

# Letters to the editor

## Cobell claims

Dear Tribal Members,  
On December 11, 2012, the Court filed an Order that directed the Claims Administrator to commence distribution of payments to the living members of the Historical Accounting Class no later than December 24, 2012. We commenced check distribution the week of December 17, 2012.

Distribution of Trust Administration Class payments will occur after the Trust Class eligibility appeals have been identified and resolved, and the Court has granted permission to disburse the funds. It is anticipated that distribution will occur sometime in the fall of 2013 at the earliest.

For more information, please visit the Indian Trust Settlement website:

IndianTrust.com

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Regards,

Indian Trust Claims Administrator, 1-800-961-6109.

## Compacting

I'm writing because we're at an important crossroads for the health of our people.

In 68 years my generation has seen tremendous change in Warm Springs. I grew up in Miller Heights. I left the Rez only to further my education and returned to help my people. I'm writing to gain your support to "compact" (federal contract) for all local Indian Health Services. Let me explain why.

For those who expected well thought-out and sound decisions from young elected tribal members may be disappointed. The Tribal Council has no urgency in resolving our immediate economic plight. New jobs in particular. It seems they're lost in the details and debating. For example, changing business/enterprise documents when no change is needed or necessary (10 Sept. 2013 TC minutes). I wonder if these young men know our traditional values and definitions of appropriate behavior and decision-making? Walk the talk? Growing up on the Rez teaches us how our people think and process information. We think different from "white people." Most important we are taught to decide for those unborn, not ourselves. Reactive and short-

term decisions are only band aids.

In 1978 the Tribes' first health plan cited research that found with "improvement in economic conditions (jobs) personal health improves." I want to ask our people, Who controls our health care? I'm talking about the long-term direction of our health and how it affects the quality of our lives. I mean control of all our resources that operate and provide staff for our clinic.

Several years ago I asked a former Tribal Council chairman, and former vice chair this question. My question fell on deaf ears. I hope this newly elected body has an open mind and heart. I asked this when the tribe began to cut jobs and lose revenue to run our government. As the general manager of Tribal Health, I directed staff to secure grants and outside resources to offset the loss of income. Our strategy resulted in over half of resources coming from the outside to run tribal health.

At that time the Tribal Council had the opportunity to take over control of our reservation health care. The 1972 Indian Self Determination Act gave tribes the option to take over any federally run program. The law provides the tribe the option to contract for part or all of federal Indian Health Services. Our Tribal Council decided not to contract. They chose to remain a "direct service tribe." What this means is that our clinic is controlled and managed by Indian Health Services. An example is several years ago the Tribal Council passed a resolution to remove the IHS/CEO for lack of confidence. The IHS was moving savings from our clinic to fund other tribes. If a federal employee is incompetent and doing harm to our people we cannot fire them. Currently we have \$10 to \$12 million in savings that is unprotected and not in our control. The Tribal Council is faced with the challenge of how we dig ourselves out of this hole. The threat cannot wait another generation.

At the beginning of the year I prepared a report for the Health and Welfare Committee to brief the Tribal Council on a list of major health issues confronting us. In April we followed up with a priority list and decision timelines to help transition the next Committee and Tribal Council. The most critical

question is loss of income and how to protect and preserve the resources we have. What is the strategy?

Another critical question is what do we want to do about our expired 20-year clinic lease to IHS? With President Obama's health care and the tribes partnership with the State of Oregon starting in October we can protect, preserve and expand our health care services. We can expand our services and income with federal Medicaid Program expansion. The Fond D'Lac Tribe in Minnesota has been billing for services and turned every dollar of investment into eight dollars of income. They've "compacted" for several years. We have the same membership and economic status. We have training resources to prepare our people. Our partnership with the state puts us in an excellent position. Especially since the last Tribal Council decided to compact for BIA Natural Resources and Fire Management. We are ready.

Today with the Indian Self Determination Act we can assume all responsibility for our health. The following are three options available to Tribal Council:

1. Stay the same; direct service tribe.
2. 638 contract for the balance of IHS services not already contracted.
3. Compact (different contract process) assuming full control with direct funding coming from IHS headquarters. The Portland IHS would provide supportive technical assistance.

In-me' nai mu ma'; I want to ask you to join me in support of compacting the local IHS clinic management and operations. I ask you to talk to our Tribal Council to take urgent and thoughtful action.

Thow qusch! (that's all I have to say); Wa tic s' quit, Sal Sahme

## Great job

Twenty-three students from the 509-J school district recently attended the Oregon Indian Education Association Youth Conference in La Grande. The students represented the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in a very good way!

I am so proud of all the youth who attended the conference with the Johnson O'Malley-Education group. They were awesome.

All 23 students competed in the Speech competition. They all prepared a speech (one to four minutes long) and delivered it in front of a judging panel and adults. Warm Springs placed the top two of three awarded!

The theme of the competition was, "Nurturing the Warrior: Building Skills For Success."

We had a two-hour work session at the hotel the night before, and all the students composed their own speeches. Wow, talk about some great ambition. We focused on the idea that Warriors come in different forms, and that the battles they fight were not typical battles you see in the movies.

