

Letters to the Editor

A disturbing incident

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Ricky Graybael was angry when I talked to him at the store... not at all frightened.

At 3:09 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, someone shot at the home where he lives, a home that Ricky takes care of for the Baptist Church in Warm Springs.

"The bullet came about a foot from my head while I slept," Graybael said.

Two females, ages 19 and 26, were arrested, along with one male, 25. Two suspects fled and have not been apprehended. There appears to be a gang relationship between the shooters, although houses were targeted

at random, according to authorities.

Public Safety Branch General Manager Jim Soules said that three houses in West Hills were sprayed with gunfire. "It's frightening because there were children in those homes," Soules said. "It could have been a terrible tragedy."

Fortunately, there were no injuries. "Other than the trauma of having your house shot at in the middle of the night, nobody was hurt," Soules said.

Anybody who may have witnessed this senseless act is being encouraged to contact Det. Whitenburg at the police department, 553-1171.

We should all do our part in keeping our reservation a safe place, where young people can learn about our culture, and where this type of violence is never acceptable.

December 16

In other chat on the reservation, December 16 is just around the corner. Some people are overjoyed (both tribal members and otherwise, I presume). Some people feel as if a wrong move is being made toward the economic future of the reservation.

"We're going to be in dire straights," one concerned tribal member said. "This is something that we really don't need."

"I think of it this way," another tribal member told me. "There are people on the reservation that are really looking forward to December 16. They need this to make Christmas happen. They're in dire straights right now."

These folks need food, clothes for their kids, gas in the car - not to mention gifts for loved ones. It's not only a luxury, but a necessity for them, and I feel bad for them... so I'm proud that our leaders are doing this on behalf of the less fortunate.

Those people who don't need [December 16] always have the option of giving it back. Or pass it on to someone who really needs it. That's how it's done in our culture."

On the outside of the correctional facility in Warm Springs, you can smell December 16 in the air. I can take this as a reminder to do unto others as I would like done to me.

I know that I wouldn't like to have my house shot at in the middle of the night...so I won't shoot at anybody else's house, either. In fact, maybe I'll do something nice for my neighbor both today and on December 16.

Budget process

After attending the General Council meetings recently, there seems to be a lot of people being targeted these days, so I thought I would provide some pointers for our leadership and our community to think about for our vital unification and prosperousness.

Budget processing: If the entire pot of money for the year in question were placed in front of the tribal membership at a General Council meeting to begin moving money around as a community, Tribal Council would not have to face such ridicule, as the people would express the importance of it going to certain departments and programs first hand and through a group effort.

Tribal committees: If Tribal Council empowered our committee members more, then the committee members, who too are a voice for the people, would not be so frustrated with the behavior of the organization, and could begin to be acknowledged as the advisers to Tribal Council, as they are appointed to be by Tribal Council themselves.

Tribal Council presentation: If the organization's leadership sat together as one and in front of the attendees during General Council meetings, they wouldn't look as though they were entirely separate entities, in turn, adding to more frustration to their already emotional crowd, and may even look more confident in their decisions.

Public relations: If Tribal Council's paper reports were instead provided to the public via radio, Internet, and newspaper on a weekly basis, the organization would not only reduce paper consumption, but also would increase the conspicuousness of the overall organization and allow for immediate comments directed toward the leadership.

Tribal member empowerment: If more of our leaders considered the economic development ideas that sit within the growing "library" in Human Resources that was derived by the tribal members themselves, we may realize that there really is not so much need for consultants in the first place as the library simply needs the marketing research behind them to discover their viability.

Collaborative efforts: If we considered having two strategic public relations representatives from the community of Warm Springs, our Tribal Council may begin to develop relationships with the surrounding communities and funding organizations as well as develop a more personal relationship with the community as the professionalism and duty within such representatives is also to compliment the image of the overall organization.

Just my take and I thank you for your time. **Jefferson Greene.**

Under siege

The non-tribal people have long held their meetings on how best to infiltrate, sabotage and control the tribal government, tribal enterprises and tribal programs.

Not all tribal member managers, directors and program directors think "tribal member preference." And with the cooperation of these tribal member managers and members of

Tribal Council, the non-Indians have been successful in positioning themselves into key positions in order to shape the tribal structure into something that benefits the non-Indian. The tribal membership have been under siege, a persistent attack, since before opportunities became available to the tribal member.

