

Native American week remembered

By Selena Boise

As I heard recently that it is Native American Week, or month, I was remembering the celebration we had at Intermountain Indian School.

It was a lot like the Spirit Week held at Madras High School, but we participated in various activities surrounding Native American cultures, crafts and gatherings. And there were plenty of cultures to see, as there were many different tribes there.

We had many clubs at Intermountain, and each club chose a male and female to represent them in the Princess and Brave competition. This competition was held throughout the week and each participant competed in an obstacle course, running course, soccer kick, archery, races, and an all-school speech.

This competition was interesting to watch because each participant excelled in one event or another and the top competitor was different in each event. The hardest part was the speech in front of the student body. That was the deciding factor, because the competition was so close.

Of course after the competition, crafts, and powwow, there was a lot of cleaning up to do. But everyone pitched in and helped out. The free movie ticket was great incentive to do this. We all cleaned up the campus and received tickets to the movie in our own stadium. The movie I remember was *Windwalker*, when it first came out. And we all wanted to see it.

The best part of that for all us Intermountain students was that one of the actors was a student from Intermountain. He was a drama student from the Crow reservation and we were all excited to see him on the big screen. He was the one who stole the baby. So when I hear Native American week I remember that time in my life when being Native American was really something to be celebrated, because we were many tribes who came together as one to celebrate being who we are, Native Americans.

Spilyay Speaks

Great day

I wish to extend my heartfelt thank you to the peoples of Warm Springs. I was privileged and honored to attend the Honor Seniors Day on May 14. It was a memorable day. All the peoples worked so hard, from the very young to the elders. All went out of their way to put forth a most wonderful experience. And all the food and the service, nothing left out for the comfort of the guests. Wonderful.

I cannot mention individuals as all the people of Warm Springs did a very great job. Thank you much. **Chuck Harden.**

PTA

I have been employed here at Community Counseling over seven years and it seems a common part of my job is to fight the school district or administrators with the families I work with. I hope things will change soon.

Among the many groups that help is the PTA or Parent Teacher Association. Its mission is defined as:

To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children; to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this Nation.

I called and spoke to the regional representative out of Sisters, and explained our situation. The representative said it was because of these situations that the PTA exists.

For PTA to be effective one needs to exist in the county or community. This woman said she would be happy to assist Warm Springs in putting together a PTA.

If anyone is interested in starting a PTA, call me at Community Counseling. I have pamphlets, information, and names for you to get this started.

Kelly Leggett, 553-3205, Mental Health Counselor.

About the rez

I want to talk about our rez. Anyways Central Oregon has been known as the traditional lands of the Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute peoples. This includes all of the area's lakes, streams and rivers. Our people have an unbroken history of making a living off the land, waters and resources from these, our rez lands. We're a living culture, and our customs, traditions, beliefs, languages and cultural and intellectual property rights and practices constitute generations of our elders' knowledge. The Native words we use and things we do are the voices of our ancestors. Their voices are heard in the unbroken chain of how we make a traditional living from the resources of the land and water. We experience the lives of our ancestors as we prepare and use our foods in our everyday lives, and as foods shared through customs and traditions at our ceremonies. We experience the lives of our ancestors through the use of natural resources in making clothing, our regalia, teepees and our fishing and hunting practices. Their voices are heard when we use the sweatlodge and the use of our traditional medicines and intellectual knowledge to heal our minds, bodies and spirits. We honor our ancestors with reverence and respect. Our elders have always said, "We do this for our grandchildren." They lived their lives in balance with the physical material, psychological, mental and spiritual world around them. They lived with direction and purpose as Natives. This is the life we are working to protect, preserve and perpetuate for our grandchildren. If you want to drop me a line, here's my address:

Rayfield J. Mitchell, No. 60839-065, U.S. Penitentiary Leavenworth, P.O. Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048-1000.

Information

Could you help me find some information about my great grandfather, Nathaniel Newell. He was originally from New York. He worked on the

Warm Springs Reservation about 1870-1880. I would appreciate any information you have. Thank you. **Barb Abbott**, 1235 Seventh Ave., East, Kalispell, MT 59901.

