

## Letters to the Editor

### Kitchen fire

My name is Anita Mendoza, a tribal member, and I need to say thank you to Social Service and the Fire Department for their immediate help when my kitchen burned up.

When a traumatic event happens to a person, it is extremely terrifying. I was in shock, overwhelmed, and at times felt helpless.

My first reaction was thank God no one was hurt and the main damage was detained in the kitchen. Then after the fire department left, we began cleaning the mess up the best we could. Soot is not easy to clean and it was in every room and on everything; clothes, furniture, dishes, and all food not in cans had to be thrown out.

As I stood in the middle of my kitchen, I felt despair and scared. No stove or even a microwave to cook with and the holidays were coming up. What am I going to do for my kids and grandbabies for Thanksgiving? My granddaughter's birthday was coming up too and I was supposed to have cooked a meal for her.

As always, when I feel alone and don't know what to do, I take it to my Savior and He keeps me strong. I also give thanks to my big family, because not only do I need the strength from my Savior, I also need support that is tangible. For Thanksgiving I took my grandbabies to Warm Springs and we had a wonderful time with everyone.

That day I silently prayed and said thank you Lord, for providing me with such a loving family and please, keep them all at peace with each other, because we don't know when we might lose someone.

Although my kitchen is damaged, no stove, eating out of paper plates and plastic spoons, I had much to be grateful for. Christmas is just around the corner and thanks to God and all those who have helped, I now have a stove (not new but it works) and my kitchen is getting somewhat in order, we will be able to enjoy Christmas at home. Me...I will never forget that awful day, but day by day with Christ by my side, the terror is subsiding.

May you feel this season, the joy that comes from within that God, Creator, provides for all of us. Thank You.

**Anita Mendoza**

(For those of you who are curious, my immediate family is Greeley's and Kirk's, and all those related).

### Appreciated

Thank you Jim and Lawrence for the wood you brought me. It sure helped keep this grandma warm. Also, a great big thank you to the Santa Clauses who left me bundles of kindling. This senior sure appreciates your kindness. Sorry I was not at home.

**Maxine McKinley**

### Great powwow

The Thanksgiving Mini Powwow had another successful year, as we celebrated and gave thanks to the TOM that filled our stomachs and brought out all the stretchy pants and reservation-sized t-shirts for after the meal. Aye!

But I would like to share with the community that the powwow brought a lot of good feelings and laughter, as we had an intense game and contest of who has the fastest hiny (musical chairs) for the children and adults. The undisputed Pine Grove Champion was flown in to challenge all hiny's.

We challenged the children and adults in the sweep your tipi, and clown dance contest. All in all the event brought the community together to share laughs and have a good time.

We had a traditional type of powwow in which we compensated each dancer, elders, and drums to encourage them to return for another night of powwow on Sunday.

We even had the 1975 Wide Spot Queen show up to support the powwow. Believe it or not. Better call Ripley's.

We offered contest dancing in all categories that targeted youth, in which we had an enormous amount of youth participate and dance. On Friday evening we had a lot of children show up thinking there was a dance that evening. "We have Indian Dancing tonight!" But the kids did stay and had a good time. Since Thanksgiving is such a long weekend, it gave our youth something to do and look forward to instead of being an idle weekend with nothing to do. It was a great honor to share these times with our community

and families that attended. We had seven local drums show up and without you we wouldn't have been able to have our powwow. The list of drums in attendance were: Quartz Creek, Eagle Thunder, N8IV Pride, Spotted Eagle, Dry Creek, Wide Spot and Pine Grove Jr's.

I would like to thank the Confederated Tribes for putting up the monies to hold the powwow. And also thank you to the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center.

I would like to thank Captain Moody and his family for all they have contributed and done to make this event a special one.

**Carlos and Charmaine Calica and Family**

### Apology

To the editor,

This is to inform the community and Officer Springle for my actions back here in July 2002. Again, sorry.

**Sally Whiz**

### Big hearts

On November 26 I witnessed and heard two young ladies and their grandmother tell the three young men who murdered their only brothers that they forgave them. I heard a grandmother tell these men, she forgave them. Now, I don't know very many families that could have done this. This family had every right to verbally abuse these men. Sluggo said it best, "I didn't expect to come here and be forgiven today."

I couldn't stop telling my family this past Thanksgiving holidays how much heart this family showed. Everyone of the family members that were at that sentencing hearing learned and came out feeling different that afternoon. I know I did.

