

Letters to the Editor

Terrible incident

On Thursday evening, Nov. 19, 2009 my sister Nancy Switzler, Frankie Switzler's wife, was walking home in Madras, between 6-6:30 p.m.

She was walking east from Aherns grocery store to the bike path which goes toward her home.

This is all she remembers. Someone brutally beat her face and choked her and left her for dead. We now know a stick was used in the beating.

By the grace of God, she somehow managed to get to her daughter's house at 10 p.m. with both of her eyes swollen shut. We believe this assault happened by the bike trail that goes from McDonald's restaurant east toward the hospital.

Her daughter called the ambulance and my sister was taken to Mountain View Hospital. X-rays and cat scans showed her injuries were very severe with a concussion, fractured eye socket, and fractured upper jaw and both cheek bones shattered.

Nancy was taken to St. Charles in Bend and then transferred to OHSU Hospital in Portland for complete reconstructive surgery on the right side of her face.

The person or persons responsible for this horrendous crime need to be taken off of the streets of Madras and held accountable for this horrific beating. After speaking with Madras police about releasing this information to the press, my sister the victim and her family feel the community of Madras should know what's going on in their community, and it's a disservice not sharing this incident with the public.

The family hopes that by making this public knowledge the community of Madras will be safe and that someone might remember what happened on Nov. 19 and notify the Madras police at 475-2396.

I am Nancy's sister and I can be reached at 541-350-4772.

Becky Brunoe

MLK Jr. Day

Today is Martin Luther King Day and I am at home. I am talking to my grandma. I asked her, because I noticed the tribe office was open but school was closed and the clinic was closed. Why was tribal open? My grandma, always ready with answers, was quiet for a while.

Grandma, I said, Why? She started talking very slowly, quietly. She said, I don't know just

how to answer this son, but several Tribal Councils ago the Council decided to honor not Martin Luther King, but to use his day to work and take their own birthdays off.

I thought for a minute, To honor themselves? No, I don't think so. When I grow up, I will respectfully take his birthday off and work on my own birthday.

day. Wesley Redhouse Wesley, 9.

Salmon, rights

I am starting some lectures pertaining to the Treaty of 1855, our salmon issues, court decisions that made a difference in our reserved rights to harvest salmon, talk about our tribal

rights, getting to really know each other as people, talking over the issues pertaining to our culture, beliefs, and real traditions, and find out where is the voice of the people? I will not only share what I've learned, but I will listen to you. Let's all make a difference for the better of us all and those yet to come. Thank you. Terry Courtney.

Happy birthday and other wishes...



Congratulations and Many Happy Years!
Tiffney Henry
& Emery Yallup.
Married - January 2, 2010.

Happy birthday to Jaren R. Wallulatum, you are on the right tracks. Keep doing what you do. Love, your bro, big Gunner.

Happy belated birthday to Bryce M. Wallulatum. Love you, lil bro. Keep your head on straight. Love, your bro Gunner Wallulatum.

Happy Valentines Day to Mercedes and Joydee. From Dad.

Happy Valentines Day to Tyson and Holly, and all my grandchildren. Love, Mom.

Happy birthday to Gib and Carl Kalama - From your sis Whoops.

Happy Valentines Day to Dean Sohappy. Love and kisses, you're my Valentine. From Marge.

Happy Valentines Day to Cheryl. Love, from Dave.



Azeul Charley wishes you a Happy Valentine's Day.

Tribal sovereignty depends on tribal members

By Bruce Engle
W.S. Credit Enterprise

This article is about how tribal economies and sovereignty relate to each other.

The more important message is at the end; it's about the children.

Sovereignty is perishable. It can be extinguished by conquest and by federal law. We Klamaths know this to be true; it happened to us—we call it "termination."

Fifty-five years ago Congress decided to go out of the Indian business; they had been talking about it for years. They passed a law. We were one of the four tribes Congress selected to show Indian Country how to do it.

Boy, did we show them. Even the government now admits it didn't work! Nevertheless, it could happen again—with the same result. Indian Country needs to be prepared.

Sure, there are stimulus monies available now for a lot of different projects. So much for the short term; as the federal budget gets tighter, some members of Congress will surely resurrect the concept of termination.

A few of them already look at tribes as having vast resources and only a small minority of the population. In their world, we

don't count as many votes. Few votes, little clout.

Our best defense

A thriving economy is our best defense. It is not just about jobs; it is a sovereignty issue.