Please listen

I just had to drop a few lines to say Happy Mothers Day and Happy Fathers Day to all the mothers and fathers back home. With all the bad things going on in this world, it pays to appreciate the good things in life.

I believe that a mom and dad are the best things to have in life. Without them, there is no you. So be a good kid and give your mom and dad a hug and kiss today.

They really deserve it. Always remember with mom and dad's

love, and support, you can do anything. So please listen to your mom and dad, because it's better to be safe than sorry. I never listened, and look where I am at. This place is not where anyone would want to be. I would like to tell everyone, young and old, to take care out there. **Michael Meanus**, US Penitentiary, 3901 Klein Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436

Hello

Hello my Native brothers and sisters in Warm Springs. May this letter of hope reach you in the best of health and spirits. My name is **Ronnie Lee**, also known as Pony Boy.

I'm Cherokee Native and African American. I'm kind of lost out here in the state of

Oregon, so I would like to get in touch with some of my Native people.

I'm currently serving time in the Department of Corrections. So I'm looking for support to learn more about my Native people here in this state of Oregon. I would like to become friends with my Oregon Native people through mail correspondence.

My address will be at the end of this letter. I'm 35 years old and I'm looking for someone I would be comfortable with in a positive way. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I'm looking forward to getting to know you. Sincerely, **Ronnie Lee**, No. 7440935 - 82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla, OR 97882.

Letters of apology

To the community of Warm Springs I would like to say I am deeply sorry for my actions in September 2003. I will not let myself or others be so immature. I would like to apologize to the others who were in the vehicle and to the owners of the other vehicles. **Robert Sam Jr.**

Dear Neda Wesley, I apologize for my actions on April 20, 2004, for crawling through your grandson's window highly intoxicated without your permission. I was being very loud and disrespectful. I'm also sorry for causing the police to go up to your house. So with that please forgive me. Respectfully, **Alicia Pedraza.**

To the people of the Warm Springs community, I apologize for my actions on or about Feb. 9, for the offense of DUII and CCW. It was not very responsible of me to commit these offenses in our community. Sincerely, **J.E. Moran.**

I, L. Kalama, am writing

this letter to the community. I would like to apologize for driving under the influence, and putting two people in danger. I am very sorry. Thank you. **Lawanda Kalama.**

On Feb. 8, 2004, I was arrested by tribal police officer Paul Jim for DUII. On May 17, 2004, I pleaded guilty to DUII in front of Judge Langnese. I know driving while intoxicated is dangerous to me and other people on the road. I apologize to the tribal community, and I am glad that no one got hurt. **Everett Miller.**

To family, friends and fellow people of Warm Springs. I have just returned home from successfully completing drug and alcohol treatment at Sundown M Ranch in Selah, Wash.

While there I learned about the addictive poisons that control so much of our people. I'm not trying to sound or act better than anyone else. I'm not! I was selling that poison to our people in the form of methamphetamine. This is my formal apology, and yes, I am very

sorry. To some of you this could be humorous, for you have read lots of apology letters. I am sincere and plan on paying back to our community in positive cultural and spiritual ways. I would like to say thank you to the courts and police department, for without them I would not have had a chance to turn my life around and get on the "red path to sobriety." It is a good feeling, but again, I am sad and very sorry. To you, my people of Warm Springs. Sincerely, **Shawn D. Cartney.**

I would like to apologize to the community of Warm Springs for having items in my home to use drugs with. I will not do it again. Thank you.

Phyllis M. Tohet.

Pita, I would like to tell my granddaughter Pita Ocampo that I am sorry for what trouble I got into, but I know that I have to pay for it one way or another. Sorry, Pita. Love, your grandma.

Thank you for writing to Spilyay Tymoo. Our policy is to print letters to the editor from any and all tribal members. Because of space limitations, letters cannot exceed 350 words.

Letters that are longer than 350 words will be reduced in length. Also, no letter will be printed that includes statements that are libellous or defamatory toward another person.

Happy Birthday and other wishes...

