

Weaving the stories of women's lives

Letters to the editor

By Alyssa Macy

National Women's History Month kicks off with the theme *Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*. This theme "presents the opportunity to integrate the diverse and compelling stories of women's lives into a colorful tapestry highlighting the intricacies and interconnections of these stories."

Now in its thirty-fifth year, the National Women's History Project has become a national clearinghouse for information and training on multicultural women's history. While an important resource, the stories of Native American women are still scarce.

Spilyay Speaks

Native women have always had important roles in our societies—from builders, warriors, farmers, leaders, craftswomen, healers and mothers. Today, women serve on our Tribal Councils, serve as cultural keepers and educators, and are a formidable force of influence and change.

Yet, some would argue that the role of Native American women is not one that is respected, celebrated or recognized enough. Stories of Native American women continue to be notably absent in textbooks, media and classrooms discussions. Further, national statistics on violence, rape and health show that Native American women are often victimized and suffer from many health issues.

It's important that we talk about and share the stories of our grandmothers, mothers, sisters and daughters. This storytelling is part of weaving our stories into the collective history of our Nation... and it provides a source of inspiration and encouragement for our young women and girls.

Today is a good day to reflect on a woman who have inspired you or served as a mentor and to share that story with a young woman in your life.

There are many, many stories of women right here in our own community. Who did you look up to as a child? Did you have a mentor? Is there a woman that serves an important teaching role in your life?

We'd like to hear from you on Tuesday, March 7, on the 91.9FM CommUnity Talk Show. We will focus on National Women's History Month and local women's contributions with special guest Jeri Brunoe. You can also share thoughts by sending an email to: alyssa.macy@wstribes.org

A thank you

I'd like to take this time to thank all the people for the prayers while I was in the hospital.

Special thanks to my sister Deanie, daughter Revonne, my son Moses, Shawndelle, Deidra, Nichole, Sharice, Ses, Baby Deb, Mom Marcia and Dad Ricky, all for being with me at the hospital.

Aunt and Uncle Geraldine and Wilford, thank you for coming right away and praying.

Again, thank you each and everyone for your prayers and may the good lord bless you all. Sorry I can't name all of you, I didn't forget, there's too many names to list.

Plus thank you to everyone who came to the prayers services at my house after I got out of the hospital.

Love you and my prayers go out to all of you. Love, Reva.

MHS seniors

Thank you to Austin Greene and Quartz Creek Drum, and Carlos Calica and Star Horse, for the Honor Songs for the Madras High School seniors. **Kenman.**

Canoe Family

After five incredible years and five Canoe Journeys, I have officially passed the reigns over to Youth Coordinators Jazmine Ike-Lopez, 17 years young, and Daisy Begay, 25 years young.

I will remain involved as a singer, a dancer, and a puller where possible amidst fatherhood, CTWS initiatives, and arts. I am confident in our members, past, present and future. With your help, the Canoe Family will continue on.

Over the years, we have fundraised approximately \$180,000, and received 250 sign-ins for meetings and practices. Sixty-five people trained in Cold-Water Safety Rescue. We appeared at approximately 50 gatherings throughout the region, and have taught 30 songs of the Columbia Plateau.

I want to thank the Twenty-Third Tribal Council and former secretary-treasurer Jody Calica for the opportunity and confidence in me to coordinate the Family and Project for so long.

I would like to humbly and sincerely encourage community members to partake in the coordinators' meetings, practices, and initiatives as they push forward as the experienced and committed

members they've been.

They're still open to suggestion, encouragement, and correction as the Family and Project has always been.

Thank all the community members who have contributed to the Canoe Family in so many ways! The list goes on an on and can be found at fb.com/canoefamily

Jefferson Greene

To Veterans

Hello and good day to you, your family, friends and relatives. Thank you for your service to our community and citizens of the United States of America.

Whether you served overseas or in CONUS, and whether you served for three months or three years or more, we are in dire need of your services, again.

Your training, discipline and leadership experience is needed to help our community pull itself back up by its bootstraps out of the current state of depression.

More people are on food stamps, general assistance, and without work than in any time in recent history!

Our increased population is increasingly straining our spiritual, financial and natural resources, threatening our physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being; and is now threatening our political stability.

Never have we been in more need of your leadership experience, knowledge and skills than now—March 2015.

Recent Tribal Councils (the Twenty-First through Twenty-Fourth) have allowed our tribal government to reach record levels of deficit, while depleting our reserve funds including pensions, trust funds and per capita.

And while the U.S. economy attributed to some of our current financial challenges, as a direct and indirect result of the so-called Great Recession of 2007 to 2012, it was not the smoking gun of our current financial demise.

I am not here to point fingers at individuals; however, current and future decisions must invariably be based on past actions and/or inactions by Tribal Council leadership.

Only a small number of our current Tribal Council are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and an even smaller percentage fill our top management positions including tribal enterprises.

This does not mean lack of competency, but we know there is a noticeable difference between good management and leadership traits.

