

Community growth begins with respect

By Willie Fuentes, Chief Operations Officer
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Hello, recently I was asked to submit to the Spilyay Tymoo an article expressing my viewpoints on various issues happening locally, regionally, or nationally.

I want to make explicitly clear that while these are my thoughts, they in themselves are not more important than any other community member's thoughts or opinions.

My hope is that increased awareness of issues will result, and meaningful dialogue between members would follow.

This is in the spirit of the legend of "Toe Ness" or "YIKES," while acknowledging I am not going to fill that writer's massive footprints.

With that out of the way, I would like to share my thoughts on a subject, which is not often talked about. I find this subject to be as important as the fiscal stability of the Tribes.

You're probably thinking what that could be. While I admit, money is a useful and somewhat necessary thing to have in this day and age it is not the most important thing, in my mind.

The manner in which we as community and tribal members treat each other is the subject that I feel is the backbone for any future growth potential we may have as a tribal community.

The history of 'bad blood' goes beyond what even our eldest members can recall. Why is it important? Think of your own personal experiences or those of close relatives or friends and the obstacles encountered as one attempts to improve one's station in life.

I've often heard that we as a community do not like anybody to succeed, or we as a community like to see others fail.

But what I'm talking about goes deeper into our interpersonal relationships with other fellow tribal or

In My Opinion

community members. So often, I observe blood relatives, not necessarily my relatives, cross each other's path and not nary a word or acknowledgment is given by either party.

What would happen if all of a sudden we started talking to each other at the most basic human level?

I realize that we all want immediate resolution to bigger issues facing the Tribes today, but I put forth that we must do the small things well first before we can effectively solve much bigger and complex tribal issues.

Talking to someone, shaking someone's hand, acknowledging someone to let them know they are a meaningful part of the tribal community are all so simple and cost nothing to express.

Too often, at community meetings, a person speaks out against another person or issue by forcibly asserting what needs to be done in their personal view.

Too often, there is not enough talking about problem identification or resolution, just a personal view left out there for the wind to blow away.

Our elders, many of whom have passed to the other side, knew the value of consensus building through talking about the pros and cons of each side of a problem.

To get where I think we need to be will require improving our communications skills first as individual human beings, then just maybe our communications as a government or community will surely follow.

So the next time you come across a nephew, niece, grandchild, uncle, aunt, grandparent or neighbor let them know you know they are alive. Call them good names and keep a good heart. That is all, for now.

Easter is just around the corner

I am so excited. Easter is only three weeks away. The tomb is empty. The Holy Spirit continues His mission. You know I have heard of the many paths to God. That all paths lead to His love. That may be so, but with Jesus Christ I do not have to walk a path. God comes down my path and we walk it together.

Spirituality is not a path up a mountain to the presence of God. The path called life is down valleys, up mountains, beside clear waters. It is the beginning of learning to live and love in the presence of God today and tomorrow. Because in time living in the presence of God will be eternity.

Getting it right today is to experience that place called Heaven. Get excited. God loves you. The Lord will

Hello from Pastor Rick

help you discover how to love yourself. And how to love others, even the ones you do not like.

Yep, that is the power of love. Don't worry if you feel your prayers are poor. Your Bible reading is slim. Your worship shallow. Try letting go, and letting God is the Christian way of Easter.

Yep, get excited, the tomb of Jesus Christ is empty. The war for our souls is over, we won. Act like a winner.

Hymns for the family of God. If you have one of the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church hymnals, we need it. We do not have enough for worship. If you find one, drop it off at the church.

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 it's effect on your heart. Pray to God to the point of your hearing Him. Honor someone each day. Love yourself. Like yourself. See you in church.
Pastor Rick R. Ribelro

Deadlines

The next Spilyay issue publishes March 21, with a March 15 deadline for letters and stories.

Announcements

The Spilyay encourages organizations and individuals to send notices of events that are of interest to the Warm Springs community.

The preferred method of delivery is via e-mail to spilyaytymoo@wstribe.org. You also may drop announce-

ments in printed or computer disk format at the Spilyay office, 1100 Wasco Street. Or send them to Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Fax number is 553-3539. Please feel free to call if you have story ideas, questions or comments. The number is 553-3274.

Letters to the Editor

Important notice regarding letters

Beginning with the next edition of the Spilyay, any letter longer than 350 words may be cut from the bottom up.

Letters that are longer than 350 words will appear in their entirety only if there is room on the editorial page.

The reason for this policy is that everyone has the right to submit a letter to the editor.

Letters that are exceedingly long leave no room on the page for the views of others.

In the future, priority will be given to letters that are shorter than 350 words. Letters longer than 350 words may be cut starting with the last sentence.

Thank you very much for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo.

Support appreciated

To the editor,

I want to thank the people, friends and family for being there in support of our loss of our mother. Thank you drummers, cooks and special thanks to Margaret Boise, Mona Schuster and Janice Gilbert Gunshows for dressing her. Love you very much for what you have done.

I don't remember everyone that helped or donated but we appreciate all that were there for your prayers and support during her illness and the funeral. It meant a great deal to each of us to know she was loved by so many.

