

## Sub-chief issue is complicated, controversial

By Selena Boise  
Spilyay Tymoo

Recently an issue has been brought forward about a new sub-chief for the Wasco people. I have heard some negative, actually a lot of negative, and a little positive.

It has raised some questions about the selection process of a sub-chief. How was it done when the first chiefs of the tribes were chosen, back before the treaty was signed?

On the Treaty of 1855 there are several signatures. Now, are these signatures of chiefs of the tribe or leaders of the clans who lived in the Northwest, and along the Columbia River? Were there chiefs, as we use the word today, at this time?

I have heard that there were clans of people along the river, and each clan chose a person to represent them. Would this be the chief or a representative of the people?

At the present time a chief is a person who holds a seat on the Tribal Council for life. This person would know their way around the Longhouse and can relate to people of the tribes. The Washat religion would be a strong part of their life, because it is the key to survival of our culture, along with the language of the tribes. For without the language the songs would not be understood or passed along to the next generation.

That is my understanding of the chieftainship of our tribes, unless I learn otherwise.

A long while back I was told that there were district meetings held because of the distance between Simnasho, Seekseequa, and the Agency areas. It was too much travel for large numbers of people, especially if they traveled by horse and wagon. Well, in these modern times we have cars to travel in and the ride doesn't seem so long.

But then there are the elders who would rather not travel so far away. So the district meetings on one hand allow elders to attend and provide their knowledge and input to issues brought forth. And at the same time people can attend other district meetings to listen and provide comment. So there are good reasons for district meetings.

By this we can assume that the districts would be the clans, and each district has a chief.

Back to this issue of the sub-chief, I am not one to say whether or not Alfred Smith Jr. is the right person, or if maybe he went about it in the wrong way, because I don't know. But it would seem that the Tribal Council should have been present, because it is a big deal for the tribes.

I have heard from an individual who was present at the honoring of Amos Simtustus and Delvis Heath to become chief and sub-chief that it was a big thing. Many people were in attendance and it was an honor to be acknowledged by the Tribal Council and other tribal chiefs and representatives from throughout the Northwest.

With this issue on the table, who will be the sub-chief? I have heard that it's not over, and a final decision is up in the air. We will rely on the Tribal Council to inform us of this news.

Just a thought, but it might be a good idea to nominate sub-chiefs and hold an election at the same time as the Tribal Council nominations and elections. Is it possible? Or is it too late? Who's to say?

## Spilyay Speaks

### War veterans

I want to say a big thank you to Liza Brown and Neda Wesley. They made a great effort to have Marvin Meanus and myself recognized as Combat Veterans of the Korean War. They say the Korean War is the "forgotten war," and that seems to be the case even here. What these two ladies did in having us recognized as Combat Veterans was a great thing. They went out of their way to do this, and their effort is greatly appreciated.

Chesley Yahtin Sr.

### Raffle

This is a better late than never appreciation letter to all who supported in donations and buying tickets for the Lyle Longhouse Raffle. These funds are to help Nora Kahclamat maintain activities that take place after a meal, such as raffles, prizes for Easter time, garbage service, etc. When Chief Wilbur Slockish Jr. holds his Klickitat River Salmon Feast here, he gets a large garbage container placed at the longhouse. Anyone can utilize the longhouse for any occasion - that was the rule set up when the longhouse began. This last raffle was the grandest one yet with very expensive items donated. We were to draw during the 2003 Huckleberry Feast, however, there were not many tickets sold. Then we were going to draw at Thanksgiving Dinner. Down to the wire, people afar were still out with tickets. So we planned for Christmas time, and it took place. Thank you again. Ramona Kiona P.O. Box 704 Bingen, WA 98605

### Thankful

It's been awhile since I wrote to you but I've been busy doing my program and getting ready for memorial for family members. It felt good to release my mourning of my (our) mother, Josepha, NaNa Pebbles, brother Walter and others who had memorial for the loved ones. It was a long year of grief, sadness and loneliness. Always expecting to see them walking in a smiling face and a hug happy to see them another day. But all that's left are memories I will always cherish. Today I am thankful for another day of sobriety and struggling to survive this day. I

## Happy birthday and other wishes...

I'd like to wish a Happy Birthday on Feb 28. Happy 30th bro. We miss ya much love, your lil sis Gena M. Smith and Frannie. Hey ray what up? Oh no the big three 0' Happy day and keep up the pretty smile much love little ray Mom and the Fam.

I'd like to wish a happy birthday to Ray Smith Sr. on Feb. 28. Happy birthday bro. We miss ya. Love and respect, your lil' sis Hey, Ray, what's up. Feb. 28. Oh no the 30 happy day and keep up the pretty smile, much love Little Ray, Mom and fam.

