

## Letters to the editor

### Our tomorrows

Our beloved Creator has opened the door to better tomorrows. In all the turmoil this last term, the people were kept hostage and tormented all due to leadership pride of a few.

We, as a tribe, need to see and expect better tomorrows. This election is so important, when you cast your vote to the new Council, or for the secretarial ballot for the constitutional amendments, remember and be aware of the power and strength of that vote and the multi-generational impact it has.

Remember the hopes and dreams our past elders had for us, today and their dreams of better tomorrows.

Let us learn from the last 30 years of voting for people based on blood, education, popularity, and being fooled by someone who made you feel important until they got your vote and you became a stranger again.

Let us learn from all those travel checks that took food away from our elders and children, and took away jobs from families who struggle with poverty.

Let us learn from politics and how politics has no place in our tribal nation—it's a poison like that of a rattle snake and it slithers amongst our people through gossip and manipulation that causes such an imbalance that the bad keep getting away with the bad.

Our way of life, our obligation to our beloved Creator and to our peoples can change the scope of our future.

Our young people, you have amazed me in your voting strength to bring our constitution to be updated. You are our voting majority, you are now the spine of our people. You are the hopes and dreams of our elders long gone. That is how our Creator intended and how beautiful that is.

The path to create a leadership that works in harmony is the key to better tomorrows. The right demeanor and spiritual focus is critical. If we vote in people who are selfish, self-centered, and spoiled we will continue on this destructive path.

If we vote in more people like our chairman and our vice-chair, we will witness such a burst of growth, we will be set on a more hopeful path. It will take time because it took 30 years to create this mess, but keep faith, there will be better tomorrows.

rows.

I feel it is important to endorse those you believe have such a demeanor, so I will pass on these endorsements:

Agency District: E. Austin Greene Jr., John Katchia, Dan Martinez, Jason Smith, Susan Guerin, Anita Jackson and Glendon Smith.

Simnasho District: Evaline Patt, Charles 'Jody' Calica, Sylvester Sahme, Ron Suppah, Emerson Squiemphe, and Orthelia Patt.

Seekseekqua District: Bridgett McConville, Wendel Jim, Lee Tom and Vesta Johnson.

My father and ma used to always say, "There was a time when our Indian people always did what was right for the tribe. Then the out-siders came and brought politics. Now to do the right thing is often hard for those who got so used to doing the wrong at the cost of the peoples future. One day, our Creator will have enough of the evil of politics and a new generation will be born who will get us back on course."

I see that today, and I pray our young people will embrace the responsibility placed upon them by our beloved Creator.

**Atawishamash, Leona A. Ike-Smith** (my grandmother was Agency District, my grandfather was Simnasho District, my family owned land in Seekseekqua District).

### Seniors Day

The Twenty-Sixth Annual Honor Seniors Day will be May 13 at the Agency Longhouse. Honor Seniors Day is heralded as one of the first Honor Seniors days in the Pacific Northwest.

The idea originated with a small group of local tribal elders who wanted an event especially for the elders. Through the years this event has grown to a major community event.

The average attendance has been from 700 to 1,200 elders and locals attending the daylong event. The Honor Day is a full day of events dedicated to honoring seniors.

The event will showcase the local area, such as Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Spa, the Museum at Warm Springs, Indian Head Casino. And of course we get to brag about our other enterprises, not to forget the businesses in Warm Springs, Madras, Redmond and Bend

who have supported our event through the years.

A shuttle service is provided to all points of interest, as a courtesy during the event.

The Honor Seniors Day Committee is requesting a financial and logo item donation for our event. Any volunteers you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

For additional information contact the Warm Springs Senior Wellness Program, 541-553-3313 or 553-3520. Sincerely,

**Honor Seniors Day Committee**

### For the kids

To all my tribal members in the Warm Springs community,

A recent phone conversation with my son caught my attention by surprise when he explained to me that he needed to be picked up from his skateboarding session just to go to the restroom. When I asked if there were restrooms at the skate park, he stated there were but they were unavailable for use. To put it in his exact words, he referred to them as "rez bathrooms." It was not a positive response to say the least.

It makes me really said to hear that something as simple as an available toilet is out of the reach to those practicing a positive and healthy hobby/sport such as skateboarding.

I sat down with two other Warm Springs tribal members (Mattie Spino and Kathy Danzuka) to brainstorm ideas to throw out there about this simple problem. Mattie brought up the vandalism issue, which brings out the first idea of utilizing the tribal inmates to tent to those restrooms on a weekly basis.

Kathy thought of the idea that this could be a community service project. I myself was wondering who is directly in charge of those restrooms, and if there is a budget issue. Is there money that could be raised to fix this?

