

Letters to the Editor

The crafty jay

When logging on a mountainside in freshly fall snow, we thought we'd take an early lunch with temperatures so low.

We built a fire with some bark and sat close to the heat, and with a sandwich in our hands we then began to eat.

A pair of birds soon came around, flying here and there. They wanted us to share our food and that seemed only fair.

I tore apart a piece of bread and held it in my hand. A jay swooped down and grabbed it quick, despite his fear of man.

Retreating to a nearby tree, the jay soon ate its prize. It then returned to try again and gave me a surprise.

While sitting with my left hand out, just like I did before, it took the sandwich from my right—my lunch was there no more.

Those jays are smart, I learned that day, and crafty in their way.

A hungry lesson I had learned that cold and snowy day.

Eino.

Life to live

First off I would like to apologize to the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for the wrongs I have done in the lifestyle I have chosen to live.

We do have a choice in how we live. Life is what we make it. It's on us to make a change. I can dwell on my past or I can reflect my lifestyle of figuring out the best way to solve a problem without going to the liquor store, the dope man, jail or a grave.

It is never too late, and of course there is no immediate cure. That doesn't mean I cannot set my expectations above failure. I finally got a taste of the good life, and I made poor decisions. All I can do is try to get back on my feet. I understand personal goals and want to change and plan on applying myself to it.

I have dreams of our future

generations (our children) having a place to call home on the river or in the mountains. Life offers no guarantees except an end. I need to set a better example, because our children do pay attention to us and reflect our behavior. Thank you for your time.

Curtis Brown.

Abuse cases

As an investigator for Tamaki Law Offices, I have been investigating the sexual abuse allegations against the NW Jesuits for the past two years. Since this investigation began I have interviewed more than 100 victims of childhood sexual abuse. Almost all of the victims attended Jesuit Mission Schools that operated on Reservations throughout the Northwest.

The Jesuit Missions where most of these abuses occurred were at St. Mary's Mission, Omak, Wash.; Sacred Heart Mission, De'Smet, Idaho; St. Ignatius, St. Anne, and St. Paul's Missions in Montana.

However, I am sure these same abuses occurred wherever Jesuit Mission Schools were located.

The news about the sexual abuse of Native Americans has been very limited. Major newspapers have little or no interest in reporting about the sexual abuse committed against Indian children, especially when the majority of the abuses occurred decades ago, as far back as the 1940s to the mid-1970s.

I have been deeply affected by hearing the victims' stories, and witnessing their pain while telling me about what happened. I cannot begin to express how profoundly childhood sexual abuse has affected the lives of the victims.

Not everyone who attended a Jesuit Mission School was a victim of abuse, but for those that were victimized, the life-long affects has taken a toll—failed relationships, trust issues, and suicide.

Many of the victims are now in their mid-forties and older, and they have suffered from depression-anxiety, shame, guilt, embarrassment, anger-hostility, alcoholism-substance abuse, low self esteem, behavioral disorders, and other manifestations of childhood sexual abuse all their lives.

It takes courage to come forward and tell someone about abuse that happened so long ago, especially sexual abuse. Most of the victims of abuse

have tried for decades to bury those memories, while others simply felt it does no good to talk about the past, and yet others feel that their families would disapprove of them for disclosing what happened.

There are even community barriers preventing abuse victims from coming forward, including disapproval by tribal leaders, elders, and others who do not fully understand this issue, and feel that this reflects poorly upon the community or its church. However, this is not about the Catholic Church, God, or even religion, and it's not a political issue.

It's about the rights of the victims to seek justice and healing for the abuse committed against them.

I have learned that the first steps toward healing are acceptance by the community that the abuse happened, supporting the rights of the victims, and, if possible, aiding the victims of abuse to cope with the trauma they have suffered over their lifetime.

The next step toward healing is to tell someone, and come to terms with what happened. I learned an expression a long time ago, "you're only as sick as your secrets," and that is true for the victims of childhood sexual abuse.

I often wonder, "Where is the outrage?"

Why is there no information about this in our tribal newspapers? Where are our tribal leaders who should be asking questions about this, or stepping up and addressing this issue? As Indian people we have always depended upon our leaders to talk for us.

If they will not recognize this issue and talk about it, who will? Ironically, White society has often been more sympathetic, vocal, and outraged about the sexual abuse of Indian children and fully supportive of the victims rights to seek civil justice, and healing. In fact, on the Colville reservation, where the majority of the victims live, off reservation counseling centers have offered to use their funding to pay for counseling victims of childhood sexual abuse, and to refer our clients to other psychologists who specialize in that field of counseling.

If you were a victim of sexual or physical abuse or misconduct at any Jesuit Mission School, church or parish throughout the Northwest, contact an attorney representing victims of abuse now. Time is

running out. Remember that you are not alone. Hundreds have come forward seeking justice and are holding their abuser accountable for their wrongful actions to ensure that this type of institutional tragedy is not inflicted on our children again.

Ken Bear Chief (Gros Ventre/Nooksack/Nez Perce) 506 D'Anjou Street, Zillah, WA 98953. (phone 509-314-6012.)

Pen pal

Hello, Warm Springs. I am looking for someone interested in writing to me, as I am serving time. Any correspondence is appreciated.

Tyson Taylor, SRCI no. 12429128.

777 Stanton Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914.

Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 7-11-09 by getting caught with DP 305.467 on Foster St. I feel ashamed. I apologize to the community and the officers who arrested me. I won't do this any more. Sorry for your time.

Israel Scott.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 8-20-09 by assault and battery, and recklessly endangering. I'm sorry for doing what I did to you and I learned my lesson. I am getting help for my addiction. I hope you and your family can forgive me. I apologize to J.B.

