

Letters to the Editor

Many thanks

The 2009 Portland to Coast Walking Team "Wading 2 Ex-hale" wishes to congratulate the following winners in our raffle:

Darlene Benson, Judy Fluhr, Dayle Tufti, Tom Strong, Carolyn Harvey, Kortney Stacona, Peggy Faila, Saphronia Katchia, Rita Squiemphen, Jordan Leonard, Allee Jackson, Pearl VanPelt, Austin Maki, Rich Lohman, Brody Leonard, Arelyya Scott, Zachary Fluhr, Joel Holliday, Trisha Stiffarm, Jordan Leonard, Jace Hintsala, Leslie Wilson, Aaron Fluhr, Sara Shields, Earl Squiemphen, Candice Heath, Reuben Henry Sr., Joneldia Surface, Brent Graybael Sr.

The grand prize winner was Saphronia Katchia, who won a Pendleton blanket.

A big thank you to the Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, and the Museum at Warm Springs for their donations.

The Portland to Coast Walk is held in conjunction with the Hood to Coast Relay, August 28-29, 2009. There will be a high school running team from Warm Springs participating, a walking team (Lost in Pace) from Madras also. Good luck to everyone!

A special thanks goes out to the team members: Shari Marrazzo, Jolene Hintsala, Michelle Stacona, Sylvania Russell, Cheryl Lohman, Melissa Benson, Lynn Fluhr, Ina Schuster, Candice (Miller) Jimenez, Urbana Ross, J'dean Kalama and Olivia Sanchez. Great job, gals—couldn't have done it without you.

Again, many thanks to everyone...

Earlyne Squiemphen, team captain.

Control vs. care

Corporate greed and irresponsibility—not a difficult transformation from broken promises to violating our Constitution and By-Law rights.

Always in pursuit of self recognition and self-gain and always thankful for government grants with creation of new policies and laws to silence the audits and politicians.

Washington D.C. hearing only your side of the story and the War of non-rehabilitation and self-sufficiency goes on.

Going on without documentation, corporate leaders not calling it communism. Always wanting to build more instead of building a healthy, safe balanced environment.

Intensifying the fraud of tribal member affirmative action. Straining and draining tribal

member dollars to purchase worldly items to bury your guilt.

No focus or care on the 'at home' concerns and issues. Again hoping the addictions, the sexual abuses, the shootings, the stabbings, the murders would simply disappear.

Simply to fix the wrongs, only guts enough to practice genocide on your own people.

Emma Smith

A thank you

The family of Millie Nicodemus wishes to thank everyone for the cards, condolences, and many acts of kindness during our time of need.

With your comfort and support we were able to plan for a service that exemplified her generous and giving spirit. Our funerals are community events and everyone plays a role, this long thank-you is a tribute to our tribal communities and the way we hold each other up during times of need.

We wish to thank the Spokane Tribe and Bill Matt Sr. for providing the means and support to bring our mom home in the traditional way, and to Bill who sang farewell at the gravesite with a traditional song in the language of her people. We are grateful to Sherry, Mickey, Annette and Ron, and the rest of the Samuels clan who were with us from beginning to end and helped us to start her journey home, provide meals, and close everything out when we were done.

We would like to thank Harold Campbell and all those who helped him prepare her final resting place by hand in the traditional way. We will never forget his kindness and respect for our mom and our need to stay in line with the way of our people. Steve Abrahamson, Ray Andrew, Joseph, Marcus and Samuel Harding, and Ricky Sherwood carried her with respect and dignity, she would have been proud of you all.

Thanks to Pauline Flett, Chet Bluff, Geri Sherwood, Sis Matt, and Johnny Arlee, for standing strong to keep with the old ways. We thank Tammy Ford and Wanda Abrahamson for the printing, and for organizing notices and information for the family.

It was difficult to go through her things to prepare to give them away, our auntie Helen Sherwood held us up as we did this and made sure that we followed the traditional ways with purpose and resolve. Cousin Judy Sherwood helped us bundle things and prepare for the give-away, and our cousin Ray Andrew facilitated, helping us give away her things and kept us in

line with the ways of our grandparents. Holly and Louise—thanks for coming through for us when the going got tough. Thank you to our cousin Charlene Abrahamson for always being there to lend a hand when we need it, and to our cousin Dani Scott, who despite her own loss, provided us support and comfort, and to Laramie and all the kids for pitching in and helping with the giveaway.

Thank you to Granddaughters, Lyda Young and Mindy Flett who found just the right pictures of grandma, and began the long process of organizing her never-ending stockpiles of giveaway material. We also want to acknowledge members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Orthelia Patt, Joann Smith, Eldred Smith, and Olney Patt Jr., who reminded us of the incredible generosity of the Warm Springs people. We thank the Confederated Tribes for the one hundred pounds of salmon and the tribute from the Tribal Council. Thanks to JP for not being too affected by his passengers during the drive all the way up here.

We would also like to thank Jewel Minnick, long-time friend and member of the Lummi Tribe, for her presence and comfort and reminders of how much fun our mom was.

Many heartfelt thanks also go to Geraldine and Wilfred Jim Sr., Wendell Jim, and Eldred Smith from Warm Springs for

the traditional songs that prepared and guided our mom during her journey.

This provided just the right balance of how she lived her life between three reservations and three traditions.

Our mom always had a special place in her heart for her nephew Rick Sherwood Sr., and we'd like to thank him for the tribute and respect he had for his auntie.

Jesuit fathers, Tom Connelley, Mike Fitzpatrick, and Fr. Pat Twohy were three of her best friends, we thank you all for your support and prayers, and thanks to Fr. Holesken for his assistance. We'd especially like to acknowledge Fr. Connelley, long-time family friend who has been there with our family from birth to death and everything in-between.

