

Letters

Dear Smoke Signals:

We wanted to send our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals at the Elders Activity Center who prepared the lovely meal served at my stepfather Paul Beard's gathering on Jan. 5. The food was well-prepared and the staff more than accommodating.

This also could not have occurred without the quick thinking of Paul's sister-in-law, Linda LaChance, who even though the facility was cooking the meal also felt inclined to prepare even more food. Also the help from membership for the Burial Fund, which definitely was helpful with my mother, Sharon Beard's, expenses. Adamson's Mortuary also was very kind and helpful in aiding in the organizing the aftercare arrangements as well.

Words are not enough to express the gratitude our family has for the help the Tribe made available to us in this time.

Although I am very grateful for all these things, I would also like to mention a few things regarding my experience making arrangements for these affairs.

I do have one small concern. When I was dealing with these arrangements, which I have never done before, I made the assumption to just arrange for the Community Center with the kitchen. Originally, my aunt Linda agreed to do all the meal prep and was to be issued the money for the food by the Tribe. No one offered or informed me that the Elders Activity Center may be available and would prepare the food as well. Instead, my aunt told me that it was available. This was a much better alternative as family should not be bothered so they can be part of the service. So after I had already set up the announcements, I had to quickly get those changed and family notified of the location change.

I just wanted to express again everyone who I was in contact with was definitely kind and polite and willing to help. But when a family is already stressed and mourning the loss and dealing with arrangements, no one wanted to be cooking for 100 people. We should offer these options as someone like me who had never had to arrange this type of service before.

Again, the family of my mother, Sharon Beard, thank the Tribe for all the provisions we were given in our time of need. God bless.

Respectfully,
Roxanne Teeter
 Roll #1984

Five generations



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Sharon Beard, 74, left, Beard's daughter Tribal Elder Roxanne Teeter, 55, second from left, 1-month-old Onah Olivera-Alonzo, middle, Teeter's daughter Crystal Lanier, 38, second from right, and Lanier's daughter Celina Alonzo, 21, right, and Onah's mother, represent five generations of one family. All five have the same middle name, Gayle, and they are all the oldest of the children in their generations. They are part of the LaChance family.

Walking On...

James "Jim" Francis Feehan

May 6, 1933 – Dec. 28, 2015

Tribal spouse James "Jim" Francis Feehan, 82, passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, Dec. 28, 2015, as a result of Alzheimer's disease at Cherrywood Memorial Care facility in McMinnville, Ore. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, on May 6, 1933.



At the age of 20, Jim traveled by boat to America with dreams of eventually reaching Alaska. Instead, he fell in love with Oregon and settled in Portland, where he worked for the railroad until being drafted into the U.S. Army. After his military service, he began his 40-year career at the Oregonian newspaper. He became an American citizen on St. Patrick's Day in 1960.



While working at the Oregonian, Jim met co-worker Barbara McKnight at a Portland Buckaroos hockey match. It is lost to history whether the Buckaroos won that night. However, Jim had a victory when Barbara agreed to accompany him to another hockey game. They were married in Portland on April 23, 1970. They had two daughters, Kathleen and Bernadette.

While Jim loved his adopted home in the United States, he also prioritized maintaining a connection with his Irish family, traveling to Ireland regularly. After retiring, Jim and Barbara traveled throughout the West, also taking many trips to visit Bernadette in Hawaii. His first grandson, Dylan, was born in 1991. His second grandson, Noah, was born in 2003 to be followed by a third, Sean, three years later. As he had throughout his life, Jim continued to prioritize his time with family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara Feehan; daughters, Kathleen George and Bernadette Feehan; son-in-law, Rick George; and grandsons, Dylan, Noah and Sean. Jim is remembered as a loving, humorous and life-loving man and an epic storyteller. He was a special husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday, Jan. 6, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Ronde. Interment in the Grand Ronde Cemetery was followed with a fellowship meal at the Tribe's Elders Activity Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Oregon chapter of the Alzheimer's Association are appreciated.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center cared for the family. To leave a message or memory for the family, please visit www.dallastribute.com.

Local schools also closed for the day

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a two-hour late start for the first work day of 2016.

Tribal Facilities Supervisor Tyson Mercier said that sidewalks on the Tribal campus were covered by an inch of snow that was covered by a layer of ice.

"If it doesn't warm up, we'll be dealing with the ice all morning," Mercier reported early Monday morning. "The Facilities team at this juncture plans on doing what we can as soon as we can."

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Officer Rod McAllister reported that Highway 18 between Hebo and Grand Ronde roads was packed ice with sand and that many campus and

Tribal housing roadways were icy and slick.

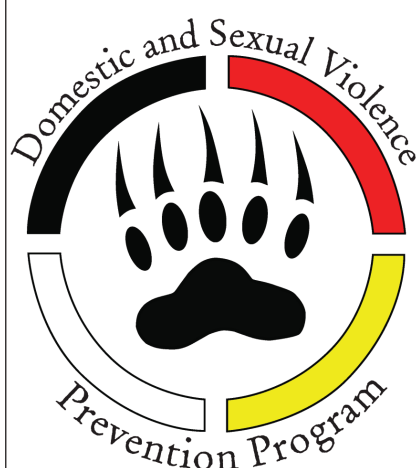
In addition, area school districts from Salem-Keizer to Sheridan to Willamina closed for the day, creating daycare problems for many governmental employees.

With the temperature hovering around the freezing mark and light rain falling, General Manager David Fullerton decided to call the day a little after 8 a.m. to ensure that Tribal employees did not put themselves in danger by trying to get to work.

Tribal governmental employees returned to work on Tuesday, Jan. 5, when temperatures reached the high 30s, which was warm enough to melt most roadway ice on the Grand Ronde Valley floor. ■

S.E.L.F

A Trauma Informed Group Curriculum



Every Tuesday 5:30-7:00
 Community Center Building
 Conference Room- East Entrance

Contact:
 Anne Falla @ 503-879-1660

A domestic and sexual violence support group focusing on survivors of trauma and their journeys to emotional and psychological wellness.