

70x7 Letters to the Editor

By Duran Bobb

Ray Jones moved to Warm Springs when he was a young man in 1964. He started a family and has become a familiar presence on the reservation.

When he was 10 years old, he taught himself to play the guitar and formed a band.

Spilyay Speaks

Through the years, he has taught himself to play the drums, piano, harmonica and other instruments.

Today, living on his retirement, Ray plays the guitar and keyboard for the Full Gospel Churches in both Warm Springs and Oakville, Wash.

Over the past weekend, Ray and his family traveled to the Oakville Shaker Church, where many gathered to celebrate his mother's (Katherine Barr) ninety-second birthday.

When the family returned to Warm Springs, what they found was shocking.

"The house was trashed," Ray said. "Doors were busted in. And some things that I've worked all of my life gathering were gone."

Among the items stolen were the classic maroon Gretsch and white Falcon guitars that Ray plays for the church. Also missing was a Yamaha digital keyboard.

"The Gretsch guitar was given to me as a gift, playing in the church," he said.

The intruder also stole a 1983 Nissan pickup. This vehicle was stopped around 1 a.m. by tribal police on Friday, Feb. 18, driven by a non-member, last name Bennett. The driver was issued a warning and released.

The vehicle was located, inoperable and empty, in Sandy.

"These are material things," Ray said of the items stolen from him. "They were provided to me for the work that I do for the church."

The music he plays and the songs that he sings in church have taught Ray a valuable perspective. "We sing about forgiveness," he says. "The Word tells us not once or twice, but we have to forgive seventy times seven, if it comes to that."

Ray Jones is still able to see the bright side. "We still have our home on solid ground," he said. "Most important, we still have each other. Material things will come back to me, through grace. One day, I'm going to play another guitar in church. But you can't replace your soul."

(For descriptions of the stolen items, please see the Tymoo classifieds.)

Seniors Day

The Confederated Tribes will host the Twenty-Second Annual Honor Seniors Day on May 11 at the Agency Longhouse. Honor Seniors Day is heralded as one of the first Honor Seniors in the Pacific Northwest.

The idea originated with a small group of tribal elders who wanted an event especially for the elders. Through the years, Honor Seniors Day has grown into a major community event. The average attendance has been from 700-1,200 elders and guests who attend the day-long event.

Honor Seniors Day is a time to showcase the local attractions, such as the Museum at Warm Springs, Kah-Nee-Ta, and Indian Head Casino.

The elders are given the opportunity to use their name tags from the Honor Day to gain free admission to the museum. A shuttle service is provided to all points of interest, as a courtesy during the day.

Preparing for the event, the Honor Seniors Day Committee is requesting a financial or other donation for prizes. For additional information, contact the Senior Center, 541-553-3313, or 553-3520.

Sincerely,
Lucille Wilson, Honor Seniors Day Committee.

Preference law

Indian Preference: It's the law.

The tribal Human Resources Department (HR) of a theoretical tribe advertises nation-wide and on its website is that the position of chief judge is open and solicits application from qualified candidates.

The position announcement also states the position is subject to tribal and Indian preference. Theoretical tribe is a "compact" tribe under P.L. 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, meaning it has contracted with the United States government functions previously carried out by the U.S. government.

The theoretical tribe receives the majority of its funding for the judicial system under a contract with the BIA and supplements the judicial budget using tribal funds mostly from the casino and resort.

The theoretical tribe HR reviews all the applications and determines there are no "tribal" applicants that meet the minimum qualifications but there are three non-tribal "Indian" candidates that meet the minimum

requirements. There is also one non-Indian candidate that meets the minimum qualifications and, in fact, exceeds the qualifications of all the candidates. The HR invites the three Indian candidates and the non-Indian candidate for interviews. HR then destroys the application records of the other five candidates who were determined to not meet the minimum requirements. (Thus assuring any investigation by the contracting officer or the inspector general will be very difficult.)

A hiring committee conducts the interview along with the HR director, the tribal administrator and tribal attorney. They vote after the last interview to hire the non-Indian candidate. The record of their vote is transferred to the theoretical tribal council who take takes official action to hire the non-Indian candidate. The tribe has a written policy and/or ordinance which give qualified "tribal" candidates first preference to qualified members of other tribes. Has this tribe properly followed the law (tribal and federal) in hiring the non-Indian candidate? The answer is a resounding "no." What should have happened?

Once HR had two or more "Indian" candidates that meet the minimum qualifications, it should only have set interviews with the Indian candidates and the non-Indian candidate should have been kindly thanked for his application and invited to apply again for other positions for which he might be qualified. Theoretical tribes should have then selected one of the interviewed Indian candidates for the position of chief judge. In fact, the theoretical tribe is not required by law to interview the non-Native applicant if two or more Indian candidates met the minimum qualifications.

