

Letters to the editor

To Agency District members

Dear Agency District members,

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on the Agency District nomination meeting held in December, and the "motion to hold a primary election for the Agency District to identify the top eight candidates that will be advanced to the General Election on April 4."

As the Wasco Chief and permanent chairman of the district, I've determined that a primary election for Agency District candidates will not be held for the following reasons:

Non-representative and invalid vote

As of the September 2018 report of district voters, there are a total of 2,078 eligible Agency District voters, of which 1,283 are on-reservation voters, and 795 are off-reservation voters. The total votes cast for this vote on the motion to hold a primary election was 47 (Yes—29, No—18). This represents approximately 2 percent of all eligible district voters, if the vote was valid.

The validity of the vote was challenged in writing by an Agency District stating that the individuals voting did not have their age or district membership qualified prior to the vote. I concur that this was not a valid vote.

Insufficient time to hold a primary election ahead of the April 4, 2019 election date

The elections for the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council will take place on April 4, 2019, and the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council will be sworn in on May 6. To meet the provisions of Ordinance 44—Election, the election has to be held 30 days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the current Tribal Council, and provide voters a minimum of 60 days to change their registration or register to vote for the first time. The deadline to take these actions for all voters is February 3, 2019.

The proposed primary election is by definition an election: As such Ordinance 44 applies. Due to the timeline mandated by the ordinance, there is insufficient time to hold a primary election that meets the requirements of Ordinance 44 and does not result in disenfranchising tribal members that are voting absentee or off-reservation. These ballots

are sent by mail and require sufficient time to be sent, received and returned.

Budget limitations

For each tribal election held, it costs the tribe approximately \$14,000. In the current budget there are not funds to support an additional election in 2019.

Conclusion

During the nomination meeting, 16 individuals accepted nominations to run for an Agency District seat. I strongly believe that each individual who has been nominated and is eligible to run should have the opportunity to participate in the process.

Further, I fully support taking actions that ensure the greatest participation of district members in the voting process. In the 2016 election, only 37 percent of all eligible voters from all three districts cast a ballot. It is my hope that in the upcoming election, at least 60 percent of all eligible voters in the Agency District (1,247) cast a ballot.

Finally, I support the request from the meeting attendees for an Agency District candidate forum, and have scheduled that for January 9, 2019 at the Agency Longhouse. Additional information will be posted in the coming days to help candidates to prepare.

Sincerely,

JR Smith, Wasco Chief.

The election schedule: **February 3, 2019:** Deadline to change registration or register to vote for the first time. **April 4:** Tribal Council election day. **May 6:** Swearing-in of the Twenty-Eighth Tribal Council. For more information on elections visit:

Warm Springs-nsn.gov/program/elections/

Empowering

There has come the time when the message is "to prepare for what will be coming at our tribes in the future."

There are many components that effect our government and tribes in particular. The broader spectrum is to look outside the box.

Unwritten laws and written laws were put into place to protect, maintain and sustain our people. There was promise in the unwritten laws. Unwritten laws could never be changed, giving solid foundation to our "sovereign law." There are rules,

structure and responsibility for "all Indian people."

Therefore, the primary interest and focus I have to share is "Humanity Aspect," the inclusion—ownership and committed participation—and the responsibility and dynamics to strengthen our future generations and community development.

The linking collaborative resources are our Human Services departments, and our security of financial management to allow progressive order to occur. Professional working dynamics and structure bring an order to all things.

Everyday, I visit different public sights, community events, school personnel, church events and support groups. I witness the potential of giving and sharing, many skills being developed and people maintaining bonding relations. Many ideas are discussed and shared. This is the community leadership of all of our people. There is trust, faith and hope.

It is the people of Warm Springs making strides to attain small simple goals that effect our total community. We, the people can join hands to strengthen our people, our community "be as one people," to love and respect one another—the traditional practice. Generations coming along are looking and seeking structure, a model to follow, to stand firm on a good enforcing foundation.

Restore inclusion, ownership and responsibility to our people to become a power, positive mechanism to successful achievements.

Thanks to Sinnasho Chief Delvis Heath: His message to our Indian people, logic and good common sense education.

There have been good leaders that paved the way for generations to follow. Continuity in future decision-makers is key.

Good luck to all candidates to provide leadership for the people. There has to be professional working dynamics among all tribal members and working community resources, to maintain continuity in the structural plan. The greatest force of strength is individual involvement in

Howlak Tichum

Remembering Judge Owen Panner

Federal Judge Owen M. Panner passed away in late December. He was 94.

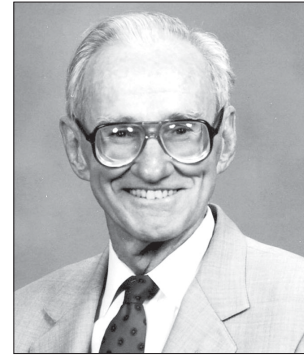
Judge Panner served many years as attorney for the Confederated Tribes, from 1955 until being appointed to the federal bench in 1980.

