

Letters to the Editor

Great comfort

All my relations, family and friends, I would like to thank each and everyone of you (you all know who you are) for your kind expressions of sympathy upon the death of my father Claude H. Smith Sr.

Yes, it is true that we have sustained a shock and great loss by his sudden passing. It is a great comfort to our family to know that Dad had such good friends throughout Indian Country.

I want all the Drummers to know that your beautiful drum beats and songs were most inspirational to my soul and I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart.

I want all my people to know that I appreciate your presence, prayers, thoughtfulness, kindness and everyone's expressions of love during this tragic time of hurt, pain and grieving.

A special thank you to the cooks for preparing all the meals and also to all the hunters and fishing persons who provided the meat and fish for the meals during the funeral ceremonies.

Thanks everyone for all your thoughtfulness upon the death of my Dad. It was heart warming to receive such comforting words from each of you. God bless you all in a special way. Respectfully yours, **Angelina Smith, Victoria Smith, Mashauni Smith.**

Understanding

This is for the benefit of all tribal employees who are not of a management status. I hope you don't have to experience what I am having to experience as an employee.

First of all, I don't know who set the time frame for traditional leave. As I see it, it sure wasn't a tribal member. Maybe I'm wrong.

I was informed that we got three days per year.

I happen to be one of the selected few that can't rely on just three days. This is why when a family member approaches me to take care of their deceased loved one, it's not my nature to refuse. If I can, I'll gladly help out the family. The only time I'd refuse is if my health isn't up to par.

My supervisor tells me I have got to get permission before I can accept, but when there's a death, all activity relating to the family supersedes all other activities. This may sound disrespectful but I have to let all my people know - Don't die!

Our non-Indian supervisors or employees have too much to learn, let alone understand what Indian culture is all about. I know of a few that know only

a word or two. That doesn't mean they have full knowledge of our way of life.

I probably wouldn't have written this short article if I didn't have first-hand knowledge about traditional leave. When I was docked hours for helping out a grieving family, what do we tell the grieving family? Wait, I have to get permission. Go do it all by yourselves. I have my daily duties as an employee, or don't bother me because I have more important things to do.

My people, when are we as a tribe going to get understanding supervisors? Maybe never. So be it!

I'm not crying about the lost hours, only that we shouldn't have to get permission to exercise our sacred tribal culture.

Phillip G. David.

Loved ones

My elders, Nadine, Anna, Alfreda, Nooglie, Delvis and Shirley, to my loved ones, Julia, Lindey, Freddie, Carson, Dondi, Jasmine, Ante, friends and family, Lacey, Gus, Tina and my best friend Lilo. In all the world there is no one authentically like me. I alone chose everything about me, whether to others or to myself, my dreams, hopes, fears, all my triumphs, successes, failures and mistakes. I can love, be friendly, courageous, and hopeful, forgiving and accepting. Look for solutions to the puzzles, however I look and sound whatever I say and do, whatever I think and however I may be feeling that I alone can discard that which is unfitting and hurtful to me. As I have the tools to sense and choice to order out of the world of people and things, great or small, loving or even the hurtfulness. I love you just the way you are, there's nothing you need to do always be you. Behind your fears, rage of tears, anger, resentment and blame is a shining star. All things that are re-judged are done by people, so go - go now tell the birds of peace, Father Time, Mother Earth and Brother Bear, that only love can bring love. Forgiveness to be forgiven. The change on the outside can only come from deep inside. Deep within the heart, the mind and spirit deep within. I know that we - united as one our family and each one of us as one being responsible for each one-self are capable to live the lives we still have to fulfill our mission. To take hold of our fears, hurt and anger and heal best we can. To love one another and write as family and hold each other up, to understand, learn and practice our heritage, songs and prayers, to cherish our children and our elders as the rare

est rose of beauty, to always have open arms for those who need a hug, open ears for anyone who needs to be heard, eyes wide open that we might recognize these needs. Hands of steel that would help without question. Hearts of butter to be full of love and joy, spirits full of strong prayers and laughter for all. Loud strong voice to carry the songs with pride. I love all of you and together we can and will forever be together and hold each other up in this very time of need. For only through each other will bloom another rose, the rose of everlasting eternal life. I love all of you. Always, **Pearl June.**

Appreciation

To our family and friends, I want to take this time as the eldest child/son of the late George Picard Sr., to thank each and everybody who came to our sides to stand with us to guide us from the moment that we got word of our dad's passing, to the last detail that needed to be completed after the burial.

