

## Letters to the Editor

### Elders Day

I want to convey our sincere appreciation to the director of Warm Springs Senior Services and staff that hosted the Annual Honor Elders Day. The opportunity for our family to participate in the event and dance for the elders has been the highlight of our year for so many reasons.

For the moment our youths stepped into Warm Springs, we felt honored and loved by your community. Our dances and fire knife show were inspired by the fellowship and beauty of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes Elders and their guests.

It has been and remains our duty as adults and elders to demonstrate the importance, necessity and beauty for the exchange of culture in our world. This opportunity for the Parade of Samoa to witness and feel the Warm Springs Tribal Culture, and to demonstrate the Pacific Islands Culture will always be in the memory of our dancers. The physical and human beauty of your community, and your ability to honor your elders every day will never be forgotten by our children, and I thank you.

We wish the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Senior Services the utmost success in their tribal economic development and cultural projects, and look forward to returning to your community in the future upon your invitation.

Sincerely,  
**Tasi Keener**, director, the Parade of Samoa Polynesian Dance Troupe.

The scholarships will be awarded as follows:

Students at accredited four year colleges:

One female recipient will be selected to receive \$1,000 and a laptop computer (valued up to \$500).

One female recipient will be selected to receive \$500.

One male recipient will be selected to receive \$1,000 and a laptop computer (\$500 value).

One male recipient will be selected to receive \$500.

Students at accredited two year college, vocational or technical school: One female recipient will be selected to receive \$500. One male recipient will be selected to receive \$500.

Applications must be complete; incomplete applications will be rejected. Applications must include the following items:

Official high school or secondary learning transcript or a copy of GED.

Acceptance letter to school.

One letter of recommendation from a supervisor, teacher, clergy, or other professional.

One personal letter of recommendation. Copy of tribal Id. Personal statement, limited to one page, listing: Activities and accomplishments to date; goal and reasons for seeking higher education.

Further information is also required. Please visit the Education Building or Kah-Nee-Ta's Human Resources Department for full information and an application form.

Sincerely, **Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino.**

### Strong interest

I am seeking drummers and singers to correspond with. I have nine months left and am interested in learning or continuing to drum and sing when I parole. I have a strong interest in learning about our culture, traditions and ceremonies.

I will respond to all letters written. I can be reached at the address below. Respectfully,

sid no. 12275256  
**Stuart Smith Jr.**  
3920 E. Ashwood Rd.  
Madras, OR 97741

### Child support

I attended the May 6 evening meeting at the Seekseequa Fire Hall about proposed amendments to the Tribal Code.

The proposed Tribal Code amendments deal with changes in the gaming, drug, animal abuse, gang violence, and liquor violation laws.

After the PowerPoint slide show about the proposed Tribal Code amendments, there was

discussion about the challenges the tribal community faces with drugs, animal abuse and gangs.

Also briefly discussed was the problem many parents and guardians face with past due child support and the financial hardships of raising children.

The problem with unpaid child support affects many tribal families. I know this from my past roles as the prosecutor and Legal Aide director.

There are many single parents and or guardians (often grandmothers) who have told me about their struggles with the expenses of raising tribal member children when one or both parents are not contributing court ordered child support.

Are tribal member children lacking in basic needs when child support payments are not made?

Although currently there is a prohibition against taking deductions from, or garnishing, tribal bonuses, Tribal Council could change this policy with a new resolution when they vote on the proposed code amendments that are currently being discussed.

For the purpose of discussion, I proposed the following proposed resolution to help those families where significant past-due child support hurts their family:

"On or before the first day of November of every year the Tribal Court shall provide to the Tribal Vital Statistics Department, a report of every tribal member who is delinquent \$1,000 or more in child support ordered by the tribal court. This report shall include the name of the past-due tribal member, amount of the child support arrearage, and the tribal court case number.

"The Tribal Vital Statistics Department shall withhold 50 percent of any tribal bonus issued in the next six month when a tribal member owes more than \$1,000 in past due child support

as of the current year's November 1 report from the Tribal Court. However, when the child support arrearage exceeds \$5,000, then the withholding shall be 80 percent of any issued bonus.

