

Welcome support at casino hearings

By Selena Boise
Management Successor

With the hearings well into the second week, it seems there are a lot of people stepping forward to speak about the environmental impact of the tribes' casino plan for Cascade Locks. Personally, I believe it is going to be a plus for many of us.

I saw a picture of the industrial site on a website when searching for information about the casino at the gorge. This picture had a smoke cloud rising from a location near where the casino is to be built. Now just how environmentally friendly is that for the scenic gorge?

Well, I couldn't make it to the first meeting, but have heard the word around town about comments spoken and I am grateful to hear that so many people stepped forward to speak about this. Not an easy thing to do, but definitely worthwhile considering that they are looking for opinions.

Was glad to hear that someone spoke about how the Warm Springs tribes helped Grand Ronde become a recognized tribe again. I know that it was spoken before in the early stages of the casino at the gorge.

The way I see it is that the Columbia River provided for our people, and other treaty tribes. The dams that were built took away Celilo Falls, talk about environmental impact. Salmon runs were never the same after that.

There are still meetings set up throughout this week for comments about the environmental impact. I hear talk around town that people are interested and will be attending. I am glad.

There is talk about tribal members unable to make the commute to work at this possible new casino. I can only see that there would be fewer budget cuts from year to year and more jobs available to tribal members on the reservation. Bring back the jobs that were cut in previous budget cuts.

So, try to attend the meetings, keep informed, yet again.

Spilyay Speaks

A thank you

On behalf of my sister Kami Wahnetah, and our immediate family, I would like to give a big thank you to all the friends and family from Warm Springs, Arizona, Salem and Canada who expressed concern for my sister's wellbeing as well as our families.

Special thanks to Amanda and Granny for telling me right away. Thanks to officer Hanchor for confirming it for me and to Uncle Lyle Rhoan Sr. for helping out with funds the first day which was very vital. We the family don't have the words to express the gratitude for all the thoughts and prayers. She's getting better every day! Love you all.

Denise A. Smith, Kami Wahnetah, and all the kids.

Harsh words

To our Warm Springs Nation, peoples, Ee took Tee kah daugh.

I would like to apologize to our Tribal Council, tribal attorneys, tribal consultants and most of all our tribal people.

I'm sorry for my harsh words in the last Spilyay. I know you are going your best for our people. At times I get frustrated and write when I should just keep my big mouth shut.

I hope I'm wrong on this but from my reading I don't think this present Secretary of the Interior is going to approve our casino in the Columbia Gorge.

I've stated this before. I think our casino would be the seed to create our own city of Warm Springs, Oregon. Build the casino up by Mill Creek Bridge and catch all the traffic coming out of Portland to create our own city of Warm Springs, Oregon.

In a few short years, Bend, Redmond, Madras, Prineville, etc. are going to connect and be one big metropolis, and we will be the only game in town.... Plus we keep our business in house, on our rez... When was the last time a white guy kept his word?! Never... They never will... We must be real careful how we spend (waste) these millions of resources and hopefully these investments will help our children, Elders, us.

Again, I apologize and I'm sorry for my harsh words. I know you are all doing your best for us... Thank you. **Bobby Eagleheart.**

Appreciated

I would like to thank Joey Surface of Rez Rover for helping my husband and I while we

didn't have a car. Thanks to Joey for his patience and time. Gratefully yours, Lucille and Ralph Aguilar Sr.

Missing you

It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love, but an entire life to forget them.

"Chris." You were so full of life, always smiling and carefree. Life loved you being a part of it and I loved you being a part of mine. You could always make me laugh if I was having a bad day. No matter how sad I was, you could take my hurt away...

Nothing could ever stop you or even make you fall, you were ready to take on the world, ready to do it all, but God saw that you were getting tired so He put his arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me." So from this world left us all God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. But none can ever take your place and until the day we meet again, may God hold you in his arms...

Always and forever, "One love, Chicana love." **Joanna Arce.**

Item found

A beaded keychain was found in the courtroom on Feb. 21. If you think it might be yours, call us at tribal court. Describe it and we'll be happy to give it back to the rightful owner. Will hold on to it till the item is found by owner. 553-3278. **Tribal court.**

Bottle drive

A bottle drive fundraiser for the Rez Express All-Indian High School Boys Basketball Team, representing Warm Springs, is on-going until July.

All proceeds go toward travel expenses for the 2008 Native American Basketball Invitational Tournament (NABI) in Phoenix, Ariz.

For donations and pickup, please contact **Sammi O'Reilly, Val and Rita Squiemphen.**

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. The next date by which to submit letters for publication is Friday, March 21.

Letters to the Editor

Longest Walk 2

Dear family and friends, I would like to tell everyone hi and thank you to those who helped me promote "The Longest Walk 2" in Warm Springs, Madras and Culver, especially to Juanita and Gary Villa, who I had a good visit with and a lot of encouragement.

Thanks also to my brother Leon Charger (from Portland) who made a staff for me to carry. Thanks to Calvin Hecocota for making it possible to fly to San Francisco, it was a welcome surprise.

Thanks to all my friends from Portland who came to see me off in San Francisco, and joined in the first part of the walk. Wish I had more time with all of you, had a lot of meetings at the time, plus I knew you all had to go back to work.

