

Letters to the Editor

Youth issue

Our ancestors and elders always put our children first when making tribes' future plans. Always. Seven years in advance. They took care of their elders and people and defended them. They were solution-oriented people who would never ever think of expelling or disowning a fellow tribal member. Especially children.

The elders told us long ago to be very careful who we put in Council.

Solutions, Council. Not punishment for being desperately poor with no light at the end of the tunnel.

A better solution would be to fix our medical clinic system. It isn't working. Especially the appointments and weekend or after-hours care. I thought getting good medical care was in our treaty? Our people are dropping dead, left and right every day from cancer, kidney disease, diabetes, heart attacks and especially alcohol and drug addictions. Everybody has lost a loved one from one or all of these illnesses. There are tribal people too sick to take proper care of their families.

The children of these suffering people are clinging desperately to anyone who would help them feel needed or wanted. Maybe these children wouldn't turn to gangs or other bad influences if they had healthy parents to care and comfort them. We need an alcohol and drug treatment center here! People turn to these addictions out of a sense of hopelessness, desperation and loneliness. The

same reason our children turn to gangs. Empathy and understanding, Council!

Children are the victims here, not the enemy. They are us! Our future, future voters, future parents.

One solution to the clinic/medical problem is to have an on-call, after hours and weekend physicians available, one who lives nearby or at the clinic, who will be available for all sicknesses and emergencies during off-hour times.

At the clinic one of my sisters went into labor, of course, after hours and on a weekend, and was about to deliver any second. I drove her up to the rear door of the old clinic, tooted the car horn and Dr. Creelman came running from the house next door, jumped over the fence, ran up to the clinic just in time to deliver my brand new niece. Now that was service, completely cool and caring. Now we have an answering machine that tells you office hours and to go to the emergency room at Mountain View Hospital, where you know you'll be billed, no matter what the illness. Who has the gas to run all the way to Madras? Come on, Council, work with us here. We're all struggling. Healthy people equals caring, compassionate parents, thus content kids.

Don't bury your heads and pretend everything is okay. Our children are indicators of how things are out here, good or bad.

Yours truly, a true tribal elder and member, **Myrna Frank.**

Camp support

To all our camp supporters,

The Culture and Heritage Department is very thankful for all who stepped forward to make the Strengthening Families and Culture camp a big success. We would like to thank the following:

OSU Extension, our co-partner who provided materials for camp set up. Charmaine, Kami, Val, summer staff who did games and presentations with campers. Minnie, Bobbie, Fara, Emilee, and Sherri who did registrations, presentations, and lots of other stuff as needed. And Shawn, co-director who took on the task of coordination and overseeing those tasks got accomplished, workers were paid and lots of behind the scene work.

Culture and Heritage staff – Suzie and family who assisted with cultural knowledge and support for learning about traditional foods and strengths. Arlita provided Ichishkin language teaching and elder advice to families. Verleen taught the Numu language and participated in camp. Thanks to Pam, Deanie and Gladys who taught the Kiksht language. Thanks to Dallas, who assisted with many things in camp, especially with men things with the boys, and blessing meals. Merle, with her cast on did a great job of working and teaching beading projects, thanks.

Thank you to Eileen for teaching baskets and Adeline who shared stories about the animals. And DelMar, thanks for recording various events of

the camp.

To Fire and Safety – Thank you to the two young gents that came and watched over camp in case there could have been an emergency and also participated in activities and assisting with camp cleanup. The two young ladies, who also came to camp for emergency assistance with the ambulance, thank you. Thank you to Lynn for making the arrangements for the coverage at Peters Pasture during the camp.

Forestry – Thank you to Virgil for all the work you volunteered to do in assisting with the camp set up and gathering/delivering of the wood. Also, thanks to Larry for working to gather the wood for camp. Thanks to the supervisors who allowed the time for Virgil and Larry to get the wood.

Work Force Development – A big thank you to Fred, who drove the 2-ton truck that delivered the BIG stuff to camp and to your assistants who loaded and unloaded the things; and who also dealt with the breakdown of the truck. Also, a big thank you to Aaron and crew who set up teepees, loaded, unloaded, setup large tarps, and many other tasks that was really contributed to camp set-up and take down.

Warm Springs Police Department – Thank you, Raymond T. for allowing the camp to use your department trailer for food storage during camp.

