

Letters

My People:

Greetings! I wanted to take this time to give proper acknowledgement and thank you to the ancestors, Elders of our people and to all those past and present who have fought and died, sacrificed so much of their lives so that we today may enjoy so many blessings I cannot even count.

None of these beautiful blessings, the untold sacrifices that made these things possible go unnoticed by me and I look forward to the day that I can give proper thanks in the traditional ways of our people. I love all of you in the way that our traditions teach us to love all our relations. My sincerest thank you; thank you to all. I will always be forever thankful.

I would like also to remind all of you; yes, all of you, that the struggles of our people will always be difficult. If we are not struggling, we are not making progress.

I bring this to your attention to offer a few simple lessons and reminders in light of the past, recent and current difficulties we have during Tribal elections time.

First, I would also like to thank all of you concerned Tribal members for writing in and bringing an honest, respectable voice. It is all of our responsibilities to speak up but in a good, respectful way when we are concerned. You all know who you are. I truly thank you. Your letters gave me the conviction to speak my peace.

For all of you who are concerned about the lack of unity, other negativities, these seemingly "bad" occurrences are in fact valuable lessons for all of us to learn by, if only we learn to open our eyes, ears and hearts to many lessons hidden within.

First, that we are all here struggling for the same things, or should be, which is to help people have happier, healthier lives, for our children, our Elders and ourselves.

Most importantly, that we are to take to our hearts the traditions, practice them, live them in your daily lives at all times! Do these simple things and the people will be happy and healthy. This way, too, is how to protect and preserve the culture. Traditional principles will help eliminate most of the disharmony and begin to restore the spiritual health of our people. Bickering over power and material wealth will not make you happy.

I encourage and welcome with questions about the value and true meaning of tradition, or perhaps share concerns, ideas or opinions on any Tribal-related issues. I would be honored to hear from you and gladly share with you my simple knowledge, opinion and ideas how we might bring positive changes.

Walter "Butch" F. Simmons

Roll #2317
Salinas Valley State Prison
A3-131
P.O. Box 1050
Soledad, CA 93960-1050

Dear Smoke Signals:

The campaign for our council has turned into a grueling event that is not for the faint of heart. Gone are the days when an additional letter of support along with your campaign letter and a few phone calls were all that was needed.

Now, multiple letters, fancy postcards and signs, a personal Web page and YouTube are all included in the process. Not to mention the large amounts of revenue required or the candidates vying for support of the many political groups now in play. At this point, the only thing missing are "robo" calls.

Sadly, the requirements for being a candidate have not changed. Today employees must submit to a criminal background check, UA, a credit check and have a clean driving record to work for the Tribe. Wouldn't common sense have us require the same of our potential Tribal leaders? Perhaps this would serve as a primary process as well.

On a happier note, I want to thank everyone who believed in me during my campaign for the 2008 Tribal Council. So many of you donated time, effort, support and, finally, your vote and I want to say how grateful and truly humbled I am. I am very blessed to be a part of this Tribe and to know so many of you.

Earlier this month I received a promotion to Program Supervisor for the 477 Employment & Training and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. However, I continue to serve on the Health Committee and the state of Oregon Habilitation Council that is appointed by the governor. I will continue to be as involved and active as my new position allows in all things Tribal. Again, thank you all so much for your support! It is an honor to be of service to my people. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Patsy Pullin
Roll #238

Youth Canoe Club

Every Wednesday 4-5 p.m. — Youth Education Building

Contact Lisa Leno at 503-879-1471 or Travis Mercier at 503-879-2143 for more information.

Fall recycle center hours

The recycle center will be open during the following hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you, but we have found it necessary to put tighter control on this service. **NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO DUMP PERSONAL GARBAGE OR YARD DEBRIS AT THE SITE.** If you see someone abusing this privilege, contact Mike Larsen at 503-879-2407.

Walking On...

Ida Williams Altringer

Sept. 25, 1915 – Aug. 16, 2008

Ida Williams Altringer, 93, the great-granddaughter of Chief Tomalch, passed into God's loving arms on Aug. 16, 2008.

She was born Sept. 25, 1915, in Skamania, Wash., to Charles O. Williams and Amanda Stooquin Williams, early settlers of Skamania. Ida was the 10th of 11 children and the last surviving child of Charles and Amanda.

She graduated from Washington High School and Bellingham Teachers College. Ida taught in one-room school houses in Zumwalt, Ore., and Lewis Peak, Carson and Mill A, all in Washington state, before marrying Raymond M. Altringer at Fort Lewis, Wash., on Jan. 31, 1942.

She was a cherished wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt. She loved reading and doing crossword puzzles. Her love of people, history and interest in genealogy made her a prolific letter writer and picture taker. Painting also was one of her loves. She was a Tribal Elder of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Ore., as well as a member of Mount Pleasant Grange — Skamania County, Daughters of the Pioneers — Fort Vancouver Chapter, American Legion Auxiliary, TOPS and Garden Club.

She is survived by her loving husband of 66 years, Ray, and children Daniel and Pat Altringer of Cody, Wyo.; Lynn A. Winters of Appleton, Wash.; and Donald R. and Patricia Altringer of Sedona, Ariz.

She also is survived by grandchildren Michael and Sherri Texeira of Pittsburg, Calif.; Mark Texeira of Castro Valley, Calif.; Aaron and Debbie Texeira and great-grandchildren Isaac and Josh Texeira of San Leandro, Calif.; Tarah and Chris Gibson Melgaard of Boise, Idaho; Lance and Laurie Altringer of Flagstaff, Ariz.; Jon and Judith Altringer and great-grandchildren Aurelia and Maxx Altringer of Sydney, Australia; Cody Altringer of Albuquerque, N.M.; and Bethann Altringer of Cambridge, England, as well as her favorite niece, Josephine Towers of White Salmon, Wash., and adopted daughters Charlotte Marcotte, Ladeva Dahlin and Diana Haug and numerous other nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, six sisters, four brothers, a son-in-law, a nephew and a great niece.



Attention Parents and primary caregivers of Grand Ronde children with disabilities, special needs, or extra challenges:

We are creating a support group for parents and caregivers of Grand Ronde children with special needs. We will first begin an e-mail and telephone contact list and later we will be coordinating meetings with the group.

If your child, grandchild, foster child, etc. has extra challenges (medically, emotionally, or developmentally) and you would like to collaborate and share resources with other parents, please send your contact information in an e-mail to: lewis.dm@comcast.net or call us at 503-566-3093.

Thank you,

David (2741) and Donna Lewis

parents to Saghaley (5132) and Inatye (5323)