

## Be informed about gang lingo, dress, activities

Gang affiliation among young people is on the rise. To help curb association with gangs, parents and community members should be aware of the lingo, dress and other activities associated with gangs. Following is information presented by the 509-J School district in the high school newsletter.

Gang membership makes sense to youth at first, as it fills an unconditional need:

- To belong
- To be accepted and cared about
- To have physical and economic security
- To hang out with friends.
- To have recreation and excitement
- To have a set of values and a behavior code.

In the end, they join because these needs aren't met at home. Kids don't have the tools to successfully combat peer pressure and gang intimidation, let alone organized and trained gang recruiters.

There are now more than 5,000 gangsters in Oregon between the ages of eight and 23. Their main interest is economic, met through drug sales and associated crime.

Evidence of gang involvement in our community includes an increase in tagging (graffiti) using stylized letters. The graffiti usually contains three-letter initials, and signs may be crossed out and written over.

If a youth's activities include any of the following, they may be at risk. Immediate intervention is suggested.

What to look for  
Change in preferred clothing, especially including or avoiding one color, baggy pants and baseball caps with graffiti inside the brim.

Beginning to "doodle" excessively especially if letters are consistently stylized. Watch for nicknames and repetition of three-letter initials.

A change in slang usage. Be aware of changes in conversation content with friends such as excessive talk about gangs, recruiters, tagging and assignment of nicknames to friends.

Use of hand signs or signals with friends.

Change in school attendance, involvement and achievement and abandonment of hobbies.

Desire for tattoos or any form of self-mutilation.

One thing that has been learned the hard way in most areas is that mistaken attachment of a negative label usually results in negative treatment by authorities, which eventually results in loss of self-esteem and a negative reaction by the youth.

The primary goal should be to keep youth in school and involved in positive activities. Sanctions which push them out, such as suspension, will diminish their chances for success.

Educate your children while they are in kindergarten about gangs. Be sure they know about gangs and the personal danger and consequences involved. Watch news stories about gangs with them. Share newspaper articles, explain drive-by shootings.

You can only know what's going on in your children's lives if you stop talking and lecturing long enough to hear what they are and are not saying to you.

There is no better tool for finding out what's going on with your kids than communication.

Statistics show there are in excess of 3,500 members of "tag crew" in Oregon. Most are in the Portland area, but they are expanding their influence. Being a member of a tag crew is generally the first step in joining a street gang. Taggers are excellent recruits, because they have already committed vandalism. The more dangerous tag location and the longer it stays up, the more prestige is attached. Taggers therefore like to protect their "work", sometimes with guns.

For further information on gang activity, call the Warm Springs Police Department or the Madras Police Department at 475-2344.

### Gang vocabulary

187	California penal code word for murder
BK	Blood Killer, what Crips call themselves.
Bite	Copy another's tag style
Buff	Cleaning a tag area by authorities
Buster	Someone who claims to be "down" but isn't
CK	Crip Killer what Bloods call themselves
Crew	Tag group (also posse, mob or tribe)
Crippin'	Crips work" Survive any way you can
Def	Really good (also fresh)
Down	Be a dedicated member, accepted by set
Gangbanger	Involved with gang activity; gang member
Get up	Write a lot of tags
Homies	Fellow members of one's crew
Jack	Rob someone (also rack)
Kickin'	Relax with one's homies
OG	Original (or old) gang member
Piece	Short for masterpiece (elaborate tag work)
Ranker	Chicken, doesn't defend his crew
Tag	Graffiti nickname "tuff artist group"
TG	Tiny gang member (usually under eight years of age)
UC	Undercover cops (warning: "Do you see what I see?")

## Father, daughter duo bring chief's words to life



Willie Selam and his daughter Tonya will bring Chief Seattle's words to the Capitol Theater stage in Yakima, Washington March 18.

Warm Springs tribal members Willie Selam and his 20-year-old daughter Tonya will present "Legacy and Legend" with the Yakima Symphony Saturday, March 18. The performance, set to begin at 8 p.m., will be presented at the Capitol Theater at 19 S. 3rd in Yakima.

"Legacy and Legend" is centered around a speech delivered by Chief Seattle in 1854. Accompanying the Selams will be the Yakima Symphony and the family drum, consisting of Willie's father Jimmy and brothers Lonnie and Howard. "It is an honor for us to perform," says Willie. "Through negotiations, we were able to get the whole family involved" in the production.

This production has been performed throughout the United States and has received rave reviews. Different individuals has narrated Chief Seattle's words.

Giving voice to the Chief's words is important, says Willie, because, even though the speech was delivered nearly 150 years ago, "they still ring true today," Selam explained.

