

Before deciding, it's important to have all the facts

By Selena Boise  
Management successor

So, what do you think of the tribes' situation? Will there be a recall? I would think that before signing the petition that is going around, people should hear both sides of the issue.

There are always two sides to every story, and so far I have only heard one side. Hopefully I will get to hear both sides to this story before long, and before an actual outcome has been decided.

It's hard to make comment about the issue until the points are brought across and understood.

But I understand that the petition would recall the Tribal Council, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chief Operations Officer, due to decisions made in Council chambers.

### Problem of drugs, alcohol

In the meantime as people of the reservation are faced with tragedy when our members are high on methamphetamines or drunk.

While high or drunk, they do things that they normally would not do. It brings out the worst in people, and it is very dangerous not only to themselves but to others as well.

Then you have to say to yourself, What this actually comes down to is the legal system, and what is it doing for us?

You have a person going to court for possession or other charges surrounding possession, like being under the influence. They are in and out of court. They may be addicted, so they just keep going around and around.

I know the tribes are aware of this problem, because I have seen meetings actually scheduled and task forces in place to tackle this problem.

Alcoholism has been a problem for many years, and I have seen it as far back as I remember, and I remember the Frontier.

I believe that having all these problems with alcoholism and now methamphetamines needs to be a strong factor in these political decisions that are up in the air right now.

Make a decision based on knowing all the facts first.

### Toe Ness

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon. "How do you know what to say?" he asked. "Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?"

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay. Please keep in mind that letters can be no longer than 350 words in length, one submission per issue. Thank you.

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(Coyote News, Est. 1976)  
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Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.  
Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870,  
Warm Springs, OR 97761.

## Letters to the Editor

### Firefighters

I would like to take time to express my sincere appreciation to our local Hot Shot Fire Crew, Fire and Safety and all other fire agencies that responded to the Wolfe Point fire on August 1, 2005.

I would like for the firefighters that remained around my home as the fire was burning all around the structure to know that I have a great respect for your commitment, although I would never want anyone hurt in a fire to protect my home. This is the third fire that has come very close to burning my home.

Three members of my family worked with the first "Local Hot Shot Crew of Warm Springs," and a few of their co-partners are still working the Hot Shot crew. I understand the long committed and laborious hours these people work to protect homes and lives. There were times my children would be gone all summer, traveling from fire to fire across the country. I would pray for their safe return home every time they would leave on another trip out of town. I know the extreme dangers that come with fires. I understand the mothers, children and wives missing their family member for an extended period of time.

Urbana Ross and Myrna Frank sat across from my home, watching the fire go directly to my home, and once the smoke cleared I could see my home still standing. I appreciate these two wonderful ladies that can demonstrate such compassion and understanding to other people beyond their job duties. I would like to carry an important message to people who intentionally set fires that endanger other people's lives and property, this is a careless and neglectful act. Think! How much funds do the tribes lose every time we have incidents on the reservation lands?

When the end of the year rolls around and people are asking how much payment will we receive, we forget what the tribes have been through the past year that could have been prevented: arson, theft, vandalism, property damages, police protection/security and court costs. All these things are preventable. Most important, the people's lives are in danger and it could be our own relatives. **Priscilla Frank.**

### Fundraising

We would like to thank all of you people who supported our fundraising efforts for Blaine to travel to Australia. It would have been really hard for us to accomplish our goal if it weren't for all of you caring people. If you stopped by and bought an

Indian taco, plate of spaghetti, Indian burger or a raffle ticket, you are much appreciated. For all of you who donated items, and your time to help us out, you are not forgotten. It takes money to make money and you are the ones who stepped forward and donated items to help us get started. Some of you are the same people who also helped us in the kitchen. We just can't thank you enough.

We also want to give thanks to all the individuals, local businesses and enterprises for your kind donations. Lastly, we thank all of you golfers and the two organizers of the golf scramble event. That was truly a good deed that came from your hearts.

We want to wish each of you a blessing. You are very special in our hearts.

