

Professional Football Player, actor, Jim Warne visits Warm Springs—Continued from page 1



George Aguilar, Jr., Tricia Sahme, Jim Warne and Nancy Blackwolfe-Begay stop for a photo in their efforts to write a grant to restablish Vocation Rehabilitation with the assistance of Jim Warne.

return to his Lakota tradition. An empty spot within him was the lack of Lakota ways. He then sought knowledge from elders and family members to get himself centered in his Lakota way. "I believe in seven generation philosophy from Black Elk. I know that today's youth are going to make great impact for our people nationwide. I'm excited to see our kids know the language, singing, drumming, dancing and knowing the old way. As well as incorporating mainstream education because they'll have to know both. That's what our kids are challenged with today. Balancing, maintaining our personal culture and integrity as well as acquiring mainstream

education so that we can be effective in society," Jim adds. He also feels that if any of our kids that get through our education system are gifted. After the NFL Jim attended graduate school at San Diego State University. After his first semester he was drafted by the newly established NFL Europe World League of American Football at the New York New Jersey franchise. So he took a sabbatical from graduate school. He returned in the summer and played Arena Football League, which was played indoors. So theoretically, football financed his bachelors and masters degrees. "I'm very thankful that my love for the sport kept me in the academic

realm," says Jim. Once NFL was over he found academics are very important for his future. With the NFL Players Association they have the Native Vision Program. Which is a football, basketball and soccer camp for tribal youth held on reservations. Last December he went to the Arapahoe School in Warm Springs to talk to kids. John Holichcek, retired from Kansas City Chiefs, went to the Shoshone School. They talked to kids during the Christmas holidays about life skills, cultural pride and education. That's the basis of Native Vision Program, they identify and prepare seventh generation. "I'm glad that John's Hopkins University American Indian Alaska

Native Health Program, Nick Lowery Foundation and NFL Players Association were the three main organizations that established Native Vision Program.

Next summer, June 11, 12, they will be at the Wind River Reservation. "Hopefully kids from Warm Springs can make it," Jim adds.

They have ex-professional and current professional football, basketball and soccer players for the children's athletic interests. More importantly, they're teaching life skills education enhancement. All the professionals are currently successful in academics and professional sports.

That's what they focus on because it's temporary athletics. "Power of the body, which I was very proud of is temporary. Power of the mind is forever," Jim says.

After finishing graduate school and playing arena ball he received his degree. He then considered Canadian Football League. "I might as well try every football league out there," he adds.

He received a job offer that would pay pretty well and decided it was time to utilize his intellect instead of his body. He was fortunate that although he did acquire injuries he is okay as far as surgeries go, compared to what his colleagues had to endure.

After working for a couple of years he became a confident public speaker. He became confident in other realms such as acting. On the beach one day during graduate school he was approached by a casting director for a part in a TV program called "Silk Stalkings". Jim said, "sure."

Since then he has been compared to Will Sampson by many different people through the years. "I'm proud of that comparison because Will Sampson did a great job for Indian actors. He was the one to make a difference for all of us. He showed that Indian people should be playing Indian people in films." says Jim.

He also played a part in "The Renegade," a series about a biker, bounty hunter played by Lorenzo Lamas. Jim was a big, heavy fighter guy.

After acquiring acting experience he decided to get himself an agent to see what can happen.

Rodney Grant was a presenter at one of the conferences and decided to call his agent to see if he can be represented. He was referred to a bookstore in Hollywood to read some monologues, studying. He met with the Geddes Agency and they said, "Well you're raw, no actual acting talent, but you have skills in articulation and a 'look' so we're going to give you a shot."

His first read was for "The Substitute" and got the part of "Bull." While reading for the part he met Wes Studi, who was also reading for the part.

"Fortunately San Diego State allowed me to take sabbaticals for football because they knew I had dreamed of professional football. Now they know my interest in acting and allow me to take vacation time to pursue acting opportunities," says Jim.

He spent three weeks on location filming "The Substitute" with Rodney Grant as Seminole drug lords.

Rodney works with kids at NCAI in San Diego and Jim asked him to help working with youth so that they could expose the youth to tribal government practice. He feels they need to prepare now because they're going to make a difference for all of us.

