

Letters to the Editor

Appreciation

To all our elders, relatives and friends of Warm Springs and Umatilla,

There comes a time in one's life when a person becomes lost for words, speechless and overwhelmed with emotions and quiet isolated moments are taken.

I had to revert back to traditional and spiritual foundation of teachings set forth by my father, Delbert Frank Sr. These teachings brought some comfort and understanding.

There were elders and family that anchored these traditional and spiritual practices of significant value that I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude:

Don and Lola Sohappay, Geraldine and Wiford Jim, Thomas Morning Owl, Fred Hill, Maxine McKinley, Margaret Boise, Aurolyn Stwyer-Pinkham, Charlotte Herkshan, Earl and Rita Squiemphen, Bruce and Barbara Jim, Mildred Quempts and Oliver Kirk and so many others.

Our children were a beautiful couple beginning in their young life with two precious little babies, SunHawk and Leander III. This little family bonded our families together in such a meaningful way.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mildred Quempts and Oliver Kirk for the guidance and care you have given to my grandson Leander Williams Jr. and his two precious babies, your grandchildren.

I will never forget the traditional manner of Mildred and Oliver of caring and respectful, gentle manner that you have so much to our children.

Special thanks to the menfolk who provided deer meat and salmon, to the cooks who provided nurturing meals to heal the minds and spirits of both families, tribal units that respond day and night under all weather conditions, and appreciation to all community members from Umatilla and Warm Springs that came to support the families in one accord.

On behalf of my sons: Leander, Isaac and Warner Williams, we want to extend our love and condolences to our aunt Peggy Williams and our uncles George, Jack and Thomas Williams in the passing of our uncle Silas Williams. Our hearts were with you.

I want to extend my thanks to the Warm Springs Fire Department for responding to the house fire which engulfed and destroyed the interior of Isaac, Sytje, Sophia (and Josiah) Wil-

iams' home on December 25, 2009.

Thanks to the ambulance unit that came. My great-grandson Josiah (Smokey Joe) had stopped breathing, the parents and grandparents had rushed him to Mountain View emergency care. He is back home now and doing well.

Thanks to many relatives and friends who called to be assured Isaac and his family were all okay. Special thanks to "Fish Blueback," you are my son's brother and our close relative, always present and concerned.

Now that the holidays are over, the family will have a fire shower for Isaac, Sytje and Sophia at the Shaker Church, to be included a recovery shower for Leander Jr., Sun Hawk and Leander III (traditional practices of burning all personally used household items). Planned date: January 16, 2010. Dinner at 12 noon and prayer service to follow at Shaker Church.

Submitted by mother, grandmother, great-grandmother Priscilla Frank (Marvin Ike Sr.), great, great, greatest grandma Maxine McKinley and Margaret Boise.

Job well done

The On Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee and the Tribal Council would like to thank and congratulate all tribal members, departments and organizations involved, on a highly successful ceremonial hunting season for the year 2009.

Very special thanks goes out to all the ceremonial hunters who are responsible for the location, harvest, transportation, and field dressing of the deer and elk for the tribal freezer.

The hunters did a great job of taking care of the animals, along with having a high harvest percentage rate.

We would like to also thank the ceremonial meat cutters who butcher, process, prepare, package and label the deer and elk for the storage in the tribal freezer.

The On Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee has implemented a new processing system designed to enhance food processing, packaging, and storage at the tribal freezer.

The committee has been working closely with and has received technical service from the Warm Springs Environmental Health Department.

Having the ability to work with our local health department and having the ability to utilize

their expertise regarding food safety has been a valuable resource for the committee to utilize.

The committee has also been working with the Department of Natural Resources and the Off Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee to design, develop, organize and implement a food safety and facility sanitation/hygiene plan for the tribal freezer.

Just to note a few improvements, we have developed a tribal freezer "chain of custody" form designed to track food quality during all transportation and transaction activities.

There are also freezer complaint forms located at the Department of Natural Resources main office, the Environmental Health Department office, and at the ASC Office in the Tribal Administration Building for any comments, concerns, and complaints regarding food items received from the tribal freezer.

