

“My family comes from the Columbia River, as most of our families do,” says Speakthunder Berry, Tribal Council candidate for the Agency District. He received his Indian name at the Columbia River, at the Rock Creek Longhouse. “My earliest memories here in Warm Springs, and in my life are being in the sweat lodge.”

“As far as knowledge goes,” he says, “I think knowledge goes hand-in-hand with empathy.” Listening to the individual people of the community, and trying to help them are most important in his life, and the reason why he is running for Tribal Council.

He has been doing service work for his community since he was young teenager, when he went to a Native Youth summer camp called On Eagles Wings. With the camp the team visited 16 different and diverse tribal communities across the U.S.

He heard young Indian people tell a similar story, and realized all tribal communities face similar problems. He would hear, “I grew up in an alcohol home, I grew up in a foster care system, or joined a gang.”

Speakthunder grew up in Warm Springs, though he left for a time to pursue work. He moved back to the reservation about three years after leaving a successful business in Tacoma. “I wanted to come home and for the last three years I’ve been doing service work. I didn’t come here to run for Tribal Council, I’ve just wanted to help other people.”

His dedication to community, and his people are the reason why he is asking for your vote. Speakthunder Berry.