

## Letters to the editor

### VFW Post officers

The Elliot Palmer Post 4217 officers are an integral part of making the Warm Springs VFW Post successful.

The officers are responsible for organizing, encouraging, and developing a reliable and cooperative environment, to effectively maintain a healthy strong membership that will enrich, support, and advocate for their local community of veterans and their family members.

To be a member and an elected Post officer, each veteran has served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States, and was awarded a recognized campaign medal as set forth in the Congressional Charter of the VFW; or has served in a war zone for 30 days or more.

The Post officers are elected to their position by Post members. The new officers for the Elliot Palmer Post 4217 have been elected, and took office on April 16. Our officers and their appointed positions are:

Commander: Tamera Calhoun (Persian Gulf).

Senior Vice Commander: Austin Smith Jr. (Iraq).

Junior Vice Commander: John Courtney (Iraq).

Quartermaster: Gerald J. Danzuka (Korea).

Chaplain: Timothy D. Myers (Desert Shield/Storm).

Service Officer: Keith Baker (Vietnam).

Judge Advocate: Gerald J. Danzuka (Korea).

Post Surgeon: Timothy Myers (Desert Shield/Storm).

Officer-of-the-Day: Danny Martinez (Vietnam).

Adjutant: Keith Baker (Vietnam).

One-Year Trustee: Danny Martinez (Vietnam).

Two-Year Trustee: Keith Baker (Vietnam).

Three-Year Trustee: Randolph Smith (Vietnam).

Please be aware that the appointed positions for 2015-2016 are currently underway.

Gerald Danzuka.

### To leaders

To our Tribal Council: Our community would like to thank you leaders for your strength during the traumatic chaos our Tribe experienced in the last two years. We encourage you to be more timely, and to be stronger for

our people. Do not wait for chaos, correct business before there is negative impact on our people.

Tribal Council and Chiefs, we would also like to correct your misinterpretation of your duties as leaders of our people. First and foremost, you have an obligation to protect and enforce our Tribal Constitution and By-laws that protect our tribal members.

You, as our Chiefs, Councilman and Councilwoman have been grossly misguided if you interpret your duties as leaders as only policy makers. You, as our leaders are obligated to the people and the people's government and corporations.

If you witness and are aware of wrongdoing within our tribal government or tribal corporations and/or businesses, you are obligated to your people to correct wrongdoing to ensure the people's interests are protected.

Each time you turn your eye away from bad deeds is condoning those bad deeds, and therefore are just as responsible for bad deeds as those committing them.

The people are no longer going to tolerate "we are policy makers, we do not get involved in operations of tribal government or tribal businesses." The recent inaction led to gross violations of our Tribal Constitution and By-laws of members of our tribe, violating the intent of our old leaders.

Our Chiefs, you are advocates for your people. Your obligation is even stronger than an elected official because you serve for life. If there is inaction by the elected officials, you above all are obligated to take measures and actions to correct wrongdoing in the interest of your people.

If you cannot fulfill this obligation, elected or lifetime servants, you have an obligation to step down. We as a people, depend on you to protect our interests. This includes correcting boards and committees when you see them doing wrong things, like collecting board and committee fees that are not in line with the intent of that committee or board; or, involving themselves in chaotic politics that do not serve the interest of the people.

This is also critical that you leaders do not go back to "business as usual" mentality. If you continue to allow bad things and bad business to continue, this will lead back to chaos within our com-

### COCC Student Profile

## Student making career in natural resources

Truman Merrifield is a Forest Resources Technology major at Central Oregon Community College. He graduated from Madras High in 2007, and returned to college in 2013.

Truman plans to transfer to Oregon State for a BS in Environmental Science upon receiving his AAS.

He also currently receives training through Northern Arizona University on Tribal Environmental Management.

"I always wanted to work for Natural Resources," Truman says.

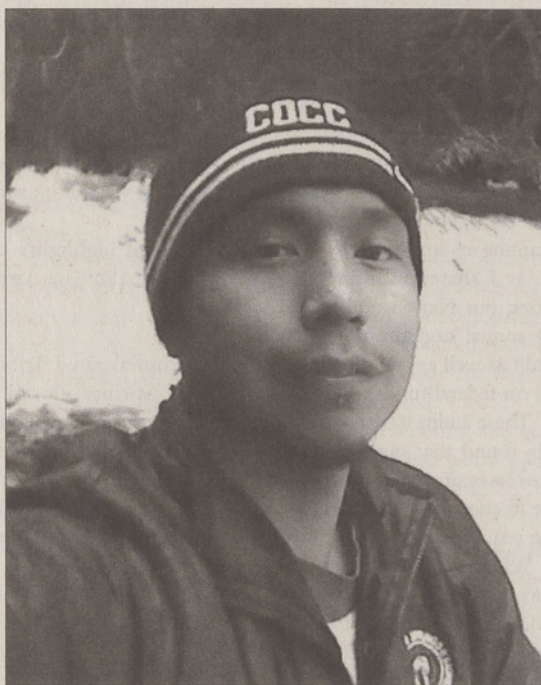
"I started as a wildland fire fighter for four years. Then I wanted to learn more about our natural resources—plus I wanted a better financial support system than seasonal work offered me."