Natural Resources – We appreciated your fish and wood donation, families learned about the care, preparation, and cooking of the salmon, and proper

wood used for outside use. Thanks to Sharlene for your assistance and Stanley for delivering the wood used.

Diabetes Program and Shadow Project – Your presentations to the families was appreciated at a time when we need to provide information for healthier & stronger families.

Camp staff and volunteers – The cooks, Millie, Farrellyn, Larissa, thank you for the wonderful meals that nourished camp participants. Shawn J., thanks to you for the much needed 'young men' influence that you provided at camp. Anthony C., thank you for all your assistance that happened while you were at camp. J'Dean and Foster, Larson and everyone thank you for making the sweats possible. Thank you, Becky D. your voluntary services was very much appreciated.

Warm Springs Power Enterprise and the Education Committee – Your sponsorship funding for families to attend is greatly appreciated, not only by the families, but by the programs as well. It is your support that contributes to success of programs that contribute to family strengths.

Family participants – Your presence was what made the camp special! To all the children, the parents, the grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, cousins and whole families, thank you for being at camp.

If I have forgotten someone or some program, forgive me, there has been a huge effort to make this event a successful one and through it all it is difficult to keep a good record of all that

has happened.

We are already talking about next year and how we can improve. We look forward to next summer as I hope all of you will be doing. Thanks again to all who made this so successful,

Myra Johnson-Orange.

Closer to God

Hi to all my Native family at home. I would just like to share a little experience that made me closer to God.

I was in jail 14 days in Warm Springs and went to treatment here in Klamath Falls.

On April 20, 2008 I was saved and forgiven from God. And got baptized on June 28, 2008 in Crescent City, California. It was the best felling I ever felt in my life.

At that time I knew there was hope for me. I've been clean and sober for 138 days and I take that one day at a time. I ask for forgiveness from whomever I hurt. I want to send this message to all that God loves us all! And if you give God all you got, he will forgive you to. Now that I praise Him with all I got, I see wonderful things happening in my life. And what I have now is a clean and sober lifestyle.

So please take this time to think about this message, and give it to him. And see what happens! I love you all and hope that one day I'll be home. But don't be shy and write to me and I'll tell you more about him. Peace, love, hope, honesty and willingness – is what got me here.

Love, **Angela Martinez**
2006 Gettle St., Klamath Falls
OR 97603. God Loves You.

Happy Birthday and other wishes...

Happy second birthday to **Jessie Bobb** on September 8.

Our dear precious lil Jessie, you came along at a time when we lost some dear beloved family members: your grampa Corwin Howtopat (he would have been so proud of you) and your great-great grampa, Delbert Frank Sr. (he would've loved you, too).

You filled that empty space and filled our hearts with love and awe. It's truly a wonder to watch you grow, learn to talk, everything is new to you and it's wonderful to see you discover something new each day. We love you with all our hearts lil Jessie and we'll never let anything harm you. You'll only know love and happiness. Love and kisses son. Love, Daddy Michael Bobb, Great-Grampa, Myra Frank, Selena and Chris (Gramma and Grampa), Duran and Uncle Butter and puppy, Travis, Amy and Kendall Bobb, and from all the way from the Washington Coast – your Great-Grampa, Glen "Ray" Bobb, Auntie Astra, Patty, Uncle Devlin and all your lil cousins from Tabolah and Oakville.

Happy 25th birthday **Mallory C. Polk-Gilbert.** Even though we've had our differences, we are always going to be family through thick and thin. Your cuz, LaVonne.

Happy birthday to our niece "Mal" on August 6, 2008. Be sure and have fun, but not too much! Love, your Auntie Laura and Uncle Al.

Happy birthday to our older cuzin Mallory. We love you. Love, Nick and Harley Kelly.

Happy birthday, **Mal.** From **Brandi and Michael Stwyer-Bobb.**

Happy birthday Auntie Mallory. Love, your nieces, Lil Eva Lone, Mabkiyah, CeAsia and your nephews Lil Gary, and baby Jessie.

Happy birthday, Mal. Love, Da Boys D.S. Junior, Curtiss, and T.J. Dickson.

Happy birthday **Lil Bro Albert A. Stahi.** We love and miss you. Love, Laura and Al Kelly.

Happy birthday Uncle Albert. Love ya. Love, Curdy, Junior, T.J., B.J., Nick and Harley.

