

Suppah finds success through family, career

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Having recently earned his Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Accountancy from Arizona State University, Jake Suppah has changed a great deal from the young man who moved away from the reservation nine years ago.

"At that time," Jake said, "the opportunities just weren't there. So I decided to take a big chance and move away from home... to find success."

It was one of the most difficult choices he has ever had to make.

"I was moving away from my family, friends, everything that I knew," he said. "My comforts are all there. I knew that at some point, I would return and have the necessary experience to take on new ventures."

Jake's direct bloodlines come from the Suppah, Moses, Frank, Kalama, Scott, Yahtin and Henry families. His grandmothers are Margaret Suppah and Adeline Miller.

"One thing that I miss is being with my elders, because time is so valuable. We also miss fresh salmon and huckleberries!"

This outlook is different from the one Jake knew in the past.

"Right out of high school, I hit rock bottom," he said. "I lost



Julie and Jake Suppah

my mother Lily Ann Moses in 1996. Then I lost my grandmother, Kathleen Moses in 1997. I had many personal challenges to overcome, and I decided to drink more with my friends and I got into trouble with the law on several occasions."

Jake met Julie in 1998 when they were employed at Kah-Nee-Ta.

"He asked me out, and at first I wasn't too sure," Julie Suppah said. "He's younger than me, and there were still some obstacles for him to clear in his life."

Jake explains: "I graduated in 2004. My graduation party was the point where I began to understand that I had no control

over my drinking. That was a lesson for me."

He now makes family his top priority.

"I am in control of me today, and I always hope to be. Julie and my daughters are my continuing treatment program. I never want to be without them."

With determination ignited in his soul, Jake took leaps forward.

He held jobs with Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and Indian Head Casino.

"At the time, the casino did not open a position full-time for an accountant, and that was my area of interest," he says. "I attempted to work with the Gaming Commission, but didn't get that job. So I decided the doors were closed for me, and I looked for opportunities off-res."

He earned his BA degree in business management in 2001, and went on to pursue his Masters in Business Administration at the University of Phoenix. In 2009, Jake completed work on his post bacc from Arizona State University, a necessary step towards earning his CPA.

"It did take some extra time for me to complete some of my goals, due to the things that just happen in life," he said. "We've had losses in my immediate and extended families. We've had the gain of new life in our family. We've chosen to be foster parents, coaching sports, and tak-

ing care of our grandson while his parents were over in Afghanistan serving our country."

But with a new strength, there were positive changes.

"Job opportunities! Finally, they were being presented to me."

Jake accepted the position of accounting manager with the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Casino in February 2003.

"I work directly under the chief finance officer. My duties include managing an accounting staff and upkeep of audits to the state, as well as revenue reporting to management and the state."

Jake and Julie Suppah recently celebrated their twelfth anniversary. Today they have three daughters: Sophie, Sierra and Jalaney. They have two grandsons: Noble and Nolan.

"I have changed my life from the young guy that was messing up. I've become a responsible husband, father and grandfather who does his best. Of course, I've had many chances to give up in this lifetime. I've had chances to make excuses to not live up to my full expectations. But the people that mean the most to me have always believed in me. And that just wanted me to learn to believe in myself."

The point Jake makes is strong.

"Never give up on your dreams," he says. "Always reach for the stars!"

Pine Creek Conservation Area hunting permits

The 2011 ceded area hunting sign-up sheet is available for the Pine Creek Conservation Area.

General buck and elk archery: Thru September 25. Ten permits.

Buck deer, Oct. 1-12; 145 South Fossil. Fifteen permits.

East Biggs. Five permits.

First season bull elk, Oct. 26-30; 245B1-South Fossil or 245X Elk Fossil Unit. Ten permits (please specify which one of these two hunts that you want.)

Second season Elk, Nov. 5-13; 245B2-South Fossil Private or 245Y Elk Fossil Unit

No. 2. Ten permits (please specify which on of these two hunts that you want.)

Elk extended rifle, Oct. 26-Dec. 2; Rocky Mt. Elk. 1st- East Biggs. Three permits.

Elk antlerless rifle. 1st- Nov. 19-27; 245D1. Six permits.

Elk antlerless rifle, 2nd- Dec. 3-11; 245D2. Six permits.

Elk antlerless rifle 3rd-Dec. 17-25; 245D3. Six permits.

For more information, please contact Rick Hayes, Pine Creek manager at 541-489-3477; or Warm Springs Natural Resources at 541-553-2002.