Thank you Ina and Collen for rushing to make my sons grass dance outfit for Lincoln's Powwow, can't wait to see it.

Thank you Uncle Austin Smith for calling my sister Lisa to inquire about me, and pledging money to the walk.

Thanks Dad for the earrings, the moccasins, and encouragement. Thanks to all the people at the Portland Community College Powwow for the blanket offering. Thanks to the drummers



Dennis Banks and Bonita Eaglefawn Leonard, Longest Walk 2, 2008

who encouraged my 5-year-old son Dominicio to drum with them during the powwow. Thanks Uncle Dennis Leonard for shoes and jumpsuits. Thank you sister Lisa for always being there for me and phone cards; tell the family I love them; give all the kids hugs and kisses. Tell Aunt Mercy and Lil Bull, Eaglefawn loves them and they're in my prayers.

As for how I'm doing, tired and getting blisters (smile). So far it's been a very spiritual and educational experience. As for why I'm on this walk, I'm here to offer my suffering to the Creator for all the reasons that make life sacred; for my ancestors, for my own personal reasons, for my friends and family who couldn't make it. I want to show it will take everyone to save mother earth so I'm inviting people of every race, reli-

gion, etc. to join us. Walk with us part of the way or the rest of the way, even from one end of town to the next or city to the next, it's not too late, call ahead to your friends and relatives along our route to join us. So far we met Rhoans that were living California that were from Warm Springs who came to a staff ceremony.

I'll close for now. Love you all. To my son Dominicio Eaglewarrior Tafoya, I carry you in my heart on this walk and always, hugs and kisses. To my spiritual teacher and mentor Dennis Banks, thank you and love you. **Bonita Eaglefawn Leonard.**

P.S. Any donations or Tracefone cards sent to: Josephine Tafoya, PO Box 304, Culver, OR 97734.

Happy Birthday and other wishes...

Happy birthday, Hester. We love you very much and wish the very best. Mom and Dad and Jay.

Happy birthday Auntie Hester. Love you, Jovon and Trent Heath.

Happy birthday Auntie Hester on March 6. Love you very much. Raelynn Jim.

Happy birthday in March to Betty J. Stephens. With much love and prayer, Leminie.

Happy belated birthday to my son Kevin Smith Jr. From Mom.

Happy belated birthday to George Aguilar Sr. on Feb. 22.

Happy birthday to my son Kyle Smith. From Mom.

Happy Anniversary to my husband on March 16. From your wife, Daisy.



Happy first birthday to my great granddaughter Annalese. Love, great grandpa.

Happy birthday, Lydell Suppah, from your sister Dellarae.

Love you.

Happy birthday uncle Lydell. From Josiah, Damon, Avon and Falon. Love you.



Happy first birthday March 18 to our beautiful daughter Annalese Omarah Lynn. Love, your mom and Dad.

Happy first birthday Annalese. Love, grandpa Joe.

Happy birthday Mikayla, with lots of love from Papa and Kuthla.

Happy birthday Mikayla from Mom, Kirstie Bear and Cha Cho and Brooklyn.

Happy birthday Mikayla from Antoinette, Ralph, Michelle, Raefel, Nola, Mad, Les and all your cousins.

Stone setting

Douglas M. Williams Headstone setting that was scheduled for March 24 has been postponed until a later date. The new date will be announced. **Williams family.**

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located in the white house at 1100 Wasco Street.

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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$15.00.

One goal at a time is a big step towards staying healthy

by Jeri Kollen, RN
W.S. Diabetes Program Nurse

Healthy goals are set by you. A goal can be anything in your life that you would like to accomplish.

Could be "I am going to eat breakfast (two, four?) times a week. Could be "I'm going to make my lunch for work (two?) times a week."

If you never eat breakfast or take your lunch to work, these

are big tasks to do.

Goals are very personal. It is your life, you know more about it than anyone else.

Is there anything that you would like to be able to do? Is there a step you can make to make

that happen?

If you would like help setting goals, call for an appointment with a nutritionist at 553-2478, a Diabetes Program provider at 553-2478, or with your provider at 553-2610.

Create defensible space to help fire response

by Suzi Macy
Prevention Technician
W.S. Fire Management

You hear a lot about defensible space these days, but what exactly is defensible space?

Defensible space is a buffer zone, a minimum 3-foot non-combustible area around your home.

This buffer zone reduces the

intensity and risk of a wildfire starting or spreading to your home. Defensible space depends on clearing flammable material away from your home.

Although a 3-foot distance is standard, additional clearance as great as 100 feet may be necessary as the slope of your lot increases.

Defensible space not only helps protect your home in the critical minutes it takes a fire to

pass, it also gives fire fighters an area to work in. During a large-scale fire, when many homes are at risk, fire fighters must focus on homes they can safely defend.

Here are some hints you, as a homeowner, can do to make your home more fire-safe:

Reduce flammable vegetation, trees and brush around your home. Prune or remove trees. Cut grass and weeds regu-

larly. Relocate woodpiles and leftover building materials. Keep them at least 30 feet from your home. Keep your roof, gutters and yard clean. Remove dead branches within 10 feet of your chimney.

Have addresses and road signs visible to allow fire fighters and other emergency personnel to find your home easily.

Help keep your home in the safety zone!