We have already received positive feedback regarding the quality of the food items received from the tribal freezer.

We still have a lot of work to do, but the remarks about the food quality and safety improvement is very encouraging.

I am really proud of the way everybody worked together to get this process implemented.

The On Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee would also like to especially thank Gerald Smith, Don Courtney, Nancy Collins, Bruce Jim Sr., Doug Calvin, Stanley Simtustus Sr., Brian Mitchell, and most of all Norma "Buttons" Heath for their hard work in the process.

Congratulations and a job well done to everyone involved.

Jonathan W. Smith, chairman, On Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Grateful

To the Tribal Court, Parole and Probation, Corrections officers, and to all who assisted... Honorable Chief Judge Anita Jackson, my words can't tell how grateful and appreciative I am for granting my emergency pass to go spend time with my mom. Everybody's spirits were lifted by our visit, especially my mom's. For that I am and will always be grateful. Respectfully,

James T. Greene Sr.

Tragic loss

My name is Marcus Crowe and I would like to express my feeling toward anyone who's ever lost a friend or loved one to any kind of violence. Domestic violence has become a subject I've been concerned about. For a short time I used to believe, "It's not your problem, so don't worry about it."

But for the last year I've lived and hid an anger, a rage in me, knowing the life of my sister, my mother's only other child, was stolen in the midst of domestic violence and her killer then took his own life. You can see why it would make someone upset, and that is why it is becoming a growing concern of mine. It has become a bigger issue in these days when so many people believe violence is the only way to get a message sent. You know, "She wasn't listening so I smacked her," or "He wouldn't shut up so I lit him up." I understand a lot of need help and sometimes there is no way

out for them, sometimes.

The only way I understand and feel for people is through the times I've seen or have talked with is my sister. If anyone knows me they know me and my sister were never brotherly or sisterly toward each other, but I can't imagine any other families not being like us. No one ever wants to lose family in the way, through violence, that my sister was taken, and I don't want anybody's sister, daughter, brother, father or friends light extinguished in such a manner. Our community, our families have lost a lot of young ones in the last year or two, a lot of them were friends of mine and they called me more than enough times in their short lives to violence once again.

To the ones in this type of violence, get help with whatever you need to get away from situations. I still haven't been able to have all my emotions settle in at once for the loss of my mom's only daughter. But it will come in time.

I'm especially grateful for all the people, my friends, and ones who call me family for keeping my head straight in a critical year in my life. I needed them and they were there for me. And that's what people who are victims of domestic violence need, ones who are there to listen and help, especially family. That is what they're there for.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this. My deepest condolences and sorrows to those we lost in 2008-09.

Marcus James Crowe.

Youth conference

We are excited to announce that the dates for the 2010 Northwest Indian Youth Conference, to be hosted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, have been set for April 7-10.

The tentative location for the conference is the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport in Seattle, Wash. Please check out their Web site for more information at:

doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/hotel/CTAC-DT-Doubletree-Hotel-Seattle-Airport-Washington/index.do

Please keep in mind that the venue is not yet finalized so making reservations at this point is not suggested. More information and notification about the 2010 Northwest Indian Youth Conference will be coming soon.

We thank you for your patience and understanding and are thrilled to meet all of you in April. Sincerely,

Teri Brugh-Masters and Sarah Dogeagle, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Office ph. (253)876-3346.

Bless you all

Dear People of Warm Springs, It has been just over one year since I had my aneurysm. I just wanted to update you on what's been happening with me and all that is going on.

It was tough for me to adjust to life after the aneurysm. There were many follow-up visits to the doctors, many visits to the therapist when I finally came home, many visits in the hospital from the same. My mother and my kids and Ina took turns taking me over. Bless their souls! I couldn't have done anything without their help... all of them.

I had led a very active life before all of this happened to me, and I was limited in what I could do. I couldn't have any stressors in my life, all that was going on with me kept me limited to indoors. I used a walker the first month after coming home. I eventually got weaned off the walker, but had to have a wheelchair anytime I went anyplace. God bless my son for doing that for me! He was my rock during that period. I had to use a cane for awhile after that, but did away with that too. They wouldn't let me drive either, so I had to depend on my family to take me places. So, you can see, I was hindered by my own body.

