

## Letters to the Editor

### Some questions Best wishes

My relatives and friends, I would like to bring up a couple of things that could be of importance to the tribes, especially the Council.

When the LeClaire fire (years ago) damaged a lot of sagebrush, juniper trees, sunflower plants, etc., I talked to a forestry worker who I had worked with for many years. My question was, How are the plants going to be replaced? With grass, was the answer.

Tribal Council: Is the grass harming our natural food... Indian celery, roots, etc.

Another subject: I keep up with news. In 2004 the President of the United States was in Portland, talking with thousands of people about the shrinking economy of Oregon and Washington and how he could help. To make things short, he okayed for the Columbia River to be dredged up to about 43 feet deeper for bigger trade ships to come up and our products to be on the market easier throughout the world.

Now that the ocean water comes up a ways in the Columbia River, sea lions follow the salmon up the river. I read in the Sunday Oregonian (12-7-08) where salmon shark and other ocean life are washing up on the Oregon Coast and scientists don't know why.

This time of the year the whales migrate to California shores.

Maybe some of them will detour up the Columbia.

Lamont Brown.

### Two poems

Like windows in the sky, ever disappear to nowhere, wishing to let an angel fall from the heavens.

But now the clouds cover the hope of it all—Not to worry for there will be other times.

Oh how I wish to climb the ladder. The sky waits for me, to someday fly to the sky that waits.

An angel awaits there, my angel, calling me and now the window to the sky is gone.

The light that shines within my darkness, reaching deep inside to pull me away from sadness.

Like the spirit wanting to be free, the grasp of it, so near. Let it go, it screams to me, Turn, so I won't hear.

Now it begins to faint but quickly, before it goes the light that shines within my darkness must not go.

By David J. Gonzales

Hello. I just wanted to take a brief moment to tell my family Happy New Year. Starting with my father Grant Clements Sr., my mother Sandra Clements, also William and Rhonda Clements, Tashina R. Clements and James Tahmaira E. Clements and lil Will. Grant and Patty Clements Codair and Tyson Clements, Clarice and Sandra Clements. Cassie and Donovan Wolfe, Kaylyn and CyRhon Wolfe, Clairissa Wolfe, Kelsey Kalama. Also Rudy George and Sheilah Clements. Christopher "Tiffer" Clements, Millie, Christie, T.J. Shantel "Telle" Clements, William "Yum Yum" and Calvin Wilson, Vickie "Babydoll" Wilson, Elaina Clements, Hermione and Michele Johnson, Shawn Clements, Chonda Howtopat and Callie Howtopat, Nathan Youngman, Uncle George, Auntie Janice, Claude Barber, Luther Clements, Denice and family, Kayleen "KK" Clements, Jets and Aldwin Keo George, Luther and James. Also Matthew "Matt" Clements and George "George" Clements, my uncle Mike and Auntie Maxine, to Corey and Jole Holliday and family, Ron "Goober" Clements. Also to Shaylah Frank and family, okay!

And now on my husband's side, we would like to wish Happy Holidays to Lester and Melinda Poitra, AJ, Rich and lil Rich Phalke and family, Peggy Williams, Willord Poitra, Ty and Nee Poitra, Wilona and Jackie Poitra, Laura Thomas, Jackly Poitra, Vera Smith and Jacklyn, Josh Poitra, Roberta "Bird" Bruce, Thomas and Lucy Williams, George Williams and family, Jason Williams and family.

Nathan William, Kevin Williams, Eric Williams, Jack and Mi-Mi Williams, Warner and Josie Williams and family, Leander "lil" Berda Williams, Margaret "Maggie." Also to my family on my mom's side, my auntie Hattie, Traci Jones, Ranita Jones and family, Tommy Gilbert and Shannon and family, Cerla Gilbert and family, Sam and Nancy Culps and family, Wayne Gilbert and family, Jessie Gilbert and family, T.J. Gilbert, Rose Gilbert and family, Sarah Gilbert and family, Bobby Gilbert and family, my long lost uncle Johnny, my auntie Jessica, Lavaun and John, lil Jess and Bro, my auntie Daisy and Ralph Aguilar, Allen Gilbert Sr. and family, Allen Gilbert Jr. and kids, my relatives in Portland, Darloo and family.

