

## Letters continued

### Lights Parade

It is heartening to witness all the hard work and great effort put into the floats for this year's Car Lights Parade.

Truly, all participants' efforts gave our families happy memories. Thank you all from the Recreation Department.

Here are the results of the Car Lights Parade for 2012:

First place: Housing.

Second place: Fire Management.

Third place: Warm Springs Telecom.

Fourth Place: Jefferson County School District 509-J.

Fifth place: The Girl Scouts.

Honorable mention to all this year's floats. Thank you to the Police Department and McGruff, Girl Scouts Troop 50124, Children's Protective Services, Diabetes Prevention, Fire Management, Head Start, Housing, 3N Ranch, Monte, the Warm Springs Telecom, school district 509-J, the Warm Springs Health Wellness Medical Department, Prevention Leadership, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fire and Safety and Sparky, Motor Cycle Santa.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.

**The Recreation Department.**

### An apology

This letter is directed to my father, Leo Hellon, and I hope you, the community of Warm Springs would also read this. Dad, I know how much pain I've caused you and the rest of the family. I wouldn't blame you if you ever wished me dead. I know and you know that I was an unhappy child. I also was no angel. I went too far and I made one of the biggest mistakes of my life—and I've made many. Out of spite and out of a vengeful and hateful heart I spread the worst possible lie about you to make people turn away from you. This shame I feel will never leave. If there was any love or understanding between us, I'm sure I ruined it, to bring peace to my black and empty heart. All I can do is hope you read this and acknowledge me. Also Aunt Pat,

Della Rae, and Roman—I'm sure sorry for the damaging lies I let fall from this wicked tongue. To the community as a whole: If I ever used this horrible lie to get pity from you or make you hate my dad, I've done wrong to you, too. I'm sorry. I've been a terrible son, brother, cousin, uncle and neighbor. I have no acceptable excuses except that I'm sorta messed up. I think there are many demons inside and all around me. It scares me. I hope and pray for your forgiveness one day. With all of my love and sincerity.

**Charles Thomas Hellon**, 675 NW Cherry Ln., Madras, 97741

### Family

Hello my people. My name is Lynn (Graybael) Trent. My parents are the late Herb Graybael, and Earlyne Squiemphen. My brother is (late) Dann Chavez. My grandparents are Earl and (late) Rita Squiemphen. My children are Zachery, Aaron and Scott Fluhr.

My mom: My mom and I talk every day throughout the day. She has always been there in time of need; through good and bad times. We have always been close; even closer after what we have been through and lost. She is my "rock," very supportive, understanding, caring, loving, a shoulder to lean on, laugh and cry with. There are not enough words to explain my mom. Thank you mom for everything you do and have done for me and my lil family.

My grandparents: Strong family values; get an education; fight for what you believe in; rules are the same for everyone (tribal and non-tribal), be accountable for your actions, hold you head up, be proud of what you accomplished. What they meant: Don't rely on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, especially to further careers.

My grandmother served on Tribal Council for 18 years. In her tenure on Council, her belief was "tribal member" preference, get an

education, rules/policies are the same for everyone (tribal and non-tribal), no special treatment, always fighting for the best interest of our people and our future. She was also the person to push to set up the "rainy day fund" when she kept saying we need to start saving for the unknown. The last term she didn't get re-elected the fund was over \$2 million. She would be truly saddened where our tribe has gone, because she fought for what was right until her retirement; then her passing.

One final request my grandmother had, after speaking to Rick, Brent and Tracy Graybael, was: to start a petition to honor their father (late) Herb Graybael, to name the Sidwalter fire station after him, being it was Herb who retained the funds in his budget for the fire station. They all agreed they would sign; but as fate would have it my grandmother's health started failing so nothing became of the petition.

One day sitting alone with my grandmother visiting with her prior to her passing, she told me: "We need people to keep fighting for what's right, always be proud of what you accomplished, we (grandparents, parents) all are, no matter what people say or do, you are a strong person; it's in the blood."

I truly believe my inner strength and dedication, I owe to my grandparents!

My dad: A dedicated father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband and friend to many.

I have always been very proud of my dad and his accomplishments during his 44 years of employment with the Confederated Tribes, his total commitment, dedication and respect to the people of Warm Springs and each of their needs. The people respected him also with highest regard, because of his commitment to our people.

To see and hear the issues is very disheartening and sad: denying: after my dad took so much pride in serving the community of Warm Springs and all their needs.

He took pride in his work and it showed: phone calls at all hours of the day and night, because people knew my dad would "fix" the issue, even after he retired. Whether the issue was a water main break,

to employee issues, he held people accountable. Rules are the same for everyone, no special treatment (tribal or non-tribal). He took so much pride in his budget. Example: he would fight for employee positions, and the biggest one: saving (for many years) in his budget to build the Sidwalter fire station: for that alone, the building should be named in his honor! Who is ready to sign a petition to have the Sidwalter fire station named after (late) Herb Graybael.

My brother: My brother was a dedicated father, son and older brother. He worked for the Confederated Tribes in the Records Department until his passing. He had the biggest heart, laugh and smile. He loved music, read books, he was someone you could talk to, a good listener, big joker, dressed all wild, would always brighten anyone's day.