Happy birthday **Uncle Albert. Love, LaVonne and Wayne.**

Happy birthday, **Grampa Albert.** Love, your grandkids, Lil Gary, Lil Eva, Mabkiyah, CeAsia and Jessie.

Happy birthday Baby Girl **Brandi Jo Stwyer.** It's only been three years and we're still going strong. Michael Bobb Catch my Heart.

Happy 18th birthday to my baby sis **Brandi J. Stwyer.** No matter how old you get, you're always going to be my baby sister. I love you, B.J. Love, your big sis **LaVonne and Wayne E.S.**



Happy birthday **Nana Brandi,** love you always. Love, your baby bro's **Nick and Harley Kelly.**



Happy birthday **Brandi Jo,** my 18-year-old brat. We love you. Mom and Dad.

Happy birthday **Lil sis Brandi Stwyer.** We love ya, **Love Da Big Bro's, D.S. Junior, Curtiss and Theo.**

Happy birthday Auntie **Brandi.** Love, **Lil Gary, Lil Eva, Mabkiyah and CeAsia.**

Happy birthday my Mommie. I love you. Love me lots, your baby boy **Jessie Dean Stwyer-Bobb.**



With all of our love always and forever, **Happy Birthday, Mom.** August 24, 194something.

Life Begins at 59

Happy Birthday **Dad.** From Mom, **Charlie, Lewis, Lee, Nenee, Moses, Tessa, Killer and Sy-Rus.** With love.



Happy 8th Birthday, **Leonard "King Leno" Polk.** And Happy 13th Birthday **Dionne "Lil D" Polk.** Love you two always. From **N a n a s : Evelyn & N e p h e w : Sterlin; and Meredith & Neice: Rashawna; Korina & Nephew: Tate; Yaya: Dixon Jr. & Nephews Dominick & Elias AND from your Dad: Dixon Sr. and Mom Annette...**

And your **Alas Alberta, Diretha, Penny, Mary, Geraldine and the rest of the Alas...**

Uncle Michael, yayas: **Swan, Maurice, Sr. & Lil Mo' Jr.** Auntie Trena and kids: **Cyrel, Cyna, Tray, Eugene & Sarah.**

And all of the rest of the family...

August 22nd: Birthday wishes go out to **Dixon L. Polk Jr. Happy 28th Birthday. From your sons: Dominick & Elias, from your honey Rosanna, from your brother Leonard "King Leno," your sisters Dionne "lil D," Evelyn & baby nephew Sterlin,**

and from the rest of the family...

August 27th: Birthday wishes go out to **Maurice Lee Polk Jr. "Lil' Mo" Happy 1st Birthday. From your Dad Maurice Sr., your Pusha's Michael A. Polk & Dixon L. Polk Sr. and Cuthla' Annette. Your Uncles Swan Jay, Dixon Jr. Leonard "King Leno," your**

and from the rest of the family...

August 16th: Birthday wishes go out to the **Polk Twins: Swan and Maurice... Happy 24th birthday. From your cousins: Leonard "King Leno," Dionne "Lil D," Evelyn & baby nephew Sterlin, Meredith & niece Rashawna, Korina & baby nephew Tate, and Dixon Jr. & nephews Dominick and Elias. And from Dad Michael & sisters Sequoia, and Julia & niece Te'ane and Ala' Alberta Yallup, Uncle Dixon & Auntie Annette, Auntie Trena and kids, and from the rest of the Family...**

August 29th: Birthday wishes go out to **Lucille "Meredith" Michelle Polk. Happy 20th Birthday "Honey Girl"...** From your **Baby Rashawna & Honey Coby, lil brother: Leonard "King Leno," & lil sister Dionne "Lil D." And sisters Evelyn & Baby nephew Sterlin, Korina & Baby nephew Tate, and Yaya: Dixon, Jr. and sis Rosanna & nephews Dominick and Elias and from Dad & mom Dixon Sr. and Annette. And your Ala' Alberta Yallup and all the rest of the Family...**

Happy 24th Birthday to my girl **Lucinda Stwyer.** I love you. Can't wait to spank you! From **Stuart A. Smith Sr., Deer Ridge Correctional Facility.**

Happy second birthday to our grandson **Jessie D. Bobb** on September 8, 2008. We love you so much. You bring us so much joy and smiles since the very first day you were born. Everyday is a wonderful gift with you in the world. May the Lord give us a million more days with you. Love, hugs, kisses and more, your gramma and grampa, **Selena and Chris.**

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