

Letters to the Editor

Fire and Safety Our freedoms

A child watches every move an adult makes or how we treat people and verbalize with another human being.

I truly want to thank Fire and Safety for all the good deeds they have done for my family and I.

Many people don't want to see all the great things they do for our Elders and other people.

Living across this group for the past 17 years, I can truly be proud to say thanks for all you did for us.

I know that you always shoveled our snow or pushed us out of our driveway when the snow and snowplow dumped a lot of snow and blocked our driveway.

When I couldn't lift heavy things you were here for me. Being a senior and moving in I had no one offer to help lift all my furniture and heavy boxes, but you helped when I asked (except for the Priesthood from my church).

I have "three choice spirits" that spent many hours with me and my four-, three-, and two-year-old great grandchildren adored all the works at Fire and Safety. You always took the time to take my great grandchildren and play Frisbee with them.

D.J. had to go over everyday talking a mile with you and you always took him, Reigh and Sign putting them on the fire truck and putting the uniform on them.

Can you imagine what a thrill this was for them? They ate, drank and talked about you from morning till night. All their toys we bought had to be fire trucks with sirens or ambulances with the sirens.

They had a yellow jacket, boots, red fire hat that they had to put on when you drove out with the fire truck and would run to the fence to wave at you when you went out.

He had a different color coat, hat and boots that he would run in and put on when you went in the ambulance waving at you. We had to keep these outfits by the door. They all loved hearing you testing the sirens and horns; they thought that was meant only for them. Thanks for making three wonderful choice spirits happy and loving kids.

What a thrill living here and knowing such great people (grandsons, granddaughters, son-in-law and friends). I will truly miss seeing you and yelling "good morning" or "hello" like we both do every day.

But know you will always be in my heart and I will always love you. That is why I baked a lot to give you, thanking you for all you did for us. May our heavenly Father be with you always.

Sincerely, Shirley A. Smith.

One morning I woke up with this poem on my mind. I would like to share it with family and friends.

Although I did not know this young man, PFC Thomas Tucker, I'm truly thankful there are many who answered the call to join the service. These young men/women gave their lives to protect you, all Americans and me so we will be able to be free. Free to speak, free to worship, but most of all freedom of choice. To be able to choose what religion we feel best for ourselves without fear of being persecuted.

As it states in the good word (Bible), we are living in the end times when signs will be shown to us such as wars and rumors of wars along with the earthquakes, floods, fires, tornados and other devastating worldly happenings. I believe it is close to the coming of our Lord Jesus returning for His own (those who have accepted Him and walk and talk according to His Word). There are men/women who are dying because they believe in what America offers.

I did not know PFC Thomas Tucker but I'm proud of him and his valiant fight for freedom. We have young people who fight each other for "their turf", their "colors", whether it be family against family, native against native, race against race, state against state. Why not join the service and fight for our country? Our freedom? Our true colors of red, white and blue?

It wasn't too long ago when Indians couldn't vote yet our grandfathers, fathers, brothers, sisters, relatives joined the service to protect our land. Yes, we still have a long way to go before we will actually see peace but there is one who can give you peace within and that one is Jesus Christ. Maybe in our lifetime we will understand what it means to live side by side by loving our neighbors with a perfect love. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Tucker for raising a son that wasn't afraid to give his life for us here in Jefferson County, Central Oregon, state of Oregon and for the United States of America.

Tina Aguilar, Child of God, Warm Springs, OR 97761. (See the poem on page 5.)

Have faith

Two steps and we can begin this race. Go with the flow as we set the pace. People and places and all that we knew. Couldn't stop this dope game, it's the devil's tool. Life on the outside continues to go on. Behind these walls, now known as

a con. Each day we sit in our CCDC blues. Tear after tear as our fears come true. Appointed a defender yet we don't feel any better. Standing at mail call, awaiting a letter. Being down in this town, they all know your name. Takes a turn for the worse, your new fame turns to shame. Not one person out there is ever the same. But that's what happens when you play this dope game. The devil is quick to take this town down. Lie after lie is his only sound. Bridges start burning, relationships cease to exist. The devil begins laughing and shaking his fists. Then God steps in and says, "I am here." His hand touches my cheek, he wipes away my tears. Then a voice from within says, "Child of mine, child so dear, come here to me, you have nothing to fear. I know what it takes if you'll just read my words. Faith comes by hearing the Word. I love you so much, my arms are open wide. From this moment on I'll be by your side. I promise to give you the strength to get by. Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins, now he looks for the lost to give them hope, faith and love."

