

Letters to the editor

A thank-you for Pi-Ume-Sha Parade

Hi everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the Pi-Ume-Sha Celebration last month. I got good responses from guests.

First, I would like to thank the sponsors who helped our Parade in honoring our Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath Sr.; and the payout to our winners, although everyone was a winner in our eyes.

Thank you Warm Springs Tribal Council for the Pendleton blanket to Chief Delvis, and funds for the winners. Others sponsors we are thankful for are:

The Warm Springs Community Action Team, Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. Also:

Indian Head Casino,

Native Aspirations, the Warm Springs Timber Company, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Human Bean Coffee, State Farm (Madras branch), and everyone who supported our Huckleberry Pancake sale and our online raffle.

We also did can and bottle collection that we donated ourselves (we did not interfere with those that collect off the road).

The months we did not have fundraising the committee members donated funds. We accepted donation and we appreciated the help from everyone as our parade was the biggest this year since before covid.

If I have missed some, please let me know as I want to make sure everyone gets acknowledgement for your help with our yearly parade.

To the participants, the spectators and to the Pow-wow Committee, we want to thank you all for making this such a success, as we did find out that someone was trying to sabotage our parade. They were rude and ugly to the participants who were lining up for the parade, and our family has always treated our participants with respect as our parents took care of this parade every year until their passing.

So, it was very disheartening for us to hear about this incident. And that makes us think about what we could do better and to organize so this will never happen in the future.

As usual I will take criticism to help us improve our parade not only from the participants but also from the spectators and community members, as you all make this a great success each year.

See you all next year ~

Ramond Baez

Lost phone

I accidentally lost my phone in the Greeley Heights area: From my driveway at 2680 Bear Drive, to Quail Trail to Chukkar (north) to East Tenino Road (east) to Highway 26, then I drove to the Pelton dam turnoff, when I realized I left my cellular phone on the top of my vehicle as I drove out of my from driveway at Greeley Heights.

Please, if you or someone you know found an Android cellular phone on the road from my home at 2680 Bear Drive to the areas mentioned, please notify me. 541-668-2798 (message), or at the Bear Drive address.

I appreciate the return and accept I failed to get my phone from the top of the vehicle. Thank you. Reward

of \$50 to the person who found, notified and returned my phone. Thank you!

Laurel Wheeler, 541-668-2798; or 2680 Bear Drive, Greeley Heights.

Art Camp

The Youth Summer Art Camp is coming up Monday through Wednesday, July 28-30, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The camp will be at the Community center Social, hosted by Papalaxsimisha, Warm Springs Recreation and Southern Oregon University-All My Relations program.

Activities include painting, tie-dye, clay, beading, jewelry making, spin art, wood boxes, watercolor and more. Lunch is provided.

The art showcase will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, dinner provided.

Huckleberry Feast on Sunday

The Huckleberry Feast at the Agency Longhouse is set for this Sunday, July 27, eating at 12 noon. From the Longhouse food gatherers.

In Memory

Norman A. Nathan
In Memory of his thirteenth year in Heaven
08-08-1937 ~
07-18-2025

Thirteen years have gone by and you have been missed each of every day.

You are remembered with love by many but most of all by me.

Tribes and neighbors must work together to care for our water

by **Robert 'Bobbie' Brunoe**
for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Water—or 'chuush,' in one of our languages—is vital to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Our historic territory is largely defined by watersheds, where our people have been nourished by its fish since time immemorial.

The Deschutes River Boundary forms the eastern boundary of our reservation, and we rely on it for our drinking water. In our religious practice, water is the first gift of the Creator and is consumed to unify all of our First Foods: salmon, deer and elk; root vegetables and berries. It is our sovereign duty to manage the land and watershed for their health, as well as for the health of our people.

We face serious challenges in the Deschutes River Basin—including prolonged drought, challenging water-quality dynamics and increased demand. In order to meet our and our neighbors' current and future needs, we dedicate significant time and resources to collaboratively improving water use in the Deschutes Basin.

Striking that balance is a growing challenge, yet we see signs of progress when tribal, state, federal and local governments as well as land and business owners can work together.

Where collaboration is working: Hydroelectric power, fishery restoration

We are 49.99-percent owners of the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project, comprising three dams in the Deschutes River Canyon. We work with Portland General Electric to improve fish migration and passage.

The fact that we now serve as an equal partner and voice in this project is critical because we ensure responsible management of our sacred water resources and fish populations. It is long-term work, and we are making progress.

Our efforts with Portland General Electric include attracting migrating juvenile fish above the dam and moving them downstream, collecting returning adult fish and transporting them upstream, while also controlling



Robert 'Bobby' Brunoe

the temperature of water released into the Deschutes River to optimize conditions for fish. In 2022 we reintroduced more than 700 chinook into the upper basin.

They have been observed spawning naturally, and their offspring are now on their way to the ocean. This program has also helped to improve water quality by restoring natural seasonal patterns and preserving cold water for when fish need it most.

In 2024, 500 steelhead were released above the dams, all of whom passed downstream as juveniles, now upstream and able to spawn naturally and produce the next generation.