Tribes seeking Head Start Community Representative

The Confederated Tribes are seeking a community representative for the Warm Springs Head Start program, 2012 school year.

Applicants must be interested in furthering the goals and objectives of the Head Start program. Must attend policy council regular meetings, twice a month.

Please send your letters of interest to: Urbana Ross, Chief Operations Officer Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, PO Box C Warm Springs OR 97761

The deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16.

Head Start parents, please contact Early Childhood Education for applications for the upcoming school year.

Credit offers free Maximize your Money workshops

Free workshops on maximizing your money will be offered at the Warm Springs Credit Enterprise.

The following is a list of the dates, and the topics to be covered.

September 20 - Get the best car deal, presented by Tom Collier Classic Car Company.

With careful preparation, you can steer your way through the search process and drive away with the car deal that is best for you.

October 4 - Build a strong credit history, presented by Bob Mullins of Money Management International.

Your credit history, good or bad, follows you throughout your lifetime, and has a significant impact on your family's well-being and overall bottom line.

October 18 - Understanding car insurance, presented by Joseph Brinkley, Cascade Insurance Center.

Learn definitions, legal requirements, eligible vehicles,

coverage differences, methods of buying insurance, how your policy is rated, and more.

November 1 - Senior financial scams.

Understand the scope of the problem, identify typical perpetrators, be aware of common scams and financial exploitation, know how to prevent scams, and know where to go for help

November 15 - Women and money: Where are you now?

This workshop is targeted to women of all ages who want to take control of their personal

finances, identify barriers and challenges to reaching financial goals and develop a personal action plan.

All workshops will be held in the Credit Building classroom at 6:30 p.m.

There is limited seating, so please call 541-553-3512 to reserve your seat. Light refreshments will be served.

There will be door prizes for each workshop.

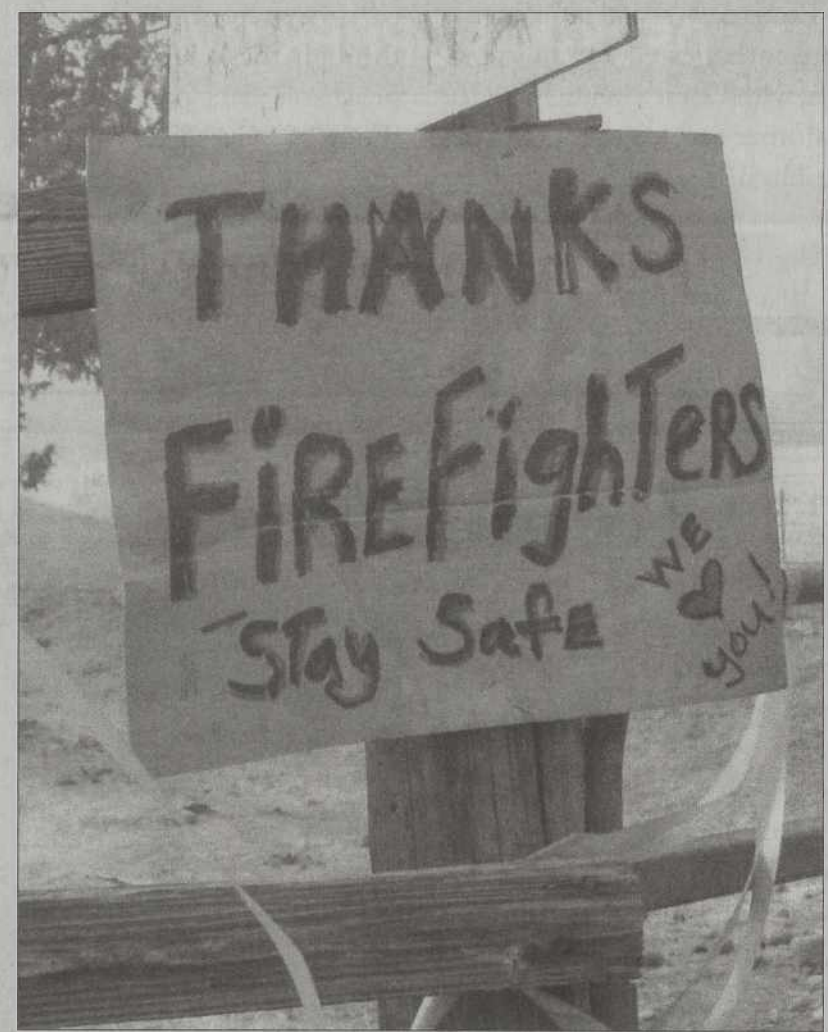
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