

## Day of bowling fun for Warm Springs team

By Selena Boise  
Management successor

How're your bones? I am fine, thank you.

I recently attended a fundraiser held at Tigard, where I met and bowled with Gov. Ted Kulongoski. I was anxious and nervous to actually attend, but once I arrived with my daughter Tonya we began our practice and had a good time. But as it always does, the same thing happened to me like other times I've bowled. I used up my good bowling during practice and couldn't pick up a spare for anything.

My daughter wasn't expecting to bowl, but when Michael Mason, our teammate, asked her to, she said yes. Our other teammates were editor Dave McMechan and Chief Delvis Heath. And we were fortunate to take third in the tournament.

Kulongoski was bowling a few frames for us and at times he would bowl the first ball and we would try to pick up the spare. Of course, I couldn't but the others could. Delvis was our high scorer for the team, then Dave, then Tonya, me, and finally Michael Mason.

We met a lot of people there and had a good time, I'm glad that I went.



Selena and Tonya Boise, Chief Heath and Gov. Kulongoski.

## Toe Ness

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher?

She couldn't keep control of her pupils.

Why did the boy eat his homework?

Because his teacher said it was a piece of cake.

## Regarding letters

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. Please, when writing, keep in mind that letters should be of no more than 350 words.

Also, no statements that are libelous against another person can be published in the paper.

Deadline to submit items is late in the afternoon of Friday of the week before publication.

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## BPA, clean air

I am sick and tired of always hearing about BPA and the "wasted" water issues. BPA, NOAA and COE do not own the Columbia River and that's a fact. BPA will bash all projects related to salmon even when more salmon are returning.

The four Treaty Tribes of the Columbia River are supposed to have federal trust responsibilities that protect the tribal way of life.

The Northwest Power Act of 1980 calls for equitable treatment between power and salmon.

BPA's budgets are set through rate cases every five years, but so far the rate cases are not balancing, so the ratepayers are favored. Then BPA goes into its brainwashing of the public with its \$67 million and \$80 million loss tied to wasted water for the salmon. BPA did this 2000-05 and guess what's up for 2006.

I am glad to hear that there are a lot more people that object to field burning here in Central Oregon. We are all headed into a global warming trend that cannot be reversed.

Field burning adds more pollution to the atmosphere besides contamination to people's possessions and their bodies. This process has caused highway accidents and I believe just one accident is one too many.

Central Oregon is basically dry land farming, and water is icing on the cake. I've seen fields covered with white chemical after being burnt.

I do not appreciate the pollution of my vehicles and in my lungs. I hope that actions need to be taken soon. Write your representatives and the governor. **Terry Courtney.**

## Forever

I'd like to take you back in time, to the ancient lands of the River People.

Imagine no dams, no bridges, no highways, no railways, no towns or crowded cities.

Imagine and endless evergreen forest and pristine mountains.

Imagine harvesting various roots and berries from the slopes and mountains.

Imagine hunting the deer and elk in the plateaus and mountains.

Imagine a wild raging river, churning rapids and falls.

Imagine thousands and thousands of salmon migrating up the river.

Imagine people fishing and the fish drying.

Imagine happiness and laughter everywhere.

Imagine paradise!

2005 is the year that the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Yakama Tribes commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Treaties of 1855. Join us as we honor and show our respect to the river and the River People long ago.

We can't turn the world about, but I believe my daughter's people are still fishing at the falls. I believe their salmon are always running. I believe they are still happy and laughing. Feel their joy and listen to their merry shouts.

By the river, for the river and from the river... The River People Forever!

**Edison Yazzie, Black Mesa Dine.**

## Casino

Long before the Europeans inadvertently found our ancestors, we occupied a vast and rich territory oriented toward the Columbia River where we traditionally fished for salmon, hunted game, and gathered roots and berries as an ancient egalitarian partnership society. However, the newcomers misunderstood our way of life, and unfortunately, they recognized the value of our land.

With colonization, our people experienced cultural genocide; our population was decimated when the European diseases transpired in this region and killed hundreds of thousands of Indians, who had no immunity to the foreign diseases. Our ancestors experienced forced removal from our lands, boarding school, missionaries, new systems of government based on the western paradigm.

