

Thanks to powwow committee for their time and kind words

By Selena Boise
Management successor

Merry Christmas to all our readers and many wishes for a Happy New Year. I hope this issue finds you in good spirits this holiday season, as I am getting ready for Christmas at home.

Spilyay Speaks

At this time I would like to say a few thank you's to the Veterans' Powwow committee. This annual gathering was held December 16-17 this year and it was there that the veterans were honored and thanked for their service to this country.

First, I would like to thank my aunt Charlotte Herkshan. It was quite an honor to have my son George recognized for his service to this country, and without Charlotte it would not have happened, so thank you Charlotte.

Also a thank you to Captain, who was in charge of the powwow for the time it took to do this for us.

We are at this time still trying to get used to George being away again, as he has left on the 21st for his next post in Hawaii, where he will be until the spring, when he and his combat buddy will be sent to Iraq.

I want to say thank you also to my aunts and uncles for being there at this special occasion for George. Without all the family's support George wouldn't carry himself with confidence the way he does.

Also to all the veterans with their words of encouragement, and sharing that really helped all of us, as we see George off to his next post.

It is hard for us but we just hold onto the faith that we have in our son. His courage and strength will get him through and bring him back to us for another visit.

He is quite the inspiration for our younger children and makes them think about their goals after high school.

For that, thank you George.

Good cause

A million thanks to all the people that made our fundraising a success.

Many came by the next day and purchased tamales. The rest were sold at the Christmas Bazaar.

Thanks to the families that donated to our cause. Deer meat was donated by Frank and Roberta Suppah. Beans were donated by Charlotte Herkshan.

Snow's Cleaners donated cash to purchase items. Hometown Drug gave me a discount on Burt's Beeswax Lip Balm.

Lois Smith donated the cake mix. Thelma Colburn helped me make tamales for two days (16 hours) plus another eight hours for the sale.

Everyone will truly be blessed for they gave from their heart. Items will be shipped to those serving from our community and are graduates from Madras High School.

Serving: Austin Smith Jr. (on front lines); Winter Sky (Smith) Erickson and husband Darwin Erickson (on front lines); Levi Dowdy (on front line); Lawren Slockish; Tashna Hicks; George Boise; Rose Sanchez; Hester Scott; Joseph Mitchell; "Chipper" Calica; James Spencer.

Sincerely, Shirley A. Smith.

Spiritual needs

I hope that this reaches you in the best of health and the strongest of spirits. My respects and prayers go out to all.

My name is Troy L. Jones-Ravenwolf, a Koyukon Athabaskan and Creek artist woodworker, presently incarcerated at the Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla. I am only a man, I am not a chief nor do I sit on any kind of council, which is not permitted here. This is only one voice reaching out to all that will listen. I cannot speak for anyone else but myself. However, there are many who feel the same that are unheard at this time.

I, like most of the indigenous Native Americans here at TRCI and in prisons all across this Great Country have wandered the land with no sense of identity, afflicted by alcoholism,

drugs and various forms of abuse. Some have only limited education and checkered work histories at best and we found ourselves behind the walls through our own ignorance. We are paying for our misdeeds. We all have suffered a disconnection from our life ways, our peoples, our relations and ultimately, the Creator.

While we, the fallen ones, come from many nations and tribes, and have varied experiences of the traditional ways, we all share in our need for your help. Hear me! All of our brothers and sisters, Indian and non-Indian alike. Please answer our calling out and lend a helping hand.

This brings me to the point of this letter. You see, here at TRCI our spiritual needs are being met by the prison officials with indifference.

Our situation here is worsened by the fact that we here are without a Native spiritual advisor on hand, and lack of volunteers from the community has prevented us from the benefit of the purification Sweat Lodge Ceremony and the Drum Circle, which are the only two opportunities for us here. There is no consideration for us to have the talking circle, or give-away, smudging and the enrichment of the passing of oral traditions. We have no potlatch, powwow or sacred pipe ceremony to celebrate who we are and to give thanks.

