

K-8 Letters to the Editor

By Duran Bobb

The possibility of a new school on-rez has stirred up strong opinions.

Over 20 years ago, Chief Delvis Heath first presented the idea of a new school to the 509-J District.

Spilyay Speaks

"I was told at that time that Indians don't pay taxes," the Chief said at the recent Simnasho District Meeting.

Five years ago, Tribal Council set aside enough land for a new school with room for expansion.

The previous referendum that was passed on-rez was for a new k-5 school. The tribes would have spent up to \$8 million, and the school district would reimburse through a rental agreement. Voters didn't agree.

"Now we owe this to the future generations," Councilman JP Patt said. "There are 5,000 registered voters in Jefferson County. We have many voters in Warm Springs... This will be in your hands."

If passed, the new school would be ready to open at Greeley Heights by the fall of 2013.

"We could have some say in the curriculum that is taught," Patt said. "We could teach our history, our language, anything about our people other than just Lewis and Clark encountering us along the river."

"We started working on this agreement two years ago," chief operations officer Urbana Ross said. "We took some of the work that was laid out in 2009, when we were going for a stimulus grant, which wasn't approved. Now we're continuing with that... I would like to see a school that fits our community."

Currently, there are 970 tribal member students within the 509-J School District. Ninety-seven are enrolled in kindergarten. There are 53 students ready to graduate. However, on average, only 35 tribal members will earn diplomas.

"We're losing kids," Ross said. "They don't want to go to school in Madras. It's a choice they make."

At the meeting, a main point in favor of the new school was that some children wait for the bus before dawn and get home from school when it's dark.

According to Ross, there are some dollars identified for the project, and a supplemental budget has passed a few weeks ago.

Michael Collins confirmed that the BIA has agreed to reimburse the tribes over a period of time.

To our people

After two years of service, I have resigned from my position as the Development Director at the Museum At Warm Springs, a beauty and masterful presentation of our ancestors. The museum itself has a wonderful and unique history of its own as well, one to appreciate and acknowledge, and may soon begin to thrive to even higher greatness. It has the potential, the opportunities are there, and the support has been granted.

As individuals, we too are unique, unique in many ways, and connected spiritually in many others. Everyday has a miracle, not usually acknowledged for its existence, and everyday has an opportunity. It is up to us to believe the miracle of our existence and reach for those opportunities, for we are the ultimate control of our future. Once you begin believing that your heights have been reached, you begin to settle into 'where you are' and the greatest potential of 'who you are' will remain there as well. The opportunities will pass us by and only the obvious miracles will be acknowledged.

Belief is a gift many of us do not tap into. We can believe in ourselves, projects, communities, tribes, initiatives, peers, and organizations. It is something to be nurtured because without it, we are no longer living the heights of our lives or the heights of an organization per se.

Proactivity is a word I've only learned in the last 8 years, meaning "creating or controlling a situation by causing something to happen rather than responding to it after it has happened." It is a bold effort of looking into the future to create a better outcome. Yet, it can only be triggered by belief in ourselves to control our future.

Organizations fall victim to settling in to where they are, what they are, and who they are. They become knowledgeable of their surrounding and only tell the story of how they got to that particular point of rest. Some organizations take a bit bolder move and copy a bit of the interests of other more proactive organizations. Then there's the highest of proactive organizations, believing in their future, reaching for the possibilities, and seeking the miracle of being the very best at what they do.

The best thing about us as humans though, is that we are equals; with a spirit to believe, an opportunity to grow, and a possibility to pursue.

You must be done waiting for others to offer an opportunity, or else the possibilities will never awaken. We are individually unique with similar stories, but our spirit is our very own. And that spirit settles when we are done pursuing, and done growing.

So pursue the opportunities, seek the possibilities, and believe in the miracle of each day for tomorrow to gift you with enlightenment.

Jefferson Greene

For the fish

To the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,

My name is Wesley Richard Smith. I am a member of the Native American Student Association at Lane Community College in Eugene.

I would like to take this time on behalf of myself and the association to give thanks.

The Native American Student Association wishes to send acknowledgments of our gratitude and respects to the Tribal Council, Fish and Wildlife Committee; as well as the people of Warm Springs for your assistance.

We came to you with a donation request for salmon to assist feeding the people who attended our Annual Lane Powwow in December 2011.

The Warm Springs tribes donated 200 pounds of salmon to our powwow, and the dinner was remarkable and fulfilling to all the people who chose to eat. Our powwow wouldn't have been the same without our cultural sustenance of the salmon that was donated by the tribes of Warm Springs.

We have a strong belief in our Native club, and participating student communities of Lane, to keep our event as traditional as possible, ever reminding us of the way our peoples have always practiced this time together in the past and present.

It made us proud to be able to feed the people attending some salmon, and having fed the people for free has always brought good energy and feelings inside of our circle at the powwow. We wouldn't want our powwow any other way.

Therefore we, the Native American Student Association of Lane would like to send our

gratitude to the people of Warm Springs for the assistance that you have granted us with of fish for the powwow.

We also would like to thank Joanne Smith and Wendell Jim for transporting the fish here to Eugene for our occasion. Thank You.

Wesley Richard Smith

Sacred salmon

The Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery was first proposed to be built in 1956 but was blocked till 1978.

The Tribal Council told the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that they could not bring in other salmon to start up the hatchery brood stock. Only the original salmon were used. The original intent this hatchery was specifically built only to meet tribal needs. It is not an experiment station as it is now. Our sacred salmon are being handled, fins removed, computer chips put in their nose area. There is no respect for the salmon, there is no honoring of the spawning salmon. About one-third or less salmon are allowed above the hatchery, as they journey up to spawn.

