

## Log Springs fire under control

By Selena T. Boise

I was at the fire camp the other day and saw that they are moving things out and shipping the fire fighters to the next big fire.

Very hard, strenuous work that the firefighters are doing in such hot weather conditions. We should seem to take for granted the work it takes to take control of a fire burning with conditions such as wind and fuel.

Lucky for us that the fire fighters are so much into their work that they do this throughout the United States for so many communities.

When I arrived at the fire camp I was stopped by security and my brother was paged and sent to my vehicle. I was told that they were being cautious about supplies being taken out of camp by non-employee visitors.

I was a bit offended but then maybe there are people who would take supplies.

Anyway I was amazed at the set up of the fire camp. There were logistics, supply tent, medical tent, and they were all set up along the road. There were a lot of tents surrounding the area where the firefighters were staying.

Before containment of the fire there were many more fire fighters and the camp was larger.

I remember in previous years being evacuated from my home a couple times, and I was thankful that it didn't come to that this time.

I want to express my thanks to all those who traveled here to fight the flames of the Log Springs fire. There are many homes on our reservation and there weren't any that were damaged or taken by the fire.

So, thank you.

### Spilyay Speaks

## Rez Express

This is a letter of thanks to those establishments who sponsored the 14 year old boys basketball team Rez Express in the State Games of Oregon this year. The team came out of the tournament in third place and should be commended for their efforts.

Thank you to Warm Springs Forest Products Industries; DE Composite Products; Earl and Rita Squiemphen; Val Squiemphen and Tony Torres for their support. Also, Priscilla Squiemphen-Yazzie for lending team jerseys. Lastly, thank you to the community for supporting the car wash on July 4 and our various bake sales. **Sammie Squiemphen.**

## Appreciation

To our people here, a heartfelt thanks to you from the bottom of our hearts. There have been some very major losses in our lives, with the loss of my husband Elliot Switzler that impacted our home, that we are trying to deal with on a daily basis. This took some time to get done. Thank you Tommy Fuentes and Warm Springs Forest Products Industries employees who my husband enjoyed working with. He loved his job there. For John and Helen Smartlowit, coming from Yakima Valley to take care of the beautiful services that went accordingly, and for nieces Sandi, Martha, Leah and grandson Trevor for cutting up fish and meat.

If I missed anyone, it's not my intention. Everyone pulled together and became my strength to see this through. Thank you for everyone coming together at our home for prayer services. For Dr. Creelman, Hospice volunteers, Dialysis staff, and Workforce Development staff Cory Clements, Frances Allen,

Darlene Trimble, Ollie Smith, Melinda Poitra and Verleen Kalama, for being there for me with support and understanding.

I also want to thank my family for encouragement, to take care of our mom Geraldine Blodgett memorial and stonemasonry. I left everything to my brother to handle, so Boo-Boo done a great tribute to our mother. Thanks to Millie Colwash and family for cooking. The drummers who came that are always ever willing when called. **May God bless each one.**

**Family of Elliot Switzler, Laura, Norma, Bill, Gerri, Lucille, Sallie, Randy, Lawrence, Maria, William and Alice.**

## Stolen items

The following items were stolen out of a black briefcase in the trunk of my car:

An iPaq 6350 Pocket PC with Memory Expansion Sleeve and 256MB CF Card. This unit has stopped functioning by now and will not power up until I enter a code. Both the Pocket PC and Sleeve are engraved with my name and phone number. A Vivitar Digital Camera w/ 256MB SD Card. This unit will not function without the cable or software that came in the box.

An RCA Lyra MP3 Player Model RD 1071 (white). This unit was filled with songs and cannot be reprogrammed without the software and cable that came with it.

A Uniden Handheld Radio Frequency Scanner with rechargeable batteries. This unit may have my name and phone number engraved in the casing.

These items vanished when my car was used without permission, being taken from Foster Street in West Hills on the night of July 12. Other items are missing, but the items mentioned above have sentimental value, or are irreplaceable (memory cards hold data which

I would like returned).

Please return the items, no questions asked. The police have been furnished with the details of their disappearance and digital photos of the items that were stolen. If you have information regarding any of the items listed above, please contact the Warm Springs Police Department. There is a reward for the return of the items stolen, payable to anybody who was not involved in the theft. Thanks and God bless, **Frederick Duran Bobb**, PO Box 653, Warm Springs, 97761, phone (541) 980-1913.

