

Good news about gaming compact

By Selena T. Boise
Management Successor

How about that signing of the gaming compact? I was watching the news on the day of the signing and heard the comments of a couple of unhappy people. Those that object were able to speak up about it in the news, but I wasn't able to catch many positive comments.

Spilyay Speaks

The positive thing that stands out in my mind is that with the revenue from this new casino the tribal organization will be able to open up new jobs for tribal members. There aren't many to choose from if you don't have a degree or special training.

I was listening to one guy on KATU News stating his opinion. He was commenting that there is money for Oregon included in this compact, but he doesn't know that it will actually be there for Oregon. He went on to say that the money from Oregon Lottery was supposed to go back to Oregon, but he hasn't seen that happen.

That is something that you don't really see, I guess. But when I purchase the occasional scratch "Bingo" tickets I read the back to see where the revenue from the Lottery goes. The phrase usually starts out "Oregon lottery funds help..."

If I didn't read those words on the ticket, I wouldn't actually know or see where these funds are spent. There are good causes being funded by Oregon Lottery.

For years the Warm Springs tribes have been waiting for this compact to be signed by the governor. Once this is completed, there is more process to be followed, at the federal level, as stated by the news reporter on KATU.

Another comment I heard was that a casino doesn't belong along the scenic Gorge. Well, I can't imagine the tribes putting up a building with flashing lights like you see in Reno or Las Vegas.

Tribal members have made their ideas known for the design and décor for this new casino. I can't imagine this includes flashing lights, or anything that would stand out like a sore thumb. In fact, of all the casinos I've been to that are Indian owned, I have never seen flashing lights like Vegas or Reno.

I keep picturing designs of salmon or the Celilo Falls, because our people used to live along the Columbia River to gather salmon, and it was our people's livelihood years ago. I hope that the new designs have something of this nature for the new casino.

I am also hoping that the signing of this compact is going to ensure forward movement on this whole issue of a casino at the Gorge. It seems we do a lot of waiting to see forward movement on the plans for this to happen. That, in turn, makes people anxious, then angry. So let's all hope that things keep moving.

Toe Ness

Men are like fine wine: They all start out as grapes, and it is your job to stomp on them and keep them in the dark until they mature into something you'd want to have with dinner.

Men are like computers: Hard to figure out and never have enough memory.

Letters to the Editor

Root Feast

To the people of Warm Springs, I thank you for inviting me and other Chief Seattle Club members to the Root Feast.

You people and the ladies treated us very well. Thank you also for letting us use your longhouse.

Your generosity I much appreciated. Peace, **Joseph Rinco**, Navajo, nickname Jose.

Doing okay

To my family back at Warm Springs, I just want you guys to know I'm doing okay in Riverside Indian Boarding School in Oklahoma. I just want to tell my Uncle Foster Kalama that I'm sorry about your mom, and the rest of my Kalama side of the family, I hope you guys will pull through together. I'm just sorry that I'm not there for you right now. I'm doing okay and I hope sometime soon you guys will be strong again. Please take it easy and be careful. Love always, **Katherine S. Hoptowitz**.

Fitness

The 12-week challenge officially ends the middle of April. Ending measurements will be taken between April 18 and 22 at the clinic. Sweatshirts will be handed out to the finishers at the same time.

Measurements are to be

taken by the same person who did them in the beginning, for consistency purposes. These measurements can be looked up for participants if they do not remember. The number to call is 553-1196 and ask for either extension 4160 for Diane Franklin or 4166 for Carolyn Harvey.

Carolyn will be available every day to do measurements from 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and 1:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and 1:15 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Sara Thomas is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Diane Franklin is available Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Essays are to be turned in at the time of measurements. It is considered a part of finishing the challenge. The essay only needs to be just a short paragraph or two and should address the following two questions.

What did you do to make these improvements?

What benefits have you experienced from the challenge?

Winners will be announced May 2. **Carolyn Harvey**, Community Wellness Coordinator

Council

A couple letters in the Spilyay hit the tribal members' problems right on the nose. It all comes

down to us Indians not having "any" representation.

I've seen managers who couldn't get their way. The first words out of their mouth is "I'm going to Council." These people walk right in to Council. They get same day service. What's even worse, it is always non-Indians. I know a lot of us who have tried to see Council, and got ignored. I know Indians who've turned in managers in writing, like Council demands, then who does Council rescue? The Indians get retaliation.

I'd bet, any non-Indian street hustler could walk in, hand them some lies and get welcomed with open arms. Someone whose own "tribe" has run them off.

When I used to be on one of these boards, the big shots told us of "their" big dream of building houses for "all of our people" that they were going to hire at their new casino. A couple of us gave an adamant no as an answer.