I was so proud and

touched by the battles they identified, like poverty, prejudice and racism, physical abuse, child abuse, sexual abuse, negative stereotypes, drugs and alcohol.

We identified our individual warriors in terms of dreams and then listed the steps needed to get to where we wanted! The kids were great and they made me proud.

A of them had the judges in tears. So moving and great dreams. You all would have been proud!

We've got some beautiful minds and resilient, ambitious Native kids. They made me miss the classroom and teaching.

We also had 20 students participate in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament. The top three teams were awarded. We had a total of six students (two on each of the teams) in the top three.

We, Warm Springs, brought eight of the 12 Student Awards home. What a great experience for us all!

Get your students enrolled with JOM and stay tuned for more positive experiences for the Native American Students.

Deanie Smith

## Memorials

Dear family and friends,

I had planned a Memorial on October 26, 2013. However, because of unforeseen circumstances I am postponing it until further notice. The Memorial was for Tommy Dickson, Madene Meanus, Lucinda Stwyer, Jimmy Wesley, Martina Stwyer, Madena Wesley, Roger Stwyer, Charles Stwyer and Winona Stwyer.

Neda and Jamey Wesley and family.

## River treaty

The modernization of the Columbia River Treaty is in the best interest of our region, the United States, and the Columbia Basin citizens who rely on this river.

The draft recommendation released today by the U.S. Entity adds the ecosystem as a primary driver, co-equal to hydropower and flood control, a feature that will make the treaty a model of international water management.

The sovereigns, stakeholders, and other interested parties must work together as a region to reach a consensus that we can all support and be proud of.

Leaving the Columbia River Treaty unchanged forces us all to lose, and lose significantly.

Upper basin residents could be forced to unfairly bear a greater burden through greater demands on their reservoirs. Diminished water quality and quantity issues will frustrate the Columbia Basin's on-going salmon restoration efforts, and the region will be unprepared to address climate change. We cannot allow any of these to

## Births

Makeena Robinson-Angeles

Salvador Robinson-Angeles and Maureen Winishut of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Makeena Robinson-Angeles, born on September 22, 2013.

Makeena joins sisters Marilu, 8, and Esperanza, 4.

Rylan Robert Wells

Jaron M. and Megan K. Wells of Madras are pleased to announce the birth of their son Rylan Robert Wells, born on September 22, 2013.

Grandparents on the father's side are Travis Wells of Madras, and Tammy Wilson of Ma-

dras. Grandparents on the mother's side are Bryan and Jean Hinton of Texas.

Joseph Michael Holliday

Jaylon Holliday Sr. and Hillary Camas of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Joseph Michael Holliday, born on September 13, 2013.

Joseph joins brother Jaylon Jr., 2.

Grandparents on the father's side are Joel Holliday and Corey Clements of Warm Springs.

Grandparent on the mother's side is Eugenia Alire of Madras.

happen.

The U.S. Entity, in collaboration with numerous parties, has been reviewing the Columbia River Treaty to advise the U.S. Department of State on the treaty's future after 2024.

A draft of the regional recommendation has been released for review and comment. The U.S. Entity and Sovereign Review Team believe that this recommendation is ready for regional review.

The Columbia Basin tribes remain dedicated to the inclusion of ecosystem-based function in a modernized treaty and are committed to working with the other sovereigns, stakeholders, and interested parties to develop a path forward that we can all support.

For the past 50 years, the region has tried to optimize hydropower and flood control without consideration of the ecosystem. That has failed. The time to redefine the future of the Columbia River is now.

Paul Lumley, executive director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

## Apologies

I apologize to the community of Warm Springs and the Pi-Ume-Sha grounds for the day of 6-29-13. I know it was wrong, being like that in a public place. I was just celebrating and got a little out of hand. And I was just minding my own business and getting something to eat and going home again, but I still got caught up. But once again I apologize to the community of Warm Springs once again. Sorry to Pi-Ume-Sha grounds. It won't happen again. Sonny Yahtin.

I would like to apologize for trying to cash a check for the amount of \$1,680 on or about the day of June 6, 2013. I have made a wrong choice trying to cash a check that didn't belong to me. I would also like to apologize

to the victim, F.T., and to Warm Springs Market. I have been charged with forgery, perjury, and theft. I also had to sit jail time and I am on bench probation for my wrongful actions. Again I am sorry for my wrong actions and will learn from these mistakes. But once again I am sorry and hope all victims will accept my apology. Mackalin Kalama.

I am sorry for not respecting the Traditional Treaty Day Powwow. I do realize this was the Forty-Fourth Annual celebration. I ask for your forgiveness and again I am sorry. Sincerely, Alexander Sandy Henry.

## Designated Smoking Area

The tribal administration building now has a designated smoking area located between the Tribal Council chambers and the office of the Chief Operations Officer. This is the outside area on the east side of the building.

Access be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Access will be through the lobby area door, located between the Tribal Council and mail-reception entrance area. Benches and ashtrays will be provided in the smoking area.

This directive from the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer took effect on Monday.

The next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, October 11. Thank you for writing!

Legal Aid Services of Oregon, offering free legal service in some cases, can be reached at 541-385-6944.

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Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:  
Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210

E-Mail: dave.mcmecan@wstribes.org.

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