Even as a young child, Truman was drawn to nature. He would wander through the outdoors at Warm Springs and notice that the snow was less and less—Not as much snow to play in!

He was observing climate changes even before he knew the term.

Truman works for Natural Resources in the Water and Soil Department as a Resource Technician on water quality data and stream flows.

He recently received a



Truman Merrifield

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission paid internship; and is surveying different logging units on soil moisture, density, and plant association with the different effects of logging. He has an understory plants and snowpack.

He ties this to First Foods, which is extremely important to the tribes. He is using the stories from his elders, such as his grandfather Harrison Davis Sr., and science to show the effects climate change is having on the reservation.

He sees that the deer and elk populations are being moved around a lot, and the

Root Feast was held earlier this year because of an early spring.

Drier winters mean longer and hotter fire seasons and none of this is good for Warm Springs.

Truman hopes that with his education, he can bring his knowledge to protect sovereign and treaty rights.

Protecting and preserving are two of his passions, and they are tied directly to treaty rights and climate change.

Truman was recently honored with an Intertribal Timber Council Scholarship. He is only the third person from Warm Springs to receive this.

He has also received a

COCC Foundation Scholarship: Only one in four students receive this.

Truman recently spoke at the Climate Change Conference in Portland sponsored by Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, on the effects of climate change on first foods and cultural values.

"We need to understand where we come from, so we need to understand our culture," he says. "If we don't learn it our beliefs will disappear."

His daughter Jaycee, a kindergartner at Warm Springs Eagle Academy, is learning her language through after school programs, from Truman, and from her mother Winona Tohet.

Both parents involve Jaycee in the traditional gatherings, and share time in root digging and hunting with their daughter.

They teach Jaycee the importance of family, culture and education.

Truman knows he and his family are still learning, but he knows he wants to create a healthier and better future for his family and the community he loves.

(Article courtesy of Gina Ricketts, Native American Program Coordinator, COCC.)

community.

We need you leaders to protect our tribal interests. If you are aware of bad people working for the tribes, then we depend on you to get the bad people out. Do your jobs, for not just your people's sake, but for the sake of our Creator who is witness to all that has gone on and still watches into the future. That is our teaching, that is our way of life.

Nye, Leona A. Ike-Smith

### Let's Talk Diversity

The Let's Talk Diversity Coalition has been making its message heard within our community. The goal of the coalition is to change hearts as well as behaviors.

Jaylynn Suppah is part of that voice. Three and a half years ago, she saw the coalition flyer, and felt the desire to be part of the team.

Today, Jaylynn is the coalition outreach assistant, reaching the seventh- and eighth-graders of the Warm Springs Eagle Academy.

Healthy living and modifying to healthy relationships is the main goal. Programs will be assisting this change, from cultural teachings to modern day eating choices and the togetherness of being a community.

Please join the Let's Talk Coalition Diversity team at their next training in Warm

Springs on May 6, from noon to 3 p.m., at the Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprise.

Come get a glimpse into some exciting new approaches to being balanced.

Call 541-475-4325 for more information, or visit the website:

letstalkdiversity.org

There will be another training on May 21 at the Madras Library annex building.

### Be adaptive

I don't like being paralyzed as I now am and will be for the rest of my life. I cannot use the left side of my body as I used to, but I'm very grateful to have learned in the Unihorn program in Eugene.

I learned and was told in the program I can be adaptive, and use the other side of my body. The other side of my body is not paralyzed.

To be adaptive is a powerful description. I can be adaptive by writing with my other hand, and taking notes when I should. I can get into the Unihorn van when we go anywhere, then slide out when we get where we're going. It's all about being adaptive everyday.

Evette Patt, 50 Kourt Dr., apt. 3, Eugene OR 97404

Send your letters for the next Spilyay by Friday, May 8. Thank you for writing.

### First powwow

To the Native American people and powwow folks, Indian casino, Tribal Council, and the public:

We'd like to extend an invitation for your to attend our First Annual Powwow, for which preparations are currently underway. As this is our first time, we have need of a master of ceremonies, drummers, dancers and vendors. A security check is required for all attendees.

You may contact Chaplain Hodney or Chaplain Cardona at 541-922-2087 for information on how to get approved to attend. They can also provide a list of materials that can be donated. We

are reaching out to the Native people for help and support to make this first powwow a great success, and we would greatly appreciate any help you might be able to provide: traditional Native foods (salmon, deer, elk, buffalo, dried or smoked eels, berries, etc.), and materials for making regalia.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for your assistance with our Summer of 2015 First Annual Powwow. A definite date has not yet been established, so please be on the lookout for further notification.

All my relations, Robert Boise, Two Rivers Correctional Inst., 82911 Beach Access Rd., Umatilla OR 97882.

### For Earth Day



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Fourth graders from the Warm Springs Eagle Academy spent the morning of Earth Day cleaning up Elmer Quinn Park.

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