Where are the eels? The dolly wardens? The Smie? The crowdads? I truly believe that the way this hatchery is now run is the problem. What about the tribal needs in Beaver Creek, Mill Creek, Warm Springs River, the Deschutes River? Do any of us care anymore? Are the salmon sacred or are they just words?

Terry Courtney Jr.

Memories

At the beginning of my 32-year career in the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the summer of 1950, I was employed as a day school teacher at the Cherry Creek Day School on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. The school was located 110 miles from the Agency and about 40 miles south of Dupree, South Dakota.

On the reservation lived a community of some 300 souls, including one man who was at what he called "Custer's last staff meeting at Little Big Horn," and a family of six who were survivors of the Wounded Knee

Massacre. Sadly, this man and his family died that winter from tuberculosis. Before their passing, they related their stories to me, stories I have never forgotten. I worked at the Cheyenne Agency before the Missouri River dams were constructed, and then I saw the devastation they caused in the lives of those who lost the lowlands that were so much a part of their lives when I moved to Fort Totten, North Dakota.

Next, I moved to Seminole Agency in Florida. Finally, I saw a parallel impact in another tribal community when I moved to Warm Springs Agency at a time shortly after the Columbia River dams wiped out the economy and livelihood of the Treaty Fishing Tribes of the Columbia Basin.

Within three or four weeks after my assignment as superintendent at Warm Springs, I was called to a meeting, along with tribal leaders, in Olympia, Wash., to discuss treaty fishing issues with representatives from Washington state and other interested parties. I drove Chief Nathan Heath, Chief Nelson Wallulatam, Olney Patt and Charlie Jackson to the meeting. As I had been taught by the Lakota, you learn by listening. So I drove and listened. Driving along the Columbia Gorge Highway, we watched the Columbia River flow over what used to be the livelihood of the treaty tribes, and they discussed the good times.

When we approached the area where Celilo Falls used to be, they asked me to stop. We got out of the car and stood on the edge of the road, and they talked and for a time relived that era when each of them had lived there during the fish runs, and of times when life was good. Each of them told stories of sadness and laughter.

I watched, listened and learned as they kidded each other, and reminded each other of friends who had passed and days that will never return. They remembered, and today so do I.

Those opportunities to listen to stories of lives changed, and to learn from them, stay with me today. I am honored to have been an observer and participant in those events, and to be able to share them with other generations. As the old Spiritual

says, "Precious memories, how they linger..."

Sincerely,
Doyce L. "Spec" Waldrip.

Wishes...



April 18, 2012

On this day Harvey Jim's family would like to wish him a very Happy 69th birthday, for you have been very good for us and to us. Thank you. All our love,

Love U - Eliza Brown Jim; Marella and Leonard, Terry and family; Leir and Pearl family; Marella Robert family; Cbet and boys; Lillie, Cowboy and Chato; Tiger, Tates and family; Wolfman and family; Tracy, Kayla; Eliza-Rego family, your Shalissa.



April 27, 2012

Love to you Harvey on our Tenth Anniversary. Thank you for being here for us and with us. Do take care of Conniger. My love, your wife Eliza Brown Jim #77.

April 27, 2012

Love you, my wife and family, on our Tenth Anniversary. Thank you for this 10 years. We will have many more. Love to my family of 10 years, Harvey M. Jim.

To Justice Allen, Wishing you the happiest birthday. Love you with all my heart, Dad Jarod.

Indian Business Talk

Good lessons as we go ka-chinging along

By Bruce Engle

Loan officer
W.S. Credit Enterprise

Think of ka-chinging as putting money to use.

That usually involves money changing hands—but not always. Piggy banks and envelopes might be exceptions.

My eyes might have gone ka-chinging when I got my first paycheck for bucking bales—at a penny a bale.

That was when you could buy and send a penny postcard for a penny and First Class mail was three cents. Don't ask how long ago it was.

Had I put some in a savings account, the bank would have gone ka-chinging. The same would have happened if I had put some of that check in a 401-K.

We didn't have those in the 50s.

When I spent it, which I did, cash registers went ka-chinging. They were noisy in those days.

Then, from some of the money I and others spent, the business owners and their employees got their chance to save and spend—more ka-chinging.

Parts of two songs come to mind—Money makes the world go round, world go round, world go round. Money makes the world go round—in the most delightful way.

Earning it gives one a sense of accomplishment; spending it wisely and saving some of it can give some satisfaction and feelings of security.

Preparation and generational thinking can make good things happen and continue to happen. I'm talking here about parents raising kids to do well in

school, to be good workers, to be savvy spenders and savers and, to grow up and raise a bunch of savvy ka-chingers.

I have known successful athletes to say "Preparation is everything." There are sequences to the process.

One way is for parents to be good workers and good money managers. That's teaching by example.

Asking kids, prompting kids, and pushing kids to do well in school helps them to be better prepared to do well financially and otherwise. And then...

Boy meets girl, they fall in love—Kazam!—set up house-keeping—Ka-ching!—and start making and raising a new crop of ka-chingers.

That also helps to keep the world go round.

I have a child's memory of

the old ladies asking, "Is ___ doing well?" when they were gossiping.

It was a standard question, maybe a religious question.

One of our Klamath Creation Stories ends with the Creator saying, "Live well my people."

I sometimes wonder if our elders took that as both a wish for us and a challenge.

Preparing ourselves and the children to meet the challenge is doable. It's worth doing.

Why?

The well prepared usually do well in life. They tend to become good people, accomplished workers, and builders of strong families. We see them living long, satisfying and productive lives.

And, they can help us when we grow old.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

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

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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$15.00.