

Letters to the Editor

Hands Around the Courthouse

Greetings! My name is Charlene Smith, I work at the Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services.

It's that time of year again—for "Hands Around the Courthouse" on Tuesday, April 10 at 10 a.m.

Our department is seeking donations for this event. Last year we received cash, water, candy, pens, pencils, chips, juice; so any type of donation will be not only useful but appreciated.

Last year was great. Please feel free to attend at the Warm Springs Tribal Courthouse. We will have drumming, snacks, and of course the Hands Around the Courthouse for the victims of crime survivors.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. I can be reached at the Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services, 541-553-2293.

Charlene Smith

Shaker services

The Warm Springs 1910 Indian Shaker Church will be open for prayer services Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 6-8.

Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday with prayer services right after both nights.

Sunday services will start at 10 a.m. with baptisms to immediately follow.

Lunch and an Easter egg hunt for the kids will also be Sunday afternoon after all services are complete.

For more information they can contact Tamera Kalama at 541-553-3201 or William Sam at 541-553-3495.

Sovereignty

The very essence of our inherent sovereignty is our people, the tribal members. It is us as a people who exercise sovereignty. It is only the people who can revere, foster and promote sovereignty. I cannot overstate the critical importance of sustaining our sovereignty, a task that was and should remain a diligent endeavor for Tribal Council and the people. The people need to realize the importance of our sovereignty, to abide by it in order to keep our sovereignty. We are only one of eight tribes in the United States who still hold our sovereignty. Our treaty rights and sovereignty are our strength since 1855.

On June 25, 1992 the Eighteenth Tribal Council on behalf of the people declared and cer-

tified the tribes' inherent sovereign authority with the Declaration Sovereignty. It outlined a brief history of the three Tribes and summarized the 1855 Treaty. I would like to point out a few excerpts of that document as follows: "Today, the people of the Confederated Tribes continue to assert and exercise sovereign authority over the tribal reservation, over other territory with tribal jurisdiction, over territory that may come under tribal jurisdiction in the future, and over the protection of our rights and our people and their welfare in all places." "The Confederated Tribes shall always exercise our sacred national sovereignty in order to achieve the highest of goals: to preserve our traditional cultural ways that have existed for so many centuries in harmony with our homeland; and to provide for the well-being of our people for the many centuries that lie ahead." "We shall, as we always have, give respect to all persons; acknowledge the special wisdom of our elders and religious leaders; nurture bright hopes for the future that reside within our young people." "Our sovereign authority includes the right to choose not to adopt formal written laws, procedures and policies governing particular subjects; formal laws can be intrusive and inflexible and we have learned that some issues are best addressed by informal traditional ways."

I would also like to point out the following contained in the declaration: "We, the members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon comprised of Wasco, Warm Springs and Northern Paiute Tribes, hereby declare our national sovereignty. We declare the existence of this inherent sovereign authority—the absolute right to govern, to determine our destiny, and to control all persons, land, water, resources and activities, free of all outside interference."

Finally, I want to point out this: "Ultimate sovereignty is vested in the people, who received that sovereign authority in the form of laws given by the Creator and by the land itself. Our people have delegated only limited authority to the Tribal Council and have reserved the rest of our national sovereignty to ourselves." "Our people, as the custodians of our sovereignty, revere all of those things and declare that shall be protected absolutely and forever."

Respectfully,
Maxine Switzler

New school

I'm writing to encourage all registered voters to get out and vote in support of the new middle school in Warm Springs.

Our children of Central Oregon deserve the best education we can offer them. These are our children, not your children, my children, our children.

I rode the bus from Warm Springs to Madras from the 7th grade to the 12th grade. The bus ride requires Warm Springs kids to get up and go to sleep every school day a few hours earlier.

I know my brothers and sisters from Simnasho had to make even more sacrifices and get up much earlier than us in Warm Springs.

Us from Warm Springs rode the bus route 40 miles a day (guesstimate). Our family from Simnasho was on the bus 70 miles a day.