David LeClaire Jr.

I am sorry I broke tribal law 8-12-09 by committing the crime of liquor violation while walking and disorderly conduct. I apologize to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. I am truly sorry for my actions and my lack of respect for the people who saw me intoxicated.

Theodore Stwyer-Greene.

I am sorry I broke tribal law by a liquor violation. I assure you that I am doing all I can do to better myself and will do my best to make sure that this does not happen again. I apologize to the tribes. I am truly sorry.

Ryan Thomas.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on March 11, 2009 by endangering my family and community with the charges of drug paraphernalia, narcotics, dangerous drugs, hallucinogens and delirants and child neglect. I apologize to the people involved,

S.J., C.C. and C.S. Jr. I'm working at being a better father as well as a better member of the community.

Clinton Smith Sr.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 7-25-09 by driving intoxicated and reckless endangerment times two. I apologize to H.B. and R.W. It won't happen again.

Velda Craig Ortiz.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 6-19-09 by throwing out a lighted cigarette. I apologize to my kids and the rez. I will not throw out any more cigarette butts.

Can' Tenorio.

I am sorry I broke tribal law by driving under the influence of intoxicants and endangering the lives of my husband and my found grandsons, A.G. III, J.G., J.D.G., and R.S. I apologize to the community members. It will never happen again.

Christine Scott.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on July 5, 2009 by being under the influence of alcohol and by being under the age of 21, which resulted in a liquor violation. I am paying greatly for wrongdoings and I am bettering myself by staying sober. What happened that day was wrong and very immature of me.

Josephine Teeman Zacarias.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 6-20-09 by assaulting A.A. and hurting her. I also apologize to her family. I was intoxicated and not thinking. I'm truly sorry for my actions. I apologize to my daughter and son. I'm trying to better myself by going to treatment in the future.

Stacey Tellez.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on July 3, 2009 by offenses of assault and battery, recklessly endangering, child abuse. I apologize to my brother J.K.,

and uncle **F. Watkins Johnson.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law in January 2009 by drinking under age and for the offense of disorderly conduct. I am truly sorry for my actions. I will try my hardest to stay out of trouble and make sure it won't happen again.

Lance Anthony Boise.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 7-17-09 by being under the influence of alcohol, assaulting another person, assault 305.110. Did bodily harm, not thinking before I reacted. I apologize to L.B. I am truly sorry for what I have done. I will try to do better in the future.

Henry D. Miller III.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 3-21-09 by mistreating another person. RE 305.175. Ab 305.105, A and B 305.115, being intoxicated, being an uncontrollable person, letting my anger take over. I apologize to L.B. I am sorry I hurt the ones I love. I regret what I did and hope I will be forgiven.

Henry D. Miller III.

I would like to apologize to Jessica Tufti for the incident that occurred on the night of Feb. 24, 2009. On Aug. 27, 2009 I pled guilty to the embarrassing charge of assault and battery. I can assure you this will not happen again. All of the people involved know the trust, and that is good enough for me. Thank you. Sincerely,

James A. Smith Jr.

Class reunion

Anyone who would like to contact Sid Miller about the upcoming high school reunion, on Oct. 10, you can reach him at 553-0411

Wedding Invitation

We the children, Korina Kelly, Billy Ray, Roberta Lee and Raven Dawn, take pride in inviting you to witness the wedding of our parents

Winna Lynn Switzler and Roger Davis Stabi
on October 3, 2009 at the Wapato Longhouse in Wapato, Wash.

11 a.m. Traditional wedding trade.
1 p.m. Formal wedding vows.

The brides parents are LaRena Sobappy, the late James Switzler, the late Lawrence Brown.

The groom's parents are Marvin Stabi Sr., and the late Roberta Shippentower.

Correction

In the previous Spilyay Tymoo, the Howlak Tichum for Jay Henry should have said that he passed away with no surviving children.

The Spilyay would like to apologize to Revonne Johnson.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)
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Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: (541) 553-2307 or 553-2210.

E-Mail: spilyay@wstribes.org.
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Happy birthday and other wishes...

Wishing a very happy 17th birthday to me boy **Ronald G.**—keep sharing your smile, it's healthy. Love you, your dad.

Happy 17th to Shaney-nay on the 11th. Love, uncle Sman.

Happy birthdays to my bro's Aaron and Brucey—Keep up the good work. Also to D-Bo, keep it real. Hope to see everyone soon. Love you guys. Anthony G.

To Kristina Cassaway, I would like to wish a special lady in my world a Happy 23rd Birthday on October 15. I just want to let you know that I love her and not a day goes by that she is not on my mind. I know that it can

get hard out on your own, but sweetheart I want to wish you a Happy 23rd Birthday. I love you.

Just forever and today, I would like to let that sparkle in your eyes shine.

I never want to waste a moment of time not being by your side, to have your hand in mine, to make my dreams come true.

We got the key to each other's heart, even though I'm gone doing some time.

I'm always on your mind, when I can't be there in your arms.

Just look back and read these dedications, cause I'm always by your side.

You had me by the first sound of your voice. I just knew you were my lady for the rest of my life.



tized—mesmerized, falling deeper in love by the shine of your eyes.

You and little man came into my world and my dreams came true. On October 15, '86 the Creator gave the world a beautiful gift, not knowing we would come to meet, you got me talking in a way that I never have.

Because we have the happiness and connection that never ends, this is why I would love to say... Happy 23rd Birthday, Kristina Cassaway.

From your loving man, Shane Wilson.

Happy birthday coming up soon, Cheryl. Love, Dave.

More wishes on page 5