

# 'Choices' author shares message of hope and inspiration

Ron James traveled here from Pennsylvania, sharing his message with the Warm Springs community, and Deer Ridge Institute inmates.

"We may wear different clothes, go to different jobs, and live in different cities," Mr. James said. "But we all have one thing in common—Choices."

Ron spent more than 25 years in and out of prison. He knows the power of choices for to build up, and to tear down. His journey is compelling. He shares the lessons he has learned:

"Who's choice is it? Realize the true power of your next choice," Ron says.

His drug addiction brought him to a place of homelessness, and stealing from the only person that supported him, his mother Miram Jones. She would tell him:

"Good better best, May you never rest until the good get better, and the better best."

Six years ago Ron was released from incarceration. Since then he has become a motivational speaker and writer, and has had a motion picture made about his life story.

Earlier this month, just after arriving in Oregon, Ron was standing in front of eight tribal inmates: He was giving them a message of hope, through their own better choices.

He later spoke to seven more male inmates, and the next day met with 13 female inmates. This was his first time speaking on an Indian reservation.

Having personally known the life of addiction and incarceration, Mr. James knew what he was talking about.

Some of the comments from those at the Warm Springs jail:

*I didn't just listen, I heard your words. Thank you...*

*Made me think about changing my life... I know that it's going to be hard, but I know that I will get there one day. I've just got to take the first step...*

Another said: *I wish we had this all the time, for the youth and adults.*

*Don't give up on families with*



At the community center with Ron James are Levi and Annette Jim.

*addiction. Show them that every day.*

*Give them courage, guidance, strength, confidence... Even if it's just words.*

*... This guest speaker was a good choice.*

*It was very good. I would like to watch the movie at the next movie night.*

*We want more stuff like today.*

*Was a good class on choices. More presentations like this one on real life situations.*

*I loved it, and from now on I'm going to make better choices, and be there for my kids.*

*Bring more inspirational people...*

*Today's class was pretty exciting... More motivational speakers, more classes. Don't give up on anyone.*

### At Deer Ridge

On Sunday night Ron entered the Deer Ridge Correctional Institute, where he spoke to over seventy 70 inmates.

Chaplain Patterson shared the following comment:

*We want to thank you very much for the amazing evening we had with Ron James. Not only was it a good turnout, but the talk from the men has been very encouraging and inspirational. They were moved by his*

*story, and given yet another glimpse of hope for their futures.*

On Monday evening Ron spoke to eighty 80 Warm Springs community members at the social hall. Judge Lisa Lomas:

*This was very uplifting. I am*

*so glad I was able to attend. I love his positive attitude and outlook on life. It gives hope to all people fighting the battle of alcohol mad drugs, and sends the message that the choices you make in life are all up to you. It is good to have faith in God to help you overcome the hardships we face in life.*

Tribal elder: *I wish all my grandchildren heard his message.*

In less than 36 hours Ron touched the lives of 190 people.

How he found his way to Warm Springs (as told by Sarah Frank):

*I came across the 'Choices' movie add on Facebook. I wanted to know when the movie was going to be released, so I called the phone number listed.*

*Ron returned my call. After hearing what we do at the tribal jail and Deer Ridge Correctional Institute he wanted to travel to Warm Springs.*

*I attempted to seek donations to get Ron to Warm Springs. After a month I was giving up, as I had little response.*

*But Ron was adamant that he*

*was coming to Warm Springs... Living Hope Christian Center and Warm Springs Power Enterprise both made a financial donation.*

*Community member Danielle Wood contributed from her own personal funds. The Meth and Opiate Work Group provided the meal and the Community Event.*

*Brent and Lindsey Wright opened up their home to give Ron a place to stay during his visit to Warm Springs. Many volunteered their time to make this event possible. We appreciate all the support!*

*A special thanks to the Warm Springs Police Department and Deer Ridge correctional facility for allowing us into your facility.*

*The Warm Springs Housing Authority Board donated funds to pay for two of Ron's meals. Thank you to Tribal Councilman Charles Calica for welcoming Ron to Warm Springs.*

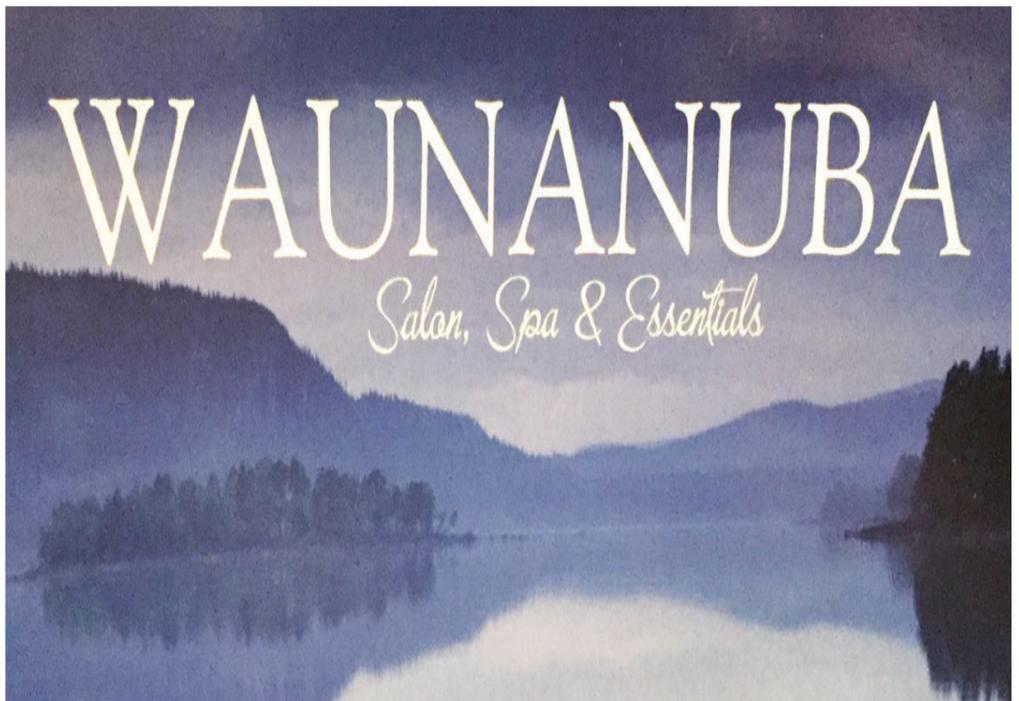
*Make you next choice, your best choice...*

*If you would like to learn more about Ron James see: yourchoicefoundation.org*

*www.ronjames.com*

*We hope to bring him back to speak to our youth.*

— Sarah J. Frank



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## Summaries of Tribal Council

### June 11, 2018

1. Roll call: Chief Joseph Moses, Chief Alfred Smith Jr., Chairman Eugene Greene Jr., Vice Chairman Charles Calica, Raymond Tsumpti, Valerie Switzler, Lee Tom, and Brigette McConville. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

2. Enterprise updates:  
· Ventures.  
· Credit Enterprise.  
· Timber Company LLC.  
· The Museum at Warm Springs.  
· Warm Springs Composite Products.  
· High Lookee.

3. Due to lack of a quorum the afternoon agenda items will be re-scheduled.  
4. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

5. Discussed the motion/action taken on May 29.

6. With no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

### June 12

1. Roll call: Chief Joseph Moses, Chairman Eugene Greene Jr., Lee Tom, and Brigette McConville. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

2. Enterprise updates:  
· Kah-Nee-Ta.  
· Warm Springs Power & Water.  
· Warm Springs Telecom.

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