We were never taught to be traditional people, we thought. But when we stepped forward by making the initiative to do it on our own and completed our dad's journey, I must say that we do know something. As this came to us from our dad, in a "teaching" he said more than once to each of us, but never said it was tradition. We were even told numerous times that we did very well for being on our own. Which was very untrue with our people behind us as our backbones we wouldn't have done it.

There are numerous people out in the community that love us, and loved our dad with all their hearts. These people, who have come forward at a great time of need, are never forgotten in our lives. You know there are men and women out in the wars who are protecting our lands and people of the U.S.. Well, these people in the community also have done the same thing with our family, by their continued guidance, protection, love, words and encouragement. And we thank them with all our love in our hearts. There have been small but large stepping-stones that we have had to climb, and without these people we would not have made it. Thank you all, and may spiritual leader of the heavens above protect each and everyone of you for the good deeds that you have helped each of us with during our loss, and continue to do day by day.

I know that life was never perfect, as I would have just dealt with this in another way, but I have grown in my hard way of life due to positive people in my life. And I am continuing to be strong, it may be hard at times, but I am giving it my best shot.

To each of my family members, we have been through

harder times together, and our circle is strong, so don't let the negative people interfere, or get in and break that apart. Take care each and everybody that has ever helped us out. Thank you again, **George Picard Jr.**

Family, friends

Dear family and friends, this letter is way over due, but I have not had the strength and courage to write this until now. I am taking this time to thank one and all that came to our sides to help us during our dad's passing, **George Picard Sr.**

When we have a crisis in our family we have elders, family members, friends that will drop anything that they are doing, and come to stand beside us, or with us and direct us in every way that they know. These elders came and guided us in a positive and traditional way to help our dad continue on his journey down the right path.

Without these people we would be lost, and would not be where we are today, after all that we have been through during the past five years, since May of 2000. There are so many of you family and friends that I would have to write a whole page, but each of you knows who you are. I know that some of these people have been given a hard time by other people in the community for helping us in our lives and telling us the positive things that they have. The encouragement that these people had told us, and the blessings, and the words to just "hang in there" always helped, and continue to help.

I want each and every one of you to know that my heart and soul love you dearly, and that my husband and children are very thankful for your kind words of encouragement, and the love that you showed in every way possible.

Our dad loved us dearly, and every day there is something in my life that I am proud of that he taught me.

I want to especially thank my husband Vernon, my best friend for being there for me. Thanks for helping me take my turn to care for our dad. He loved you dearly.

Also to my daughter Marcy, thanks for being here for me today and every day. If you were not here I would be lost every day without you making me laugh the day away. You make my heart feel better. I love you ever so much. To my son, your presence even if silent is medicine to my heart. I love you also. Ray, auntie loves you, and sing your heart out, grandpa would be proud of you. LeMinnie and Lonnie, walk with your heads up and look forward to tomorrow. I love you both. My grandson Lennox, you are my sunshine every day. I wait for you to come back from school to make me smile, and for the hugs and kisses and the special password/secret hand-

shake that you have for me.

My brother Jun-Juns, you are a strong person and the one that had it the hardest in our lives. You have grown tremendously, and I am very proud of you. To all my brother's children, stick together as auntie has done her part now, you each stand as adults, and remember I love all of you.

My sister, Twink, you made it - sobriety was your goal. We are all proud of you, and keep going the way that you are going, forward. I know that you and your husband, and your children are all great providers by giving us all deer meat, elk meat, and salmon, and all kinds of berries.

To our mom, Darlyne, thank you for standing beside us through all the funeral process and continuing to stand beside us. I love you lots and lots and over again in my heart.

We also have a sister out there that I acknowledge. I love you dearly, and you are always in my heart, I knew it from the beginning and still know it.

To Denise, Woody Sr., and Clem, you know we love you and that we are always here, not when needed, or when the need arises. Take care of yourselves and your families.