Chief Seattle made a strong call for justice and tried to explain the differences between Indian people and their non-Indian counterparts. Selam and his daughter are currently living in the Yakima Valley. Tonya

"Your religion was written on tablets of stone by the iron finger of an angry God, lest you might forget it. The Red Man could never remember nor comprehend it. Our religion is the traditions of our ancestors—the dreams of our old men, given to them by the Great Spirit, and the visions of our Sachems, and is written in the hearts of our people."

has two children, daughter Aja, three and son Anthony, two. She attends Yakima Heritage College, working toward a degree in accounting. She graduated from Wapato High School in 1993 with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25. Tonya has been developing her leadership and creativity skills since she was a young age. As a sixth grader, she attended 1988 Explorations in Creativity and as an eighth grader, she attended the OMSI science and fisheries camp. She has been leader and performer of the Wapato Indian Club for five years. She enjoys participating in volleyball, basketball, track, softball and running. As she has gotten older, Tonya has attended many leadership conferences, including one in Denver, Colorado and another in San Jose, California. She is the newly-elected treasurer of AISES.

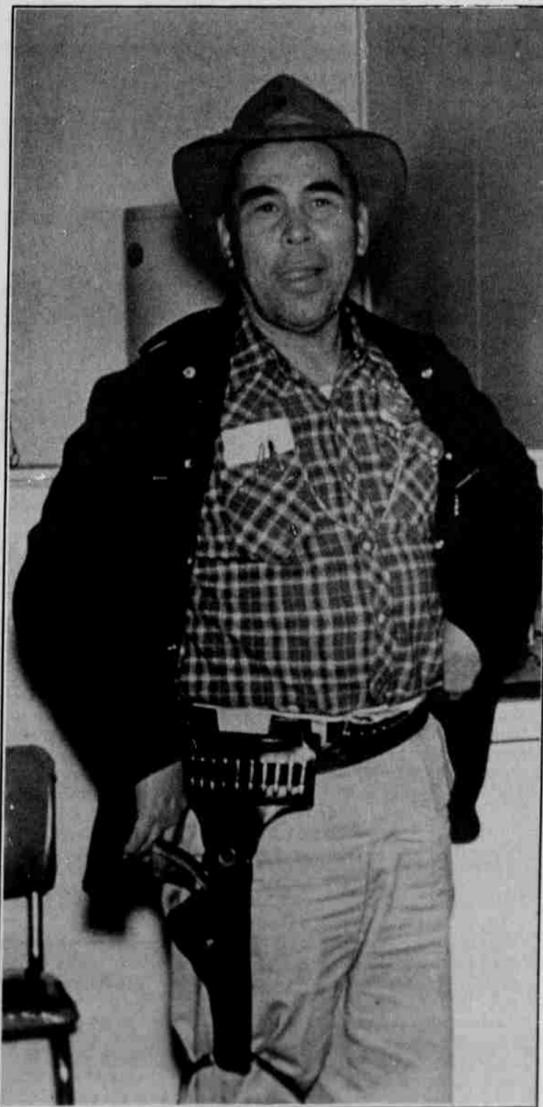
In addition to his regular job as a warehouseman, Willie volunteers as cultural director for the Wapato High School Indian Club. This, in itself, is quite an accomplishment. Selam says the club meets regularly and has organized numerous presentations, including a 10-day trip to Atlanta, Georgia and Tampa, Florida last summer. In Atlanta, the tour group attended and performed for the DeKalb International Folklife Festival. In Tampa, the entourage was one of 54 groups representing 22 nations to perform. The honor was astounding. "We were among the best of the best in the world...Our dancers excelled," says Selam. Noting that a majority of the club's members are middle-school age, Selam says, "People couldn't believe how young our group was."

Selam says belonging to the Indian Club has positively changed many youth. "Members come in shy, bashful and maybe in trouble with their grades. They become ambassadors," he says proudly.

Selam brought members of the Indian Club to Warm Springs in 1991 and he would like to do so again. He adds that he is thankful to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and particularly Irene Wells for helping find funding for his and his daughter's travels with the club.

To obtain tickets to "Legacy and Legend" contact the Capitol Theater at (206) 575-6264. Tickets range from \$9 to \$25.

## Scott shares fond memories of the past



Elmer worked for the tribe as a school bus driver during the day, in the evenings he was a night watchman of the school in Warm Springs, for many years.

At his home in Simnasho, Warm Springs elder Elmer Scott, Sr. sits in his chair reckoning his birth in Log Springs, March 23, 1903 to Joe and Grace (George) Scott. At age ninety-one he enthusiastically shares his past.