The tribes need to adjust to the fact that tribally owned businesses that require extensive customer service to function, tribally owned businesses that require outside help to function will fail. These businesses have been set up to fail, at will.

Non-Indians working for the tribes have brought with them the lust for power, control and wealth, and to work for the tribes, you will need to climb aboard with them, and not the tribes.

To do this, you are required to forgo your natural cultural heritage.

To not climb aboard, non-tribal and tribal members will not be allowed to work.

Amos Switzler.

Tears

What are your tears that they should come from happiness and joy. They seem to well up from the heart, these tears you do enjoy.

But there are tears of sadness too, you sometimes have to bear. They also well up from the heart. You wish they were

not there.

But tears of sadness heal your heart when it has suffered pain. It may take them many years before you're well again.

So when your heart has suffered pain and tears begin to flow, you need to let them do their job, then some relief you'll know.

Some calloused people won't agree. "Get over it," they say. But do not listen to their words for ignorance is their way.

Eino.

Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 8-1-09 by driving under the influence and reckless endangering. I apologize to the Warm Springs P.D. and the community, and to E.L. This will not happen again. **Elliot Lawson.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 13 by driving under the influence. I apologize to everyone. It won't happen again. **Eric Craig.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 8 by aiding and abetting an offender or concealing a fugitive. I was doing good for a while now, but this is my mistake I made. This will never happen again. **Truman V. Merrifield.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on October 10 by fleeing or at-

A thank you

I would like to thank Larry Dick, who led the First Kill Ceremony on Thanksgiving Day for Ali Martinez. I appreciated what you have done for my son on this day. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the First Kill Ceremony. And thanks to Albert Kalama Sr. for teaching my son Ali to fish and hunt. And taking time to do what Ali loves to do. Again thank you. Love,

Angela Polk.

P.S. Thank you to the Powwow Committee for the good powwow on Thanksgiving. We had a lot of fun.



Alex Martinez and Larry Dick.



Alexa, Aaliyah and Alex Martinez.

tempting to elude a police officer, driving under the influence, reckless driving and getting a liquor violation while under age. I apologize to the citizens of the Confederated Tribes. My actions were uncalled for. **Chantel Clements.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on July 11, 2009 by assault and battery. It won't happen again. L.H., I love you and I'm really sorry that it happened. I have learned by lesson. **Winnie Jim.**

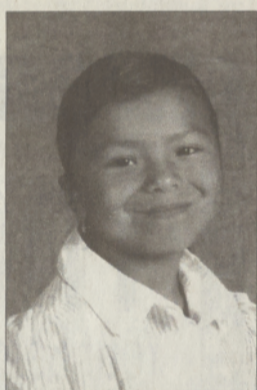
I am sorry I broke tribal law on 10-9-09 by driving under the influence of intoxicants. I am a grown woman who should have known better.

I apologize to the tribes. I have served my time and will pay my debt to the tribes. **Cassie Wolfe.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Sept. 2 by operating a motor vehicle in an inebriated condition. I have no excuse for my actions and I plan to use this as a step to life longevity. I apologize to my brother. **Dion Minthorn.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on March 11, 2009 by recklessly endangering and discharge of weapons and NDDHD. I apologize to C.C. and the 509-J school district. This won't happen again. **Jerald Cook.**

Happy birthday and other wishes...



You're very special to all the family. Happy birthday Rosaleen Yahtin. Big 10! Love, Uncle.

Happy birthday, sister Rosaleen. Your brother, Kanim III.

Happy birthday Rosaleen Yahtin. Hope you had a great one. And here's to many, many more. I love you very much. From uncle "Mav."

Happy birthday, Rosaleen Yahtin. Love, your bro Samikan Red Bear Allen.

Happy birthday to my little sister Rosaleen Yahtin. Love, Shanelle.

Happy birthday, Rosaleen Yahtin. Love, Grampa.

Rosie, you're very special to all of us. Love, the Grama's.

A special happy birthday to my big nana Rosie. Love, Jazell.

Happy birthday, Rosaleen Yahtin. Love, Cash-Puppy, Steve Skittles, Bob and all the kitties.

Happy birthday Rosie. From uncle Carl Calvin Chalissa.

Happy birthday to our Aunt Blanche W. in White Swan. Best wishes. Love, all of us, Nettie S., Thelma M., Laura L., Gary A., Bill-Man and Bert-Bert.