My grandfather Lollimaash Herbert Stwyer Sr. spoke to my high school class about the lengthy dialogue that took place before the treaty was signed. Our 'ichiishkinwit' dialogue in which culture is possessive is the mutual respect and honor of a holistic dialogue that is beyond the tip of conscious knowledge because our life ways involve the set of natural laws that govern the relationship between man and the natural world around us. In other words, our Elders taught us to regard the

land, the air, the water, all of the animals, all of the plants, as part of ourselves. That is the unwritten law.

Then there was the forced movement away from our lands and, ultimately, the negative federal policies and bureaucracy whose sole purpose was to maintain the power structure that continues today. Perhaps, 150 years later, the dynamics of bureaucratic violence and oppression has taught us all too well the horrifying power of 'Patriarchy'. Patriarchy refers to male-centered and male-dominated system based on control and fear. Patriarchy encourages men to seek security, status, and other rewards through control; to fear other men's ability to control and harm them; and to identify being in control as both their best defense against loss and humiliation and the most sure route to what they need and desire. Patriarchy is grounded in a Great Lie that the answer to life's needs is disconnection and control rather than connection, sharing, and cooperation. The web of patriarchal culture is a compromise to our Plateau value system, which has a strong emphasis on the family, the centrality of grandmothers and mothers.

This is the introduction to my viewpoint of how our tribes' are going about the slow road of development of a mega-casino in Cascade Locks. The gaming task force delivered a referendum for a casino in Madras. They neglected to ask the tribal membership for our opinion on the best location, so that referendum soundly failed. This was quickly followed by a strong campaign for a casino in Hood River, the family events and get-rich scheme proved to sell us on the referendum for the casino in Hood River. A highly reputable Alaskan firm was paid \$1.5 million for the architectural design. For some unknown reason they were fired and a non-Indian firm was brought in to design a casino in Cascade Locks. The compact with the state of Oregon was signed, even though the Tribes didn't own the land. Wow How backwards is that? Where is the accountability for such an expen-

sive, negligent process?!

The patriarchal leadership has held much of this slow-track development in secrecy from the tribal membership. We had a joke of a Simnasho district meeting on gaming where we were addressed like we were difficult children. We were advised not to 'editorialize.' We requested a general council meeting 'with a budget report'. Why all the secrecy? We finally learned of the \$10 million expenditures between the years 1997-2004 and the plans to expend \$15 million more during the next three or maybe four years before construction and operational costs. "Our" Power Enterprise transferred \$5 million with plans to transfer \$2 million more to the Madras/Hood River/Cascade Locks casino development.

The casino development report shows millions of tribal dollars spent on public relations at Cascade Locks and Hood River, and I compared it to the \$700 spent on district meetings for the tribal membership. Mom held up her bag of peanuts that she got at the Simnasho District meeting, saying "This is what we get." I love her sense of humor. Besides the millions for public relations consultants, the tribes' attorney is double-dipping and collecting millions for legal and public relations. Don't get me wrong, I understand the need for legal advice, but let's pay attention and learn how to temper the brazen, outlandish legal billings.

To learn about our compact with the state of Oregon, I had to read the Grand Ronde Smoke Signals newspaper for a full report. Why did we foolishly pay a consultant \$84,000 to determine that we should give up 15 percent of the profits to the state of Oregon? I actively serve on the National Indian Gaming Association advisory board for business networks. I observed the southern California gaming tribes tell Governor (Arnold) Schwarzenegger that they refuse to pay any more than corporate America, that is eight percent - our 15 percent is nearly double that amount, for goodness sakes! Let's see the math for the \$580 million pro-

jected revenue in 10 years, 15 percent of that is \$87 million dollars in comparison to eight percent that totals \$46 million dollars.