Here at TRCI we need volunteers to facilitate the Sweat Lodge ceremony, Pipe Ceremony and the Drum and Talking Circles. We need and would like spiritual advisors, elders and tribal historians from the community to come and share with us their history, ways, language, stories and songs. Financial support for Native American books, music educational videos, sacred medicines (sage, cedar, sweet grass, kinikink, bitterroot, lavender and copal) is needed.

The existing Sweat Lodge is in need of new red willows, rocks and firewood. TRCI has very strict policies that hinder our obtaining medicine bags, sacred objects, prayer offerings and prayer (eagle) feathers. All donations of this nature will

be respectfully utilized.

All of these things will help us be connected and preserve our culture and traditions.

Any assistance and guidance that you might be willing to provide would be greatly appreciated.

All donations either material or financial must be sent with the notation that the funds or items are for the Native American Religious funds only.

We invite volunteers to TRCI. You would be most welcome and honored.

You must first contact TRCI chaplain or religious services, then pass a LEADS (law enforcement data systems) background check and attend an Oregon Department of Corrections orientation.

The Oregon Department of Corrections does offer some transportation expenses. The process must be endured. Again, everything must first be discussed with the chaplain.

At this time I would like to send out my respects and thanks to all of the past, present and possible future volunteers and supporters who have been there for the fallen relations. A hand up is always a good thing. Please know that you all are in my prayers, and blessings.

All of our relations - your brother in life and in spirit. Respectfully, **Revenwolf, Troy L. Jones**, No. 11733597. P.S.: I invite any correspondence to the address below. Thank you.

Contact information:
Oregon D.O.C., TRCI: attention: Chaplain Hodney, religious services; or Mr. Guy Hall, executive superintendent. 82911 Beach Access Road, Umatilla, OR 97882. Or e-mail: don.e.hodney@doc.state.or.us.

Doing well

To our dear friends and family, we want you to all know we are doing great down here in Texas. We have been clean and sober, we are working and living a good life without drugs or alcohol. If you would like to contact us you can write or email us. Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a great New Year!

Sincerely, **LaLani Wolfe and Thomas Charley**.

Letters to the Editor

Letters of apology

To the community of Warm Springs, I am writing this letter of apology for my actions on December 1, 2005. I committed assault and battery, abduction and reckless endangerment. I apologize for my actions and I now am serving 300 days in jail. I hope the victim and her family can forgive me and let me be part of her life and the life of our unborn child. **Jackson Mitchell**.

To my wife Teeny and kids and the people of the Warm Springs reservation, I am truly very sorry for driving drunk again on Dec. 2. I am sorry to do that to the people who were glad I was sober. I know I did wrong, and now I'm doing time for it. I know I'm not getting any younger. It's time to grow up. When I get out of jail I want to get back on the right track. I thank you for your time to read this. I love my family with all my heart. And the people who will support me to get over my illness. **Theodore McKinley**.

I would like to take this time to apologize to the community and also to my family for my actions on Dec. 4, 2005. I am truly sorry and I am sure it won't happen any time in the near future. You know me. Sincerely, **Ty Lewis**.

To Mr. Leander Kalama, I am writing this letter of apology concerning the night of our conflict at your residence. I was highly intoxicated and it wouldn't have happened if I was sober minded. So, I am sorry for the trouble I caused. I am now on my way to rehabilitation from alcohol. I am going away to Americore so on top of a sorry farewell you and the fam will be in my prayers. **Bruce Berry**.

I am very deeply sorry for committing the charge against me CR657-05 on or about the day of November 19, 2005, 9:45 a.m. I hope the business of Deschutes Crossing will forgive me for I know not what I did in the condition I was in at that date and time. So please forgive me. **Wendell Greene**.

To the Warm Springs tribal members, I apologize that I made a very poor decision on driving under the influence in August, 2005. Then putting my son in danger. There's no excuse. For that I am truly sorry. **I. Wallulatum**.

I would like to apologize to the community of Warm Springs regarding my actions that took place. I put myself as well as other people in danger. I thought about the ordeal and know that I will not put myself in that situation again. Sincerely, **Raphael Caldera**.

I would like to apologize for my actions on Nov. 10, 2005. I was under the influence of alcohol and made a poor decision to drive, and was pulled over for a DUI. I'm sitting 30 days for my wrongdoing. Please forgive me. Sincerely, **Jess H. Stevens III**.

