

Letters to the editor

To students

We are hoping to attend the 2014 National Johnson O'Malley Convention in Denver, Colorado, in March, during Spring Break.

They have a Student Strand, and the Warm Springs Johnson O'Malley Committee would like to take students down to attend. If we drive, we can take more students, possibly up to 18 students.

This opportunity is only open for the first 100 students to register. So we are looking for students in grades 7-12 who may be interested in attending this conference, March 25-27.

Please note that this trip will take place during Spring Break. I will need students who are 100 percent sure they can attend, and are willing to go. The students must also be enrolled in the Warm Springs Johnson O'Malley Program.

JOM is also taking requests for winter sports allowance. This will include basketball at Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School. This will also include MHS wrestling, dance team, cheer. Please submit as soon as possible.

Please contact **Deanie Smith at the Tribal Council office; Ardis Smith-Clark at Warm Springs Elementary; or June Smith at the Boys and Girls Club for more information.**

A thank you

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for last month's last raffle. The first winner, Marcia Menthorn, chose the king-size, Native print fleece blanket with two pillow shames.

The Old Timers hunting knife with four interchangeable blades and belt sheath went to Allen (Stretch) Jones. Allen was the fifth person who called.

But for those I called that missed the call back time, one of your tickets will automatically be put in the next raffle, which will be mid-January. So keep smiling, you still have a chance!

My Story

I came all the way from Florida to help care for my elderly parents, Robert and Lupe Samuels. I had just opened a fully-equipped ceramic studio in Florida, where I lived at the time. I closed up the studio and

drove across the country back to the Rez.

Now I would like to get back to my livelihood of making and selling ceramic bowls, platters, and sculptures. This is what I do for a living. This is what I love.

Also, stay tuned for the announcements of Two Food Fundraisers this month. Come Eat!

Pamela Louis

Our finances

Here on the Rez we have many industrialized enterprises but it appears as if virtually all of them have become privatized. Whatever the excuse, most of the enterprises turned over zero dividends or minimal. The total was only one and a half million, which is way down compared to an average of \$15 million in dividends annually.

On the outside, if a general manager fails to produce revenue for the company's owner, he quickly sends him packing his shopping bag. For whatever the reason, poor marketing? Also, regarding the Gorge casino referendum, a few people did have good intentions for the tribes to succeed, but a special interest group had infringement in mind. That referendum should have been void because it was fraudulent from the get-go, as votes were bought and paid for.

Later on we find out over \$30 million in revenue has been embezzled. That money is the property belonging to the victimized CTWS tribal members. Where is our corps of tribal attorneys? Who are the profiteers? Who is accountable and why is this criminal act not being investigated? The affliction and embezzlement has caused unwarranted oppression, hardship and added burdens upon the tribal members, and has contributed to an economic disaster, forced retirements, jobs cut, furloughs, per capita and senior pensions severely cut, Christmas bonus eliminated. While the blood-sucking turncoats, cronies and double dipppers laugh all the way to the bank. Respectfully,

Anthony Littleleaf.

Legal Aid Services of Oregon can be reached at 541-385-6944.

Wishes...

Happy New Year to my family. May we have many more, for life is beautiful and too short. Always let each other know of the love of family.

Happy birthdays in January to Itta Chillie, VanPelt, Margie Ann VanPelt, Chubby Rex Robinson (on the third), Trina VanPelt (the fifth), Robert Sam Jr., Bates VanPelt, Aiyanna VanPelt (on the eleventh), Jennie VanPelt (the twenty-seventh), and Woody Picard Jr. (on the fifth). Love all of you, and bless you for many more years. Love, G-Ma and G-Pa, Mom and Dad Eliza and Harvey Jim.

Canoe Family

N'chi Wanapum would like to thank Jolene Estimo-Pitt, Martha Alvarez, the Community Health Education Team (CHET), Let's Talk Diversity, and Community Counseling for helping to coordinate the Story Telling event held December 11 at the Agency Longhouse, featuring an appreciation for Canoe Journey supporters and participants.