These bus rides are not conducive to the best education our families of Central Oregon, Madras, Warm Springs can offer our children. I know this long commute each and every school day is a major factor to the high dropout rate of our children of Warm Springs.

If Madras children had to ride the bus to Simnasho each and every day, I know something would have been done years and years ago.

It is time to treat our Warm Springs children with the same deserving respect and consideration, considering how much our community of Warm Springs contributes to the wellbeing of Central Oregon.

Bobby Eagleheart

Education

I've lived over here in Duck City Eugene for many years now. I hear a few stories about our children who are still in school, some good, some not so cool.

To the younger children who are still in school, I hope you all will look at the older generation in Warm Springs and the elders in your family.

I have a grandfather Olney Patt Sr. I really want to be as intelligent as he was. He was the chairman of the Warm Springs Tribal Council for many years before he went to heaven a few years ago. Some people really liked him, some didn't. We shouldn't look at the ones who didn't like him, we look at the great work he has done as chair-

Easter Eggs



Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb is wishing a Happy Easter!

man for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

There is always some great news in having an education. It will help you in your family. Always have the desire to get the highest in your education.

Evette Patt, 50 Kourt Dr. apt. 3, Eugene, OR 97404

School bond

The heart of economic development in a community is education. Without a community's commitment to provide the best possible resources for educating its people, a community is in decline.

The Jefferson County Economic Development Advisory Board is pleased to support the proposed 509-J bond measure on the May 2012 ballot.

Existing companies need a stream of skilled and dependable workers. Companies from emerging industries looking to locate in our communities strongly consider the quality of our education system and the caliber of its educators and stu-

dents.

An essential part of the learning process is a well-maintained and safe environment. The bond measure addresses the needs of each facility, the need for a new K-8 facility in Warm Springs and a sorely needed performing arts center facility that will benefit the entire community.

We believe the 509-J school board was visionary about the needed facilities and improvements while sensitive to the current economic conditions.

Beyond the long-term facility additions and improvements, there will be a two-year, short-term benefit from construction activities with construction jobs, services and supplies.

Construction work in a community also conveys that a community is on the move toward growth and a higher quality of living. This is attractive to potential new businesses.

Most importantly is our commitment to our youth: we want to provide the best possible environment for learning and personal development. We encourage the community to support this sensible bond measure.

Sincerely, Wayne Pearson, manager, Economic Development of Jefferson County, on behalf of the Jefferson County Economic Development Advisory Board.

Honor Seniors

The Senior Citizen Department is getting ready for the Twenty-Second Annual Honor Senior Day.

This will be May 11 at the Agency Longhouse.

We are getting together for updates of the sponsors and door prize donations. The meeting will be at the Senior Citizen Department at noon this afternoon, April 4.

For more information, contact the Senior Citizen Department at 541-553-3313. Or write to:

Senior Citizen Dept., PO Box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Emails are as follows: wilson.wewa@wstribs.org lucille.schuster@wstribs.org

Memorial & Stone Setting

For Duane E. Winishut & Bertha Heath

Saturday, April 7, 2012 at the Agency Longhouse.

Stone setting for Duane Winishut Sr. at 9 a.m.

Giveaway and meal to follow at the Agency Longhouse.

K w a t a n i
Wiyawitpama
Kata Tsisyuwak ku
T'Quanmy, Natalie
Atauwishamash!
Love, Allawiikt,
Waushukta,
Sun Hawk, Sundance.

Happy Easter to Cheryl,
Jaden, Daren, Holly and Mike.
Love, Dave.

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. The next deadline for submissions is Friday, April 13. Thank you!

New Spilyay logo



The Spilyay Tymoo has a new logo, adopted about a month ago. The coyote is the creation of Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb.

Wishes...

I want to wish a Happy 26th Birthday to my Baby sister Socorro Vanessa Cuevas! Love you lots!
From Monica, Keanu & Kody.

A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life.

Happy Birthday to my Brother Hector! Love you!
Monica, Keanu & Kody.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan
Reporter: Duran Bobb
Advertising Director: Yvonne Iverson
Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:
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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$15.00.