

Confederated Tribes launch Facebook page

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has launched an official Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/CTWSO

Tribal members and the public are encouraged to "like" the page to receive

updates from the tribal government.

Postings will include official tribal office closures, election dates, other events that the tribal government is specifically involved in and updates from tribal enterprises.

One of the priorities of

the Twenty-Sixth Tribal Council is to improve communications to tribal membership.

"We feel that it is necessary to create an official presence on Facebook as so many tribal members utilize this social media site," said

Tribal Chairman Austin Greene Jr.

As the tribe continues work to update the tribal website, the Facebook page provides a means of quickly communicating with tribal membership.

Ultimately, social media

sites will be used to drive traffic back to the tribal website.

"In addition to addressing the need for increased communication, we also hope it can be a tool to get feedback from tribal members as well," said Evaline Patt, Vice Chair-

woman.

The Nation has both a newspaper and a radio station which operate their own Facebook pages. *The Spilyay Tymoo* focuses on local news while KWSO 91.9FM focuses daily events, news and programming.

Letter to the editor

A thank you

My fellow tribal members, I am writing this letter of gratitude to the various departments that assisted me in this stage of my life. Let me start by thanking my family members, my ullaas, kuthlas, tillas and pushas. Most of them gone now but not forgotten. Also to my aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews and grandchildren. I count my cousins as brothers and sisters.

A special thank you to my surviving children Jamey, Davis, Brandi, Arnold, Renee and Eliza, for their unconditional love, though I had little to do with their upbringing.

Rest in peace Lucinda, Mavis and Martina Marie, and all my relations who have gone on to be with our

Creator.

Now I would like to thank the Police Department and tribal court system, including the Probation Department. Thank you Warm Springs Community Counseling, especially Guy W., Annie K., Peggy P., Charlotte P., and the front desk staff.

Their patience and understanding remained unwavering. Thank you also to the Children and Family Services and Family Preservation, Shon H., Mavis K., Allie J., and John C.

I would also like to thank the Vocational Rehabilitation staff, Gayleen, Marcia, Jackie, Jolene, Sharon and Mona for their assistance in the development of my independence.

I didn't intentionally leave my dear mother out. She is the rock in our family. She and Jimmy Wesley Sr. made a lifetime of sacrifices to raise

numerous grandchildren, my own children included in this count. God bless you, Mom, a debt to you that can never be paid in this lifetime.

The real reason I'm writing this is to raise awareness that the departments I mentioned were all instrumental in this different way of life that I live today. The arresting officers led to my court hearings. The judges led to my probation, counseling and CFS, which in turn led me to honestly seek a self-sufficient life. This led me to the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

I truly applied myself to complying with all the stipulations asked of me by all these departments, and found employment, a home (an apartment), and transportation. Those are secondary to the personal peace of mind and stable family life that developed with better choices,

choosing to abstain from addiction that destroyed my integrity and interest in a healthy lifestyle. A thousand pardons to those that I hurt in my drunk-n-drugged stupor.

I bear no excuses for my behavior. Being under the influence of any mind altering substance leaves no room for excuses. But please forgive me for any shame, hurt or disgrace I may have caused.

Only by the grace of our Creator am I able to humble myself and live one day at a time.

I can never turn back time and relive the past, nor predict what tomorrow may bring. This I learned from my brothers and sisters in recovery.

I stand corrected, **La-Wat-La-Wat, Davis Stwyer Sr.**

State lawmakers may urge Corps to lower Celilo Lake

Oregon House Joint Memorial 15 urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide a preliminary statement of feasibility for temporarily lowering Lake Celilo to reveal Celilo Falls.

Under the proposal, the falls would be revealed for a certain amount of time, and then flooded again.

Before the construction of The Dalles dam, an estimated 15-20 million salmon passed through the falls every year, making it one of the greatest fishing sites in North America.

HJM 15

This Joint Memorial has passed both the Oregon House and Senate, and set for a hearing this Thursday, April 16.

Here is the text of Oregon House Joint Memorial 15:

To the Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Commander and District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas Celilo Falls was inundated on March

10, 1957, by the rising waters of Lake Celilo due to the commencement of operations of The Dalles Dam; and

Whereas Celilo Falls has not been seen since that day in 1957; and

Whereas a 2008 survey completed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers revealed that many features of Celilo Falls remain intact under the waters of Lake Celilo; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The United States Army Corps of Engineers is respectfully requested to provide to the Governor of the State of Oregon and the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, by December 31, 2015, a preliminary statement of feasibility for lowering Lake Celilo to a level sufficient to reveal Celilo Falls for one period lasting one to two weeks, at a time of year to be selected by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, that would occur between January 1, 2016, and January 1, 2020.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Commander and District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District.