Happy birthday to our grammas Nettie and Mae D. Hope your days were good. We love you both. Love, your grandbabies lil Gary, lil Eva Ione, Mahkiyah, Baby Tommy, Jessie and CeAsia.

Happy birthday to great-grandma Blanche Walsey-Williams in White Swan. We love you and hope your day was a bliss. Much love, from great-grandbabies lil Gary, lil Eva Ione, Mahkiyah, Baby Tommy, Jessie and CeAsia.

Happy 21st birthday to our crazy nephew Curtis "Curty" Dickson. We hope you had fun. We love you. Love, aunty Laura and uncle Al. Love, your neph's Nick and Harley "Midjit" Kelly.

Happy 2nd birthday lil big bro Curtis "Dirty." Can't believe how old you're getting. I love you, bro! Love, your sis LaVonne, neph's lil Gary, Tommy and nieces lil Eva Ione and Mahkiyah.

Happy birthday to bro Curtis A. Dickson. Love, your bros Rydah D. Stwyer "Junior," Theo "T.J." and sis Brandi "B.J.," Jamey "Jammz." Don't forget lil Jessie D. Stwyer-B. and CeAsia A. Stwyer.

Happy birthday to my sisters Nettie and Thelma Mae. All the best. Love your sister Laura Leigh, and Al Kelly, Gary Bert-Bert, Bill-Man and Bobbie.

Happy 25th birthday to our daughter LaVonne Rose B. Can't believe how old you're getting. But hope your future is bright. Love, your ma Laura and pa Al, and baby bros Nick, Harley and "Midjit."

Happy 25th birthday to my sis LaVonne "LaRoze." Hope your day is special. I love ya. Much love, your baby bro Rydah D. Stwyer and your niece CeAsia Stwyer.

Happy birthday to my sister LaVonne. Love, your baby sis Brandi "B.J." and your nephew Jessie D. Stwyer-B.

Happy 25th birthday to our mommi LaVonne. We love you. Love, your babies lil Gary, lil Eva, Mahkiyah, Tommy.



Happy 1st birthday to our baby brother Tommy G.T. EagleSpeaker. We love you, brother. Love, your big brothers Felix, lil Gary, lil Wayne and big sisters lil Eva Ione and Mahkiyah.

Happy 1st birthday to my baby boy Tommy Gemini Thomas EagleSpeaker. I love you my baby boy. Love, your Momma.

Happy 1st birthday to our baby grandson Tommy G.T. EagleSpeaker. We love and miss you, baby. Love, your gramma Laura and grampa Al.

Happy birthday, baby Tommy. We love you lots. Love, your silly uncles Nick and Harley "Midjit."

Happy 1st birthday baby nephew Tommy. We love you lots. Much love from aunties Brandi "B.J.," Jamey and uncle Rydah D. Stwyer "Junior."

Happy birthday baby cuz Tommy Gemini EagleSpeaker. We love you. Love, your cuzzins CeAsia Stwyer and Jessie D. Stwyer-B.

Happy 7th birthday lil Eva Ione. I hope you had a blast on your day. I love you my baby niece. Love, your uncle Rydah D. Stwyer and your cuz CeAsia Stwyer.

Happy birthday lil Eva. We love you. Love, your crazy uncles Big Bro'z Nick and Harley "Midjit" Kelly.

Happy 7th birthday lil niece Eva Ione M.L.C.K. Love ya! Much love, your uncles Curtis and Theo "T.J."

Happy birthday to our g-ma Blanche W. and our aunts Nettie and T.Mae. Love, your grandkids, nieces and nephews LaVonne, D. Stwyer Junior, Brandi "B.J.," Nick, Harley, Martika.

Happy 7th birthday to my angel baby girl Eva Ione M.L. Chiquito-Katchia. I love you so very much. Love, your Mommie!

Happy 7th birthday to our sister Eva Ione. We love you lots. Love, your brothers lil Gary and Tommy Gemini, and sister Mahkiyah.

Happy 7th birthday to our grandbaby lil Eva Ione M.L. Chiquito-K. We love you baby. Love, your g-ma Laura and g-pa Al.

Happy birthday my lil big niece Eva Ione. We love you. Love, your auntie Brandi "B.J." and your lil cousin Jessie Stwyer-B.