Theoretical tribe did not only violate the law this time but has been doing s for years. As a result, most of its top management and executive positions have been filled by non-Indians. This includes chief judge, associate judge, tribal attorney, chief of police, tribal health director, clinical director and two principal staff members assisting the tribal chairman.

One of the Indian candidates called the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) to inquire as to how to file a complaint, only to find out the TERO di-

rector is a non-Indian. I'll note that theoretical tribes is not at all "theoretical." It exists and is still engaged in violations of both its own and federal law. Obviously, the tribal attorney is well aware of the violations, but for some unknown reason has not advised the tribe that it is violating federal law and self-governance compacts provisions as well as tribal law.

Amos Switzler

Thank you!

We would like to send out a big "Thank You" to those individuals who purchased necklaces and/or candy cups for Valentine's Day.

We hope the Valentine brightened someone's day. With your generosity, we were able to raise \$329 for the club. The money will be used for club materials and/or supplies throughout the school year and summer program.

We would also like to thank our volunteers for donating their time to make the necklaces and also donating other materials. As always, your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Staff and club members

Wishes...

To our son, Waylon McKie Weaselhead (aka Buffaloe Ryder), Happy Belated Valentine's Day. You are loved and missed by all. You're always in our thoughts and prayers everyday, son. Much love, Mom and Dad, grandson Devon G/B Weaselhead, Kendra Wolfe, Kendall Florez, Blake Weaselhead, the Weaselheads and the Wolves.

It has been a wonderful blessing to be married to Vernon Squiemphen for 13 years. My husband, my love - I know that, legally, we've only been married for three years. I guess that's what happens when you pick leap year to say your vows, huh? Happy anniversary! LRaye Picard Squiemphen.

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. The next deadline for submissions is Friday, March 2.

Thank you!

Memorial Special at Lincoln's



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

At the Honor Dance at atwai Laritta Greene, family shared pictures and dresses made and worn by Greene. From left: Norene Greene, Eugene Austin Greene Jr., Norene Sampson and Shaylene Boise, wearing jingle and fancy dresses made by Greene.

These are the results of Laritta Green All-Around Special at the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow:

First, Acosia Red Elk of Warm Springs; second,

Shibabe Hodge of Tahlequah, Okla.; and third, Bobbie Lynn Frederick of Belcourt, North Dakota.

And these contestants also (in order of their score): Star

Whiteye of London, Ont., Canada; Josette Wahwasuck, Mayetta, Kan.; Susie Walsey, Renton, Wash.; Sadie Heemsah, Harrah, Wash.; Paula Shebala, Couer d'Alene; Alyssa Buck,

Priest Rapids, Wash.; Irene Paskemin, Wapato, Wash.; Pat Heemsah, Yakama; Cece Walsey-Begay, Satus, Wash.; and Shaamute Azure, Toppenish.

Important information from Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics Department can no longer use a "c/o Vital Statistics" address.

The department has received a new directive, which is to not address tribal member checks as "c/o Vital Statistics."

If you are a tribal member who has been receiving mail at "c/o Vital Statistics," you must come into the Vital Statistics office and change your address effective immediately.

Update: adoption enrollment application.

Adoption enrollments forms may need to be updated.

If you received a letter to update your application, please submit. Our office is still waiting for some to respond to their letter.

We are going forward in

working towards completing all the adoption enrollment forms. There is a small percentage that needs address update and we have no way of contacting you, so if you have moved and not recently completed an address change form, please do so.

Our office has received phone calls about automatic enrollment and adoptions; the information below is quoted from the Constitution and By Laws:

From the Constitution and By-Laws of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon approved February 14, 1938. Article III-Membership Section 2. Membership of Descendants.

(a) Every child of one-fourth or more Indian blood born heretofore or hereafter to any

One-hundred forty-six new enrollees over the past year.

member of the Confederated Tribes who maintains a residence upon the Warm Springs Reservation at the time of such birth shall automatically be entitled to membership.

(b) Children born heretofore or hereafter to a member or former member of any of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation may be adopted as provided in Section 3 of this Article, upon application by self, parent or guardian.

Section 3. Adoption. The members of the Confederated

Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation may by a majority vote, adopt as a member of the Tribe any person of 1/8 or more Indian blood who is a descendant of a member or former member of the Confederated Tribes: **Provided** that any person adopted into membership must have resided at least three years upon the Warm Springs Reservation, and shall not be a member of any other tribe of Indians.

Vital Stats

Vital Statistics of Warm Springs: We have 361 Senior Citizens. New Enrollees: In January 19, 2011 there were 4,964 tribal members. Today we have 5,110 tribal members, so we have grown by 146 new enrollees this past year.

Spilyay Tymoo
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