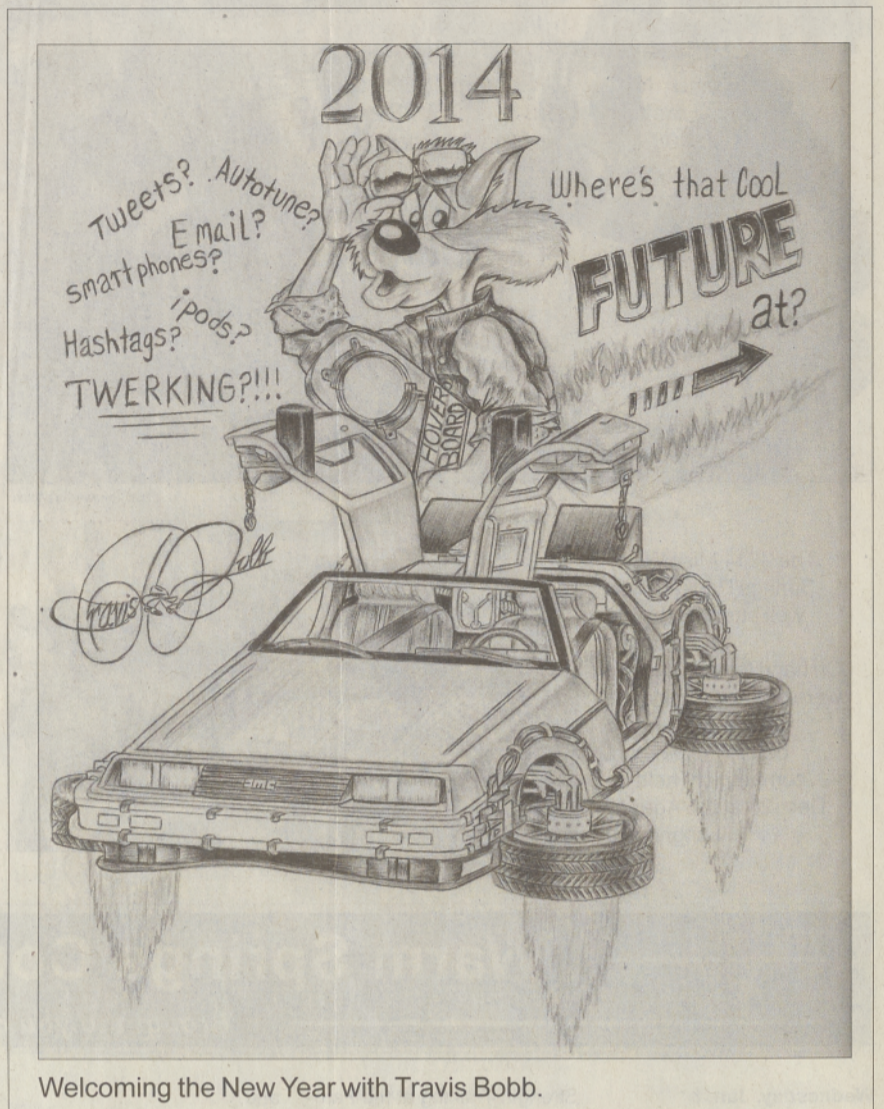
2013 was yet another successful year with participation rising 35 percent compared to the 25 percent increase in 2012. We appreciated coming together overall and we look forward to an incredible fourth year in operation and fifth Journey! Thank you everyone for your continued support of the **N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.**

New Years resolutions

After being asked several times about my new year resolutions, I thought, "Gosh, maybe I need one or two."

I've been asked several times, and said I didn't have any resolutions. But I've decided on these:

Be more active in 2014 than I was in 2013. Be more motivated for myself and others. Better sched-



Welcoming the New Year with Travis Bobb.

ule my time. Be more forgiving. Not be sooo hard on my husband—he deserves a break too, and I need to remember that.

Emily Yazzie.

Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on October 26, 2013 by acting out in an ugly way to the staff, at the Warm Springs Police Department. I would like to say I'm sorry to them, if I made them feel or think bad about me. I'm really not that kind of person. The next time I go to the casino I will make sure I get some sleep. **Chanda Howtopat.**

I apologize for disorderly conduct and child neglect down at the Pi-Ume-Sha Powwow grounds. I should not have been drinking down there around my son. I am

very thankful that my children did not go to CPS. I want to thank the family member for stepping up and caring for them. I have learned from my mistake, and do not want to make the same one again. I did not enjoy being in jail away from my kids and do want to be in that situation again. My children are very important to me and I want to be a good example to them. I am going to do this by making better choices now and in the future. I would also like to apologize to the Pi-Ume-Sha Committee and to the rest of the community. Please forgive me and allow me the chance to prove that I am bettering my life for my children and myself. **David LeClaire Jr.**

Court papers

Lost: one green work bag, taken from Rainbow store on

December 18, 2013. I had court papers in there that I need. Reward is being offered. Keep whatever you want that was there, I just want the paperwork. My name was on it.

Wendell E. Greene.

Community notes

All Denomination **Prayer Services** are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the agency longhouse. Everyone is welcome.

All are welcome to attend **Social Dance Class** Thursday evenings from 5-7 p.m. in the Community Center aerobics room.

Indian Business Talk

Best to avoid harmful payday and title loans

By **Bruce Engle**
Loan officer
W.S. Credit Enterprise

Small rubber balls are easy. Eggs can be dangerous.

Payday loans and automobile title loans are a lot like eggs. They can be easy to get into, hard to get out of, and just as messy when mis-handled.

My New Year's wish would be for everybody to avoid payday and title loans like the plague. They are just "credit balls" to juggle, they are boulders.

They hurt when dropped. Possible results may include sleepless nights, ulcers, and calls from bad tempered collectors.

Did you hear Sen. McCain's comment the day after the election? He said, "I slept like a baby—sleep two hours, wake up and cry, sleep two hours, wake up and cry." All he lost was an election.

He still had his day job. He was beyond the stress of campaigning. Shucks, he was even beyond having to make good on his campaign promises.

Holidays, birthdays, and family emergencies seem to generate a lot of demand for these short term "credit" products. Buying is fun; later, paying can be difficult.

A classic solution is to rob Peter to pay Paul. Sometimes finding Peter is difficult. What to do?

Best, is don't do these short term loans. Then,

If a person has to do a payday or car title loan, he should commit himself to paying it off fast...

clumsy juggling won't be an issue and finding Peter becomes unnecessary.

If a person has to do a payday or car title loan, he should commit himself to paying it off fast. Otherwise, the interest, penalties, re-up fees, and collection costs will eat the borrower alive.

Of course, if that were to happen, he wouldn't have to worry about sleepless nights

and ulcers. The moral of the story is this: If we have no self-discipline, no job, or no buffaloes to burp, we shouldn't do credit and, for darn sure, we shouldn't do payday loans. That's a good time to pay cash for everything—and sleep better.

Sometimes all that's required is for someone to say, No. Parents should know how to do that for their kids. Maybe the Unabridged Standard Universal Parent Instruction Guide will cover that when it is written.

My New Year's wish is for everyone to do well and then to do better—for self, for family, and for the community. Happy New Year.

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