Jeanette Thompson, P.O. box 1099, Republic, WA 99166.

A thank you

We would like to inform the relatives, friends and community of our sincere appreciation for your patience and attendance for our father Douglas Williams Sr.

Our dad has received the promise of our Creator to take him by the hand and lead him home; this brings comfort to our spirit and minds.

It was enlightening to have so many people that came to offer prayer while the family was awaiting arrangements. Special thanks to our aunt Rosanna Jim from Rock Creek, Washington, for coming a long way to be with the Williams children.

We would like to express our gratitude to the cooks that worked for many hours to prepare exceptional meals.

The Shaker Church and Washut services provided a great comfort to our wounded hearts, your love that was shared with us was meaningful and will never be forgotten.

Special thanks for grandma Maxine McKinley; you did demonstrate to us the greatest love and teaching that a grandma could give during the most difficult time. We appreciate our aunt Susie Slockish for being with us.

Thanks to our aunts: Myrna Frank, Lillian Cuevas, Marlene Becerra, Carol Parra, and Annette Arce and our uncles Delbert Frank Jr. and Charles Frank. (You were all present with Doug when we were children in the Quinn Park and there are many good memories to share with each other.) Our strong foundation has taught us to endure.

From children Roberta and Leander Williams Sr., Sytje and Doug Isaac Willaims Jr., Josie and Warner Williams Sr.

In this life

I come to you all on this early evening to express myself, first of all in God's eyes we are all equal, no one is better than the other, we work hard to get to where we want to get, that is a long, long ladder to climb but with God's helping hands we can go and do the things that are

expected of us, and that is the way I felt. We need not step on each other, nor to hurt one another, talk behind one's back. What is it? I know, for I've been there and it hurts. It seems as though you think that you are doing all right and all of a sudden a shell falls and breaks in front of you, then when you walk away, you think, What's the use? The heck with it all. What's a person to do then? Which way shall I go? Or shall I go on? Usually I went on, back biting? There is no need for that, as I said we work very hard to get where we wish to in this ole world. God placed us on this earth to love one another, help one another, not to hurt each other. I remember when I was 10 years old my grandfather, the late Johnny F. James, told me, if you can't say anything nice, then say nothing at all. If your backyard isn't cleaned then don't even bother to look at your neighbor's back yard, plus you treat others the way you want to be treated. Love one another, help one another, remember that everyone has feelings just as you have, some hurt very easy, some are as stones, but always remember what goes around, comes around, and believe it or not it is so true. So let's give it a try just one time, love one another, help each other, and we'll find we will always get along, and all things will fall into their right place. A'men, A'men... As ever, **Bobbi Suppah**.

Questions

A few years back I asked some of our leaders what they had planned if their Gorge Brainstorm fell through, and why they wouldn't listen to the tribal members. All they did was brag about their consultants. Some big shot told me before that this management was behind nearly 30 failed enterprises or businesses. But the same ones keep popping up in charge of the next idea. By now, it seems like these leaders might have noticed a pattern. At the last General Council on Aug. 29, I didn't hear any answers either, except to vote for this governor. All I remember are his promises to other towns and Indian tribes. Then switching sides after one of our gaming experts said "we" slipped him \$5 million. How can anyone trust someone like this to stick to his promises?

Now they are asking for the Indians' input. Now they can say it was all our idea.

Who is going to take the rap for the \$25 million that was spent? Are the consultants going to give us back a refund? Are the leaders going to itemize all the expenses? What happened to the medical care, since this started? The same day I heard tribal members getting denied dental care, I overheard "descendants" bragging about getting their "little descendants" braces.

I hear a lot of complaints about every department around here. All of them pretty bad. Where are the leaders that were elected to make sure this didn't happen? Unless they were complaints from non-Indians or management, all complaints were being sent to The Board. Most people don't even know who The Board is. What can people do, nothing? Especially when you find out the worst offender is on The Board.

