

Letters to the editor

A Letter to the People

I am writing because I am thankful. I am thankful that I was chosen by my people to be the next Wasco Chief of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

I understand the responsibility this position entails and the commitment our people are expecting me to have. I also understand there is still more to learn and become. This is not the end for us, only the beginning of this era.

I was born and raised here in our territory and watched my grandfathers fish from scaffolds at the Bridge of the Gods at Cascade Locks. The rain fell constantly as I was learning to walk. Before then I remember being passed around as a baby at the pavilion still there at the in-lieu site while my family cooked for the fishermen.

Learning has been my life-long commitment. Some things I learned fast, some things I have had to work at over and over. I am not the smartest in the room, yet I continue to become educated and do not mind expressing my shortcomings.

I have been corrected and educated many times and that door will never close. I am sitting in a lifelong position ready to face our people for us to face the world together.

Today, I am 3 months into the Wasco Chief position. I commend the leadership from each district, and I commend the leadership of our Tribal Council. I believe every council has meant well for the people.

I want to do well. I wish I can be everywhere every time every day, but we know that is not possible.

Before I came back from college, I was already working for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in

the Government Affairs-Public Relations-Planning Department. The community place familiar to me was the longhouse so I would go on occasion and see how short-handed our ceremonies would be at times. Instead of criticizing I decided to help again however I can. I didn't put off helping as the need was then, not whenever I finished school and moved back full-time.

I am hoping our people realize that it is not just on our leaders to be present. It is up to us. It is up to you. When we realize help is needed, we don't have the time to wait, we must step in to do the very best we can, whether we are familiar or not, we must do our very best at all times. That is all I have ever done. I wasn't afraid of the criticisms. I knew I didn't know it all, but I saw our people needed help over the years and I stepped in to help not wanting to be the best, but to do my best.

I am asking you to make your ancestors proud and to not wait for who you think should be somewhere when you in fact are there and could be there as a leader too.

Someday we will meet our maker and Creator, and the Creator will ask 'How come you didn't lead, how come you didn't pray, how come you didn't help?' and if your reply is 'because so-and-so didn't show up'. Do you think that is what will make your people and children proud?

We are realizing life is short. Start counting days, any reason to count the days; sobriety, abstinence, restraining and refraining from negativity, instilling self-discipline, anything to count your days and blessings. Counting the days will slow down time and allow yourself to breath, ob-

OSU-Cascades to host First Peoples Celebration

OSU-Cascades and the Confederated Tribes on October 12 will host the First Peoples Celebration at the OSU-Cascades campus in Bend. This will be in recognition of 2024 Indigenous People's Day, October 14.

Events at the First Peoples Celebration will be free to the public. A preliminary schedule of events is already in place for the day. The afternoon begins with the Native culture bearers demonstrations: The Tananawit Artists Community of Warm Springs will demonstrate traditional tribal crafts and artistry.

Members of the Warm Springs Natural Resources Department and Warm Springs Community Action Team will be on hand to discuss their work. And the Museum at Warm Springs and the High Desert Museum will be available



Jefferson Greene, who is now Wasco Chief, demonstrates drum making at the 2023 OSU-Cascades First Peoples Day.

there to discuss their roles in preserving the heritage of the First Peoples of Central Oregon.

The Opening Ceremony and Invocation will be at 2 p.m., followed by a Showcase of Traditional Regalia and Native Dancing. This

will include a narrated presentation with descriptions and histories of the intricate Native fashions—including Jingle, Fancy, Grass and Traditional—and background about the dances.

Later in the afternoon

will be Round Dance performances with the Black Lodge Singers.

Dinner will be of Indigenous foods, prepared by Twisted Teepee of Warm Springs. Registration information will be available soon.

serve, realize, and appreciate.

Many people have come and even gone in my life for all kinds of different reasons to no fault of anyone in particular, life just goes and goes.

This chieftainship has strengthened relationships, fostered new ones, and even severed others for reasons unknown, but I am not the victim. We must leave Victim Pride at the door.

Trauma, poverty, economic hardships, lack of self-esteem, and negative self-consciousness brings about all kinds of toxic perspectives around us. Sobriety is good, but we must bring about goodness and kindness through words and actions. Sobriety does not make me better than the next, only a slight step ahead in becoming and growing, for I only want to share friendship, encouragement, and enlightenment throughout my life.