In our younger years my brother and I were inseparable. No matter where the road took us, we were always together. I cherish every moment we had together; laughing, joking, jamming to music, even got stuck in the woods once (remember that, mom). I truly miss my only sibling and what we shared together. What great memories, loved every moment!

His daughter Thyrecia (Reicie) was the joy of his life. His life revolved around his daughter!

My humble self: As most of you know, I am a strong, proud and dedicated person, knowing, cherishing, respecting in my heart what my parents and grandparents taught my (late) brother and I. They also taught me I have an internal strength, courage and drive that once I set my to something, "I accomplish it."

After losing my only sibling, my dad, grandmother and numerous other relatives, I hold my head up and honor them every day by fighting for what's right. Cherish the people close to you, never hold grudges, always tell the truth because life is too short for anything else.

I am saddened by how people believe rumors, hearsay and even Facebook, before getting to the truth of the whole story. Face to face plain and simple; someone close to me recently told me "that's a lost art."

"I am strong and proud."

"When real people fall down in life, they get right back up and keep walking." "Every struggle in your life has shaped you into the person you are today. Be thankful for the hard times, they can only make you stronger."

"Always leave loved-ones with loving words—it may be the last time you see them."

Those phrases are the trust and that is why, "I am strong and proud."

R.I.P.: Dad (Herb Graybael), Brother (Dann Chavez), Grandmother (Rita Squiemphen). "I cherish every moment we shared together. Sincerely, Lynn (Graybael) Trent.

### To you...



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, SunHawk & SunDance! We miss you everyday & we will always love you!*  
Love Tila Oliver,  
Kuthla Mildred, Merle, Annie, Derek, Cece, Denise, Keeyana, Kainwin, Marcella, Maehyn, and all your relatives near and far!

### Big thank you

We the family of atwi Phyllis M. Tohet want to thank you, the families and friends, who helped out at the funeral.

Even though we the family could not get loans, cause of the Thanksgiving holiday, we managed to do what she wanted.

She just wanted a simple funeral and burial. So the grandchildren she named were there to run the funeral, and one great grandchild also; and the children Harvianne and David acted like advisors or watchers to see things went accordingly.

A big thank-you to my family and friends, for all the things you folks helped out with.

It was supposed to be announced on the radio when we left Pendleton.

She left behind the other half, Alex Tohet, together 42 years.

Son, David B. LeClaire Sr., daughter Harvianne Tohet Tias (kit tah). Grandkids Eric LeClaire and family, David LeClaire and family, Johnnie LeClaire and family, Liza Paul and family, Ellery J. LeClaire and Daug; a lot of family on both sides of the Columbia River. Sisters, Gloria Q. and family, Victoria Muldrow and family, Anna Polk and family; brother, Jerry Judge Polk and family; numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts; and a lot of kids called her mom.

Just a big thank you to all who helped out during the

loss, on the two big shoulders to put my head on to rest or cry. Thank you.

Love you all, Alex Tohet, Harvianne Tias, Lupita Tohet, David LeClaire, Johnnie LeClaire, Hailey W. LeClaire, all of the six LeClaire kids.

### WSFPI

(Continued from page 1)

The mill employs 118 people. Over 75 percent of the employees are tribal members or married into the tribe.

With installation of the micro-mill and the EDLF, there would be some drop in employment at the mill, to approximately 90.

There was some discussion about the allowable cut, and whether the mill could operate with the cut recommended as sustainable by Natural Resources. Council and mill officials, perhaps with Natural Resources managers, are planning to meet again in February to determine a course of action.

### Advertise in the Spilyay Tymoo

*If you are interested in advertising in the Spilyay Tymoo, call Yvonne at 541-325-1089.*

*Or email yvonne.iverson@wstribes.org*

## Travel center

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Surprisingly, according to industry experts, the volume of trucks passing by must exceed 4,000 daily to support a viable truck focused travel center; only roughly 1,500 trucks pass through Warm Springs daily, Jackson continued.

Councilman Scott Moses mentioned the old Shell station by Rainbow Market appears to have potential for new development.

Another site mentioned would be near Eagle Crossing Restaurant. A more detailed feasibility study is nearly complete, and will help determine the optimal site, Jackson said.

Wasco Chief Alfred Smith said the idea of a travel center goes back at least to the

1980s. At the time some members discussed building a travel center and the casino at the Simnasho turnoff area at HeHe. This would have been a profitable venture for the tribes, he said.

Another issue Jackson discussed with Council was whether the center should include a fast-food restaurant.

With no fast-food component, the travel center would generate more revenue than a center with fast-food, Jackson said. However, adding the fast-fast service would create more jobs.

With no fast-food, there would be seven to eight new jobs. With fast food, there would be 14 to 16 jobs.

Councilman J.P. Patt said he would prefer the option that would create more jobs.

COTTONWOOD restaurant

INDIAN HEAD CASINO  
Cordially Invites You to Our:

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS**

Saturday, December 22, 2012  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Santa visits the Cottonwood

Breakfast Buffet \$13 Adults  
\$7.50 Children 5-12 years  
and 4 & under free

Don't forget to bring your camera!

Indian Head Casino 3236 Hwy 26 Warm Springs, OR 97761 541-460-7754

Next Spilyay deadline is Thursday, Dec. 20 - A day early because of the holiday.