I would like to extend a Belated Valentine's Day to my adorable, lovable, handsome boys Matt, Joe and Donte! My Sonny Boys I do love you so much with all my heart, thanks for all your help with one another. You make me so very proud of you boys for all your accomplishments since I've had you! Love you always and forever from your Auntie Ang and Mom!

Happy Birthday to Blanche Mitchell on Feb. 8. Love always, Sluggo

pray everyday for my brothers and sisters who are still suffering but still in my heart. I would like to thank all the family, relatives, friends who came to share their support, gave me hope and peace of mind. I had humbled myself and feeling love, my self-respect, it was time to trust a power greater than myself today to guide me on my journey. I would like to thank all the elders for their words of wisdom knowing I need to hear them everyday. Knowing I love them and respect them the way I was taught to. Today I will find someone who needs my love. Today I will share my strength, hope and experience so that someone else can be reborn. Today I am on my spiritual path to recovery. I am healing my heart with positive feelings of faith, love and by the grace of my higher power.

I would like to thank the cooks for their time, everyone had enough to enjoy and thankful for sharing their joy. Also, so thankful to the Hoh Nation. Now I can rejoin traditional dancing, my cultural activities, beadworking and looming. I've been asked to teach others how to make moccasins (not two left sides this time) here at my recovery place. I am grateful for all the people who have believed in me in the many years that I did not believe in myself. Always, Linda "LaMoosh" Meanus

### Sympathy

I am sorry to hear of the loss of Perry Kalama Jr. Alcohol has taken its toll on our people and it is sad when we lose our young warriors like this, may he rest in peace. Colleen Tufti his mom was married to my Uncle Leonard Squally. We here at Nisqually send our deepest sympathy to his children and may the Creator watch over them in a good way. Lou Ann K. Squally of Nisqually/Puyallup

### Questions

Why isn't the Tribal Council responding to all these questions, about everything that has been happening around here? All we've ever gotten around here is double talk from the same talking heads. There are other questions besides the newspaper, you've refused to answer.

Happy anniversary to Lucy and Tim Oscar on February 14. From Mary, Heaven, and Jerrod.

Bird Jean Bruce: Baby I'm not the fancy one to try and describe my love on a poetic scroll, but I would like to let you know that 13 years is not enough, love you, Edge.

Happy birthday, Allen Mitchell. Itu'kdi imi wigwa. Love your darling baby girls Allena Nadina Mitchell and MayAnne Aguilar-Switzler

Happy Birthday Allen Mitchell. Love, mom and the Aguilar girls.

Happy Anniversary on February 14 to Grandma Lucy and Tim from Louie, Tammy, Billie, Sarah, Destiny, Brittiney, Charlene, Shanda and Mary.

Happy Birthday on February 13, "Min" Minnie Yahtin from Louie, Tammy, Billie.

There are a lot of people wanting to know why there are no more general Council meetings. I was told that Council even refused people at public meetings on the ECE problem. The same day they were crying about children in the newspaper. Makes one wonder, just whose kids they really meant. Now there are little round table discussions, separating people into smaller groups. I've seen this tactic in the military. Afraid to face everyone at once? The things being promised were promised before. Some were promised us when we were kids. Does Management create, or just hope and pray for another disaster? Hoping to change the subject. I was told about the written complaints from tribal members about every department and their management. They've fired people for following the laws that they were sworn to uphold, then jumped on the grievance committee to stack the deck. They put themselves on hiring boards, and then screen out qualified tribal members, to make sure their next "fall guy" is chosen. One of these guys actually told me that management will not hire anyone that is smarter than them. The majorities are willing to sacrifice hundreds of tribal members to keep one of their own. Then they sit in chambers giggling when they dump Indians who are making progress, for all Indians. They act like it is their intent to get rid of Indians. Seems like ever since this Council appointed themselves a boss, the reservation has been going belly-up. Everything they have started, with the members vote or without it, has left the Indians on the outside getting scraps. But they, and their new friends, sure enjoy their new personal enterprise. The Council has heard all these complaints in General Council meetings before and are still hearing them. Still they act like it is news to them. When did they give one person the authority to over turn the courts, select who will be prosecuted and who won't? I know one fact, "they condone stealing from the dead." Do they think the people they get the grant money from and white American will just look the other way if they found out about the abuse and misuse of tax dollars. These guys still

run around like nobody can touch them. I've still got the minutes of one of their meetings where they weren't worried, because one of them knew how to get around a vote. Victor Moses

Happy 6th birthday on February 17 Quinten Hoptowit from Louie, Tammy, Rocky, Shirley, DhDh, Kathy, Rocky, Grandma Lucy and Billie.