Where collaboration is working: Managing the Deschutes Basin

In 2018 we convened a water summit with the State of Oregon, which resulted in the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative, the DBWC. This group includes:

The Oregon Governor's Office, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Water Resources Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; also,

The Oregon Environmental Council, the Arnold Irrigation District, Central Oregon Irrigation District, Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District, Lone Pine Irrigation District, North Unit Irrigation District, Ochoco Irrigation District, Water for Life, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; also,

Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties, the Central Oregon Cities Organization, the cities of Bend,

LaPine, Prineville, Redmond; Yancy Lind (citizen), the Crooked River Watershed Council; also,

The Deschutes River Conservancy, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Sunriver Anglers Trout Unlimited (Deschutes Redband Chapter), Trout Unlimited (State office), Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Coalition for the Deschutes, High Desert Food and Farm Alliance, the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, Wild River Home Owner's Association, Central Oregon Land Watch, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Water Watch of Oregon, Portland General Electric; also,

The Avion Water Company and the League of Women Voters (Deschutes County).

The Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

The DBWC is a mechanism for stakeholders to collaborate on critical water-allocation and management issues in the Deschutes Basin, and to develop strategies to meet stream flow, ecological, agricultural and community need for water.

A key part of the collaborative's mission is to develop a plan to manage the Basin's water in alignment with the needs of the tribe and State of Oregon co-managers of water.

We are also founding members of the Deschutes River Conservancy, the DRC.

Through cooperation with local irrigators as well as local, state and federal agencies, the DRC has been successful in increasing the amount of water that flows during summer in the Middle Deschutes River downstream of Bend, and many other water projects in partnership with stakeholders in the basin.

Where collaboration is needed: Forest health and water

The western half of the Warm Springs Reservation is forested. It provides us with traditional foods and medicines, carbon storage, and timber and forest products. We are proud of our forest-management plan and the balance it achieves,

including helping to provide clean air and water.

However, we cannot have enough clean, cold water without more tribal participation in forest management beyond our reservation on our borders with the Mt. Hood, Deschutes and Willamette national forests. We are and will be working in collaboration with these forests to address forest-health concerns.

They have seen increasingly large, catastrophic fires, accumulating dead trees that create a future fire hazard. Loss of forest canopy, particularly alongside rivers, affects stream temperature and aquatic health. Recent scientific studies also show that snow melts faster on fire-affected slopes, meaning less water when it is needed the most in warm months.

We urge Congress to create new authorities and funding mechanisms for tribal co-management of federal forests.

One local example is legislation that Senator Wyden and Congressman Blumenauer introduced, to direct the Forest Service to enter into a stewardship agreement with Warm Springs for improved management of our sacred resources and habitat—including water—in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

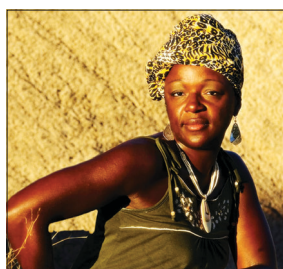
We can all agree that taking care of our water is a priority. Congress is even paying attention: I recently joined a discussion with the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife & Fisheries about this very topic.

The Warm Springs people have been here since time immemorial. We, and our neighbors, are not going anywhere. We are determined to continue working together. To keep making progress, and to overcome current obstacles, we urge our fellow government leaders at the state and federal level to continue and to grow support for collaboration throughout the Basin.

Robert 'Bobby' Brunoe, out-going secretary-treasurer/CEO of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. **Note:** This article first appeared in Oregon Business, and is reprinted here with permission.

Howlak Tichum ~

Robert Lynn Armstrong ~
1970-2025



Hello all,

Regretfully our Friend and Founder of the Stewards of Indigenous Resources Endowment, SIRE, Roberta Lynn Armstrong lost her 3-year battle with cancer, passing on to her journey July 11, 2025 at her home in Tucson, Arizona. This was her wish to be at home. She was attended too by family and friends, and of course her constant companion Bubbles.

She was born June 20, 1970 in Seattle, Washington, and moved to Yelm in 1974 on her family farm and lived many years there in the house her father built, very close to the Nisqually Indian Reservation.

She attended school in Yelm and went on to attend the South Puget Sound Community College, earning two Engineering degrees and Patent Law, and worked at the Kimberly-Clark Paper Mill for several years before deciding to pursue a Juris Doctorate Degree.

She started her studies at Arizona State University and eventually transferred and completed her studies to the University of Washington, graduating June 20, 2006 on her birthday, the same day APRA (the American Indian Probate and Reform Act) became law. She took this as a sign.

During the summer of 2004 she participated in the Indian Estate Intern Program on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and fell in love with Indian Law, this becoming her life's work.

She went on to establish the Stewards of Indigenous Resources Endowment (SIRE) and this became her mission to protect Indian Lands and keep them in Indian hands by providing estate planning services to protect families and individual Indian rights.

She was licensed to practice law on 22 Indian reservations nationwide.

She was well known to many, as far south as the Tohono O'odem Reservation and as far east as the Fort Bertold Reservation and the Makah Reservation in the Pacific Northwest, and of course her beloved Warm Springs Reservation, she always considered her home-base. She even had begun to visit the indigenous peoples south of the border in Mexico. Well respected in all Four Directions.

She is truly a great loss to all her friends and family and the fight to preserve Indian Rights. Her worked helped many families.

She is survived by her three brothers Percie, Larry and Walter, and one sister Regina; and was proceeded in death by her sister Gloria. She has many many loving nieces and nephews in Seattle, Hugo, Oklahoma, and Pixley, California, where her mother is buried.

When we visited Pixley we stayed at a motel in Wasco, California. I am a Wasco tribal member. As she said "amazing."

It was her wish that she be buried next to her father in Hugo.

I was with her the one time she got to visit her father's grave in Hugo. We prayed together. Her father is on the Freeman Rolls of the Choctaw Nation there in Hugo.

Remembrances can be made to the American Cancer Society. Keep her loving memory in our hearts forever.

In Jesus name (NabMePiUp) - Amen.