And last but not least my husband for eight and a half years, Spencer W. Poitra. And my darling blessed one of a kind sons and daughters. Coby Jason Clements-Poitra,

Rashanda Sally "Miss Pi-Ume-Sha" Clements-Poitra, Rhonda Helen "Shmumah" Clements-Poitra, Isaac Spencer Poitra.

Also to anyone I might have forgotten to mention and my very good friends, may you all be blessed with the spirit of the holidays. And I would like to let you all know that even though we don't share the holidays, you are all in my prayers and in my heart. God bless and have a Happy New Year!

Spencer and Helen Poitra.

P.S. A happy belated birthday to Woody Poitra, Renee "Nee" Poitra, Margaret "Maggie" Tashina Clements, William Clements Sr.

Spencer Poitra and Rashanda "Miss Pi-Ume-Sha" Clements-Poitra (who were born on the same day, father and daughter.)

### Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 11/27/08 by driving under the influence of alcohol, having drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. Also, for

speeding and failing to maintain the lane I was driving in. I apologize to my uncle and the officer I inconvenienced. I've learned my lesson and won't commit these crimes ever again. Tyler J. Vernon.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 23 by recklessly endangering others and by committing DUI. I apologize to the Warm Springs community. Sorry that I did this. Tim Yahtin.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Sept. 30, 2008 by having possession of drug paraphernalia and narcotics in a vehicle. I apologize to my grandmother and my auntie. I am sorry for my mistake. Justin Miller.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 26, 2008 by the offense of driving while under the influence of intoxicants and recklessly endangering. I apologize to my buddy L.W. Jr. I hope that you had a fun day on 10/25/08. Sincerely, Watkins Johnson.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 5, 2008 by liquor viola-

tion. I was on the Warm Springs Reservation while under the influence. I apologize to C. and C. I plan on going to college and to work more on my education so I stay out of trouble. Gloria Mike.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 8/12/08 by driving under the influence, recklessly endangering and reckless driving. I take full responsibility for my actions. I apologize to the people on the reservation. This will never happen again. Lewis Hellon.

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 1, 2008 by accidentally breaking tribal codes 305.175 and 305.025. I want to say I am really sorry to the family and community. I especially want to apologize to the V. family for my wrongdoing. I apologize to L., P., J., and T. I am sorry and if I could take back that night, for anything I would. Clinton Tohet.

I am sorry I broke tribal law in May by obstructing justice, resulting in one night stay in the Warm Springs Jail. This was

none of my intentions. I apologize to my brother K.K. I will never put myself or others in this kind of situation again. Brittney Kalama.

To the people of Warm Springs, I'm sorry for the shame I brought to my family name, Weaslehead. I apologize to the Warm Springs Police Department for selling meth and using meth. I also apologize for breaking into people's cars and hours in Wolfe Point. Waylon Wolfe Weaslehead.

### 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. No libelous statements may be printed in the paper. Thank you.

## Happy birthday, holiday and other wishes...

Happy New Year to our granddaughter. We love you very much, from Grandpa Sam and Nancy Marie.

Happy New Year to Shaunda, Jo, Destiny, Mary, Churchy, Heven, Sammy Jr. I hope you had a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year. From your dad Sam and family.

Happy New Year to my kids Douglas Lasco, Andrew Paul, Samantha Leslie. I love you all very much. Love always, your mom Nancy Marie.

Happy New Year to Suzie and Wilbur and happy new year. Thanks for the support and love you showed us. We love you.

Love Sam Culps Sr. and family.

Happy New Year to my brother Jesse Gilbert and Family. Leann, Mario, Amber, Carla.

To Wayne and Kara Atoria and Sister Rosie and family. We miss you all very much. Tommy Gil-

bert, Mel, tiva girl.