Though, when we constantly remind ourselves how much of the world is against us, we lash out in different ways, tallying up all the points and reasons that make us more of a victim than others. We become too damaged to step up and step out in front to help even our very own because we are too stressed, too attacked, too criticized, too vulnerable, too

broke, too young.

As soon we get out of the 'poor-me' mentality the sooner we can get to the 'yes I can' mentality.

No matter how many times I been down I have never stayed there. I have to get back up. I have to push forward. I have to see what's next. I have to pursue something better, different, respectable, enlightening, and greater because I am not a victim. I don't go around making excuses about why I couldn't, why I didn't, why I shouldn't, why I won't, why I wouldn't, I just become, become, and become and I will never stop.

We must stop pointing fingers and do our parts. Some of us are leaders in different ways. Some of us are leaders in big ways. Some of us are leaders in small ways, but by all means, be a leader. Guide your children, your people, your community, your neighbors, your descendants. Be a better you. Be a great you. Be the best you can be. Be everything you can be. Smile more, share more, speak more, teach more. Don't wait until later, life is happening every single day, and every single day is an opportunity to become great.

I cannot thank our Wasco People and our Creator enough for the guidance you

continue to bestow upon me to do good and great things for our people as many of you have done before me, inspiring me to keep moving forward.

I am available for home visits upon request so we can build our nation together.

Jefferson Greene.
P.S. Humbly, I am rarely available via email due to field work and services provided to the Northwest region. Please consider using the phone # provided below for time sensitive requests, inquiries, and interests.

Thank you kindly for your email and understanding.

Jefferson Greene, Columbia River Institute for Indigenous Development (CRIID) Foundation

CRIID.org
P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761. 541-460-3004.

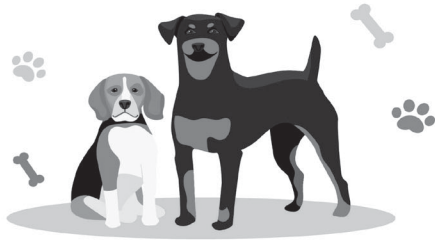
Wasq'ú, Táxshpash, Nimiipuu, Paiute, ku Shivanish.

Member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The day is today. Chi au Ikwi iwá ikuuk.

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Summary of Tribal Council

June 19

(from page 3)

Motion by Jim adopting Resolution No. 13,162 (compact amendment). Second by Alvis. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, Jonathan/yes, 7/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• 2024 Indian Community Development Block Grant discussion with Danielle Wood, Housing Authority executive director:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,163, the Tribal Council hereby delegates to Warm Springs Housing Authority the sole authority to prepare and submit on behalf of the Tribe an ICDBG application for fiscal year 2024 under fund-

ing opportunity number FR-6800-N-23 for a total amount of \$2 million.

That the Warm Springs Tribal Council certifies that the citizen participation requirements identified at 24 CFR 1003.604 have been met for the proposed fiscal year 2024 ICDBG project. Second by Wilson. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Grant Program discussion with Danielle:

Motion by Jim adopting Resolution No. 13,164, the Tribal Council hereby delegates the sole authority to prepare and submit on behalf of the Tribe an IHBG-

Competitive application for fiscal year 2024 under funding opportunity number FR-6800-N-48 for a total amount of \$5 million. Second by Wilson. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• Mixte Communications update discussion with Jamie Hampton and Karim Bouris.

• Enrollments discussion with Lucille Suppach-Sampson, director, Vital Statistics:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,165, enrolling four individuals. Second by Jay: Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Alvis to adjourn at 4:30PM.

• 2024 On-Reservation

Hunting regulations with Michael:

Motion by Wilson adopting Resolution No. 13,166, that the '2024 On-Reservation Hunting Regulations' are adopted as provided in the attached recommendation from the BNR and the Fish & Wildlife Committee. Second by Alvis. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/no, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, 5/1/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

• July agenda discussion with the S-T:

Motion by Wilson approving the meeting agenda. Second by Jay. Question: Jim/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Wilson/yes, Jefferson/yes, Rosa/yes, 6/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Motion by Alvis to adjourn at 4:30PM.

Summaries continue on 5

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