As incarcerated parents,

### Higher Education achievement

My name is Linda Meanus. I am an elder and tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Two of the main reasons I moved to Portland were for cancer treatment, and I was also searching for opportunities to further my education.

Since coming to Portland State University, I have been working towards earning my Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. My minor is in Native American Studies, also under the new name of Indigenous Nations Studies.

I will graduate in Spring 2016. Before coming to Portland State I attended Bacone Junior College in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Then in 1970 I earned a Secretarial Certificate in Office Procedures in San Jose, Calif.

After moving to Warm Springs I began work at the tribal prosecutor's office, and was also employed with Workforce.

I realized I wanted to increase my earnings, and in 1998 I moved to Bend to attend Central Oregon Community College to learn computer skills.

After working as an office manager there, I learned even more administrative skills and QuickBooks from Heald College Business Admin-



istration School, where I graduated with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration in 2010.

From that point I was even more motivated to further my education. I had enough credits to transfer to Portland State University and was accepted!

As a first generation student I am grateful to TRIO, and my advisors Rosalyn Taylor and others who have greatly supported and guided me. They gave me the confidence to go through this journey.

They have helped me find opportunities for attending the classes I needed to meet my goals, and to get where I

am today. I could not have done it without all of these wonderful people helping me along.

I am very excited, and look forward to graduation so I can begin using all of these experiences and new skills on my pathway to success.

I am deeply grateful, appreciative and thankful to TRIO for always being available and encouraging me to continue and successfully meet my educational, professional and personal goals.

Thank you so much.  
**Linda Meanus**

we see things from a different perspective. There is extreme importance to having healthy and positive activity widely available to our children. We need to focus on these little things that help magnify the important things such as having fun in a comfortable and healthy way. We need to encourage having fun that does not include drugs or alcohol.

Sincerely, **Susee Davis, Kathy Danzuka and Mattie Spino.**

### Found

A hearing aid was found recently near the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course. For information contact Scott Kalama at Community Counseling, 541-553-3205.

### Financial skills

The next Financial Skills for Families series will begin on April 2. If you plan to open an IDA Savings for home purchase, business, education, employment or home renovation, you need to take this course. Call 541-553-3148 to sign up.

### From the Warm Springs Library

## Local author featured in Community Read

The Thirteenth Annual Jefferson County Community Read is featuring the book, *Shaped by the Land, Stories of the rural American West as told in the Dusty Dog Cafe.*

The book is by local author, D. 'Bing' Bingham. The audience will enjoy hearing entertaining tales as they might be told in a cafe where the locals hang out in any farming or ranching community.

Throughout March and April, Bingham will be giving presentations about his book at Warm Springs, Madras and at Crooked River Ranch.

### Students' photo project

Students from Warm Springs Academy K-8, Ashwood School, Jefferson County Middle School and Madras High School are participating in a student photog-

raphy project, using digital cameras on loan from The Let's Talk Diversity Coalition.

Students are reading stories from the book, and making a connection to a story that relates how they are shaped by the land, their community, culture or family.

The author has been reading selected stories to students, as well as discussing the key points of good photography.

Students will be showing their photography at the Art Adventure Gallery in the month of April.

Opening night at the gallery is set for Thursday, April 7, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Students and families are encouraged to attend.

Books may be purchased for \$12 at the Warm Springs Library, Jefferson County Library, Art Adventure Gallery, the Jefferson County Cham-

ber of Commerce, Madison Coffee House, the Let's Talk Diversity Coalition office, and at any of the community read events listed below.

The book is also available for checkout at the Warm Springs Library and the Jefferson County Library.

### Author presentations

The author will be at the Art Adventure Gallery on Thursday, April 7, from 5:30-7 p.m. This opening night event will feature photographs by the author and the students who are participating in the community read photo project. Snacks and punch will be served.

The author will be at the **Warm Springs Library** on Friday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to enjoy an author presentation about *Shaped by the Land.*

Here are some other author presentation dates:

Monday, March 14, 10:30 a.m., at the Crooked River Ranch Learn and Share meeting. This will be held in the CRR Senior Center.

Saturday, April 16, at the Jefferson County Community Read, from 7-8 p.m. There will be desserts and no-host adult beverages. This will be at the Jefferson County Library Rodriguez Annex.

Many thanks to the sponsors of the Jefferson County Community Read: Jefferson County Library District, Adele and Sumner Rodriguez Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Jefferson County Cultural Coalition, Mountain Photo and Graphics, and the Let's Talk Diversity Coalition.

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Any written materials submitted to **Spilyay Tymoo** should be addressed to:

**Spilyay Tymoo**, P.O. Box 489, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521

**E-Mail:** david.mcmecan@wstribes.org.  
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