The tribes certainly may have strong management and technical skills, but it seems apparent we may be lacking in visionary leadership. We can talk days on end about micro- and macro-management, but in the end it really comes down to a melding of management with leadership.

How do we accomplish this melding of management with leadership without ousting or re-structuring our governmental entity?

Much of what seems to have occurred since the current council members took office stems with the internal battle between the "old guard" and "new guard" methods of conducting business.

Rules of order and Tribal Council business seems to be determined by which Tribal Council members are present on a given day and constituting a quorum...

Whatever happened to Tribal Council rendering decisions affecting the general membership with all Council members present, instead of a simple majority?

Why have political decisions evolved into changing agenda items to suit a majority vote rather than super majority or even consensus style decision-making?

Where's the fundamental fairness doctrine when we need it the most? Who should be advocating and spearheading this doctrine that mirrors our tribal customs and traditions? If the practice of only following the Constitution and Bylaws applies primarily to requiring a Tribal Council meeting on the first Monday of each month, then what other provisions are being applied by rote, rather than for specific reasons.

In other words, when did we become so technical that we assert that our past actions followed the "letter of the law" tongue in cheek style, rather than rendering decisions and taking action/non-action in accordance with the principle or concept of "spirit of the law"?

As a veteran and community member who grew up in our community, I would like to recommend the following actions, along with supporting reasoning, to be undertaken by our leadership, and seek your support in this recommended course of action in support of putting back the decision-making authority

Congratulations on CDAs



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

ECE's Leanne Smith-Lucero and Melissa Danzuka.

Leann Smith-Lucero and Melissa Danzuka are the latest two teachers at the Warm Springs Head Start program to earn their Child Development Associates credentials.

Leanne, 21, has worked at the Early Childhood Education Center since she was 18. Melissa, 27, first started there when she was 18, as part of the tribal youth worker program.

The CDA credentials

are a step toward a BA degree in Child Development. There are now eight teachers at ECE with the CDA credentials.

The CDA program includes taking classes, and being interviewed and observed by the certifying agents. Parent surveys are another important part of the process.

Congratulations Leanne and Melissa, from the ECE staff.

into the hands of "the people" of the community of Warm Springs.

Given the fact there are sporadic and sometimes lengthy gaps in legal activities of previous Tribal Councils, transparency and public official responsibility requires responsibility be taken in the following manner (no particular order of importance):

1. Accept and adopt minutes "as is," subject to clarification by past council members;
2. Establish parameters to reviewability (ie.-20-years, 15-years, 10-years); and,
3. Prioritize, even limit to categories which encapsulates "actions only," or those that did not require quorum action; and
4. Additional parameters could include minutes for meetings where initially a quorum was present and meeting minutes ended due to council member(s) leaving preventing quorum action; and
5. At a minimum, summary minutes includes legal meeting day and attendance record only; and
6. Establish transparent meeting protocol with something other than adopting Robert's Rules of Order as

"guide only" but flexible enough to identify bottlenecks in decision making process; and

7. Establish transparent procedures allowing tribal member ability to get on agenda for informational, action or non-action purposes; and

8. Establish transparent procedures that limit grievances or matters which involve elected or appointed personnel including management personnel; and

9. Evaluate effectiveness or usefulness of current committee system.

Veterans: A call to action in furtherance of and protection of our community because you know and understand what it means to lead and do what's right.

I know we see the issues stated above somewhat differently; however, the principle is the same. If and when we see something not right, we take action because we learned to take control and render command decisions—when others wouldn't.

Forward and onward let's walk side-by-side and re-unify our people and their voice; and especially the silent voices not yet born.

Gerald Danzuka

Indian Business Talk

By your elders you should be taught

By Bruce Engle
Loan officer
W.S. Credit Enterprise

"By your contemporaries you might be led, but by your elders you should be taught."

I want to share a few thoughts and some suggestions for parents, teachers, and parents to be.

Why?

Parents, aunts, uncles and other "old people" have been there, done that, and sometimes and somehow

learned a thing or two.

The young don't know much for a long-long-long time. Parents know that. They bemoan. They wince. They cringe.

They can change the situation; if they will.

Will they? Can they?

They should. They can. That's one of their jobs.

That general observation applies to teaching kids about business as well as about living.

Finance is an essential part of both. We are all in busi-

ness as buyers, sellers, or both.

Failure to be and act financial savvy makes business success almost impossible to achieve. The same might be said for many categories of personal success.

Where is Bruce going with this? Somewhere helpful, I hope.

I'm looking into Kidpreneurship training programs and materials. Fort Hall has a great new program going. They are in their fourth week. They started with nine

boys and nine girls. All are still in the program.

I have talked with the teachers and have ordered the books. I'm impressed with what they are doing and how they are going about it.

I'll be writing more about Kidpreneurship soon. In the meantime, if the idea has struck a responsive chord in you, let's talk about it.

Would it be good for Warm Springs kids? Anybody interested? We could do it here.

Shall we?

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