I know it hasn't been happening, but that money is earmarked for us "low-income Indians." I used Kah-Nee-Ta as the main example of what was going to happen.

To me, it is evident who is actually running this reservation. Does the Tribal Council know what is going on? A few are actually mixed up in and causing this mess. The rest either don't want to know or couldn't care

less. They can't lie about this. If anyone tries to talk to them, they get referred to their newly founded "super committee." That's what they call themselves.

How many people actually know where the Tribal Council is? People I know can't find them when there is something of importance going on. The only time I see them is in the paper or on TV, getting tickled, while sitting on some politician's lap.

Why is the Council giving away their authority to make decisions? I don't remember electing a committee, and giving all the authority to the same bunch that is causing all the complaints. **Victor Moses**.

Fire safety

What can we do to help prevent fires? With fires caused by Mother Nature (lightning), there's not much we can do. But with human caused fires, there's plenty we can do.

Last year we had 136 human-caused fires on the reservation, with the majority of them from fireworks. There were 16 abandoned campfires and 14 fires from debris burning. Children started three fires.

So what can we do as a community to help cut down on human caused fires?

Keep your home in the safety zone with a good defensible

space - a 30-foot minimum space around your home. Get rid of any dead trees, shrubs, and dead branches lying on the ground; also, dried grasses, dead flowers and leaves-any dead vegetation.

Break up the vegetation: provide a separation between plants or small groups of plants. Remember, the more continuous and dense the vegetation, the greater the wildland threat.

Do you have ladder fuels present in your defensible space area? Vegetation that allows a fire to move from lower growing plants to taller ones is referred to ladder fuel.

A vertical separation of three times the height of the lower fuel layer is recommended; that is, if a shrub growing adjacent to a large pine tree is three feet tall, the recommended separation distance would be nine feet.

You could remove the lower tree branches, reducing the height of the shrub, or remove the shrub.

Within the area extending at least 30 feet from your home, the vegetation should be kept lean, clean and green. Use low growing herbaceous (non-woody) plants that are kept green during the fire season. These include plants such as lawns, groundcovers, bedding plants, and perennial flowers.

Suzi Macy, prevention tech, Fire Management.

Letters of apology

To the people of Warm Springs, I am writing to apologize for my actions at the Warm Springs River a few weeks back. I was under the influence of alcohol, and I was cited for shooting my rifle near a residential area. To the families of the residence, sorry. Sincerely, **Robert Charley Jr.**

I am writing a letter of apology to the people and my family of Warm Springs for driving under the influence on December 18, 2004. I should have known better by all the life's I know that are gone, because of drinking and driving. Sorry. **Ronald Thomas**.

I am making a public apology to my nephew and niece and their moms for driving under the influence while they were under my care. There is no excuse for my behavior. Please forgive me. **R. Adams**.

I apologize for my actions on the night of 3-29-05 to the community and the Trevino family. I apologize for putting your family in danger. I was under the influence of alcohol and realize what I have done and I am truly sorry. I hope you can accept my words of apology. Sincerely, **Matthew Craig**.

To Ronda, I would like to offer my deepest apology for my drunken actions on 7-24-04. Hopefully you could find it in your heart to forgive me for my actions that caused you such pain, anger and fear. I guess it would have been easier to just walk away. Instead in my drunken state I chose to hurt you. Now I'm paying for my stupid choice. Once again I am sorry and I hope you'll forgive me. If not, then I'll understand, and to everyone else involved, I'm sorry. **Joseph Craig**.

I apologize to the community and people of Warm Springs for being in possession of a marijuana pipe and lighter during a cell search at the Warm Springs Jail. I realize and understand that it is not the answer to mask the reality and treatment I am receiving behind the walls. Actions are being taken on my behalf through my decisions and choices I will be making from now on into the future. Sincerely, **Aldo Antunez**.

To whom it may concern, and the community of Warm Springs, I'd like to apologize for my actions on February 12, 2005. I made a very poor decision on driving under the

influence of alcohol. **Donald L. Bagley**.

To the Warm Springs tribal police officers who I have caused trouble with while being under the influence of alcohol and for that I would like to give my deepest and sincerest apology. I'm sorry I learned from my mistake by making another so all I ask for the officers who I have trouble is for their forgiveness. Thank you. And I also would like to apologize for my incident on the 10th of March. **Edgar M.W. Yahtin**.

To the community of the Warm Springs reservation, I would like to take this time to apologize for a crime committed on March 19, assault and battery on a victim. Again, please accept my apology. Thank you. **Winston Wewa**.

