

Travel center Letters to the Editor

By Duran Bobb

The idea for an on-rez travel center has been around since as early as 1965.

That was when *atwai* Grant Waheneka had recently been voted into Tribal Council. It was his vision to build a facility on Highway 26 that would cater to weary travelers.

Almost 50 years later, the idea still has regained its zest and potential.

The nearest full-service travel centers are both in Troutdale, practically next door to each other on I-84. That's a two-hour drive.

Truckers share an online culture and often post the locations and ratings for facilities along highways. The most desired services in a travel center are showers, quick washers and dryers, ample parking, hot meals, video games and movies on big screens, Internet access and phones.

"I think the Plaza is the new stop," Anita Jackson said. "People look for a restroom, mini-mart, and a place to stretch their legs."

"Anywhere on Highway 26 would do great," Jessie Esquiro said. "There's traffic passing through day and night."

"I like the Miller Flat idea," Lori Switzler said. "Trucks would be more likely to stop to rest and chain-up if the parking area is large."

"It needs to be further north," Linda Larson said. "People use the tree-line as a bathroom. This enterprise could make some money for the tribes."

"This is a no-brainer," Jonathan Smith said. "[There is] infrastructure in place, viable location, right off two travel arteries, and potential tourist developments for tribal business."

"Keep it next to our casino," Jaime Scott said. "Look at Old Mill in Bend. Looks great, being a bark-filled abandoned lumberyard."

TOE NESS...

A neighbor asked his hillbilly friend, "How come you never fix that leaky roof?"

The hillbilly says, "Well, when it's raining, it's too wet to fix it. And when it's sunny out, there ain't no need to fix it."

Spilyay Speaks

New school

I have a few thoughts and dreams I would like to put out.

We recently took a vote on a k-8 school on the reservation for our Warm Springs children. For a while since I sent my vote in, I've been thinking of some input on what I'd like to see. It needs to be a campus setting with high standards.

Attendance and stability first, attendance to be handled strictly. No more staying up late and too tired to go to school. We need parents' accountability for homework and participation, as well as programs directing our children toward math and science, history, art, sports, leaving nothing out on what we can offer them.

Raising them with structured behavior and higher moral standards and with respect, we can bring up wonderful tribal members. Community involvement is encouraged. Yes, this is a commitment for a long term. We need high teaching standards, with a staff willing to commit for a long term as well as enjoy what they do for our children.

I do not want to see cheap building materials and low grade cardboard type buildings. We can spend the money wisely and build to make it last, not to build and accept a lower grade for our children's place.

They will come to be proud of their school, and have a sense of pride. Let's get our ideas in so we can build a good school for our attending children, and give care on this decision. Thank you.

Mary K. Umtuch.

Kids' sake

As a member of the Advisory Board for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Jefferson County, I would like to say a big thank-you to Nancy Diaz for another successful Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Most people don't realize how much it takes to get ready for this event. Thank you Nancy husband, Hilario Diaz, her grandchildren Brett Schott and Dakota Dodge for helping Nancy.

I would also like to thank Jaylyn Suppah, tribal partnership coordinator with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Warm Springs, for her con-

tribution to Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Thank you to all the volunteers and businesses that gave generously to this fund raising event. Great job again this year, Madras Bowl and Pizza!

Last but definitely not least, thank you to bowling teams. We had so much fun watching you enjoy yourselves. Looking forward to next year.

Amy McCully

Truth be told

Family and relatives,

The real reason I write this letter to you all is for not only an apology but to let you know there's a reason behind everything. Our choices lead us to different paths in our lives, and after realizing that path we trekked, we sometimes look back at the bad before the good.

As we examine the bad, there's always guilt, regret, sorrow, anger and blame. Growing up, that's all I ever had inside—I admit that I outweighed everything good and thought of nothing but bad, and dwelled on it for the longest time. I went as far as running away from problems and moved to Seattle in hopes of starting over. Little did I know running away from all the "bad" on the rez, it followed me to the Emerald City.

I'm not going to sugar coat this, I was homeless in Seattle for three years. I lived my life there by sleeping on the streets, bumming for money, digging in trash cans for food, partying—going from overnight shelters to sleeping in abandoned buildings, and sleeping under bridges, as well as hotels and doorways.

It wasn't only a lifestyle I chose, but a culture itself that I've joined. By saying this, I wasn't alone. Youth ages 18-25 or younger also ran to the city to look for a new life in hopes of finding answers. It was the most memorable time of my life because I've met many different people who had the same or worse

problems as me. That caused a domino effect of many strong bonds of friendship and camaraderie. It was also a very dark moment in my life when my addiction progressed. I'd drink alcohol to the point where I'd wake up in Harborview or Swedish Hospital due to alcohol poisoning.

As I grew tired of my freedom and addictive lifestyle, I started replacing all the bad by realizing all the good. I did try to straighten my life out by help of a friend who took me under his wing. Little did I know of the dangers of staying with this friend. I endured a few life threatening calamities that got me to return home where it was safe. That's when I picked up the way of the longhouse—Washat. Something I was deeply proud of doing was singing!