I'd like to know just who is in charge around here? I don't

think the Tribal Council knows. The Board sure doesn't know. Is it an anonymous consultant? **Victor Moses**, tribal member.

Relay run

I recently entered a Portland to Coast High School Challenge team held Aug. 25-26, 2006. My friends and I decided to get together for some fun and to get in shape for fall sports by running this 126-mile relay from Portland to Seaside. There were 12 runners on our team from Warm Springs, Madras and Yakama.

Our local sponsors for this event were Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, and Madras Erickson's Thriftway. I would also like to thank Sarah Frank for contributing a van and being a driver and to Anson Begay for generously contributing a van. A special thanks goes to Kelly of Identity Zone for flexible service.

All my planning, organizing and work could not have been possible without our primary sponsor, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, whose generous and willing contribution to youth activities allowed us to have an awesome experience and to keep me busy.

Overall, we were happy with the results and our team appreciates the wonderful support of our parents and sponsors. With respect, **Brandon Thompson**, Flying Fry Breads, Warm Springs.

Health program

The Mountain View Community Health Improvement Partnership has been hard at work the last several months with broad-based community assessments, and has now reached the point of narrowing our focus down to six key community priorities. These priority issues will now guide the remainder of our activities through the end of the year, and provide us a platform for future activities.

In addition to the visioning meeting in June, the partnership has conducted one-on-one interviews with nearly 80 community members, looked at data from various sources for health indicator information, provider adequacy, and health system utilization. The results of these assessments were coalesced into a tool called the "triangulation" by the Oregon Health Sciences University and the Office of Rural Health, and from this tool, the partnership chose three health status and three health resource issues to drive our activities.

The topics identified were: Affordable health insurance/financing, substance abuse, healthy community promotion, mental health, prevention services, and quality of services.

Each of these topic areas

now has a committee formed that meets separately from the bigger partnership, for the purpose of researching these areas in a more in-depth manner. In the next few months, the partnership will be charged with deciding how we can best impact these health concerns, whether by supporting existing entities to deliver services in a manner that most benefits the community, impacting policies that address these issues, or helping with funding of new grants and initiatives that address these concerns.

Some interesting findings for our communities to think about included that the vast majority of people interviewed viewed many people without health insurance as our most important health resource issue.

This is actually confirmed by data obtained from a provider survey that the Community Health Improvement Partnership conducted, which found that nearly 22 percent of healthcare visits in the Madras area were "self pay," which is another term for no insurance coverage. The national average is 6 percent.

These same interviews revealed that the majority of residents surveyed felt drugs-of-abuse were our biggest health status problem, with the majority citing methamphetamine as our primary problem. Interestingly, alcohol and unintended injuries related to its use are the primary cause of premature death in the service area.

There are many service structures in place to address the promotion of health living for this area, and the Community Health Improvement Partnership is working toward assisting those entities already in place to better meet the needs of the citizens of our communities.

If any of these areas are important to you, and you would like to positively impact the communities of the Mountain View Service Area, from Simnasho to Culver, please contact me at 475-3882, ext. 2436, and let me know which topic you have a passion for. We need to continue the wonderful community contributions we have already experienced.

Beth Ann Beamer, Mountain View Community Health Improvement Partnership.

Regarding letters

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. Please, when writing, keep in mind that letters should be of no more than **350 words**. Letters that are too long will have to be cut. Please submit only one letter per person per edition.

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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.

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Birthday and other wishes...



To Grandma Girlie (Carolyn Johnson), We would all like to say, Have a wonderful Grandparents Day! Oh year... and we all love you! So have a great day Grandma Girlie. From Ellen, Jocene, Raymond, Kara-Lynn, Keverly, Forest and Rosbone.

Happy first birthday to my twins Dean Muldrow and Marcus Jr. It's been one long year with many more to come. You put smiles on your sister's and brother's and my faces every day. Love always, mom Ellis.

Happy first birthday to my brothers Dean and Jr., August 17. Love, big bro and sis. Chantel and Tremayne.