You all helped Blaine gather memories that will last a lifetime. With a wrestling record of four and four while in Australia, he has returned home safely and is now preparing for the upcoming football season. Thank you. **Blaine, Anson, Destry, Atcitty, CR (Tonto and JoJo).**

### Thinking

I have been kicking back in here thinking about all of my wrongs that I have done toward my family and my tribe. My life hasn't been all that easy and I know that there are other people out there with similar or worse backgrounds. Here's a part of my past that I'd like to share. For the last 20-odd years I've had an alcohol and drug addiction. I'd get drunk and high, black out, do something stupid, then end up in the hoosegow. If I was lucky I would get out and say or lie to my family and myself about turning my life around. What I'd really do is go out and do some different stupid things and end up a guest of the concrete inn (jail). You know after kicking back thinking about all of the lies that I told my family, friends or other tribal members, the only thing that I can do is say that I am sorry, but in my heart sorry ain't good enough, because in the past I was told if I was sorry I wouldn't have done it in the first place.

I've read a few letters written by incarcerated tribal members who write about how they're going to turn their lives around and be clean and sober while they're incarcerated and when they get released, but they just end up right back in the same predicament that they were in to begin with. I know that there is quite a few people who have changed for the bet-

ter, and I hope that I might be one of them. What I'm trying to say is that I want to change, but it's going to be a long haul. Just because someone snaps his fingers doesn't mean that I'm going to be instantly clean and sober. If I was going to say that, I would just be lying to myself, my family and my people. I'm not saying that I'm going to change or not. We'll just have to see about that after my vacation. From the thoughts of a tribal member. Respectfully, **Johnson Heath Sr. No. 68697-065, Federal Detention Center, P.O. Box 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378.**

### Time to pray

I'm sitting here, having to grasp the reality of what our reservation has become. There was a time when we didn't have to lock our doors to our homes when we went out, a time we didn't have to fear to walk alone or for that matter to be afraid of leaving our home to shop for groceries, school clothes or Christmas presents. Now in this day, we have to make sure we don't open the door to "just anybody" or give a ride to someone who doesn't look right or doesn't fit our idea of how they should be dressed or how clean they are.

The Bible tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). We, who walk in the spirit of our Father, have the power to overcome everything that is thrown our way. Yes, there are many tests and tribulations we have to endure because we chose the path to righteousness. This walk we've chosen isn't easy but we wouldn't be here if it weren't for Jesus. We could have been dead, or crippled up by wrecks or fights, or we could have hurt someone very badly while we were under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

We've buried many these past years, both male and female, but it seems that the deaths are becoming more and more frequent and getting younger and younger. If we were to die tonight, tomorrow, next week, will we be ready? You ask, ready for what? Ready to stand before our God when judgment day comes; ready to answer His questions of us, Why. Why did we choose not to listen when God talked to us through the preacher? Why did we not listen when we were told what alcohol and drugs would do to our families and to us? Why? Only you can answer, no one else will be there with you, not your mother, father, grandparents, siblings, only you. Are you ready to be told to join our

loved ones who are with the Lord or ready to join those that will be sent in the other direction to be tormented forever and ever?

Our tribe used to be *the tribe*, the ultimate tribe, and the tribe that was a leader to other tribes throughout Indian Country. Now our tribe isn't looked upon as a leader anymore. A very sad state it has become because of the drugs running rampant. Because our people have forgotten the One who blessed us all these years. That would be God. We forgot to pray and give thanks for everything. We forgot to teach our children about respect. We forgot to discipline our children when they needed it. Years ago, when people in the community would see children doing wrong, they scolded them and it was okay, but today you scold a child, the parents/grandparents get mad and give the impression to the child that it's okay to talk back to elders, or to shoplift or to do whatever they want to do because they don't have to listen to anyone, including the parents/grandparents who are angry about them being reprimanded. What has our reservation become, a lawless place where alcohol and drugs are freely flowing? Let's quit pointing fingers at each other and begin praying instead.