Happy birthday Daddy on Feb. 15. I love you. Your little twin Alena Mitchell. Happy Birthday Allen Mitchell, I appreciate you very much for everything you have done for our daughter and myself, thank you! I love you always and forever, Mayanne Switzler-Aguilar

Happy Valentine's Day to Daddy. I love you, Alena Nadine Mitchell.

Happy Valentine's Day to Allen Mitchell. I love you sweetheart, Mayanne Switzler-Aguilar

Happy first Valentine's Day to our beautiful daughter Alena Nadine Mitchell! You are our world! We love you, Mommy and Daddy.

Happy Valentine's Day to my fiancé Mayanne Aguilar and my baby girl Alena Mitchell! Love, Allen Mitchell.

Happy birthday Dad! Thanks for everything. I love you. Love always, J. Lynn

More has took a dive in sales because I can't deliver my promises and product to my contacts including my people of the Warm Springs Reservation. A very disappointing promise that was to my deceased mother Louise DelRose who I loved so much, and many others know my mother also. I am rebuilding my contacts and markets back. Thank you. Eric DelRose

### Business

To the Confederated Tribes, Tribal Council, ONABEN, people of the Warm Springs Reservation. Most of you don't know me. My name is Eric DelRose, of Wild Berries and More, which is my so-called business name. I was told I had to go through a course and graduate with a certificate from ONABEN classes through Small Business. Geraldine Crum and I put in for my grant seven years ago. Our graduation day was June 26, 2001. This is very discouraging and disappointing.

When I went in a couple of years ago to Small Business to talk about my grant, I was referred to the Credit Department for a business loan because they couldn't tell me anything about my grant. How could it be a successful business without the grant I need badly and go forward with my business. For I have been in enough grief for the past seven years of waiting for my funds to be able to start my business up. I have lost my contacts and markets of sales I had built on. It's a shame my business of Wild Berries and

## Apologies

My letter of apology to the community of Warm Springs. I sincerely regret endangering the community or its members. On or about Jan. 1, 2004. Lonnie Jack.

I would like to apologize to the Confederated Tribes for what happened on June 20, 2003. I have learned my lesson and will not do it again. Dawn A. Rowland

I, Elmer Charley, am apologizing to Jolene T. for the night of Dec. 30, around 10:30-11:30, for assaulting her. I just want to say I am really and truly sorry that I did this to you. And it won't happen again. So once again I am sorry. Elmer C.

I wish to apologize to the public for driving under the influence on the reservation. ALB

To Susan and K.C., I apologize for my actions and behavior on August 4, 2003, and being convicted for A&B. Again I'm sorry and to my son KC as well. Thank you, Dempsey Polk

I, Jay W., am sorry for my judgement on the day of Jan. 9, for my DUII, driving on the rez. It was snowing and icy. On that day I was driving on Big Loops. I was not driving all over the rez just to Big Loops street just to see my friend. Jay W.

Hot Shots  
The Hot Shot Crew would like to take this time to express their thanks to every community member and local department that took their time and money to donate items for our canned food drive. Thank you.

### Hot Shots

Appreciated  
My most sincere appreciation to all who assisted on February 10, when my mother Marcia Simtustus needed help. Words cannot explain my gratitude to everyone, the police officers, fire medics, dispatchers, and witnesses and for the commuters who stopped to gather the personal contents of my mom's vehicle. Blessings to all, especially the prayers and concern of the many who knew or heard about what happened. "Thank you" is a phrase that is not heard enough, nor too often. Joie Simtustus-Chavez.

### Appreciated

Letters continue on 5

I would like to apologize for my actions that took place on July 2, 2003. My friend and I were sitting in the house minding our own business, when two cops crept up on us, and smelled burnt marijuana. I was then cited and released. I would also like to apologize to the owner of the residence on Looksh Street. Kelli Langnese

To my wife Marena Florez I am sincerely sorry and am now apologizing for my actions that took place on Oct. 20, 2003. I hope you can forgive me and that we can move on with our life, to better our marriage. Love always K. Florez, and P.S.: Happy belated Valentine's Day!

To the people of Warm Springs I am sorry for driving drunk on Feb. 9 on the rez. I know I might have hurt someone and to my wife Teeny and kids, I love you guys with all my heart and I would like to come home someday. I will go back on an abuse. Thank you. Theodore "Montee" McKinley

I, Ruby L. Charley, would like to apologize for my actions on Nov. 10, 2003, that I endangered my children and myself on that date. And I apologize for my selfishness and not thinking of my children. In the future I plan on learning from my mistakes and it will not happen again. Ruby L. Charley

Spilyay Tymoo  
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