They were both concerned about their parts as drug lords but fortunately they died in the movie and can say "that's the end result of this business."

They were to reiterate that they were just acting these parts, that's not the type of person they really are.

Through that experience he earned enough money to pay on student loans and debts acquired at graduate school. "I'm hoping that

as I pursue my doctorate work, I can get some parts to help finance my doctoral program as well as buy a house," says Jim.

His job at San Diego State is specializing in tribal vocational rehabilitation programs. Warm Springs asked that he write a grant for them to re-establish the Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

He got into Vocational Rehabilitation Advocacy for people with disabilities primarily due to his father having multiple sclerosis. So Jim and his family grew up knowing what disability was all about. He feels his life experience in disability and cross cultural communications makes him perfect for this type of job. He wanted to work with tribal nations throughout the United States as well as advocate people with disabilities.

"Just because we acquire an injury or something doesn't mean we are not a worthy part of society. Many people through ignorance or unawareness are just dismissing people with disabilities. There are 50 million people with disabilities and that's too many to dismiss. That's a lot of untapped talent not being utilized. That's why I'm very strong in Vocational Rehabilitation Advocacy for people with disabilities," says Jim.

They are viable components in society and can participate and contribute to people. Many elders with disabilities have been great in sharing language preservation through Voc Rehab.

At this time Jim is pursuing doctorate work. "If relying on football and acting, I would be somebody's bodyguard instead of a professional where I'm able to have opportunities and choices. That's what higher education does. The information age is here. I can't believe I can't live without my laptop. Five year's ago I wouldn't even touch a computer. Now if I don't have my laptop with me I

Voc Rehab participants shared success

The following individuals agreed to share their participation and support of the Warm Springs Vocation Rehabilitation Program. All individuals were successfully closed from the program and have maintained employment. Employees of the VR program offer their heartfelt congratulations to them in their success.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program is federally funded and began operations in October 1992.

Their purpose is to help Native Americans with disabilities either obtain, maintain, or be promoted in employment and to educate local businesses, fellow programs, and community members that Native Americans with Disabilities are productive in society despite their disability. To date, 456 people sought VR services and of those, 62 people were not eligible to receive services. A total of 89 people were closed successfully from the program.

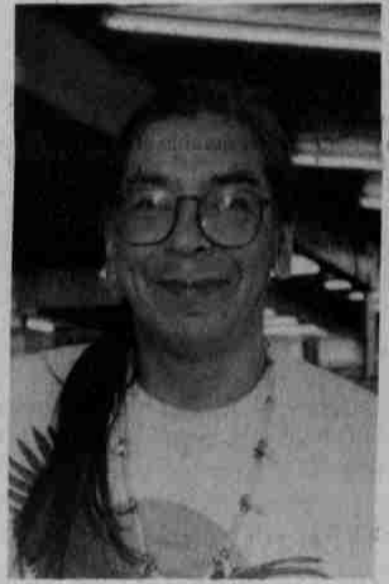
See Vocational Rehabilitation facts on top of page 5



Mark Johnson
Employed at WS Composite Prod., Water & Soil, WS Composite Prod.
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 4/97-12/97, 7/98-11/98, 3/99



Emma Smith
Employed at Tribal Relations
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 9/97



John Finch
Employed at Warm Springs Market
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 11/97



Marcia Simtustus
Hair Salon Business Owner
Disability: Addiction and Migraines
Employed since 3/98



Eugenia Tappo
Employed at Executive Management
Disability: Diabetes
Employed since 6/85



Tammy Kalama
Employed at Fire Management
Disability: Diabetes
Employed since 7/98



Curtis Thompson, Sr.
Employed at Tribal Utilities
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 2/96



Dolan Waheneka
Employed at WS Composite Prod.
Disability: Physical Impairment to arm
Employed since 9/97



Lori Switzer
Employed at Finance
Disability: Rheumatoid Arthritis
Employed since 11/97



Radine Johnson
Employed at OSU Extension
Disability: Physical Impairment to back
Employed since 3/96



Marlon LeClaire
Employed at WS Composite Prod.
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 3/98



Harold Blackwolfe
Janitorial Business Owner
Disability: Addiction
Employed since 4/97

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Selena T. Boise