I progressed very fast once I got in physical therapy. I had to have occupational and speech therapy too, besides physical therapy, due to my work and what it entailed. My therapist was amazed at how fast I progressed. I eventually got released in April, 2009; pretty much all at the same time. I started back to work part-time in April and went back full-time in May. There were stressors there too but have since leveled off.

One of the most memorable moments of this whole period, is the family waiting for me to come home before we celebrated Christmas. So, we celebrated Christmas in February. Thank you to my family for waiting for me. It was truly a special occasion.

I'm a changed person since this happened to me. I'm constantly telling people that I have been blessed! I was originally given a 10 percent chance of making it when this happened, so you can see, I really am blessed! With the love and support from my family, especially my kids and folks, I have been able to come back almost at 100 percent.

I have had to give up some of my activities, due to the stress. I am sad for that, but it's better for me in the long run. I will always remember this and what it did to me, and how it affected me. I hope I never have to go through that again. I thank the lord for giving me a second chance; I've taken advantage of it to some extent, but I have more to do.

Thank you everyone for your prayers, love and support and words of encouragement. Thank you to all the people that helped with the fund-raisers in the beginning, every little bit helped. It got me to where I'm at today.

I go to church pretty regularly since I've been out of the hospital. I get to pray to the lord for his hand in making me better. I pray a lot more since I've been out of the hospital, asking the lord to touch the lives of my family and each and every person that prayed for my well-being; for that matter I pray for everyone that has touched my life in some small way, whether good or bad. I discovered that everyone needs a little prayer every now and then. I'll be praying for everyone.

Bless you all! I hope you had a good year and may you have a blessed new year!

Val Squiemphen.

Apologies

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Dec. 1, 2009 by disorderly conduct 305.433(8) and assault 305.110. I apologize to my son

and to C.S.L. It won't happen again. **Sarah Belgard.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 27, 2009 by being under the influence of alcohol and receiving a liquor violation. I will do my best to better myself and make sure it doesn't happen again. I apologize to the officer. **Clarissa Wolfe.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law by being caught with drug paraphernalia and NDDHD, which was marijuana. I apologize to my mother. This was a mistake. **Charles Stwyer.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 12-5-09 by driving under the influence of intoxicants, and recklessly endangering times two. I apologize to D.L.L. and J.G. Sr. I know I messed up. **Shard J. Stormbringer.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 24, 2009 by aiding and abetting an offender or concealing a fugitive. I am sorry for this and plan not to do this again in the future. I am working on bettering myself while I'm where I'm at. I apologize to the arresting officer. Next time I will be honest, but I'm hoping there won't be a next time. **Vera Kindness.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Dec. 5, 2009 by not abiding by the law, and unlawful use or possessing dangerous drugs, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and open container. I am currently incarcerated for my bad choices and wrong decisions. I realize I want to follow the law. I apologize to my family, the officers, the courts, and all the tribal members. **James T. Greene Sr.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Sept. 22 by drinking under age and under the influence, and recklessly endangering the passengers in the vehicle. I will do my best not to make the same mistake again. I apologize to L.B., B.S., J.W., and C.D. It won't happen again. **Sonny Stacona.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 23, 2009 by consuming alcohol under the age of 21. I learned my lesson not to ride with an intoxicated person. I apologize to the Warm Springs police and the Confederated Tribes. It was a mistake and my last. **Erika Miller.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 11-23-09 by exclusion order violation in effect in Sept. 2009 per tribal court. I am sorry to the tribes. It is a mistake that I will overcome. **Clara Kennedy.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on 11-8-09 by driving while intoxicated. This is obviously embarrassing to me and my family. **Berlyn Yazzie Jr.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 25, 2009 by aiding and abetting an offender who was excluded from the reservation. I realize that I have made a mistake on this exclusion order and that it won't happen again in the future. I apologize to my family. **Laura Kennedy.**

I am sorry I broke tribal law on Nov. 18, 2009 by recklessly endangering times two and also DUI. In my own consideration I apologize to the two passengers in the vehicle while I was driving. **Nathan Napyer.**

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