He and his brother Wallace who was a year older, lived in Log Springs with their parents. His mother passed away in January 1907 when he was three. He recalls an influenza sickness going around and many people dying, due to no doctors around at that time. His grandmother Lizzy George took care of him after his mother died. He remembers then when he was around eight or ten years old his grandmother passed on too. His father worked the Ferry on the Columbia River near The Dalles. He was a delivery man.

When he was seven or eight years old he went to school in Simnasho for a week before being transferred to Warm Springs Boarding School, because he had difficulty learning the English language. He only spoke his Warm Springs language up to that point. Transportation back then was merely by horse or walking. He was about ten-years-old when he first learned to ride a horse. His father worked outside the reservation so he and his brother went to Chemawa School by train. They stayed there for four years, because they had no place to come home to. When he returned from school he remembers people having wagons.

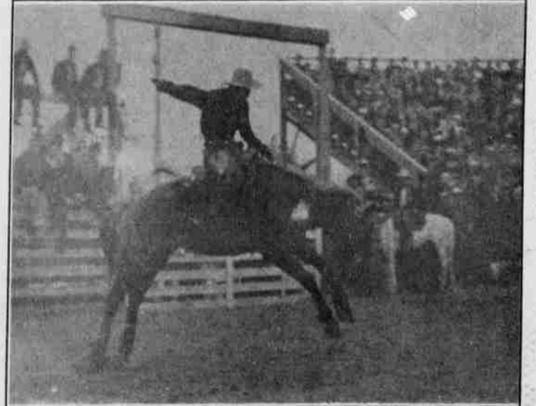
They moved around a lot staying with different relatives. He began participating in rodeos when he was about thirty one years of age. He traveled to different rodeos with "some white boys", he recalls. He rode bulls and bareback horses, making pretty good money.

Scott used to do some fishing at the Columbia River. He did some net fishing on a tribal boat for about a year, and he says he preferred fishing the "hard way". He also drove school bus picking up children who lived way outside the Agency area and took them to and from school. At night he was a watchman until 2 a.m. at the old school building, which no longer stands. He stated he worked there, "a good many years".

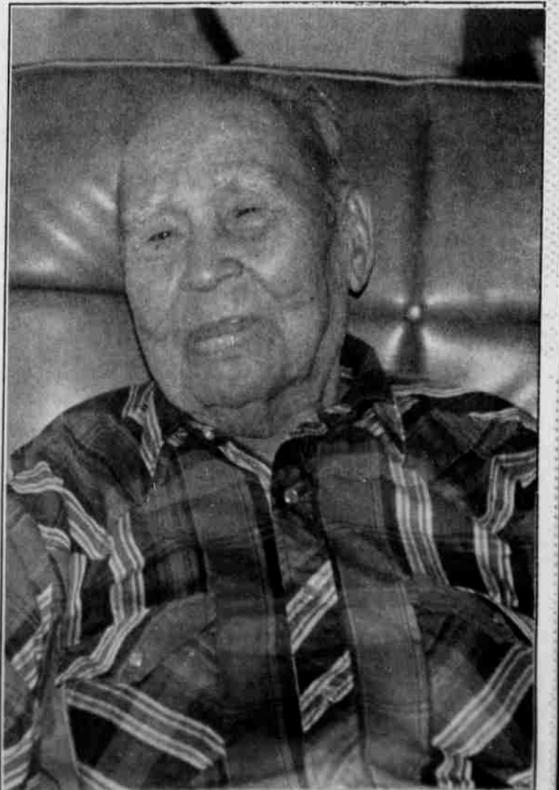
He mentioned his brother got married so he had to also, he married Goldie Wainanwit, they divorced December 1935. He then married Lela Puyette on December 1, 1938. His brother Wallace passed away December 10, 1938. Elmer and his wife Lela had eight children. Larry James Scott died of pneumonia January 22, 1943, a baby girl passed away February 8, 1942, Daniel Scott, Gordon Scott, Delcie Marie Scott, an unnamed baby boy died September 26, 1948, Elmer "Buzzy" Scott, Jr. and Rosemary Scott Smith was the youngest.

His dad died April 20, 1958. And his wife passed away April 22, 1977. He has a lot of grandchildren, he stated, "I can't count em". He proudly mentioned that he is a great-great-grandfather.

When asked how he felt about the comparison of the past and now, he enjoyed the days in his youth when they lived on roots, dried deer meat and salmon. He doesn't think change is very good. He often craves food he used to eat in his younger days. He also comments, "Things were respected more in the younger days. Inter-marriage is what spoiled everything, too many outsiders; different Indians." When asked about the new casino, he commented, "I was never much of a gambler."



He enjoyed participating in rodeos. Above he rides Shaniko Red in Molalla, Oregon.



Simnasho is where ninety-one year old Elmer Scott calls home.

Information compiled by Bob Medina

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