If I didn't mention your name and you know who you are, I am grateful for what ever it was you done and sorry for not acknowledging you.

I love my family and want them to know I never have or will have a bad problem or attitude when we need each other, love each other and have to be sad with anyone but have family.

There was family left out on the obituary so I asked if it could be run again with the corrections.

Always a loving friend and relative,
Linda (George) Meanus

Getting on track

To Rhonda (R.J.),

Hey Sweetheart. Writing you this short note to apologize for all of the pain and suffering that I've caused you during our relationship.

Once again, I let alcohol get the best of my life. I thought that I could handle one or two drinks. But, as an alcoholic knows, one isn't enough and, two is too many. Until I exceeded my limitation both mentally and physically. I had a slight mental and physical disorder due to my alcohol intake.

I am sorry and ashamed of myself for doing the things that I've said and done during my alcoholic escapade verbally, emotionally and physically.

As you know, I put myself in alcohol counseling and soon I'll be going to an alcohol treatment program to get my life back on track and in order so that we will be able to carry on our lives as a couple and, help each other through our relationship.

I love you with not only the bottom of my heart but my whole physical being. Love you forever,
Tim (T.J.)

No bad feelings

On September 2, 2001, we were passengers in a car that rear ended Robert Sam. We failed to report our name and address. We did not know it was the law. So, I just want to say I'm sorry to Robert Sam for this incident that happened and hope there is no bad feeling left between all parties. I do apologize.

Vanessa Gabriel & Cory Smith.

The Lord's mercy

Dear Christians,

I would like to apologize for my indecent actions while I was under the influence. All that time of sobriety that the Lord gave me, all went down the drain when I backslided for a weekend. I especially apologize to my church family at the Full Gospel.

I know that we are trying our best to get our people saved from eternal damnation, and that a bad report of one of us makes people quick on the draw with the word "hypocrite."

I hope none of your family think we are that. Thank God, our Lord's mercy endureth forever.

I had quenched the Spirit for that short time, and am paying for it, because sin has built-in consequences which are impossible to escape. I am saved yet, because the Lord didn't some at an hour I didn't expect him, and I confessed and repented of my wrongdoing before the day of ac-

countability.

As brothers and sisters in the Lord, please forgive me and pray me through this. Thank you. I also want to thank you special people that stood by my side and spoke up for me, such as my boss and our staff, Bible study teacher, counselors, family and relatives. It made me feel better knowing that you all believed in me. Thanks.
RT Thompson

Car business

To the editor,

Hi to all my relations on the rez. I'm "down" in Sheridan, finishing up a 15-month sentence on a federal beef selling marijuana. I feel bad my wife, Winona, and son have had to endure this. It's been difficult, more so when my sister, Eliza "Hotdawg" Greene, passed away and I couldn't be there for my family. I appreciate the support we've had and I apologize to those people I've disappointed.

As far as my car sales business goes, I intend on starting back up in the future. But you know, it's a shame our tribes never game me the full support and funding necessary to really make this successful. I wanted to be the dealer for our vehicle pool, which budgets approximately \$200,000 per year for car purchases.

This would've been a good, honest way to make a living, provide for my family, and branch out in the future, thus helping others succeed. Instead, I was relegated to buying and selling older, high-mileage used cars, a very risky proposition.

I believe in myself and my capabilities. I had a workable business plan, quantified it, squeezing out as much risk as possible. Thanks to Vocational Rehabilitation, I completed 8 weeks on the job training in 1999, with C.J. & X Auto Wholesale, Portland, Auto Auction, and Oregon DMV. Why haven't the tribes given me the support they've shown others? Where are all these businesses that were given grants and loans?

How much money (millions?) has been invested in these businesses? What procedures for accountability are there? Does anyone care?

I also attained a phone dealership license. But is it because of who I am all I got was fish-eyed and shown the door? Once the cell phone business started, I planned on selling it to another tribal member with some motivation and knowledge.

I'm aware all phone coverage is spotty on the rez. Is American Tower Corp. (ATC) still interested in placing towers on the rez? It would be good. If so, I suggest our tribes look into ATC's profit potential and negotiate for a percentage of profits rather than a yearly license fee.

I can go on and on, but I got some people to thank. My customers, for buying cards from us, thank you. You've shown that this business is needed and can work. My philosophy was no-pressure sales, let each car sell itself, all prices negotiable, and guaranteeing lowest prices. Thanks to those of you who stopped by or called to encourage us. Some of you spoke up to our leaders on my behalf.

The following people wrote letters of support to the judge: Mom, Neda Wesley, my wife Winona, cousins, Marella Sam and Mina Shike Estimo, also Delford Johnson, Walt Quinn, Nelson Zumont, Juanita Villa, Lorena Wise, Trudy Thompson Brunoe, and Rhonda and Mike Greene. It was enough to help bring my sentence down and I'm grateful to these people.

Last but not least, thanks to my mom and Aunt Liz, for loaning their cars to my family so they can visit.

A little more fat to chew on... How about mail-in voting for our referendum elections? A work crew for inmates? A weekly Spilyay Tymoo with more in-depth news? Sincerely,
Roger T. Stwyer Sr.

(Letters continue on page 5)

Frances T. Spino Jr.