

The Wilman: moves off the beaten path

Mood stays light during unique news show

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"I try to do things that lighten up the mood because the world is so serious all the time," he says.

"I do a newscast at 3:55, but I come right back at the 4:20 break and do something I call News Off the Beaten Path. It's usually a news story that you didn't hear about because it didn't make the 'headline news.' Usually it's a humorous or heart-warming story. I try to stay away from things that spark a mad reaction in people."

It's all in the preparation: the more he does, the more relaxed he sounds on the air. And the more calm and confident he sounds, the more people listen to him. It's all part of the job.

"I do a lot of research on the internet," he says. "This is where I get my weird facts, proverbs, funny t-shirts and funny bumper stickers."

His job isn't all flipping switches, talking into the microphone and surfing the internet for something interesting to say. There's production work too.

Production work is the different public service announcements you hear throughout the day. Sometimes it will take up to an hour to write, produce and record a thirty second public service announcement.

It's not all hard work, though.

The best part of his day is when he's sure most of the folks on the reservation are listening — the Birthday Grand Entry. This is the time of day when nearly the whole reservation comes to a stop and tunes the radio to KWSO. It's The Wilman's time to relax and loosen his tie.

"The best birthdays are when somebody sends some touching message," he says. "I heard one that, literally, made me cry. It was a daughter giving a birthday wish to her father. I hope someone will give me that one on my birthday."

For The Wilman, the Birthday Grand Entry wraps up his whole afternoon show. He feels



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The Wilman

like it's his opportunity to say to the community: "Hey, there's your birthday and on behalf of all of us, happy birthday everybody. This is The Wilman. Wayne's next and you folks do everything you gotta do to keep yourself safe tonight and I'll talk to you tomorrow. Thanks for listening."

He's Been There

"Street Cred" is slang for knowing what's happening on the street. You need to have been there to know what you're talking about.

It could be argued that The Wilman puts a little extra feeling into his announcements

about drug and alcohol classes on the reservation. That's because he knows what he's talking about — he's got "street cred."

The Wilman is a former drug addict — for 25 years. It didn't matter what drug. His favorite was methamphetamine.

"The problem was with meth," he says. "I was very deeply addicted to it. Bottom line: meth will kill you, it'll destroy your very foundation."

Will was on a drug addict's merry-go-round.

He would build himself up to where he figured he was king of the world. Then — boom — it'd all come tumbling back to the ground again.



It was a pattern he was familiar with.

"It started out with drinking a little, smoking a little pot. Next thing you know, you're snorting lines of meth, then you're smoking it and your life gets destroyed. You feel bad about it for a while, then you rebuild back up and you're king of the world

again. Then the same pattern, alcohol, pot, meth — boom — back to ground zero."

Life altering moments can happen anywhere. The Wilman's happened in church.

He was sitting in a church surrounded by a few hundred people. The pastor asked a simple question of the congrega-

tion, "Is it well with your soul?"

Then in quick succession he asked more questions: "Are you on the run from the law? Are you having problems with drugs? Are you having family or financial problems?"

"I felt like I was all alone right in the middle of the sermon. It really hit home with me. I had to be honest with myself and answer all those questions, yes, yes, yes. Is it well with your soul? No, it's not."

The Wilman walked out of that room and sought help.

"I'm trying to be me and I'm trying to be real," he says. "It all starts by being honest with yourself."

Will still has good and bad days, but he takes them one at a time — for three years. Now he's a man on a mission to help people with addictions. And that might be what give his words a little extra strength when he announces drug and alcohol classes on the reservation.

"If I can help one person over-

come their addictions or think there's hope," he says, "then I've done a good job for that day."

Perhaps it's when a person takes the step from being part of the problem to part of the solution that gives him more "street cred" than any amount of time he's spent on the streets.

Deschutes: Tribes face off with local government officials

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BIA representative Gerald Henrikson said the issue should not be discussed until after a final decision has been reached on the settlement agreement, but the local governments pressed on. They wanted to operate under the assumption that provisions of the agreement are not applicable until they are ap-

proved in writing.

BLM officials said they agreed with Henrikson's position, but the local governments made it clear they wanted to have a discussion about the launch site at Wapinita.

"Lawsuits are filed all the time," said Madras Mayor Rick Allen, referring to suit filed by Shuholm. Allen did not think the

agreement made last November should have any bearing on the discussion, because it has not been finalized.

Natural Resources General Manager Robert Brunoe had heard enough. He did not appreciate efforts to downplay the settlement agreement that was reached after long hours of negotiation and numerous com-

promises, especially in light of the fact local government representatives had walked out of the meeting held in Portland.

"I think you're trying to change the outcome of the settlement agreement and it's not fair," said Brunoe. "Your looking for new avenues to change provisions we all agreed to." Brunoe's comments ended the

discussion.

In other business, the Confederated Tribes submitted invoices for law enforcement and management expenses totaling approximately \$28,800. Local governments also submitted invoices and there was agreement between both parties that such charges were justifiable. No formal action was taken to reim-

burse the expenses, although managers had agreed to raise boater pass fees to pay for services of this nature at an earlier meeting. The managers did decide to form a working group that will review the issue and report back at a later date.

The next Deschutes River Managers Group meeting is April 5, 9:30 a.m. in Madras.

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