Birthday and other wishes...

Happy birthday to my mom **Gloria Warner on December 31. Mom, I love you and hope your day is very special. Love, your only daughter Jolena.** **have a lot of fun today. Love, your auntie Jo.**

Happy 35th Anniversary, Mom and Dad, on December 31. Wow, 35 years - that is a very long time. You both are the best parents. I wish you all the happiness in the world and many more happy and loving years to come. I love you. Love, your daughter Jolena.

Happy birthday to my beautiful niece "Angel Baby Warner." Hope you **have a lot of fun today. Love, your auntie Jo.** **Merry Christmas to all my family, near and far. I am thinking of each of you all my days. Wishing everyone a happy holiday this season. I love you. Jolena Warner.** **I want to wish my boyfriend Michael Summerhalder Jr. a very special Christmas and New Year. Not only to you, but to your family too. You're so wonderful and very very special to me. I love you with all my heart. I love you. Love, forever, Jolena J. Warner. Xoxoxo.**

Not enough revenue at other casino sites

By Warren R. Clements
Chairman, Kah-Nee-Ta
Board of Directors

An information sheet concerning the potential casino development has recently been distributed in the Warm Springs community. This includes a document entitled "Cascade Locks project-Cash Position-Burn Rate Factor."

This is a copy of information that was previously provided by the Tribal Council to the membership and is what was then considered as the best available estimates of expenditures for the year 2005.

Also included were projections done by ECONorthwest, the consulting firm which the tribe has utilized, of potential revenue from casino construction at two different sites on the reservation, one near HeHe Junction and one at the site of the existing gravel pit, just south of Highway 26, between the town of Warm Springs and the top of the grade to the west.

Again, these figures are the actual projections, but can be misleading unless they are fully understood.

For example, the revenue projections are gross revenue, and do not take into account the expenses that produce the remaining cash, which is the money that is available to the tribe.

In order to determine the remaining cash, it is necessary to reduce the gross revenue by all of the operating costs and development costs, including the debt service and financing costs of the construction.

Both the potential sites at HeHe Junction and the gravel pit are currently undeveloped and would require spending for the costs of utilities, infrastructure, debt service, etc, which would be very substantial. It is questionable whether it would be possible to finance either of these projects, given their costs and limited revenues.

All of the estimates for costs of construction and revenue produced have been done by expert firms that the tribe has been utilizing.

These include engineering cost estimates prepared by the engineering firm of Bussard Engineering of Bend; construc-

tion cost estimates prepared by Andersen Construction of Portland, the firm that built the Museum at Warm Springs; estimates of financing costs received from national investment banking firms from around the country, and estimates of gaming revenues prepared by the firm of ECONorthwest, the leading gaming analysis firm in the Northwest.

Based on all of the estimates developed for these potential sites, the Tribal Council determined that these sites would not generate sufficient cash to provide needed funds for the maintenance of tribal government and programs.

In fact, our estimates show that the cash generated from a casino at these locations on the reservation would not significantly surpass the cash generated from the existing casino at Kah-Nee-Ta for a number of years.

The important consideration is not the gross revenue produced by any casino. Rather, it is the cash that is available for distribution to the tribe, for expenditure on tribal programs,

that is the important factor.

As stated above, we estimate that the cash available from either the HeHe or gravel pit sites would not significantly exceed what is currently generated by Kah-Nee-Ta.

By comparison, our estimate of the cash available from the development of a casino at Cascade Locks ranges from \$15 million to \$60 million per year, for the same period of time.

After all debt is repaid, the cash generated at the HeHe or Gravel Pit sites would be approximately \$15 million to \$18 million annually. At Cascade Locks, after repayment of all debt, available cash is expected to exceed \$100 million per year. Therefore, the Tribal Council has concluded that it is in the tribe's best interest to continue to pursue the development of the new casino at Cascade Locks. Over 80 percent of tribal members - in the largest voter-turnout in a tribal election in the history of our tribes - agreed.

Additional information on the casino issues will be provided to the tribal membership, as this project goes forward.

Spilyay Tymoo
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