Guest opinion

America's unjust efforts to preserve white privilege

by Tom Ebrich

TUBA CITY, Ariz. - As I pass through the Navajo Nation on my 4,000-mile drive across America, I catch a disturbing glimpse of a white-power insurgency happening in all regions.

White settlement of the Southwest meant dislodging the native population at gunpoint. U.S. Army troops slaughtered the Navajo at will. Whites broke one treaty after another, then forced the Navajo in 1864 onto a "Long Walk" of 300 miles away from their tribal lands. When a pregnant Navajo woman came to childbirth, an impatient Army soldier simply shot her.

The Navajo were allowed to return four years later to a much-diminished territory set aside for them. Today the Navajo Nation is the largest tribal reservation in the U.S. It has significant autonomy, including its own judicial, law enforcement and social service systems. But the Navajo remain under Washington's thumb. Poverty is every-

where.

I read the history and feel shame and compassion. The "cowboys and Indians" games we played as children in Indiana, informed by TV shows like "The Lone Ranger," now seem utterly ignorant. The real story was gruesome and unjust.

I had a similar reaction when I moved to the South and discovered how whites there had savaged Native Americans, enslaved millions of Africans, then terrorized former slaves and their descendants for over a century.

Hearing those stories and seeing daily evidence that, as Faulkner said of the South, "the past isn't even past," forced me to see my life up North differently. I grew up benefiting from segregation in Indiana. I never questioned why my city had an all-black high school, or why the clubs and honors at my integrated high school were reserved for whites.

Not long ago I drove through Topeka, Kan., which gave us Brown v. Board of

Education, and heard on public radio a supposedly learned conversation about the possible overturning of Brown v. Board and a resumption of legal segregation.

No wonder the politics of Kansas are so ugly and the Christian fundamentalism so virulent. So are the politics and religion of the South, of Arizona and across the country. In some places, whites seem to be on a mission to preserve the benefits of white privilege, even if that means gun violence, police brutality, unfair sentencing, and the languishing of urban schools.

They treat immigrants of color as if they were indolent invaders intent on destroying the "American way of life," rather than the latest to believe the promise of liberty and opportunity.

Like a white government breaking promises to Native Americans, politicians serving angry whites chip away at the job gains of blacks and Hispanics, shred a social safety net that benefits people of color, cripple immigration

and systematically deny voting rights to nonwhites.

(Tom Ebrich is a writer, church consultant and Episcopal priest based in New York. He is the president of Morning Walk Media and publisher of Fresh Day online magazine. This guest opinion is printed here at the suggestion of Ricky Graybael.)

2015 PORTLAND TO COAST TEAM RAFFLE

ITEMS TO BE RAFFLED

\$350 CASH

PENDLETON TSHIRT

BEADED EARRINGS

\$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM GIDDY UP GO ESPRESSO

BEADED NECKLACE/EARRINGS SET

SHAWL

CROCHET BLANKET

BEADED KEYCHAIN

PENDLETON TOWEL

LOTTERY TICKETS

EARRINGS

EARRINGS

EARRINGS



*** OTHER DONATED ITEMS ***

TICKETS ARE \$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

DRAWING TO BE HELD MAY 2, 2015

SEE THE FOLLOWING TO GET YOUR TICKETS

VAL SQUIEMPHEN, KRISTA RHOAN, KAPRI MOODY, SANDRA DANZUKA, OWEN DANZUKA SR, LANA LEONARD, VERNON SUPPAH, NANCY SEYLER, ROXANNE BISLAND, RAY SHIKE, ANITA JACKSON, AJA MALDANADO

House votes to reauthorize NAHASDA

The Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives voted 297 to 98 this week to pass H.R.360, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act.

NAHASDA first became law in 1996 to give tribes greater control over federal housing funds but it expired in September 2013. Indian Country has been pushing hard for a renewal to ensure the success of critical pro-

grams.

Members from both sides of the aisle spoke in favor of the bill during debate yesterday. But 95 Republicans voted against it although none of them came to the floor to explain their objections.

Of the three Democrats that voted no, only Rep. Maxine Waters (D-California) offered a public explanation.

She raised concerns about the citizenship status of the Freedmen, who are the de-

scendants of African slaves once held within the Cherokee Nation.

Section 801 of the reauthorization of NAHASDA (2008) prevents the tribe from receiving housing funds if the Freedmen are disenrolled.

At one point, the Department of Housing and Urban Development withheld about \$33 million after the Cherokee Nation Supreme Court supported the removal of the descendants.