Happy eighth birthday to our princess Shaniah Rae on May 31. You're another year older, baby girl. Love always, Mom and Dad, brothers Antoine and Cory Jr., and your baby sister Coreena.



Happy first anniversary Cory on June 4. We made it through all the difficult obstacles, but we made it honey. No matter what we will always be together. Love always, your wife Vanessa Stwyer.



Happy second birthday to our bossy son Cory Stwyer Jr. on May 20. Love always, Mom and Dad.



Happy birthday to our daddy Cory Lee Stwyer Sr. on May 29. Thank you for always being there for us and loving us the way you do. Love always, your princess Shaniah, Antoine, Baby Cory, and daddy's girl Coreena.

Happy birthday to my wife Vanessa on June 4. Love, your husband Cory.

Happy 21st birthday Francis Sorrellhorse. Love always, Mr. and Mrs. Stwyer, Shania, Antoine, Cory Jr. and baby Coreena.

Happy 30th birthday to our son Cory Lee. Love always, Mom and Dad, Chloe and Erland Jr. and Shaniah. Love, grandma Sally and grandpa. Auntie Chloe and Uncle Er.

Happy second birthday grandson Cory Jr., and happy birthday to my granddaughter Shaniah

Rae. Love always, grandma Cheryl and lunch.

Happy first anniversary to my daughter and son in law on June 4, and happy birthday to my daughter Vanessa. Hope this day is extra special for you guys on your first anniversary and your 27th b-day. Love always, mom and dad.

Happy birthday to my son Francis, May 14. Love always, Mom and lunch.

Happy birthday baby Cory. Best wishes from Auntie Am, Uncle Mack, Sonny and Tyson.

Happy birthday Shaniah Rae. Hope you have fun on your special day. From Auntie Am, Uncle Mack, Sonny and Tyson.

Happy 30th birthday Bro, always there for you. Love from your lil sis and Mack.

Happy 30th birthday Uncle Cory. Have lots of fun. Your nephs, Sonny and Tyson.

Wishing my brother Steven Anderson a very happy birthday. Not going to mention the age though, Ayez! Hope you're doing good. Staying out of trouble. Be safe, keep cool. May the Creator watch over you, give you many more

blessings to come. Love always, your lil' sis & family. **Deb George, Miss Mary, JR, lil' Muscle Russell, and lil' Tommy Pickles (baby Isaac).**

Happy 15th birthday Miss Mary Hoptowit. We love you and are very proud of you. Keep up the great work with them grades. (See, you can adapt to life in Montana!) Remember your dreams are what you make them to be. You can achieve/be anything you want. Live life to the fullest. Go out, see the world beyond them reservation boundaries. Love always from Mom, Dad, JR., Lil' "Muscle" Russell, and "Fat boy" baby Isaac

Wishing all my sisters **Ina Anderson, Ruthie Anderson, Rhoda Anderson, Roberta Williams, Vanessa Hoptowit a belated Happy Mothers Day. Hope your day was a special one for you. Love, your sister, Deb.**

To my niece Lorene Wainanwit, Happy Mothers Day. Wish the best to you. Pray for nothing but joy to your life. Love always, your Auntie Deb.

For my mom Perthina White, Thank you for all the time and patience you've had with me over the years. For without our mothers none of us would be in this world. It's the love and nourishment our mothers provide to us that gave us life. I love you mom. May the Creator give you many blessings to come. Love always, your daughter Deborah J. George.

To my dear friend **Ellen Thompson who's been there at my side in both good and bad times. I'm glad to have such a special friend like you. May only peace and harmony come your way. I love you. Love, a friend always, Deb George.**

Happy 28th Birthday to my lil brother Lydell Caleb Adams on May 18. Remember that I love you, and don't hesitate to come to me for anything. Love, Bobbi Jo.

Also, a belated Happy Birthday wish to my stepdad, **Rafael, on May 10. From Bobbi Jo, Jessica, Bridget, BethAnn and Nate.**

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan
Management Successor: Selena T. Boise
Advertising Manager: Sam Howard
Receptionist: Angie Blackwolf
Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located in the white house at 1100 Wasco Street. Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:

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