

# More letters to the editor

## Powwow

The Veterans Day Powwow Committee would like to thank all the elders, the veterans and the families that came and participated in the Fourteenth Annual Veterans Day Powwow. We would especially thank our sponsors who made this year's event another success. We would like to thank the veterans for their continued support, participation in the recognition ceremonies, and receiving of the committee's gifts. We also send our deepest regards and respect to the Tribal Council, Secretary-Treasurer and Community Counseling Center for their continued support of the Veterans Day Powwow that gives our veterans and our community the opportunity to heal and have fun together. We would also like to recognize the Warm Springs Police Department and Tribal Utilities for all their hard work.

Sincerely,  
The Veterans Day Powwow Committee

## Weddings

I am writing this letter that should have been written about four months ago. But like everything else, time slips away and you don't get things done fast enough.

I would like to thank everyone for attending, preparing and participating in the double wedding of Ramon and Plyza Greene, and Jason and Jamie Tohet. I was never so privileged in being able to pull off such an event and I could not have done it without the help of my Auntie Bernice Mitchell, my sisters Elfreda Mitchell, Geneva Charley, Celia Greene, Louise Katchia, Cassie Katchia and Sarah Gonsalez. My brothers Roscoe Greene, Daniel Greene, Mike Greene, Chris Greene, Richard Animal Tohet, and Jimmy Tohet. My nephews Buster Isadore, Garrett Greene, Pete Greene and others who helped them to help me out.

Thanks to my seamstresses Alexandria Smith, Jamesina Smith, Nancy Sooksoit, Jeanine Kalama, Alice Wyena, Marcia Soliz, Roberta Kirk, Sandy Kiona, Vio Vaeth, Dayle Tufti and Rosetta Fuentes. And the beautiful and special bridal veil done by Merle Ann Kirk. To the decorators Sharon and Ray Ann Katchia, Shania Tom and others. To the cooks Versa Fuentes-Smith, Roselind Moran, Raydine Spino, Rachel Smith-Thomas and all their little help-

ers. To the drummers and especially Thomas Morning Owl for leading the Washut on behalf of not only us Warm Springs tribal members but also for the people from Canada and Montana. To the Pine Grove Jrs. (Yahtin Frank and his children) for bringing their powwow drum to help out with the wedding.

A very special thanks goes out to Kristine and Patrick Big Lake and Mary for driving your bus load of young people over from Montana to not only attend and participate in the wedding but to also end up being a big part of the powwow.

Everyone really enjoyed your singing and I hope you will continue to encourage these young people to be part of powwows so they don't stray away to the bad opportunities that destroy our young people. To the people who brought food to share at this special occasion, it was wonderful and good. To James Greeley for the video taping and Hamilton Greeley for the wedding pictures. And to my dear Uncle Allen Elston and his family for performing the ceremonies and for being there with the family, as this was a very special occasion for all of us.

If I have forgotten someone or anyone it is not intentional and please forgive me. The wedding was beautiful. Now that I've thanked everyone I would like to apologize for making everyone wait while we finished making the shirts and dresses. Did you see the beautiful work that all of the seamstresses did on those beautiful wedding garments? So I feel the wait was worth it.

And a big thank you to the Pi-Ume-Sha Committee for allowing us to have this wedding just before the Friday powwow session. Some of the committee members were in the wedding and the powwow people had to wait for the committee members. I do appreciate, thank and apologize to each and everyone of you. I want say a special thank you to my daughter Veronica Baez, my sons Luis Rey Baez and Jefferson Greene, my grandchildren Jake Frank

and Little Verbena Greene. Without your help, patience, encouragement and love this event could not have been possible. My boys Ramon Greene and Jason Tohet deserved the nice wedding that was done here in Warm Springs, and it was done with love from them.

Ramona Greene-Baez

## Sobriety

To my relatives, family and friends, I would like to take this time to say, "How's your bones?" and hello to everyone. I'm still hanging in there with my sobriety doing it one day at a time. It's a struggle in the big city, learning how to survive with myself, higher power and a lot of praying. I'm happy with what I got today. A place I can call "home" instead of staying here and there with family I love, I have food to eat, instead of the soup line, warm clothes to wear and keep me from catching cold.

I really feel grateful for my being clean and sober, instead of wishing for a beer or a joint early in the morning. Picking up cans or waiting for the check in the mail. I'm physically, mentally, socially and spiritually thankful just for today. I feel more self-aware. I got my self-esteem and self-respect back for myself, my respect, love and gratitude for the elders, our future, and others.

This month is one of the hardest tests I'm going to go through with my feelings, especially my sobriety.

I know each day I pray, I get strength and hope for the journey I'm on. I know I'm really going to pray extra hard for the holidays, for family, for those who are still using and suffering. I'm still trying to let go of my mother Josepha and Na Na Pebbles whose birthdays are coming up on the 14th and 22nd, but that's what prayers are about.

I cherish the memories and I'm going to miss them very much. I'm also going to miss all the other family. Uncle Oly, 8-Ball, Walter, all the family and our respected, most cherished elder - Kuth-la "Ta naa stan

mai." I always remember her words of wisdom and remember my culture and heritage too. I felt bad that day too, because I could not make it to my father Levi George's headstone setting and memorial. I cried and prayed to my Creator for my tears, to my people to let them know my heart and prayers were there. But my sobriety is the most important thing in my life right now. I learned that I have sacrifices I have to choose from, and to give up the most important things I love to keep myself strong, and how it hurts so much to do that.

I would like to say congratulations to my nephew and niece for bringing Shantelle Mabel Henry into the world. I'd love to have a picture for my album. I'd like to thank Sarah for her beautiful poem, it makes you think what she wrote is very true to everyone in the community. I would like to thank you for reading my letter to the people. You made a good point in your column about people listening. It's hard sometimes. They hear you but they're not really listening. I feel peace of mind.

Take care of yourselves and family because I do care, love and miss all of you, too. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you, thank you.


Someone write, so I know you're still there or read my letter. All my love, happy holidays and best wishes,


Linda "LaMoosh"  
Meanus Patton House #204  
4619 N. Michigan Ave. Portland, OR 97217

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