Despite my struggle of finding work and organizing my life, the bad from Seattle followed me home. I got tired of fearing for my life. I felt cornered, followed, stalked. The truth will be told, have faith and patience. I love you all. Atawashumush, thank you so much for your time. Yours truly,

Steven N. Anderson Jr.

Better life

There are many reasons why it would be good to quit using meth. For instance, there would be the opportunity to rebuild relationships with trust and love after burning bridges with irresponsibility and dishonesty.

A healthier self, physically, mentally and emotionally would also be possible.

I could actually leave the house without having to worry about whether there is a warrant out for my arrest or if I am being followed or getting caught in possession of meth or any other type of paraphernalia, and be able to walk down the street without looking over my shoulder.

I would be able to pay all my bills on time, thus not

having to stress about my lights being shut off and having the knowledge all of my family's needs are being provided for. All of this and have the privilege of having extra spending money in my pockets.

Most important, I would be able to rebuild and enjoy a close, loving and trusting relationship with my significant other and my two younger children. I would not miss out on their childhood as I have with my two older kids.

I have learned that my quitting meth would not only effect me, but also those I love and care for and who love and care for me, adding to the positive reflection in my life.

Trish Tanewasha.

Condolences

To the family of my bro-in-cousin Chaz Mitchell, My condolences go out to you all. I truly feel your pain. I only wish I could have been there with and for you all. Specially Robin and his children. You all are in my prayers and heart. With much love, **Laura E. Robinson.**

To the family of Merle Kalama, So sorry for your loss, you know she meant a lot to me and taught me a lot. I will miss her dearly. Sorry I couldn't be there with Nicole and Coby and my bro Duck Hunter. Keep your heads up. Love you all much. You are in my hearts and prayers. **Laura E. Robinson.**

A thank you

To all our friends and family, I am sorry for taking so long to put this in print. There are not enough words to thank you all for the love and kindness you have given me and my family during this great loss of my dear son.

Sissy and I are so grateful to all of you for not only caring about us, but for loving Bubba so much. It is because of all of you I keep Broken Bow open. Bubba loved the

store and was so proud of it. Without all of you it would not be there. We love you all very much. Thank you again for showing us so much love.

Love from **Elaine, Charity, Nana and Bubba's son Ian, at the Broken Bow Trading Post.**

Wishes...

Happy birthday, Shmoo, 6-25; and Joie Johnson, 6-29. Love, Laura E. Robinson.

Remembering...

The previous *Remember When* showed Fourth of July activities, including the tug-of-war. Also, the previous *Remembering When* should have identified Frenchy Thomas as being on the left and Louis Pitt Sr. on the right, not vice versa.

To inmates

The Spilyay can no longer mail individual newspapers to inmates at correctional facilities. This is a result of serious budgetary restrictions and cannot be avoided under any circumstances. However, please send the address of the correctional facility library and one copy of the Spilyay will be mailed to that address.

We apologize for this unavoidable inconvenience.

Relay for life

The Madras Medical Group Relay for Life Team is holding a bake sale on Saturday, June 30 at the Madras Saturday Market.

The sale will be from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to raise money for Relay for Life.

Columbia tribes welcome opening of commercial fishing

The Columbia River treaty tribes last week opened the summer commercial fishery and direct-to-public sales. The commercial sales of fresh-caught summer chinook, sockeye and steelhead will last at least until Thursday of this week.

"The exciting thing about this tribal fishery is the number of sockeye that will be available to the public," said Paul Lumley, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

"We are seeing record returns of sockeye to the Columbia Basin," he said, "and the tribes are able to provide this top-quality product while they support their families and local economies."

The Columbia River basin is experiencing record returns of sockeye with 15,633 crossing Bonneville Dam during one day last week.

That single-day return, combined with the current forecast of approximately



Tribal fishers along the Columbia River. Courtesy photo.

460,000 sockeye, should make for the largest return since 1938, when Bonneville Dam was constructed.

Tribal fishers expect to harvest just over 32,000 sockeye. Valued for personal use, many will be taken home by tribal fishers while most will be sold commercially.

The majority returning sockeye are destined for the Okanagan River and upper Columbia, while smaller numbers will return to the

Wenatchee River.

Passage improvements and tribal reintroduction programs on the Yakama and Deschutes should yield higher returns.

While Snake River sockeye remain listed under the Endangered Species Act, their numbers are increasing and comprise a very small portion of the tribal harvest.

Historically called "June Hogs" due to their large size, summer chinook are not

listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The current forecast of 91,200 summer chinook will allow Indian fishers to harvest approximately 27,000 summer chinook, most of which will be sold commercially.

Tribal fishers may be found selling fish at various locations along the Columbia River including Marine Park at Cascade Locks, Lone Pine at The Dalles, and the boat launch near Roosevelt, Wash.

The tribal fishery is protected under 1855 treaties with the federal government in which the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes reserved the right to fish at all usual and accustomed fishing places in the Columbia River basin.

This treaty right encompasses ceremonial, subsistence and commercial uses.

For more information, call CRITFC's salmon marketing program at 888-289-1855 or visit: critfc.org

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