Economies and sovereignty have something in common; each needs the other and neither can endure long without the other. I know that may be contrary to what some of us have been taught but I think it's worth considering.

Tribal ability to assert sovereignty depends much upon tribal economic strength. The same can be said for preserving, protecting, and defending tribal sovereignty. In other words, No cash, no clout!

Indian Country is similar to human groups throughout history. Nations and empires have appeared, become strong, become weak, and then disappeared. Sometimes the people survived the loss of control; usually, they suffered.

Self sufficiency

Here is how I see it for our tribes:

Complete self-sufficiency is a myth for our people. We are a couple hundred years beyond that.

Most people and nations are somewhat dependent upon others.

Co-dependence may lead to acknowledgment of, and accommodation for, common interests and needs. That can be wonderful, but there are risks. Some Co-dependents are stronger than others and may not be so accommodating.

Total dependence inevitably leads to subjugation to another's self-interest.

Tribes might do well to evaluate their dependency situation. The answers will vary. Remedies may or may not be needed.

The less dependent we are, the more self-determinant we are. I suggest that is a worthy goal.

That brings us back to economics and my belief that economic strength enhances our ability to be tribally and personally self-determinate and able to preserve, protect, defend and assert sovereignty.

Model of success

Let's tie those comments in to what I think Indian Country can do to take advantage of our economic opportunities. As I see it:

The strength of the U.S. has been, and is, in its people, its laws, and in its organizational structure.

Our successes at home and on the world stage are the consequence of an enterprise system that has both freed and harnessed the energy, the drive, the foresight and the inventiveness of our people to produce goods and offer services that meet our needs and the needs of others.

Tribes that have embraced similar visions of economic success and have instituted workable economic systems that are culturally compatible have prospered and seen their members become successful.

Group success depends upon individual success and vice-versa. That road goes both di-

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rections.

I believe we strengthen ourselves, our families, and our tribes when we do not depend for our basic income upon transfer funds from the federal government and/or per capita from casino or other tribal enterprise revenues.

To do so in excess is to sacrifice our individual potential for success and feelings of self-sufficiency, self-determination, and self-worth.

Relying on our people

Our national systems of government and economic development were designed by previous subjects of totalitarianism from abroad who rejected kings and made royalty of the common man. Citizens were left relatively free to do business. Many did so, and successfully.

History has shown those "royal commoners," as a group, to have been economically pretty successful.

Indian Country has produced individual and tribal successes.

Members who have taught those concepts and the work ethic to their children have seen many of them succeed. Economic success has then become a generational thing.

How do we do that? We must rely on our people.

I remember elders asking about others, "Is he doing well?" and "Are they doing well?"

Those same elders encouraged their kids and grandkids to do well in school. Also, the children worked in the family businesses—mostly farming and ranching. They had chores. They were made responsible for getting them done correctly. They were made to feel that the chores were important.

As the children grew, their responsibilities and contributions to the success of the operation also grew.

So, the children learned the "business" and a work ethic. Parents were role models for the children. Parents and elders set the standards. They made the rules. They monitored the children's progress. They corrected inadequate behaviors when necessary and a recognizable percentage of those children became successful.

So, what do we get from this?

Raising an economy

Tribal members make tribes successful. Tribal systems can enable or hinder those efforts.

Raising an economy is similar to raising successful children: It takes commitment, a clear vision of the final product, and a lot of work. Preparation is everything. Coaches and athletes say that. Good preparation prevents piddling poor performance.

We and our parents share some responsibility for our success. We and our children will similarly share responsibility for their successes. That is our load to carry—and theirs.

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Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 11-18-09 by getting a DUI, recklessly endangering times three, and child neglect. I apologize to my family and mainly to my two sons. I apologize to the community for driving under the influence, also to the Warm Springs police and the court. It won't happen again. Larrissa

Napyer.

I am sorry I broke tribal law by driving under the legal drinking age. I know it was a wrong thing to do. I regret my actions. I am sorry to the arresting officer for any problems I have caused. I apologize to the Warm Springs community. I am going to stay out of trouble and better myself. Aaron Hart.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on June 4, 2009 by drug paraphernalia and allowing it in my home. I apologize to my family for the shame my actions have brought to our family name. Further, I apologize to the following: my place of employment that was impacted by my actions. I also want to say that I will follow through with the court orders to better my life,

and I will make every effort to follow our laws in the future. Winona Stwyer.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 8-17-09 by getting a liquor violation. I apologize to the tribal court for having me in court. This will never happen again. Frederick James Wallulatum.

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