Happy New Year to Hattie, Ray Ray, Ellen, Vern, Grandma Doris and Grandpa Arthur Lewis, and Grace, Sally, Mike, Grandma, Margie, Julia, DJ, Donny, Chubba, Ida, and have a happy new year. Douglas, Samantha, Nancy.

## VOCS encourages awareness of dangers of stalking

By Mark Matthews  
Victims of Crime Services

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, and victim advocates at the tribal Victims of Crime Services department, plus victim advocates across the country, are using the month of January as an opportunity to educate the public about the pervasive crime that affects nearly 1.4 million Americans a year.

Most people associate stalking with celebrities—Madonna, Sheryl Crow, or Britney Spears. Yet celebrity stalking cases, though dangerous and serious, are relatively rare.

More commonly, victims are ordinary people pursued by someone they know. Victims may not understand that stalking is criminal. And what they don't know about stalking may jeopardize their lives.

According to Victims of Crime Services (VOCS), some of the stalking cases on the reservation have involved multiple unwanted text messages and telephone calls to the stalking victims. Other stalking cases on the reservation include repeated, unwanted contact by a former intimate partner.

Stalking is a crime. All 50 states have passed laws that make it illegal to engage in stalking—usually defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause "a reasonable person" (in legal terms)

to feel fear.

The Warm Springs tribal code for the crime of Stalking is WSTC 305.180, which states:

*"Stalking: Any Indian who shall knowingly alarm or coerce another person or a member of that person's immediate family or household by engaging in repeated, unwanted contact with the other person where the repeated and unwanted contact causes the victim reasonable apprehension regarding the personal safety of the victim or a member of the victim's immediate family or household, shall be deemed guilty of stalking."*

The maximum fine for a conviction of the tribal crime of stalking is either a \$5,000 fine, one year in jail, or both.

The tribal court has the power to exclude non-members if a person is convicted of Stalking or any other tribal crime.

Stalking behavior can range from annoying and intrusive to terrifying and dangerous. Stalking can escalate to violence and—in the worst-case situations—murder.

On a national basis, three out of four women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by that partner before they were killed.

Stalkers who are not former intimate partners are not always easy to recognize. These stalkers have no single psychological profile, and the differences

among stalkers make it hard to predict their behavior and find effective strategies to deter them.

Stalkers are increasingly using high-tech devices, which are particularly threatening to victims. In recent years, many stalkers have used computer and communications technology to increase their power over their victims.

They use global positioning systems (GPS), miniature video cameras, listening devices, and "spyware" (secretly installed software that records every keystroke) to track their victims and secretly invade their lives. Such devices allow stalkers to control their victims and successfully evade law enforcement.

To defeat stalkers, both victims, police, and communities must take stalking seriously. Victims should trust their instincts and understand that stalkers are unpredictable and dangerous. Victims in imminent danger should call 911. They can also receive support from the Warm Springs Police Department and VOCS. VOCS can help victims devise a safety plan, learn about the tribal laws, access other services, and take additional steps, such as seeking a tribal restraining order.

Victims should report the stalking to tribal police and carefully document evidence by writing down the times, dates, and places they are stalked. They should keep e-mails, phone mes-

sages, letters, notes, and anything sent by the stalker. Victims should also alert friends, family members, roommates, and co-workers about the stalking and enlist their support and help.

Victims need to know that help is available. They can call VOCS at 553-2293 during office hours, or through tribal police dispatch at "911" or 553-1171 on weeknights and weekends. Victims can also call 1-800-FYI-CALL, the National Center for Victims of Crime Helpline, or visit www.ncvc.org for help with stalking or any other crime. If you are being stalked or if you know of a stalking victim, call the Warm Springs Police Dispatch on the 911 emergency telephone for immediate response and assistance.

(The preceding information on stalking is presented by the Warm Springs Victims of Crime Services Department with factual information provided by the Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, www.ncvc.org/src. VOCS is partially funded by the OVC's TVA grant no. 2006-VR-GX-0017 (USDOJ) and the Family Violence Prevention Services Act grant, Admn. For Children & Families (USH&SS). Points of view presented here are those of VOCS and not the U.S. Dept. of Justice or U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services.)

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