

## Information Letters to the Editor

### Age

By Duran Bobb

It was estimated at a recent workshop that 2,700 people (or roughly half of all tribal members) in Warm Springs use Facebook.

Those with Internet access can instantly share information with a few clicks.

On Facebook, there is Brainstorming on the FB Rez, the Big Book Study Group, the Bible Study Group, and the news group, WS Rezi-Leaks to name a few.

The news group is a closed group where information must be factual.

"There is a sense of order [in the news group]," Jerry Brunoe said. "Some other groups are 90 percent complaining with no possible solutions provided."

"I like reading the news," Colleen Johnson said. "It is written in a worthy and professional manner."

"For me, it shows what's going on in the reservation," Willie Sittinghorse-Kirk said.

"[The news group] is different," Sandra Danzuka said. "It is factually based; no rumors or negativity. I would rather see and share reservation news here than have to read it from another news source."

"Information must be verifiable," Anita Jackson said. "We have followed that rule as much as possible and the administrators do monitor the blog. The people need to be informed of what is happening...too much information is censored and kept from us, to the point where the people are starved for any information."

"I enjoy the news group," Danni Katchia-Herkshan said. "The large percentage of information is shared in a way to keep us informed without giving the personal opinion of the writer."

"If information is based on fact," Jonathan Smith said, "then it should be shared and transparent."

"I haven't been home for quite some time," Kim Starr said. "The news page provides me with information of current affairs."

"The group is great," Councilman Scott Moses said. "As long as the information is correct."

Members at recent meetings recall a time when leaders visited house-to-house to inform their districts of current events on the reservation.

In a new era of the information age, that visit is one mouse-click away.

Spilyay Speaks

### Toy drive

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Child Protective Services is seeking your support in our annual Christmas Toy Drive for children in foster care.

Every year, many children are affected by circumstances beyond their control. They are often brought from abusive, neglectful homes and placed with "angel families." These families open their homes, lives and their hearts to these children to offer them a home but also to show them love.

Oftentimes, these children leave with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We ask that you open your hearts and reflect on Christmases past. Remember the joys you had as you looked upon your gifts and the smiles on the faces of your families. With your support, our children in foster care can have the same.

Please remember these innocent victims by donating a new unwrapped toy or gift card. No gift is too small. Donations of any kind will be gladly accepted. Donations may be dropped off at Childrens Protective Services, 1109 Wasco St., Warm Springs. Or mailed to: Childrens Protective Services, PO box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

In order to get your gift into the hands of our children, we request donations arrive no later than Wednesday, Dec. 7. For more information, please call CPS at 541-553-3209.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, and we sincerely hope you have a wonderful and safe holiday.

Childrens Protective Services

### Livestock

Too many horses all over this reservation lands. Overgrazing. Competing with deer and elk in the high country. Along with a large increase of cattle at higher elevations.

Tenino Valley—eating everything in sight. Cattails near Jack Towe's completely gone. Cattle not moved out in the spring time like the previous owners used to do. Overgrazing the land.

### Correction

In the previous Spilyay, Dereke Tasymp was a co-author of the Indian Business Talk article, and his name should have appeared in the by-line. The Spilyay apologizes for the mistake.

scape—wild roses, sagebrush partially eaten, then busted up. Knocking down fences, crawling through fences, people throwing open the closed gates, ruining the shoulders along the paved road, cluttering the roadway day and night.

Cattle and horses. There is no place for the quail or pheasants to hide or feed. The countryside is being littered with manure. The livestock repack the soils year after year, causing more rocks to be visible above the grounds, causing rocks to roll off the hillsides onto a lot of our roads, especially along the Deschutes River.

The Agency, West Hills and administration building are supposed to be off limits to all livestock. Now it's a mess but no one is doing anything. Business as usual. Manure is filthy—it's around our schools, businesses and homes.

Sometimes, the calves walk under fences then can't seem to find their way out, then the females run along the fences breaking or sometimes causing holes in landowners fences.

Even in deep snow in the higher country, there seems to be many many horses and still some cattle. The cattle seem to be turning wild. No one takes proper care of their livestock like their parents used to.

People now cut fences, don't keep track of them daily like livestock owners should do. I learned this after being with my grandfather. The livestock he owned were his responsibility, no

one else's. In the '50s and early '60s, the livestock owners were responsible. Now, very few care. Sad to say. Lazy.

Thank you.  
Terry Courtney Jr.

### Wishes...

A very special birthday to **Chunky, from your grandpa Louie, Lau-Lau, Dec. 2.**

I wish a big happy birthday to **Jamie Stwyer. Love, your uncle Lumpy, Lau-Lau.**

A happy anniversary to **Mr. and Mrs. Ike in Portland, Dec. 5.**

### Basic facts

The following information is provided by Warm Springs Meth Prevention:

What are the effects of methamphetamine?