Judge Panner was born July 28, 1924 in Chicago. He grew up in Oklahoma, attended the University of Oklahoma for a time, and then enlisted in the Army in 1941.

After World War II, Judge Panner returned to the university, going on to law school on a golf scholarship.

He moved to Bend in 1949. Among his clients was the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. He served the tribes for 25 years. A 2004 Judicial Profile recounts:

Working for the tribes, "Judge Panner attended General Council meetings, which in the early days were held in the



Great Hall with dirt floors and one wood stove. Meetings were often conducted in Sahaptin and translated into English for Panner by an interpreter.

"Panner worked with the Tribal Council and worked closely with a loved but feared tribal member, Ella Wolf, the self-appointed 'meanest woman on earth.' His efforts on behalf of the tribes included establishing education trusts for children, investing in tribal development, overseeing the development of hydropower, overseeing the sawmill operation, helping with electrification for tribal residents, providing protection of

tribal fishing rights, and performing similar tasks meant to improve the tribes' future."

Through his work with the tribes, Judge Panner was offered the position of Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Kennedy administration, a position he considered but declined.

Judge Panner served as a U.S. District Judge, and as Senior Judge from 1984 to 1990. He took senior status in 1992, though continued going to work twice a week until 2015.

The Oregon State Bar's litigation section presents an annual award for professionalism in honor of Judge Panner.

Judge Panner had a strong influence on the Oregon federal court. He encouraged succinct writing, collegiality among the judges, and apolitical decision-making—standards that remain today.

achievement. Empower the community with honest fairness to build trust among one and all.

Priscilla Frank

Now recruiting

Heart of Oregon YouthBuild is recruiting youth ages 16-24 years for the winter 2019 cohort, starting January 21.

Through the AmeriCorps service at YouthBuild the student can earn the AmeriCorps Segal Education Award worth \$1,566 towards post-secondary goals.

There is a 12-month commitment to the program, followed by a year of follow-up services.

You must attend one of these information sessions to be considered for the YouthBuild Program. (Please bring a government issued photo ID, birth certificate, and Social Security card to the information session.)

• YouthBuild program,

Tuesday, January 8, 5-6:30 p.m., 68797 George Cyprus Road, Sisters.

• **Thursday, January 10, 5-6:30 p.m., Prineville.**

• **Tuesday, January 15, 5-6:30 p.m., YouthBuild in Sisters.**

Please reach out to YouthBuild at 541-526-1380. Or email: katie.bauer@heartoforegon.org

For information contact **Katie**, program assistant, by email, or call 541-526-1380.

Committees

The following are upcoming committee meetings of the Confederated Tribes:

Thursday, January 3: Fish and Wildlife Committee. Three to 5 p.m. in the administration building conference room 3.

Tuesday, January 8: Range and Ag Committee. Ten to noon in the administration conference room 3.

Wednesday, January 16:

Land Use Planning, 9 a.m. to noon, conference room three.

Monday, January 21: Fish and Wildlife Committee, 3 to 5 p.m., conference room 3.

Tuesday, January 22: Range and Ag Committee, 10 a.m. to noon, conference room 3.

Wednesday, February 6: Land Use Planning, 9 a.m. to noon, conference room 3.

For more information contact Tribal Council office at 541-553-3257.

Eagle art

The Confederated Tribes, PGE, Oregon Parks and partners are hosting a youth art contest for the 2019 Eagle Watch. Submissions are due by January 23. Youth can turn in artwork at school.

Art is preferred with bald or golden eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures and owls. For information contact Ranger Erin Bennett at 541-546-3412. Email: erin.bennett@oregon.gov

Indigenous foods good for your health

Native foods and drinks are good for your health, and are proven to help fight cancer. Here are some of the best indigenous foods for a healthy life:

Berries

Native people continue to harvest berries. Some are widely known, like huckleberries, blueberries and blackberries. Others might be less familiar, like buffalo berries and chokecherries.

While the nutritional properties of berries vary, nearly all types are low in sugar and high in fiber, suggesting anti-inflammatory benefits and the potential to decrease the risk of colorectal cancer. Further, the phytochemicals and compounds found in berries



Huckleberries, healthful traditional food of the tribes.

have been found to protect cells at several stages throughout the cancer stages.

Sage

Sage has been used since time immemorial as a sacred medicine. When properly used in a cultural context, the smoke from sage is said

to have cleansing and protective properties.

Recent studies now show that ingesting sage as an herb can also help prevent a number of diseases, including certain types of cancer.

Several studies have linked the benefits of ingesting sage extract through tea. The compounds in sage have

been shown to fight prostate and colorectal cancer cells.

Leafy greens

The rich color in dark leafy greens is evidence of abundant vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals which, like berries, when incorporated into a daily eating regimen, have been proven to help prevent lifestyle-related diseases and cancers.

Amaranth leaves are one of the most prominent and commonly found varieties of dark leafy greens that are actually Indigenous to North America and have been eaten by Native peoples for thousands of years.

This article was provided by the American Indian Cancer Foundation.

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memoriam: Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs.

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Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00