. When I am not on Capitol Hill, Heather, Maddy and myself try to experience the best of Washington, including the monuments, museums and of course the restaurants.

Before I end, I have to thank a few folks who were instrumental in my selection as the Hatfield fellow. First and foremost, a tremendous amount of thanks goes out to Ken Smith who supported and encouraged me. Howie Arnett who recommended me for the fellowship (maybe I & C is still in the future). Finally, I thank the late Jack Donaldson. Jack was much more than a professional colleague, he was really a mentor during our short-lived relationship. Jack you are truly missed by all.

If you are ever in the area, please look me up. I look forward to seeing you ... well, most of you anyway!

Bodie K. Shaw

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Found at the Agency Longhouse: A pair of childrens moccasins by the Utility Department Janitorial Department. Please come in to identify.

## Letter to the editor

### Condolences sent to family

I would like to send my deepest condolences to the Picard family, the loss of your family member is also a great loss to me. Dubs was like a brother to me, and will not be forgotten. I was shocked later on after I got the news, because being in a maximum facility penitentiary, death is like an every other day thing. But now that it hits close to home, I share the families pain and sorrow. I really wish that I

could have been there for the homeboyz funeral, but due the extenuating circumstances, this big homie couldn't be there.

Much Respect,

Taylor Arthur, Sr.

P.S. holler at me sometime German G.

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## Tribal member urges involvement

### This is for all my young Native friends and relatives.

Get involved. Experience.

I have been composing this letter in my head for over a year now; sorry about its "Indian time" arrival in the Spilyay. First off, getting involved, In the Nov. 15 "25 years ago in the Spilyay" section there is a small excerpt about how our community here in Warm Springs strongly supported Jimmy Carter in the 1976 presidential election and a large number of those voters were in the 18-to-21 age bracket. What most of you don't know is that anybody under 21 cannot participate in elections concerning tribal affairs.

We cannot vote for whose going to be on Tribal Council, we can't vote for building a new elementary school in Warm Springs and we can't vote for where our new casino is going to be built. I'm not sure if this something that our Tribal Council is unaware of or something they have unintentionally overlooked but it is WRONG.

The 21-year-old voting age is obsolete in the U.S.A. and it should be in Warm Springs as well. I am positive that our community wants our youth to get more involved with preserving our people, land, etc., and I see the first, far overdue, step to be to lower the tribal voting age to 18. If it is not lowered, it is just saying that our youth, Native youth, is inferior to American youth, plain and clear. I have faith in this

Tribal Council.

I think they will do the right thing. I once wrote an editorial in the Madras High School newspaper praising Tribal Council on the fairly recently passed referendum concerning the withholding of minor trust funds if the student doesn't graduate from high school and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0. I think this was a good referendum, but I also think that if Tribal Council is going to expect more from our youth, they should in give more.

I don't see lowering the voting age to 18 as compensations for the youth and their elevated expectations; I see it as necessary to ensure our existence.

Eighteen is a VERY influential age in a person's life. My senior year in high school I had two government classes and this is when I became upset when to find out that I couldn't participate in tribal elections.

For one, I think it is total crap that we can't get enough voters in the first place to pass for a long overdue new elementary school. I'm sure it took a lot of people's time and money to hold two elections for this referendum. If the 21 and over crowd aren't going to participate, then why prohibit the 18 to 20 year olds to participate?

Experience. All you Native High Scholars ... we are SO lucky. Our tribe is willing to pay full tuition and books to any college we can get accepted

to. I have met people who pay for college through student loans and will be paying for these loans after they start working for 10 to 15 years!

I have met other Native students from other tribes that only get a TOTAL of \$2,000 for their entire college education.

Two thousand dollars sounds like a lot, and it is on the Rez, but when you're talking tuition to college, like the University of Arizona, it's a partial year. Not even a full year. I've been here for a partial semester. I have learned SO much. So what if I'm a nerd and I actually like going to school, but I can guarantee that even if you don't like high school, you will love college. College life is a very unique experience and it is something that you don't want to miss out on.

I was overwhelmed when I first started college. There are over 35,000 students at the "U" (University of Arizona). There are 3,000 people in all of Warm Springs.

There are so many things to do on campus that you find yourself indecisive and overwhelmed. I can go on and on about everything that I've done in the four months that I've been here in Tucson, but I won't. I want you to experience it for yourself.

I felt like I didn't belong here, but after I started getting used to the lifestyle, I loved it. Don't get me wrong at all, Natives, I am a Rez Girl at

heart and I can't wait to go back to the Rez with my degree, but college life is one experience that we should all have. Arizona is far from home and I get so homesick, but I plan to live my whole life on the Rez.

The four years I'm going to be in college isn't all that long when you compare it to your whole life (huh "B"?).

Growing up on the Rez is hard, that is for sure. The world is a lot bigger than the Rez, though. One thing that makes me mad about some of my peers is that I know they can do so much better then they are. I know they are smarter than the things that they do.

This is particularly to my cousins whom I've had problems with in the past few years (you should know who your are).

I don't not like you or mean to disrespect you in any way but it just makes me sad and mad because I know you can do so much and be so much better then you're doing/being.

I can do it, I know you can too, and I know all the Warm Springs Natives that are in college right now know you can as well.

Feel free to write to me ANYONE. I LOVE getting mail.

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