## Works crew

I would like to take this time to thank the Community Works Crew consisting of Ada Billey, Michelle Thompson, Frances Smith and Marlan Miller. They did an exceptional mowing and grooming of my parents Lyle and Arlita Rhoan and Marilyn Wagner's yards.

Thanks to the Community Works Program, which is available for assistance to any senior living in the Warm Springs community. I just want to acknowledge to the crew I appreciate your hard work, early hours and commitment that you possess to service and meeting the needs in this area of my family.

Thank you and keep up the good works. As always, **William McBride Rhoan.**

## Hit and run

My vehicle was hit during the Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow. The person who did this should have told me or left a note. Sure is shameful because all I was doing was delivering some cherries to an elder who had requested some from the Yakama reservation.

I told my softball team that was the last time I will be playing in tourney when someone cannot confess to what they did wrong. So whoever drives a white vehicle and did this, thank you very much. **Raemelle E. Kiona.**

## Please write

Family and friends, please write to me at the following address: FCI Dublin, Lillian

Blackwolf, No. 66820-065; 5701 Eighth St., Camp Parks; Dublin, CA 94768. Thank you. **Lillian Blackwolf.**

## Thanks from rodeo queen

I would like to thank my grandma Marita Johnson and family, my cousin Clint Bruisedhead, Cheryl Tom, my mom Arlene and dad Albert Bryant, and uncle Wilson for supporting me in running for the 2004 Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo Queen try-outs.

I would also like to thank Brigette Whipple for all the nice gifts.

Thanks to all the people who bought tickets from me, and congratulations to the winners:

Alfred Smith Jr., one-night stay at Kah-Nee-Ta. Wauseka Brown Jr., cooler filled with soda. Adeline Miller, beaded head stall. Sharlyne Garcia, beaded spur straps. Francis Allen, sewing gift certificate. Cheryl Parrish, beaded hat band. Larry Scott, star quilt.



Erica Wewa

Earl Squiemphen, two folding chairs. Elton Greeley, beaded key chain. Romelle Speakthunder, Deschutes Crossing gift certificate. Arlene Bryant, beaded visor.

Thank you very much, **2004 Pi-Ume-Sha Rodeo Queen Erica Wewa.**

## Apologies

I would like to say, some people or most people make mistakes, some make bigger mistakes. I'm sorry to my wife Nancy, Evan, Great One, Tom and Cecil. It's hard to accept all that I did. So sorry to you all. I can't but I wish I could take it all back. Just to Nancy, I hope you can see a change in me. I'm trying real hard to change. Just a chance is all I ask. **Ted.**

I was charged with assault. This was for fighting with Ambrose George. I'm sorry for your pain and injuries, Ambrose. I'm sorry for Kirby's door. For the last year and a half I never got in trouble. **Jovon Gilbert.**

I was arrested for DUII by Officer Whittenberg. At the tribal jail I blew a .15 bac. This is the first time I've ever been charged with a DUII and I'm sorry. **Matthew S. Vaeth.**

## Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor can be sent to Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, 97761. Or dropped off at 1100 Wasco St. E-mail is

spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org. Letters can be no longer than 350 words in length, and can contain no libel against any person.

# Cooperative conservation needed at Bonneville Power and the Corps

By Ron Suppah

Tribal Council Chairman

Secretary of Interior Gale Norton recently congratulated Portland General Electric, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and other long-term combatants in the decades long controversy over salmon conservation on the Deschutes River.

We joined together in the spirit of "cooperative conservation" to creatively solve one of the most difficult conflicts over salmon restoration: safely moving young fish around the Round Butte Dam. Today, we see the Bonneville Power Administra-

tion and the U.S. Army Corps of engineers planning to kill in large numbers the fish we just cooperated to save.

Cooperation over this important economic and environmental issue is essential if the fall chinook salmon run is to be saved.

I urge the BPA and the Corps to enter into the spirit and the practice of cooperative conservation with the region's tribes, sport and commercial fishing and environmental groups to spill the water necessary to make this happen.