Also, last but not least I want to thank Terry and Gladys Squiemphen, and also Earl and Rita Squiemphen for all the assistance. They have given me and my children in our great time of need. Again, thank you all, and may God bless each and every one of you from now to eternity. I may think I don't know the traditional way of life, but I do know that I have made it and will continue to make it with all the help you each have given or continue to give me. **LaDonna Raye Picard-Squiemphen.**

Missing items

We, the eldest three children of the late George Picard Sr., are asking the community members/tribal members for any voluntary assistance. We are looking for any person that has purchased, or taken in "hock," or traded anything of value from any person in association (family member/relative/friend) to the residence located at 8210 Blue Lake Road/County Line Road, or that belonged to our father's log truck business. This includes but is not limited to rifles (13 or 14), a pistol, cameras, VHS movie recorder, movies (home recorded or store bought) men's jewelry, tools, shop equipment, log truck parts, chain saws (five), air compressor, arc welder, vehicles, vehicle parts, metal safe with combination, furniture, television sets, VCR's, stereo, wood splitter. There are also family pictures missing from the residence regarding his business, and family life with all of his children, family and friends.

The time frame that we are

looking for is any time "between" May 2000-July 2005.

There is a list being compiled of items that we do know the whereabouts of, some of the above mentioned items, but are asking that you come forward to the Tribal Probate, with a receipt or bill of sale, and/or some type of verification that you purchased these items, and who you purchased these items from. Please call Warm Springs Tribal Probate office at (541) 553-3264. Thank you. **George Picard Jr., LaDonna Raye Picard-Squiemphen, Yvette Leecy.**

Camera

On October 1 at the Agency Longhouse, a Fuji camera belonging to me was picked up. If it is a family member and you have it developed, please return the photos or leave the film at the Spilyay office with Selena. Your honesty will be appreciated. Thank you. **Gail Frank.**

A thank you

We want to thank all of the folks in Warm Springs who opened their homes and hearts to our family during the loss of our brother, Puckett Robinson.

Many thanks to Lucinda and Sterling "the Horse Whisperer" Green for their hospitality. Sterling's morning coffee was much appreciated. Thanks to Shawn "the Coyote" for his hunting stories that kept us entertained. To our brothers and sisters whose home is in Warm Springs, we love each of you and hope to get together in good times and not just in times of passing. With many thanks from Chunky's other family: **Sam Robinson, Darlene "Lulu" Robinson, Marcus "Hero" Robinson, Lester Robinson, Clifford Robinson and other families.** 3614 Crest St., Klamath Falls, 97603.

Candle safety

Especially during the fall and winter months, people of the Warm Springs Reservation are encouraged to use candles with care. In a recent year, an estimated 18,600 candle fires in residential structures resulted in 130 deaths and 1,375 injuries.

Of the candle fires: 39 percent occurred in bedrooms, 37 percent occurred between the hours of 5 and 11 p.m., 75 percent occurred in single family homes or duplexes, 21 percent occurred in multifamily dwellings.

Months with more incidents of candle-caused residential fires are October through March, with a dramatic increase during December and January.

In residential structure fires, bedding and upholstered furniture were the materials first ignited in 38 percent of child fatality fires, with lighters and candles being the primary heat sources. **Warm Springs Fire and Safety.**

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan
Management Successor: Selena T. Boise
Advertising Manager: Sam Howard
Staff Writer: Brian Mortensen
Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Our offices are located in the white house at 1100 Wasco Street.

Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:

Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: (541) 553-1644 or 553-3274.
FAX No. (541) 553-3539.

E-Mail: spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org.

Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$15.00.

Happy birthday wishes...

Happy 15th birthday to my son, Carlos Jesse Reynoso. You have made me so proud and thankful to be your mom. Son, I love how you make me laugh and make every day a great day with your smile. Continue to



make all the right choices and life will be good to you. I hope this 27th day of October brings you much happiness. Lots of love and kisses from your mama, Joy Ramirez.

Happy 15th birthday, Nin. Hope you have lots of fun. Love you, Damian, Soraya, Igraii, Jaibline.

Happy first birthday to our little "blue eyes," Darmani Marquan Soto on the 8th of October. With love, the Ramirez family.

Happy birthday to my little Edy Henry. Love you lots kido, and best wishes throughout the year. Love, Danica and Eric.

Happy belated birthday to Grandma Wanda Calica. Love, Joseph, Jade, Tatum, Laurein, Alexis, and Seth and Lane.

Happy birthday, Devon. From Selena.

Happy birthday to my sister Irene Garcia! Love, from Estelle and family.