

# Community approach to a longtime problem

Methamphetamine first showed up in Warm Springs in large quantities in the 1980s. Today, over three decades later, the problem remains a major source of crime and pain on the reservation.

Parole and Probation sees this on a daily basis. "The community has to make a united stand against it," Leona Ike, director of Parole and Probation, was saying last week. "We're at a point now where we have to decide whether we want to take control of this or not."

The opening of the new school in the fall, she said, can serve as inspiration for a new approach to ridding the reservation of meth. "It will take everyone working together, but it has to start with the family."

Tribal Court, police, Children's Protective Services, Community Counseling, IHS and other programs spend much of their resources reacting to specific cases as they come up. Prevention is great for stopping young people from ever using the drug. The programs are helpful, Leona said, "But success in ridding our com-



Flossie Wolfe (seated), Odessa Jones-Anderson and Leona Ike.

munity of drugs and violence resides on the shoulders of our tribal people and community."

In the community-wide approach, she said, the first step is for the families to take a stance of zero tolerance against the drug. If you think a family member in your household is using

meth, then tell someone: the police, Community Counseling, or Parole and Probation.

"That is not a negative thing," Leona said. "What you're doing is helping and protecting the person. Feel free to contact us."

Odessa Jones-Anderson is the adult probation officer at Parole and Probation, and

Flossie Wolfe is community service and program coordinator. They estimate that half of the cases they handle are meth related.

They estimate that between 150 to 200 people in the community are permanently effected by meth, meaning they will never be the same as they were before taking the drug.

Both of the murders that happened on the reservation in 2012 were meth related. Two of those convicted were sentenced to life, and the third to 25 years.

There is an increase in federal felony prosecution of meth possession, and domestic violence cases from the reservation, Odessa said. Once a person is in federal prison, she said, there is no parole. A felony conviction remains on the person's record, prohibiting that person from carrying a firearm, so there is no more hunting.

The eldest person who ever tested positive for meth on the reservation was 66 years old, Leona said. The youngest was 10 (not including infants who were born with the drug in their system).

*"We can still be a healthy and strong community that honors our tribal history and the hopes of our past elders."*

A parent was using the drug with the 10-year-old, she said.

The longest a person took for meth detox in the jail was 18 days. The person later admitted to having swallowed a balloon of meth, which slowly seeped out. The person was lucky because that is often fatal.

In their jobs the Parole and Probation staff often deal with people as they are coming off the drug. Symptoms are agitation, paranoia, extreme mood swings. The person might make involuntary body movements, and not be able to concentrate, forgetting things that just happened or were just said. "Sometimes they can't regulate their body temperature," Odessa said.

The social damage can be severe. In the end, she said, "This can tear down your family."

Tradition is the approach that Parole and Probation takes toward helping people get off of meth. The approach is encouraging and empowering to the afflicted person.

"Our service is based on integrity, hope and compassion," Leona was saying. "We never lose hope for our community and our people." The reservation may stricken with unemployment and poverty "but we can still be a healthy and strong community that honors our tribal history and the hopes of our past elders."

She said that recommending jail time is the hardest part of her job. "But our objective is to prevent more serious crimes, and to get the defendant into recovery."

*You can reach Parole and Probation at 541-553-3293. The department offers free drug testing for adults. A concerned parent can bring a child in and have the child tested.*

— Dave McMechan

## Tribal Council Summary

June 6, 2014

1. Roll Call: Chief Delvis Heath, Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Evaline Patt, Vice-Chairwoman, Reuben Henry, Scott Moses, Kahseuss Jackson, Orvie Danzuka and Carlos Smith.

2. Discussed the Motor Sports Referendum Vote July 1, 2014.

- Reviewed the 2014 Referendum Process.

- Reviewed the Election and Counting Board Members.

- Reviewed letter's of interest for the Election and Counting Board.

- Quick review of the updated version of Ordinance 44, Tribal Code, Chapter 20 Elections.

- Motion by Orvie to table for further discussion regarding the Motor Sports Referendum with continue discussion June 23, 2014; second by Reuben; question called for Vote: Kahseuss/Yes, Reuben/Yes, Delvis/Yes, Alfred/Yes, Orvie/Yes; 5 Yes, 0 Vice-Chairwoman not voting; 0 No, motion passed.

4. Fish & Wildlife Committee Update:

- Motion by Carlos to recommend Fish & Wildlife Committee approve a one month 2014 Off Reservation Elk Hunting in our Ceded lands; second by Orvie; question called for; Vote:

Carlos/Yes, Kahseuss/Yes, Scott/Yes, Reuben/Yes, Delvis/Yes, Alfred/Yes,

Orvie/Yes; 7 Yes, 0 Vice-Chairwoman not voting, 0 No; motion passed.

5. Education Committee Update.

6. Mangum Ranch presented by Secretary-Treasurer. Motion by Scott to approve and adopt Resolution No. 11,855A, Purchase Mangum Ranch Property; Vote: Carlos/Yes, Kahseuss/Yes, Scott/Yes, Reuben/Yes, Delvis/Yes; 5 Yes, 0 Vice Chairwoman not voting, 2

out of the room (Alfred and Orvie did not return in the afternoon) motion carried.

7. Discussed and motion made by Scott to approve a General Council Meeting on the Motor Sports Referendum, June 30, 2014 at the Wellness Community Center, second by Reuben; Vote: Kahseuss/Yes, Scott/Yes, Reuben/Yes, Delvis/Yes; 4 Yes, 0 Vice-Chairwoman not voting, 3 out of the room (Carlos, Alfred and Orvie) motion carried.



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