I want to thank Carrol, Terri and Margrett for letting me be part of that day. My son, daughter and myself will never forget Nov. 26, 2002. Carrol, Terri and Margrett, you three are remarkable. Anyone who knew my little bro Mikie knew he had a big heart. Now you three carry his heart with you and it shows. Your friend,

**Wendell H. Cook.**

### Our people

Warm Springs Rez, beautiful, kind, tough, sharing people. We have a strong Rez. Our

people and leaders are a good people doing the best they can. I admire and appreciate all of you on our Rez, cause if you wasn't for our people, you, all our employees would have to find another means to accommodate your lifestyles.

The words I write are just that, words. My hope is that what I write might help our people.

We have a good tribal business sector but if we are to survive in the 2000s, we must shift out of low into high.

Do more with less, eliminate the 0 based budget and reward employees for saving tribal dollars instead of rewarding managers and others for spending us into the poorhouse.

Thanks to Herb Graybael, Chaz, Kanim, Roger, James and our utilities department.

Thanks to Don Courtney and the police department for keeping our citizens safe. Mark Matthews, Jolene, Desi, legal aid department. Mona Biaz, Marie, Gwen, Sarah, Glenn, Victims Assistance Department. Shannon, Dave, Selena for having the guts to address our crank epidemic.

Thanks to Teeny, Buttons, Emma, Myrtle, and all the Council. Rudy Clements, I know you are doing the best you can for our people's future. Mary Ann Meanus, Bernice Mitchell for always being there, every Sunday for Washut.

Danny Martinez and the Fire Department, Austin Greene and Austin Smith, plus Andy too.

Lonnie's Small Business Department. Francis and Laura. Thanks to all you guys. I know I forgot good workers that are concerned about the fiscal flood of resources that are being systematically funneled into other communities.

Delford, Marita, Shonna, Clarence, now this is how a business should be run.

Take lessons from Dot as he seems to use only what is necessary, and is fiscally smart. This is how our tribe needs to operate, like Buck, Susie and their Deschutes Crossing. They seem to run their business astutely.

Any way I just want to express some thanks.

No matter what I feel we're blessed in Warm Springs, to have what we have. We must continue to defend what little we have left.

**Bobby Eagleheart**

### Good work

To Melinda Polk,

Keep up the good work, your grades are excellent. Keep it positive. You will always move forward. Remember you're my MVP not Franklins. Love, your ma, Jessie Polk.

To Matt A., thank you for taking us to see B.T.H. in Bend, they took us back to '94. And you know Bizzy can make his own tune. From not your girlfriend, not your wife, but your No. 1 friend, **Jessie.**

### The season

It's the reason for the season. I know it's starting to get colder, colder for the winter season then.

Well, other than the weather, I'd love for all the Warm Springs tribal members to have a very wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Give thanks for winter holidays. That's the reason for the season.

**Evette Patt**

### Having faith

Greetings my people. I'd like to take time to share my appreciation and concern from my heart. My name is Billy Joe Berry Sr. My Indian name is Ta Tanka Shuka Wahkan (Buffalo Horse).

Assiniboine from my father's side, George Berry SpeakThunder, Fort Belknap, Montana. My mother is Nola Queahpama, and my grandparents are the late Nathan and Lillie Heath.

First of all I'd like to thank all the people, who at one time or another shared great words of wisdom and guidance in my life. I'd also like to ask my people, friends and family, the community of Warm Springs for your forgiveness for the years of my life that I lived in such disgrace. I am so thankful that our God is so forgiving and merciful.

Like many others in the community, I came to a point in my life where I felt a very strong desire to search out my purpose in life on this earth. I was so tired of literally killing myself with the slow death called alcohol and drugs, which led to depression, then the near death of the spirit. Friends, I'd like to warn you to beware, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaming lion looking for

someone to devour.

After experiencing many ways and religions, I finally found peace in my heart and soul by simply having an intimate relationship with God, having faith in His son Jesus Christ, and learning to read and understand the written law (the Bible) and applying it in daily living. I also thank God for the special gift of praise and worship that He's given our people through the Seven Drum Washut.

As an ordained minister, my wife and I would like to invite the many who are searching for your destiny to the All Nations Fellowship and Support Group, "The Simnasho Community Church," where everybody is somebody, Jesus is Lord and Natives can be Natives.

Because of our respect and participation for the Sunday Service Washut, we meet at 3 p.m. at the old Simnasho School for church service. With much love and respect,

**Pastor Billy Joe Berry Sr.**

### Wasco basket

Dear Spilyay Tymoo, It was a thrill to see the article about Pat Courtney Gold and the Wasco basket. (It takes a while for the mail to bring us Spilyay Tymoo, so my wife and I saw it only yesterday.)