The BPA and Corps are in-



Ron Suppah

sisting not to spill the water necessary to allow the young salmon to pass Bonneville, The Dalles

and the Snake River Dams. The power generated by running this water through the turbines may, or may not result in a few cents savings on the average household electric bill.

The consequences for the fish, the tribal and the commercial and sport fishing businesses and the economies of the small towns they support are devastating.

If the BPA and the Corps do not spill the water at the dams, then over half a million young salmon will die in the turbines of the dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers. We will feel the

consequences for this short-term decision as soon as the fall of 2006, 2007 and 2008, when these fish would normally return from the ocean.

As many as 40,000 fall chinook will not be on your hook or on your dinner plate, adversely impacting local economies from Alaska to Idaho, with the small towns depending on sport and commercial fishing and Indian tribes being hit the hardest.

Gov. Kulongoski has seen the error of this short-sighted federal decision, and has joined the tribes, sport fishing and environ-

mental groups of the region in a lawsuit to reverse this decision. I'd like to publicly thank Gov. Kulongoski for his leadership on this issue and say that he is on the right track suggesting that improved fish passage technology could greatly improve this situation in the future.

The fish we have saved by our innovative solution at Round Butte and Pelton dams will be the same fish saved downstream at the Columbia River dams, when the spirit of cooperative conservation is shared by all the agencies involved in managing our fragile salmon resource.

# In regard to developments at the Warm Springs Housing Department

The Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) materialized after years of tribal governments lobbying Congress for more direct input into federal housing program development, and allowable funding expenditures to meet housing needs unique to specific tribes.

In Region 6 the Northwest Office of Native American Programs in Seattle administers the various federal grants for tribal housing. The office also administers other grant programs by which tribes can supplement NAHASDA dollars.

One administrative function of Northwest Office of Native American Programs (the Northwest Office) is to evaluate how

well the tribes have adapted to NAHASDA in its first five years of existence.

The Northwest Office randomly selected Warm Springs Housing to see how well the tribe had adjusted to the revised HUD housing program. The tribes' five-year housing plan and one-year housing plan are the government standard used in this evaluation process.

The review of Warm Springs Housing operations identified deficiencies pertaining to policy or operations that didn't fall within federal guidelines. This report had accompanying recommendations from the Northwest Office to remedy the compliance issues.

Recognizing that Warm

Springs Housing was slow to adjust to the flexibility of NAHASDA, the Housing Board of Commissioners determined that filling the assistant housing director position was vital and necessary.

Exercising authority granted by Chapter 400, the Housing board chose to hire the applicant with technical expertise necessary to benefit Warm Springs Housing.

The board had anticipated some resistance to hiring a non-Indian over tribal applicants, but had seen this hiring practice many times throughout all of our tribal enterprises, even with the affirmative action policy.

The board also had anticipated receiving some support, but instead met with resistance, skepticism and micro-manage-

ment - all of which served no purpose but to delay by at least a year the following projects: new housing construction, trailer court clean-up, bullet-proof lighting for West Hills, and playground improvement.

The assistant housing director Jane Cornell's educational background and grant-writing skills would have provided a benefit to Warm Springs Housing, if the work environment had been more positive.

Jane immediately re-established a positive working relationship with our funding agency, she began to familiarize herself with NAHASDA and the supplemental funding programs, and reviewed the monitoring report issues and associated timelines. Locally, she sought out additional funding for weather-

ization of senior citizen homes. Free training was scheduled for the commissioners and staff; and it was determined that we could construct low-income housing units in burned out home sites, which would have sped up the approval process.

All of this stopped once she resigned her position out of frustration and a failure to have a board approved salary adjustment materialize. Ironically, a consultant had to be hired to complete the tasks that Jane initiated. This expense was just above the annual salary adjustment the had board approved, the major difference being that the consultant only worked a period of six months.

A lot of what occurred was blamed on the previous Housing Board of Commissioners,

whose only desire was bring about the same commitment from Warm Springs Housing that other tribal housing departments have committed themselves to: Improved services and operations. The greatest injustice was the undermining of the board authority.

One cannot deny that NAHASDA works. Other tribes simply have made it a top priority to seek funding opportunities provided through the Northwest Office of Native American Programs.

The flexibility of NAHASDA has allowed some tribes to construct 60 homes in a year. Micromanagement of the Housing Board only delayed progress we sought as commissioners.

By Randy Smith