Positive changes might not be overnight, even though it would be nice, but let's turn it over to God. Everything else has been tried. The families that are hurting over their loved ones need love, support and most of all, prayer. We can do this, let's be positive role models and part of the solution instead of the problem. If God can take two people such as Easton and I and use us for His Glory, He can do anything. It's been since 1982 since we've given our hearts to the Lord, we've not gone back out to the world and we wouldn't change it now because we know Jesus is coming soon. We want to be ready. Will you be ready when that day comes?

Love in Christ, **Tina Aguilar.**

### Proud parent

This is being written so our friends, and the family that truly matter there, can acknowledge the pride I have for my child, Kati Ann Dawalt. Those of you who know her can appreciate the effort and dedication that she puts into her academics.

At the spring awards assembly, she was recognized with the following honors by staff and administration at Kelly Middle School here in Eugene, where she has studied Japanese for eight years in addition to the mandatory English courses re-

quired by the State of Oregon, and where she continues to excel in everything she endeavors. Having a 4.0 GPG each semester, Kati received the Kelly Scholar Award in recognition of the academic year 2004-05, the Golden Pen Award for high achievement in the craft of writing, the Vocabulary Victors Award for high achievement and steadfast dedication in the study of seventh grade vocabulary, an Accelerated Math Champions Honor, the Positive Attitude Award, the Anansi Spider Award for creative thinking, and finally a Certificate of Achievement for the habit of mind-gathering data through all senses. I have nothing less than admiration for her accomplishments.

Kati also participated in extra curricular after-school programs, where, for example, she wrote and performed in a student production with her peers. In addition, this young lady also found time to volunteer in the classrooms of Head Start of Lane County at Whiteaker Community School, where she gave developmentally appropriate presentations of Japanese writing, song and dance, and shared her Native American heritage through a jingle dress exhibition dance.

Currently enrolled in the Oregon Festival of American Museum Song and Dance Camp, she is fortunate enough to be instructed by, and perform in Cole Porter Night and Day productions with world-renowned dancers and musicians. I am grateful that she has the opportunity to participate in this artistically enriching experience, thanks to the gracious endowment awarded to her by the fine patrons of this institution.

My daughter recently attended and completed (her second in as many years) Konaway Nike Tillicum, a Native American college prep camp on the campus of Southern Oregon University due to her eligibility for academic scholarship. Kati has the opportunity to participate in Art Car events throughout the Northwest this summer with our extended family of fellow artisans, and was recently "without a shadow of a doubt, certified wacko" by the prestigious Wild Art Car Klub of Oregon... what a proud moment!

In closing I would like to thank her favorite Tilla, Bobby Eagleheart, for honoring her with eagle feathers at Pi-Ume-Sha's Grand Entry, and Judy Kalama for the gift of hair wraps that same evening. Your support is important to her and she adores you. And, like you said, she's earned it. Sincerely, **Hazel Smith, li'l Waguts.**

## Happy birthday and other wishes...

Happy fourth birthday to Perry. Love, Auntie Toodie, Uncle Carl and Clarissas. August 10.

Happy fourth birthday to our one and only son Perry Isadore aka Cowboy Ropin'. Love, Mom and Dad. August 10.

Here's wishing you a very happy birthday to my big brother Larson Kalama Sr. on August 15. This picture remind you of how cute you were? Lots of love from your lil' sis in the picture.

I want to wish my husband Happy Anniversary (26 years together - 25 years of marriage). Tina.

Happy first birthday to Clarissa Iyakitan. Love, Mom and Dad. August 26.

Happy birthday to Kurtis Boise. From your son Thomas, and Nicole in Alaska.

Who's the cutest baby in the world? Jayson Joe is! Happy first birthday. We love you very

much. Best wishes to you always and forever. Dad and Grandma.

Happy first birthday Jayson Joe. Hugs and kisses to you. We love you. Grandpa Jack, Tina, Mavis, Traci, Trendell and the Covers Up Clan.

Happy birthday Jayson Joe. Love you lots. Judy and Beth in Redmond (pizza, pizza, pizza).

Happy 50th birthday, Vernon. From Cheryl and Dave.