To the community of Warm Springs, I would like to apologize on behalf of my actions. I apologize to Lillian Heath, her family, and whoever else I hurt with alcohol and drugs. **Jeremy Kills First Sr.**

I would like to apologize to Warm Springs Police Department and to the Correctional Facility. I also would like to send my apology to the community. On January 18, 2005 I tried to drop off some drugs to an inmate. I was later contacted by police. I was transported to the police department to be incarcerated in the Correctional Facility. I am now sitting 70 days in the snake pit to think about my wrong actions. I also apologize for consuming alcohol as a minor. I will be a better person from my wrong doings. **Edward J. Winishut**.

To the people of the Confederated Tribes, I'm calling out to you on this day to ask you all to accept my sincere apology for possessing and being under the influence of today's most hated drug of choice - methamphetamine. Since my arrest I've had a few days to come back to my senses and realize that I'm not only hurting myself, but my family and friends also. Sincerely, **Victor W. Smith Jr.**

To the community of the Warm Springs reservation, I am writing this to say I apologize. I made bad judgment and now I sit in jail for my mistake. Now I always take time for choices. Thank you for reading this. **N. Switzer**.

To the people of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, I would like to apologize for endangering anyone's life or well-being on the night of November 30, when I eluded police officers down Hollywood Blvd, and on over East Tenino and up Highway 26 only to land myself in jail here at Warm Springs. **Taylor R. Arthur Sr.**

To the community of Warm Springs, I apologize for driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, and I apologize to the police. Again, I'm sorry and it will never happen again. **Alonzo Jim**.

To the people, on January 24 I was driving my vehicle on Quail Trail Road, when a tribal police officer stopped me and smelled alcohol and I was arrested for DUI. My action as a dangerous driver hurt our community, so I am sorry. **Simon Kalama**.

I'm court ordered to apologize to the people in the hills and the community for shooting a pistol at the towers, so I'm sorry. The police took my gun anyways. Sincerely, **Jerrold K.**

On March 7, 2005, I was drinking with my friends. Unfortunately, two of my friends were under age and I was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. I plead guilty. I spent 15 days in jail and six months on probation. I would like to apologize for this. **Ida Frank**.

To the tribes and community of Warm Springs, I would like to apologize for my actions on Feb. 26 and will never get behind the wheel of a vehicle while intoxicated again. I again apologize because I could have hurt someone. **Jaime L. Scott**.

I apologize to Judge W. Smith and your honor I am sorry. I apologize to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. I am really sorry. I will be more careful to never let this happen again. Accept my apology. **Julia Stwyer**.

To the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, family and friends, I would like to take this time to apologize for my thoughtless and criminal action. In the month of February I was pulled over on Highway 26. Looking back on that night I realize there could have been even heavier consequences. I am asking, hoping that you can forgive me. **Gerald Tufti**.

To the Warm Springs community this is a letter of apology regarding my incident on Feb. 5, 2005. I would like to apologize regarding my actions. It was thoughtless and irresponsible. Thank you for your time. **Clarence Jefferson**.

To the police officers of Warm Springs, I apologize to the community for having done wrong by resisting arrest and to the police officers who were on duty at the time. Please accept with all due respect. I hope you will accept my apology for bringing drugs onto reservation. Thank you. **Rigoberto Medrano**.

To the people of Warm Springs, I would like to apologize for my action that occurred at the Education Building, including the property of the 509-J school district on April 2, 2005, about 2 a.m. I learned an important lesson that I won't do it again. **Tarron McDonald**.

On April 2 I was arrested on a warrant and at the time being found and charged with drugs and paraphernalia. I know drugs are a big problem on the reservation. I am sorry for not complying with court ordered recommendations. I apologize to my probation officer and counselor for the let down. Most of all I apologize to my family. **Brian Renfro**.

To the Confederated Tribes, I would like to apologize for driving under the influence in January

2005 and for putting other lives in danger. Sorry for my actions. I will not let this happen again. **Sterling Kalama**.

On the date of Feb. 13, 2005 there was a firearm in my possession while I was intoxicated. That morning I was arrested and later sentenced by the tribal courts. I know that a person should never have a firearm while under any intoxicants. I will never do this again and hope that you accept my apology. **Lee Hellon**.

I would like to say that I'm sorry for drinking. I would also like to say sorry for the things that I might have said while I was under the influence. I'll try my best to see that it doesn't happen again. **Martina M. Stwyer**.

To whom it may concern: I would like to apologize to the community and my family for my actions that took place on Feb. 13. I put myself and the community in danger for being under the influence. I learned my lesson. And it won't happen again. Thank you for your time. **Dan McGill**.

I want to apologize to my better half for the wrong-doing I did but didn't mean harm to him for my impaired condition and didn't mean harm to my members of my family on 3-25-05. I thought about my action and going to do my best to change. **C.A. Winishut**.

Spilyay Tymoo
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