A thank-you goes out to our family from the Coeur d'Alene reservation, elder Felix Aripa and our cousin Ernie Stensgar provided words of wisdom and respect during the service.

We'll never forget the kindness and professionalism of the staff of Ball and Dodd funeral home, thank you for learning and knowing tribal ways.

There were many people who helped her feel comfortable at the end, thank you to the staff at Manor Care in Spokane for the commitment in getting her back on her feet.

Also, thanks to the staff of the David Wyncoop Memorial Clinic in Wellpinit, especially



To you my first born son "NIN" Carlos Jesse Reynoso, Congratulations!

I just want to let you know that I am so proud of you. Graduation is here and you have made it!

I'm sure it has been hard for you to be the oldest and carry the responsibility of setting a great example for your brothers and sisters, but I want to tell you that you have not only done a great job—it has been exceptional!

It will be such a great feeling when I see you reach for that diploma, just knowing to some people it may seem like such a small stepping stone but to you

and I it means so much more.

Along the way there were struggles and strife but you always made the best of it and pushed yourself harder. You are always so positive and ready to do something crazy to make my day better... What more could a mom ask for?

You will be going to college in the fall and I have faith that you will continue to work hard in all you do.

Always remember that with God, all things are possible. Thank you for being such a great son!

With much love and kisses,
Mumsy

Tressa and Dr. Fullin, who followed our mother's care and always did their best. Last but not least, we'd like to acknowledge and thank Neta Moses, retired nurse and our friend, who stayed by mom's side, and provided 24

hour care when we weren't able to. She was there anytime we needed her, and was her friend until the end. Sincerely,

The family of Millie Nicodemus.

Happy birthday and other wishes...



Happy Eleventh Birthday, Soraya.

Best Wishes on your special day.

Love you so so much. Mumsy.

Happy Sweet 16th Birthday, Amberay Lari Wak Wak. From your mom and step-dad Lee, all your sisters—Kaleja, Dyamelle, Leslie, Sirena, Emily and Mariah—and your brother Stetson Greg Jr.



To my daughter, Rhonda "Shmumah" Helen Clements-Poitra. Happy 10th birthday, June 19. Ever since you were born it's been a blessing everyday for 10 years! I love you Shmumah! Happy birthday! Mom.

Happy 16th birthday, Amberay Wak Wak.

We love you, Auntie. From Jacob, Jermaine, Hunterdean, Mia and Raynee.



To my son Isaac Spencer Poitra, Happy 6th birthday on June 25. I love you very very much! Mom.

Hey Claire Bear! Congratulations, you are the first one in our lil' clan to graduate in a long time and it makes me happy. I'm proud of you. You did it! Keep moving toward the future. Love you! Auntie Helen Sue.

To my son Isaac S. Poitra. I just wanted to say happy birthday to you, on June 25, 2009. I love you lots. Dad.

To my Shma-mah, I want you to know I did not forget about your birthday, so here is the line: Happy 10th birthday to you. Love you lots! Dad.

Happy birthday CyRhon! June 17. I love you and miss you! Hope to see you soon! Grandma Helen Sue.

I would like to wish D'lynray and Mahala Spino a happy belated birthday. I love and miss you both very much and I will be released from the USP Oct. 2010, and I would like to see you both. I have nine grandkids now and I bet you are both big since I last saw you. I wish you both well always and bello to Sarah, Candie and the rest of you, and Tina, I wish you well also. I just want to see the kids upon my release. I'd also like to say what's up to Joe Howtopat, Don and Tiffany Smith... Much love, happy belated birthday, Love Aces



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A big special Happy Father's Day to my father Robert Tracy Sam Sr. A very special dad and grandpa to all of us. Hello, dad. I did not forget June 21, Father's Day. This is your day. I will always remember this day and thank god for letting you be here with all of us. I am so happy that your health is getting better. I love you very much and miss you. I am really sorry dad that I can't be there today on this special day with you. I just hope my sisters and brothers are. The day I get home we have a lot of making up to do, go fishing out to the woods, I know you miss it as much as I do. We can take Thomas so he can see his chickens, baba. Dad, there is not a day that goes by that

I do not wish I was home to take care of you. I love you dad and miss you. Thank you to my baby brother Clarence for being there and taking care of dad. That's what he tells me on the phone. I hope you like the pictures. My hair, I don't know, I might cut it, maybe I will let mom then I will look like Thomas baba. Dad, I hope you have good day. Love from your number one son, Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

Happy 32nd Anniversary to my two special people in my world, my dad and mom, Robert and Marella Sam. Dad and mom, 32 years of marriage, they have seven children and 10

grandchildren. They were married June 29, 32 years ago. I love both of you dad and mom. I am so lucky to have you both. You made it this many years. So sorry I can't be there. You know we will make it up, mom, I will take you fishing. Haha. Love from your number one son, Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

On this June 29, I want to say Happy Birthday to my grandmother, Eliza Brown Jim. Happy birthday grandma, I love you and miss you and I hope to see you soon. Come with mom and dad, it will be okay. I am okay mom, I hope you have a

good day. You can go fishing with us all, haha, love you from: your number one son, Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

June 30, 2009, happy birthday to one of my grandmothers, Pat Brown, hope your day is a good one. Take care, tell all the family I said hi, from your grandson Tracy Sam.

Happy father's day to all my uncles, Levi, Chet and Tiger Van Pelt, and Wolfman. Love from Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

Happy Father's Day, grandpa Harvey Jim. Love from Tracy Ray Van Pelt Sam.

(Wishes continue on page 10.)