It only takes a small amount of meth to produce any of the following effects:

Short term effects: increased wakefulness, dryness of mouth, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, increased physical activity, increased respiration, irritability, confusion, tremors, convulsions, anxiety, paranoia, stroke, death.

Long term effects: amphetamine psychosis, extreme paranoia, hallucinations, repetitive behavior, sensations of insects crawling under skin, obsessive behavior, strokes, irregular heartbeat, heart attack, seizures, death.

### A great season



The Lady Buffs water polo team.

The Lady Buffs water polo team had a great season.

This was only their second year playing. They've gone to the state playoffs both years.

The other three schools in the Final Four were 5A schools with big teams. They

had subs, while our starters had to play the whole game.

I kept telling them that they are no. 1 among 4A schools.

It was a great season, and as parents we are very proud of them.

Dayle Tufti.

### Tobacco use

Note: The following information is presented by Warm Springs Tobacco Prevention:

Facts about tobacco use in Jefferson County, including the Warm Springs community:

A total of 2,638 people in the county are regular smokers.

During the past year, 743 of these people suffered a serious illness caused by tobacco use.

Thirty-eight people died in the county during the year from tobacco use. This was 22 percent of all deaths in the county.

Eighty-nine percent of the adults in the county report they have no-smoking rules in their house.

Ninety-one percent of eighth-grade students report that

they live in a smoke-free home. Fifty-four percent of smokers tried to quit during the year.

### Happy holidays



Wishing everyone a happy holidays from Roberta Tufti, Archie Caldera and Family.

The next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, December 9. Thank you for writing!

### Family Community sale

The Family Community Sale is set for Thursday, Dec. 8, starting at 7 a.m. at the Agency Longhouse. Set-up will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 starting at 2 p.m.

The Family Community Sale will feature a fundraiser

breakfast and lunch, and lightly used items for sale.

To support our local food bank, one canned item or non-perishable donation is required.

Call Neda Wesley at 541-553-1538 for specifics.

### Diabetes preventers



Montell Elliott and Winona Stwyer accept the award.

The Warm Springs Diabetes Prevention Program earned the 2011 John Pipe Voices For Change Award.

Montell Elliott, program coordinator, and Winona Stwyer, lifestyle coach, accepted the award on behalf of the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP).

The award honors and recognizes Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) grantees, who have provided outstanding diabetes prevention and treatment services in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

The award is named in memory of long-time diabe-

tes supporter John Pipe of Wolf Point, Mont., who was a dedicated diabetes advocate and served as a member of the Association's Native American Initiatives Subcommittee. His longstanding advocacy efforts reached from his local community to Washington, D.C., and affected countless tribal communities.

The DPP works with people who are considered pre-diabetic to make lifestyle changes in nutrition and exercise to delay or prevent the onset of diabetes. If you would like to know more about the program call 541-553-1070

### Video

(Continued from page 1)

Currently at 74 percent, the number of high school students reading at or above federal benchmarks has tripled since 2008.

In addition, high school students are also showing marked improvements in math with an increase from 26 percent to 56 percent meeting state benchmarks this year.

"We wanted to use the video to acknowledge the hard work of our team and students," said Boyle. "We're excited to see how powerful it's been. The fact that it's being shared beyond our schools demonstrates the sense of pride and ownership they feel."

According to Boyle, the initial concept for the video was a stretch and the district was aware of the risk involved in addressing stigmas so boldly.

"It was touching to see how difficult it was for the teachers and staff who enacted the negative statements about the school district," said filmmaker Bridget McGinn, of Kara McGinn Films, who created the video.

"They understood the purpose of the video and the fact that they were 'acting,'" she said, "but they found it so hard to say things about the district that are so contrary to their personal beliefs. It's clear that the district team is very dedicated and passionate about education and the students they serve."

District administrators say that the video has already had a positive impact on morale for teachers and staff.

"This video was an important investment for the district because everyone is working so hard and we wanted to show appreciation for our teachers and staff," said district superintendent Rick Molitor.

"Every day, they are asked to do more with less and they have been amazing. We also wanted to celebrate our rich diversity and the great people that work and go to school here," said Molitor.

The video can be viewed at: [www.jcsd.k12.or.us/departments/tls/believevideo](http://www.jcsd.k12.or.us/departments/tls/believevideo)

**Diversity of cultures**  
It has formally been shared within the district and with a few select groups including local business development organizations and school administrators in Oregon. A parent-community meeting to share the video will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the Madras High School commons area. Administrators will also be on hand to answer questions.

Jefferson County School District 509-J serves the communities of the Warm Springs Reservation, Madras, Metolius and Antelope. There are seven schools (one primary, one intermediate, two elementary, one K-8, one middle and one high school).

The district has 2,800 students in grades K-12, and 400 staff members.

The district is proudly among the most culturally diverse in Oregon with equal populations of Native America, Hispanic, and Caucasian students.

Spilyay Tymoo  
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