Almost 50 years ago I was at Harvard and a number of times went to look at the basket in the Peabody Museum. It always seemed lost there. Now Pat Courtney Gold has brought it back to life. Sincerely,

**Dell Hymes, Charlottesville, Virginia**

### Reminder regarding letters

It is the policy of Spilyay Tymoo to print Letters to the Editor from any and all tribal members. Because of space limitations, letters should not exceed 350 words.

Letters that are longer than 350 words may be cut starting with the last sentence and progressing up until the item is within the 350-word limit.

This policy is necessary in order to ensure that room exists in the newspaper for all of the Letters to the Editor.

## Housing Authority responds to summit article

*(Editor's note: Following is the continuation of a guest editorial that began in the previous edition of Spilyay Tymoo. The article, by Local Housing Authority Board Chairperson Elton Greeley, is in response to a Spilyay article on housing.)*

Regarding modular (manufactured) housing, the Spil-Yay writer indicated that our Local Housing Authority (LHA) board is opposed to that type of dwelling structure. This is not necessarily true information. Some of us (commissioners) feel that many of the modular units are a good product. Move-in time into a modular housing unit could take two to six weeks. Proper set-up is extremely important. For our upcoming housing project, we plan to give an option to our Mutual Help (home ownership) participants as to the type of housing unit they want.

Problems can occur with any type of construction. In previous construction projects, some

of our "low-bidder" contractors used materials and items which only met minimum specs and standards. Plus, some of our recent maintenance contractors could and should have done much better quality work. There has been continued need to have work done and materials used to be inspected by a certified inspector. We have taken action to correct this problem, however, we need to hear from our housing clients when problems persist.

Please note: The need for maintenance can occur in any and all types of housing. An idiot can kick in a door, punch holes in the walls, break windows, ignore mopping up spilled liquids and/or leave water on the floor, etc. Needless to say, other maintenance problems can result from normal wear and tear.

Question: How long does it take to build a house on the reservation? Actually, we don't know. It will depend on the funding source, who the construction contractor is, and possible type

of contract - some cases, 90 days. Other cases, maybe two years. The type of care taken will determine the future value of the home.

### Housing applications

Comment in the Spilyay article, "Some people have to wait years before they get a house here." This could easily be a true statement - in some cases. All applicants are advised when they submit an application to Housing that they must renew their application at least every six months, or they will be dropped from the waiting list.

Not everyone does their renewal, therefore, they then must resubmit an application which results in their application dropping to the bottom of the list. Missed application renewals result in prolonged waiting time. Capable Housing staff are available and very willing to assist anyone who feels that they need help completing the housing application.

Type of housing units admin-

istered by our Housing Department

HUD Low Rent; Mutual Help - for home ownership; Tribal rentals; Tribal Mobile Home Court.

The HUD Low Rent units and Mutual Help units are assigned in accordance with need, family composition and income. Monthly rent for the low rent units is the bare minimum - based on income.

Mutual Help recipients, when necessary, in cases of a temporary income status change, pay only an administrative cost (\$75 to \$125) per month. They do not pay a down payment, and they can gain home ownership in 25 years, or less. Ceiling rents (top maximum) apply in both cases.

Tribal rentals are assigned in accordance with need. Monthly rent for tribal units is a set rate. Evictions occur when tenants outright neglect paying their rent. Grounds for automatic eviction include drug abuse and/or drug dealers.

### Other comments

There is much, much more which we can comment on regarding our housing issues. Such as, the extremely high tenant accounts receivable program, the need for additional funds for maintenance items, need for employment, alcohol and drug abuse, elder abuse, youth gangs, inadequate housing, unsightly conditions, safety problems, playgrounds, traffic violators, recreation and convenience needs, etc.

We are anxiously awaiting the holding of another housing summit, or perhaps some type of public forum on housing. Our thanks to Shawnele Shaw, of the Community Action Team. She has volunteered to assist us with our getting out more information to the community. It will be a privilege to work with Shawnele.

We have not addressed all of the points mentioned in the Spil-Yay article, so we ask that you talk with us when you can. We need to hear from you. You are

welcome to contact our Housing Director, Chet Van Pelt, or any of his staff for additional information, or to voice a concern.

Also, you can speak with any of our LHA commissioners: Elton Greeley, Chairperson; Kirby Heath, Vice Chairperson; Jack Quinn, Secretary-Treasurer; Victor Moses; Edna Gonzales; Randy Smith; Priscilla Frank, commissioners.

### Conclusion

Like in that old time Western movie Shane, in the closing scenes when that kid, as the hero was slowly riding his horse on a mountain trail off into the sunset, was sorrowfully and loudly calling out, "Shane, Shane come back!" We too must call our, "Sid, Sid, come back!"

Thank you for your time and patience in reading this long winded and dissertation type response. Sincerely,

**Elton Greeley, Chairperson, Warm Springs Housing Authority.**