

## Members facing big decisions

By Selena Boise  
Spilyay Tymoo

Well, I inquired about a few things last time regarding the sub-chief for the Wasco, and received a few responses that answered some questions for me. I learned a few new things and I am thankful to those who responded to me.

I wondered about the process of naming a sub-chief and how one is chosen. There isn't one certain way that a sub-chief is chosen for all tribes. Each follows their own unique process and includes lineage of previous chiefs and bloodlines to the people of our ancestry.

Being a confederated tribe we have three different tribes, and each has their own chief.

The information I referred to last time was from the North End and they are of another culture, though we all have similarities. Chief Delvis Heath was chosen by Nathan Heath, and named sub-chief at the time Amos was named Chief. The ceremonies honored both at the same time. The Simtustus family still have lineage that allows them to become chief of that tribe again.

Delvis is familiar with and practices the Washut religion regularly and that is what the North End tribe does. But it was said to me that the Wasco have another way of practicing their religion, which is similar but still differs in its ways.

There was so much information that I was informed of regarding my last article. I found that Alfred Smith Jr. has lineage that goes back to the treaty signers of the Wasco tribe.

I have more to learn and I am looking forward to learning more about this.

The tribes did live in clans along the Gorge and throughout Oregon before the treaty was signed. Many of us moved here and some of us moved to the Washington side of the Columbia. Some of us were here in this area already and remained here.

As a confederated tribe we have tribal council members from each of the three tribes, Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute, and one chief for each tribe as well. Every three years we elect a Tribal Council to serve a three-year term, while the chiefs are appointed to Council for the remainder of their lives or till they step down.

Currently we are preparing for the upcoming election of the new Tribal Council to serve from 2004-2007, if my calculations are correct. We as the tribal membership will be voting to elect the council member best suited for our representatives. We should all take a look at the candidates nominated for Tribal Council.

Tribal members should be at the council meetings and forums where these discussions take place so that good sound decisions can take place at the elections. It is important to be informed of their intentions and goals for us as the tribal membership.

The way I heard it recently was that this tribe is hurting and something needs to be done to turn it around. When you go to cast your ballot keep in mind the forums and speeches and look at the big picture of this tribe and make a sound decision that will benefit the tribal membership as a whole. That sounds like a lot to take in but this next election is important. Be informed and think about the future of our children.

### Spilyay Speaks

## Public safety

To the Community,

I feel compelled to let everyone know how much I support and appreciate the necessary changes that were recently implemented in regards to our new Public Safety General Manager. I support the changes, they were long overdue and that branch now has a permanent GM who I feel will institute accountability to the staff and spawn a change and improve overall services and interaction with our community.

I know there are some elements that did not support the necessary changes; however, when change is needed and implemented, not everyone is going to be happy about it. For the most part, however, I've heard only positive comments and responses.

The Public Safety Branch has always managed to be in the forefront of continued discussions within the organization and community. We all have a genuine concern about those services, past, present and in the future. I'm confident with the new leadership, "status quo" will be a thing of the past, services will improve, accountability will be administered and we will start seeing more tribal member faces

servicing our community. Our Council, organization and enterprises are here for the people.

We all need to start working with one another within the entire organization and enterprises. The younger generations are counting on us to have something for them down the road. We are all one people and one tribe. I have family now in all three districts and tribes. Let's start to put our differences aside and work for our future, our children, and generations yet to be born. These are the fundamental elements that we all have in common. **EJ. Calica**

## Being Indian

I got to thinking about Outkast yesterday. The rap duo. I don't listen to rap. Native Americans across the country are calling for a boycott because of what happened during the Grammy program. Outkast and their beautiful dancers "mocked" Native Americans by dancing around green teepees. Our tribal radio station continues to play the music. I had to laugh, honestly.

On the reservation today, I see many of our youths trying to dress like blacks, talking like blacks, flashing signs like blacks, and getting involved with gangs

like blacks. This has all happened before, and not only on the reservation.

Throughout the years, people just aren't happy being who they really are. In the '60s and '70s, people were dying to be Indians. Everyone had a great-grandmother who was an Indian princess. There were a lot of blond braids back then and horrible imitation leather dresses and shirts. In the '80s, it seemed like everybody wanted to be white. Beginning in the '90s, some people wanted to be black.

