

Christmas spirit on the reservation

By Duran Bobb

The notice came through when the first bitter cold wave hit. In Bend, emergency shelters are opening when the temperatures are down below 25 degrees, but needy families must call to see if there is room available. If there is room available, folks need to be out of the shelters by 7 in the morning—from the shelter they are welcome to stay warm at the library.

I'm not one to dwell on the depressing things at Christmas time. My mom scolds me if she catches me watching such holiday movies as *Christmas Shoes*. But I can't help it, I have a big heart... and just the thought of an entire family needing to stay in a library to keep warm, it touches me. "If you want to feel bad for someone," mom tells me, "then feel bad for somebody right here and help them out!"

A few years back, I did research into my family tree and found that I had to draw the line somewhere, where the branches would end. Because I realized that if I continued going and counting, everyone on the reservation would be related in some way—no matter how distant.

While I was getting ready to head out the door, KWSO reminded people to check on the elders in their families. Make sure that they have heat, the announcer said.

That sounds like a reminder from one family member to another.

Iva Pennington, one of our cherished tribal elders, told me that she will frequently purchase jackets throughout the year. "When the weather gets cold," she said, "I drive the jackets down to the folks that I see along the road, maybe take them a pot of stew."

That sounds like a gift from one family member to another.

As I write this, it's cold enough outside that the water pipes at the new media center are frozen. The big casino sign told me that it was minus-4 degrees as I drove by. There are reports of water pipes freezing all around the community.

In Warm Springs, there is no emergency shelter or warming station. In our community, family still depends on family in times of need. This holiday season, please keep the elderly and the needy in mind. That's the bond that makes us a tribe. It is through that caring that we identify ourselves as family.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you

James, Alex, William and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the cards, letters, gifts and donations to the Alex Johnson Fund that we received.

Thank you Leminnie Smith, Beulah Tsumpti and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary to Elliott Palmer Post 4217 for presenting us with the gift blanket. It is truly beautiful.

The outpouring of support from our friends, family, employers and strangers has been very humbling.

Being so far from home and having to rely on strangers made us realize what a blessing it truly is to be from a small community like Madras.

Receiving mail in the hospital was always a surprise. From letters, to handmade cards from school children, they made us realize what an impact a single person can make on a community.

We are very proud of Alex and his sacrifice that he made for his country. He has come a long way since that first night that we saw him lying in the hospital. And we will share his progress with all of you as he continues to heal and go through what is sure to be the most trying times of his young life.

We ask that you please continue to keep our family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Johnson family, James, Alex, William and Anna.

Rescue effort

To the Warm Springs Natural Resources Branch,

I am writing to thank you for sending your boat to the September 2009 search and rescue efforts near Three Mile Islands. As you might recall, on September 14, five members of the Warm Springs tribes—a father, two sons, nephew and son-in-law—were fishing on the Columbia River near Three Mile Islands when their fishing boat capsized due to strong winds.

Upon receiving 911 calls for help, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office activated search and rescue operations. Immediate calls for mutual aid were sent out and a large scale search and rescue mission was initiated.

The search and rescue efforts were unfortunately unsuccessful in rescuing two men who were missing in the Columbia River. However, the initial search and the later recovery efforts produced a "feeling of family" by numerous individuals, tribes, agencies, police and fire and

multiple other emergency responders.

This single event brought out the best in people and created an example of what mutual aid and shared resources is all about.

This event although tragic and heartfelt has created I believe a renewed commitment that people can see the benefit to engage in mutual aid and the sharing of resources and personnel in times of emergency.

As a side note, I appreciated very much seeing more of Indian culture and the tribal members' sense of family.

When the family said they were going to stay until their loved ones were found, that said a lot about family. The willingness for the other relatives and friends to stay "no matter how long it took," gave me a perspective I had not seen before.

Sincerely yours,
Ken Matlack, Morrow County sheriff.

Time is now

Pursuit of tribal government wisdom:

Colors of political activism working the Rez, recycling of the same excuse for under-development of economics.

Obvious money-maker, Highway 26 being pushed aside, no excuses; just wanting the same old families to come into the revenue.

Money players getting richer from tribal enterprises existence. Enterprise boards not being for our livelihood or our self-sufficiency.

Quit the forked-tongue now and move on to honoring your tribal members.

Time to let our 640,000 acres become our paradise, time to realize reality, time to turn inside out and see where your heart really is.

Peace.
Emma M. Smith.

Looking

Hello,
My name is Amber Santiago and I work for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians in the Historic Preservation Department as a research assistant. Our department is currently looking for

anyone who was associated with the Indian boarding schools and hospital on our reservation.

Many Natives from all over the state and out of state were brought to these schools and hospitals and we want to capture their stories. Our records indicate that Warm Springs tribal members were among the people brought to our reservation to attend these schools and hospital.

We would like to collaborate with as many tribes in the Northwest to get this story out. Please contact me if you would like to help with this project.