I attended the first BIA Environmental Impact Assessment hearing at Cascade Locks and was disappointed in the lack of ichiishkinwit dialogue that our people once revered. Everyone was herded to the seating area to listen to BIA bureaucrats inform us that if we have anything to say, we could speak to the two court reporters located on the side of the room, we can write on a flip chart, or we can mail a letter. It was a very well-orchestrated meeting and a rather embarrassing public image - given the fact that we were standing on sacred land. Once again, I was offended that all the information that tribal members have been asking was available for all to see outside the reservation boundaries.

The sleepy town of Cascade Locks lacks the infrastructure for a mega-casino. Who will work in our casino? If a tribal member decides to move to Cascade Locks, housing isn't available. What is the impact of Cowlitz's mega-casino that will be closer to the Portland/Vancouver metro area?

Our casino opponents, the Restaurant Association and Grand Ronde have deep pockets and they seem determined to drag the legal battle on for years.

I am proud that our Simnasho Elders are virtuous in their stance against casino development in general and they are against alcohol beverage service in the casino. That is whom we listen to in times of need. Why didn't they schedule a hearing within the 50-mile radius near Warm Springs, may I ask? It is very devastating that our 'voice' is lacking in the first two hearings. A bus ride to the hearings is disrespectful to our people. In my observation this process works well for the patriarchal system of control and disconnection rather than connection, sharing and cooperation. Nye! Blessings, **Nak'ishayat (Aurolyn Stwyer).**

## Contracting Community Health services

By Jody Calica  
Secretary-Treasurer

The Warm Springs Tribes' proposal to operate the Public Health Nursing Program under a PL93-638 contract has been discussed by and with the Tribal Council for several years.

The discussions have taken a much more earnest tenor over the past year culminating first with a letter and then a resolution aimed at improving the quality and quantity of direct health services to our people. Against this backdrop, the backlash to the Tribal Council Resolution appears misguided and misinformed.

It appears quite obvious that self-serving motives are in motion through a campaign of willful misinformation and engineered chaos. The news article in the *Madras Pioneer* makes a very clear disclosure of some principals that are involved in an act of sabotage against the Tribal Council's decision and action.

Under a more informed examination, the services claims made in that article shows a serious lack of honesty, respect

and sincerity. In particular, there have been flat refusals to provide professional health support to both High Lookee Lodge and the corrections residents.

The Early Childhood Education Department has a made a valiant effort to regain compliance with both the state and federal contract performance standards. We appreciate the commitment of our staff to get positive results. We do have a concern about the chaos and conflict being created at the ECE and in the community. Horror stories are being created to say that medical staff would not be capable of working across the street that separates the two centers.

Outside of the Early Childhood Education Department, very few community members are aware of the PHN staff by name or the services and accomplishments being achieved individually or collectively. Current employees are receiving salaries that are paid grossly over market and we could have at least six nurses for the same cost that we are paying the current four nurses.

The nature of the current

controversy and deteriorated sense of PHN services is a disservice to the dedication and a standard of excellence achieved by Virginia Forsthe and the late Kathleen Moses. Much of their efforts and accomplishments were obvious because they were constantly out in the community among our people. Our health services have moved away from that community health delivery model to operating like a professional medical group.

Members of the community continue to express concerns about the availability and accessibility of health care resources and services. Constant sources of criticism are the waiting time for services, access to appointments, prescriptions and follow-up. Community health services could increase responsiveness, as could access with the Field Health Nurses as more active points of contact for all clinic-based services and medical referrals.

With the growing cost of health care and pharmacy prices, our community must concentrate more energy and resources at preventative health care opposed to higher-cost

acute and emergency health care situations. A better community health system would ensure that our people with health needs would have better and more assured access to appointments and referrals for medical and related health services.

A few years back, the Tribal Council authorized the dispatch of feral dog packs and coyotes caught attacking, maiming and killing livestock and wildlife, pregnant and juvenile animals being the most vulnerable. That produced another adverse publicity campaign of accusations made against our community and our leadership to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This created an impression that the welfare of stray dogs was equal to or greater than matters of tribal member health.

The Warm Springs Service Unit is known as the place to come for retirement. Federal retirement benefits are based upon the employee's highest three-year salary history. We have many dedicated health professional working at Warm Springs, and we do respect and appreciate their commitment.