Today, I cringe when I think about how I would die my hair orangutan-orange back in the '80s. I suspect that many of today's youths will cringe when they think about how they wear their pants around their thighs today.

Think about it. Here we have Outkast, black men pretending to be Indian. Does this mean that on the reservation, we're going to have Indian kids pretending to be blacks pretending to be Indians? Oh, the headaches!

Guess what, kids? You don't have to pretend anymore - you're already Indian! You have access to songs that were sung hundreds of years before Antwan Patton and Andre Benjamin's ancestors arrived

from Africa. There's an elder that lives a few houses down from you that would love it if you dropped in for a visit (and brought with you maybe some fruit as a gift).

You can do something that Outkast could never do: you have access to tribal elders who can tell you fantastic stories about the history of your people. All you have to do is ask.

I wasn't offended by what Outkast had done. Oh, okay, at first I was offended. But after thinking about it, it tickled me. Outkast doesn't understand the first thing about Native Americans. Probably, all they knew was that it looked extremely cool acting like Indians. So let them keep on singing. Honestly, I never knew who the heck they were until they bounced out and started dancing around their green teepees.

It truly is cool to be an Indian.

**Frederick Duran Bobb, Skw'lapt**

## Appreciated

I wanted to express my appreciation to Heather Crow-Martinez. She has impressed me with her passion and dedication to working with youth. Heather continues to go above and beyond her position as director of Bestcare when working with myself and the Community Justice Juvenile Division. Thank you. **Savenia Falquist**, juvenile justice officer.

## Thank you

We would like to again thank the friends and relatives of Hester L. Scott who have been asking about her and saying hi to her. We always pass these messages on to her when she calls or when we call her. She is now working in the Personnel Support Detachment. Her new title is Personnelman. She is doing very well. She says she is learning many new things every day. Thank you. **Harvey and Florene Scott and family.**

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## Letters to the editor

Please write to the Spilyay at P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, 97761, or drop by the office. Or send your letters by e-mail to this address:

spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org  
For space reasons, letters should be no longer than 350 words in length.  
Thank you for writing.

# Work together to better our community

I am glad the leadership of our reservation is focusing on the health and welfare of our kids. I would have to say, it's about time.

In my opinion I don't see how one department is more to blame than the other. You see, I'm not only an officer of the law, or former employee of the community center. I'm also a single parent of four. So my opinion comes from both sides of the street. I can't see how some can be so fast to point the fingers toward the police department and the Community Wellness Center. The budget reductions have affected not only our children, but elders too.

Working at the community

center was beneficial for me. I got to know the children and elders in attendance. There were times when the staff were paying for the kids' field trip, because their parents didn't send money or had no money for them. Other times we gave kids a ride home after the building closed. We didn't complain or send nasty letters to their parents. That's not the way people are supposed to be.

We take care of one another, that's what Indian people are taught. Some areas, the staff would stay over to help kids with their shooting, or fitness programs, depending on what season. The staff were not paid for this, nor did we complain.

I have concerns about the community center building. The building was built when the local population was half the size. Did you know the basement was condemned? The wall structure is cracked, water leaks in every year. A small quake would demolish the center in a split second. Four staff people are left to run activities for 600 plus kids weekly. Safety versus money. What's wrong with this picture? Plans were done several years ago. Until the Oregonian articles, those plans were ignored.

The police department has also been beneficial. Kids are welcome to do ride-alongs. I've had several kids with me

throughout the years, with the guardians' consent and the chief of police. Two of those kids graduated, one other joined the armed forces, and several are off to college.

Adults were court-ordered to do ride-alongs for community service. A few are now recovering and working. Now with the budget reduction, five more police positions were eliminated - an approximate ten-position reduction within the last five years. The police and the Community Wellness Center can only do so much for our growing community, with little or not enough manpower.

The acts of violence, alcohol and drug abuse, thefts against

one another, have been a problem in our community for a long time now. Let's not contradict ourselves by blaming a certain few. We can all work together to better our community.