"The Tribal Vital Statistics department shall send the withheld child support to the tribal court compliance officer with a notation indicating the tribal court case number, and send a decreased bonus check amount to the tribal member who owed the past due child support."

This proposal would not take all of any future bonus from the tribal member who is past-due on his or her support.

Whatever amount the guardian of the children gets should be applied to the basic needs of the dependent children. In my opinion this proposal of "tapping" part any child support debtor's future bonus is more effective than putting most of these debtors in jail.

If you would like to comment on this proposal, then write to the Spilyay Tymoo, the Justice Team, or your Tribal Council representative.

The above is solely my thoughts on the problem of past-due child support, and does not represent the policies, procedures, or position of the Victims of Crime Services department, the Public Safety Branch, or the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Thank you for considering and or commenting on this proposal.

**Mark Matthews**

### Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law in August of 2005 by driving under the influence of intoxicants. I not only endangered everyone and myself, I lost a dear friend. My actions have left

### Love for the Game



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Rosa Graybael with award and tourney jacket.

Congratulations to Rosa Graybael, who won the "Love for the Game" award at the recent Priscilla Squiemphen Yazzie Memorial Basketball Tournament. Rosa teaches first- and second-grades at Warm Springs Elementary School.

The Love for the Game Award is given to a person who has made life better for the young people of the com-

munity. As the award reads:

"In appreciation of your time, effort and dedication to the youth of the community. Your support builds character, integrity and self-esteem in our youth, so that they can forever display these life traits in their love for the game."

Thank you, Rosa!  
**Amanda, Teri and Edison.**

### Just great

This is a note to tell you all what a wonderful day I had on May 8 at Honor Seniors Day in Warm Springs.

Everything was just great. Thank you.

**Arlene Kooman.**

### Scholarships

Dear Warm Springs community, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino is accepting applications for the 2009 male and female scholarship awards.

This opportunity is for Warm Springs tribal members choosing to further their education at an accredited four-year college as a full- or part-time student; or at an accredited two year college or vocational/technical school.

Applications will be available at the Warm Springs Education Building and Kah-Nee-Ta's Human Resources Office.

The deadline to submit the application is 5 p.m. on July 19.

## Happy birthday and other wishes...

Reeny,  
Congratulations, now you can go anywhere and do anything. Go for your dreams and more. Love you. Love, Auntie Arnetta, Tika, Michael, Sonny.

**Reeny: Congrats from Mom and Dad. Love you, Ty and family.**

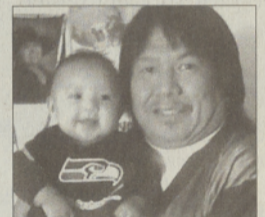


Happy 17th birthday, Beeps... and many more to come. Love, your brother Michael and Mom.  
You're always in our prayers.

Happy 8th birthday, Novena Switzler.  
**Happy birthday Bill & Gerri Switzler, Randy Switzler, and my baby Elliott Switzler who will be 4 years old!**

Welcome home to all my grandchildren from school. I'm proud of each you and love you with all my heart!  
Love, grandma Laura Switzler.

I am writing this to all the loving mothers. Have a great Belated Mothers Day, and God bless you all. From Bird Bruce.



Happy birthday Evelyn "Evey" Polk - love always from your son and your dad.

Happy birthdays to my two daughters, both born on May 17.

Happy birthday to my oldest daughter, **Helena Jackson.**

And happy birthday to her younger sister, my daughter Mina Shike in Tucson.

Happy birthday to my granddaughter, Yolanda Chase.

Happy birthday on May 31 to my son-in-law **Owen Danzuka Sr.**

From your ever-loving mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, **Charlotte Shike, and J.R. and Anona.**



Happy belated birthday, Babe... You are the love of my life.. Love you always, Dixon.

Happy birthday, **Tika. From Auntie Carol, Ty, Reeny and Uncle Daniel.**

Happy birthday, Tika. From Sonny. Y.

I want to wish my oldest son **Floyd Frank Jr. and his father Floyd Sr. a very happy birthday this year! Happy birthday, boys! Smile, as always. Evette Patt.**

**Spilyay Tymoo**  
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