

Letters to the Editor:

To The Editor:

I would like a correction made in our Newsletter, concerning the Minutes of the August 6, 94 General Council Meeting. In the Minutes it states, that, "I said a fund was needed for Elder trips". I did not make this statement and it is a well known fact that we, Elders have fund raisers regularly. What I said was; the Elders were attending the National Indian Council on the Aging Convention in Spokane and would like to have our Tribe make a donation to that event, as all other Tribes were doing, and we would welcome any amount. I also did not make the statement, as printed, regarding Elders Spokane trip reservations.

Thank You
Sincerely,
Gladys M. Bolton

Dear Friends,

I have greatly enjoyed receiving your Newsletter each month

We were with you at the Nesika Illahee Pow Wow this year and thoroughly enjoyed this remarkable and very spiritual event.

I have a humble request to present to your council namely that adequate and accessible parking be provided for handicapped persons and disabled elders. Perhaps the center upper area would be a good choice as it would provide easy wheelchair access to the lodge facilities and performance arena. My friend is handicapped and she comes to your Pow Wows every year, but it is becoming more difficult for her to get around and also to find adequate seating. It is out of concern for her and others in the same situation that I am making this request.

Keep up the wonderful work that you are doing!

Cordially,
Gayla Gunderson

Wishes for a quick recovery to Dottie Tindall....Accounting is awfully quiet without you!

TO THE EDITOR:

I express my appreciation to Pauline Ricks for the excellent work she did in coordinating the annual Elder's Fair. She did an outstanding job in spite of the many obstacles she faced. Special thanks also go out to cousins Chuck and Babe and the rest of Pauline's family who gave her unselfish assistance and support.

Additionally, I thank the members of the Lawson family for displaying the tribal regalia originally owned by Martha and Hank Johnson. To be able to view and touch these items was especially rewarding to me. Some of the items I had not seen before and the last time I had seen some of them was more than 50 years ago at a time when Grandma Johnson and Hank lived next door to our family.

Again, I express my thanks to all who contributed to the success of the annual Elders Fair.

Ed Ben

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the Tribal Council for their participation in making our home complete.

I would also like to thank the Housing Improvement Committee (HIP).

A big thank you to Howard Roy. You know Howard, I went through two engineers through this project (the first one retired).

My appreciation goes to Kelly- and John from the IHS in Portland.

Last, but not least, the newly formed team of Cody Gray and Rocky Hoiness known as the Skookum Builders.... Thanks again for these local contractors going that extra mile. What a great job!

Todd Mason

THANK YOU:

I would like to let all the people who participated in this year's Youth & Elder's Gathering, "You're all remembered and well appreciated." There are so many faces I still can see - some of them I remember their names, some of them I'm still learning them, but each one of you are a very important person to me. From the smallest youngest child to the eldest, from the ones who shared their knowledge/skills to the ones who sat and listened/learned, to those who could not make it but yet put their time and energy to help make this gathering happen, I say, "Thank you, to you all".

This year it seemed like we were out numbered by youth 3 to 1 adult. Each year this Gathering is going to get bigger and the visions that many of you have, of working together and becoming a stronger people, a Nation of Tribal families, will happen. You just have to believe and remember, every time you may feel down or like it seems like you're not going to make it, feel like taking that drink - snorting that snort - striking your child or bringing hurt to another person - Stop! and remember that, that wasn't or isn't the way of our people.

If we're going to rebuild our nations we have to do it. We must not continue to pass on our inherited sickness to our future generations. Let's continue to work together. It was all of you who made the gathering happen. Not one of us have the answers, the solutions to what our future has ahead of them. It takes all of us fulfilling our responsibilities to make our circle stronger.

Thank You!
To all my Relations,
Juanita Whitebear

PAST, PRESENT,
& FUTURE

At one time
life was grand
when our people
had this land

There was such beauty
it was breathtaking
our people's future
was in the making

Then the whiteman
took our place
began to destroy
our Indian race

Now is the present
and it is still the same
not only the Whiteman
is to blame

Our former Status
we could regain
but all our people do
is argue and complain

Time for change
to this I quote
get off your butt
go out and vote!

J.M. Cain

Heritage

Indian blood
His destiny is past.
Old man sits teaching young,
Wanting only to carry on.
The spirits have gone
Forever it seems.
Tongues have changed.
Remembering the dreams.
What has really been done to
me?
Raped land, stolen children,
White man's ways.
Once we were great
Now beggars of scraps.
Trying to find some way
back,
Wanting only what's due to
me.
Bits and Pieces of forgotten
dreams
Are all that's left of the
Redman within me.

Julian "88"