The Oregonian was a small realistic version. There have also been a lot of good with our kids. Such as the Madras High School girls winning the state basketball title last year. The number of graduates we have had, and the few serving our country overseas. So we can focus more on both, rather than react to reality to satisfy the community for a short while. What will become of this? Hopefully, the best for our kids. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, **Lovie Ike.**

# Birthday and other wishes...

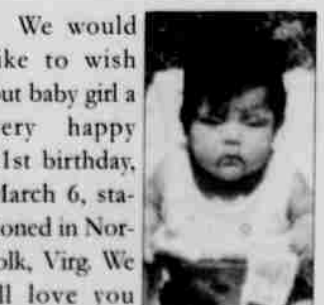


We would like to give a big thanks to Irene Boise, Tracy Boise and Kyle Quachpama for being there as our witnesses and taking the long trip to Reno, Nevada on February 6. Joseph A. Boise (Cheeks) and Melanie Kay (McClelland) Boise.



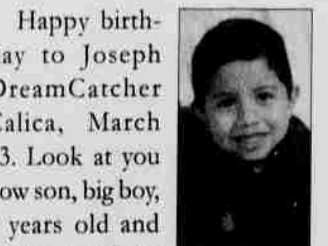
Happy birthday, Hess. Hope you have a good one. From **Jamie and Maria Lopez, Sheryl Lee Lopez, Romona and Jose.**

Happy birthday to Auntie Hess. From **Jarron, Elias, Kaya, Asirai and Natasha.**



We would like to wish our very happy 21st birthday, March 6, stationed in Norfolk, Virg. We all love you very much. Dad, Mom, Resie, Raelynn, Trent, Jovon and bro Jay.

*Lauren Holliday (Turtle):* Happy Birthday. I love you, sweetie, with all my heart. I remember the day you were born, we were there to cheer greet you with tears. Now you're 11 and the love has only grown deeper. Take care of yourself and your sisters. Remember, reach for the stars and dream your dreams. Miracles happen. Love, **Grandma Bunnie and Grandpa Harry.**



Happy birthday to Joseph DreamCatcher Calica, March 13. Look at you now son, big boy, 7 years old and getting ready for your first soccer season. You have brought so much joy and happiness into my life, your mother's and the rest of the family. I want to wish you a very happy seventh birthday and many more son. Love, Dad.

Happy birthday March 6, my sunshine, I hope you have a very safe and wonderful birthday. I'm sorry I couldn't be with you on your special day, but remember I love you, forget me not. Seeing your face light up as I gave you your ring and roses brought so much happiness to my heart, a memory I will carry forever. For that's all I have as memories.

Without you I feel I'm on a road of decadence, try as I may to remember your wisdom of the scriptures, the light is still there just not as bright. Pray for me as I'll pray for you. Happy birthday, take care, I remember something you wrote me and with this I leave with you, "Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me." Love A.P.



Hey... guess what? Brains and bronz: We would like to wish our nieces a belated

birthday, Jan. 17 and Feb. 22. Happy 22 Tera Lynn and Annie Dee, and may you be blessed with many more. Much love from the Sahme family: Auntie Becky, Uncle Kenny and cousins, Salena, Mariah, Menamoo and Brandon Lee.

As the mother of Donavon I swear I will be the mother to keep him in best health and out of harms way. In doing so I will grow as well as learn from my mistakes now that he's here. I can't imagine life without him, his very presence makes me feel whole and complete. I will always be there for him in happiness and sadness as well as his times of triumph. He will be the first thing on my mind when I wake up and before I go to sleep. His needs will always be met before mine. I won't have it any

other way and this is how it will always be because he is my son and I am his mother. Love is what he'll always have from me. March 3, happy first birthday from your Momma CBW, grandparents Cyril and Debbie, Kaylyn, Clarissa, Rheanna, Jordan, Justin, Lupa, Warren, Jr.

Happy first birthday. Love you lots, from your great-grandparents **Raymond and Beulah Tsumpti. Auntie Clarissa W. Wolfe loves you all the way from Anadarko, Okla.**

## Spilyay Tymoo (Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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