Thank you.
Amber Santiago, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Historic Preservation, 3009 East Portland Ave., Tacoma, Wash. 98404. Ph. 253-573-7965. Email: amber.santiago@puyalluptribe.com.

Special day

I just want to thank those who remember me and my brothers, and our special day. It's been years since I've spoken to some of you that remember us, and it really touches my heart. Thank you to mom Marlena, aunt Myrna F., Jolina W., Nachele K., Vallejo B., so that you all may know your families are always prayed for. I love you guys and God bless you all. **Antonio V. Becerra.**

Still waiting

Assets in a measure of time a good example is Kah-Nee-Ta resort which has been running in the red since day one 1962. One half century ago so far and the Indian Head Casino was built in 1995 a decade and a half ago then they merged together as one a decade ago in 2001. The casino claims to generate four and a half million annually in revenue. What are those people the executives and supervisors doing with the fortune of money, are they receiving a pricey incentive bonus paid for at the expense of the deprived tribal member owners, many of whom have been waiting a lifetime for any dividends but receive the anticipatable nothing



Sharon John (at center with award) traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to accept the Indian Health Services Directors Award. John worked at the Warm Springs clinic for three years before moving to Yakama, where she coordinates the Healthy Heart Program, for which she was recognized at the award ceremony, held at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. The dress that Mrs. John wore to the event was made by Janice Clements of the Warm Springs Health Board. Also pictured are Robin John (left), lead case manager; Heather Peterson, pharmacy director, and Sharon's husband Lehigh John.

except the wrangling sob stories plus all the annoying resort and casino traffic on Highway 3. Most of the tribal members are oppressed and are tired of their non producing assets of their enterprises and the sob stories every single year. Bigot-nepotism and racism are thriving family hiring family and the networks of racist cronies unite similar to the three musketeers. Everyone wants and exploits everything we have money, resources and land. The old divide and conquer system is utilized. It is well known alone we can do virtually nothing we need to be more like the old saying goes "alone we're like a finger, weak, but put the fingers together in a fist it becomes strong." We need to be united regardless of agenda and assert our rights to get what is rightfully ours or we will just hear the predictable annual wrangling sob stories for another year, decade, another half century, another lifetime.

Respectfully,
Anthony Littleleaf.

To family

To the family of Dustin "Dippy" Wahsise. I want to sed my love and respect to you all.

Uncle Sam, Joey and Marlen. Sorry to hear about my brother's passing. Locked up in the state prison so I couldn't be there to help send my brother off in a good way. Stay strong. May he rest in peace. Humbly and respectfully, **Stu-Man Stuart A. Smith Sr.**

Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Aug. 24, 2009 by breaking tribal code 305.466, possession, NDDHD times two, drug paraphernalia and attempt. I am sorry to all who were involved. **Fawn Begay.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 9-24-09 by not wearing my seatbelt, no operating license and for NDDHD. I apologize to P. and J., and to the police department and the community. **Shari Miller.**

Happy birthday and other wishes...

Congratulations Davina Lynn Lucei! Know that we are very proud of you. Continue on with your great work. We knew you could do it! Lots of love, Mom, brothers and sisters (Erickson, Shannon, Tyrone and CarolAnn).



Congratulations to Davina Lynn Lucei on your successful completion of O.N.Y.C.P. Class of 2009! We had faith in you and knew you could do it! Now the journey begins, set your goal high, and push yourself beyond that! Love, Uncle Sterling Sr., Auntie Eileen, and your cousins Aiyana, Noelani and Sterling Jr.



Congratulations to our sweetheart Aiyana Flora Kalama for achieving an All Star Award on December 1, 2009. Keep up the great work! You make us so proud! Love, Daddy, Mommy, sister Noelani and brother Ster' Jr.!



To my little princess, Happy Birthday, Jayda Allen. Love, Grampa.



A special Christmas prayer to all of our family and friends.



When it comes to counting blessings, there are surely very few as precious and meaningful as family and friends as you.



And that's the special reason for this Christmas prayer. God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and keep you in his care!



"Good people will be remembered as blessings." Proverb 10:7. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

All our love, Sterling Kalama Sr., Eileen Frank, Aiyana Kalama, Noelani Kalama and Sterling Kalama Jr.

Happy birthday to my daughter Eleana J.H. Lawson from your father Elliot Lawson Jr. I know I haven't been the best father for the last birthdays you had. This time in jail game me time to think. During the time I spent drinking I forgot about the little heart that breaks.

I wish I could be there to at least taste the cake. It's going to be another birthday I miss due to another mistake. I'm sorry I won't be there to watch you turn 8.

I hope this will be the last time I let your heart break. I can't change the past but I can plan for the future. I love you, Leana, from your brother, Elliot Lawson Jr.

Merry Christmas, Tyson. With much love, Nonners and Holly.

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Happy December Birthdays to my three sisters: Marlene, Annette, and Carol. Love, Myrna.

Happy 18th Birthday to Kendall Bobb. Love, Grammy, Mom, Amy, Jessie, Travis, Michael, Freddie, and Ron.