

Letters to the Editor

A safer place

After reading the Oregonian articles I asked myself: Is this "A Place Where Children Die"? True or False. Each of us has his or her own perspective on the role of tradition and culture in relationship to modern day life. Each of us struggles with daily life: needing groceries, paying the light bill, needing a tank of gas, a family member sick and needing to go to the clinic or hospital, kids needing lunch money, shoes for school sports, and needing help with their homework.

How do we meet all these needs? We don't, but we do the best we can. Then face another day. I think it was courageous for those who were interviewed and quoted in the Oregonian articles, to share their feelings, thoughts and observations regarding the safety of our children here in Warm Springs. I want to share my thoughts about things many of us are doing to make this a safe place to live:

Send our children to school and make sure they graduate.

Help family members cope with hard times.

Help our students with homework.

Use child safety seats properly.

Use seat belts and ask our passengers to buckle up.

Know where our children are after school and on weekends.

Visit the schools and get to know the teachers, principals and counselors.

Visit spiritual leaders for advice.

Attend General Council meetings and school board meetings to voice concerns.

Encourage our children to participate in the cultural and traditions and spiritual life of our people.

I wonder why the Oregonian wrote these articles about Warm Springs, but what I really want to see are changes to make life better for our children. These changes need to take place in the courts, CPS, alcohol and drug

programs, the public schools, and tribal government.

But most of all, these changes need to take place with each of us as individual tribal members. Happy holidays.

Urbana "Toto" Ross

News coverage

As a member of the Chickasaw Nation, I write in regard to the very slanted series, "A Place Where Children Die."

Death in Indian Country began with the genocide of my ancestors and their relations, when those from other lands claimed our land as their own in the name of the Christian God.

If our systems are "fatally flawed," I give "good faith and full credit" to those whose Supreme Court findings resulted in today's federal Indian policies.

Your articles do nothing more than reinforce the negative stereotypes that we have fought since the arrival of a lost Spaniard. Some of us have assimilated rather nicely, by your standards, and are successful businessmen and women. Why did you not focus on the accomplishments of my relations? Or does that not sell papers?

Inflammatory headlines depict my relations as savage people who do not care for their children. There are numerous non-Indians who are drug addicts and extremely neglectful.

Our sovereignty is under attack. You have done nothing to help a bad situation but have made it worse by providing a "legitimate" voice to old stereotypes.

Theresa Keeney (Looks Twice Woman), Southeast Portland

A thank you

This letter is in regard to the raffle to benefit my journey to Rapid City, S.D. Thanks to the following for their support, and they were also winners in the raffle.

Stuffed Christmas Bear, Cody Stacona.

Woolen shawl, mug, truffles, children's activity set, Marge Hyde.

Salmon basket, children's activity set, Georgianne George.

Horse wapas, Virgil Culp.

Christmas ornament from the Holy Land, Lois Layte.

Silver earrings, Tsyick.

Woven miniature wupus and earring Set, Margaret Charley.

Miniature drum ornament, Larissa McConville.

Candy basket, Teeny Tappo.

I thank the children that were doing the drawing on Dec. 6; Harry and Pat Miller's grandchildren and the little Wasco dancers. I thank Beulah Tsumpti and Dora Goudy-Smith for the items they contributed to the raffle. There were numerous people that purchased a ticket or two or even more - thank you to everyone that supported my journey. It gave me a great pleasure to be in the company of my nominee and our elder, Adeline Miller; and to witness Adeline receive a first class welcome by the First People's Fund Organization and the people of Rapid City. She rode in a limousine. She was in the company of the singing group, Ulali and the other famous people of Indian Country. Adeline, you deserve the First People's Fund Award - enjoy it and once again, Congratulations! Te-Minsh

Productive year

Niix Pacwai. It has been nearly a year now since I began to serve in the capacity of director of Warm Springs Central Oregon Community College. When I first was approached six years ago about working part time in Warm Springs, I told the director that I wanted his job upon his retirement.

The Creator smiled upon me and that position is now mine. I am very grateful for the support and smiles of so many friends and colleagues here. Because of you, COCC has had a very productive year and I hope has served the community well.

Here are a few of the successes you have made possible:

Enrollment in COCC classes in Warm Springs has increased by approximately 70 percent. This includes credit and non-credit classes.

We served 83 students this year and that number is in Warm Springs; this does not even include the 39 students from Warm Springs studying in Bend.

Our GED program has also enjoyed tremendous success. Registration in that program has risen 56 percent since January 2003. Ten students finished their GED this year and we anticipate that number will double in 2004.

Our Tribes, Treaties, & Truths series proved so popular this fall that we are repeating it in winter term. In all of our classes this year, the percentage of tribal members attending was very high indeed: over 91 percent.

All of these numbers represent significant increases over last year and these results could not have occurred without the outpouring of community support COCC has received from all of you. To everyone who has given me an encouraging word, prayer, a remedy, or a cheerful thought, I say a very sincere thank you.

I am looking forward to an even better year in 2004. COCC will be offering Math 20, Flint Toolmaking, You CAN Change Your Body, and Tribes, Treaties, & Truths, all in winter term. Please do contact me with any suggestions for spring term. COCC is here to serve you.

Cody Yeager, COCC Warm Springs Director 553-1428.

Museum

The Museum At Warm Springs would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the November Fitness Challenge Team - Winner's for the year 2003. Thank you all for your participation. Team members were Alberta Comedown,

Natalie Kirk, Rhonda Atencio, Carol Leone, Dora Goudy-Smith, Beulah Tsumpti, Cody Yeager, Debbie Stacona, Gerald Sampson, Jr., Evaline Patt, Levi Van Pelt, Tim Smith, Rosalind Sampson, Carla and Hobo Patt. Great job. Your 2003 Team Captain: Alberta Comedown.

New home

To all who have helped, Hello there, my family, and I would just like to send out a big thank you to all of you folks who have helped us in getting into our new home.

It felt like it had been a long drug-out, stressed-out process at times, but in the end, we are very happy with our new home.

However, they did go out of their way to make things right and to ensure our happiness with our new house. We appreciate that.

With much respect and appreciation, we'd like to thank the following for their help in getting us there.

Bruce Engle of Tribal Credit; Tom Strong, the Housing Inspector; Frank Duntun, the Project Engineer; Chilkat Enterprises (Kelly, Pinky, Waylon & Employees); the Realty Department; Terry Courtney Jr. (surveyor); our employer the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Forestry Department; our supervisors Doug Manion and Bob Gill for allowing us to take the time from work needed to get things rolling along. All the involved approving committees and tribal council for approving our lease and house. All those folks who signed our building permit and anybody else who we may have forgotten but were involved in the process.

We'd like to thank all of you again and we wish everyone out there a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Michael, Yvette (Twink) Leecy and Kids (Tanner, Karlen, Yolanda)

In loving memory



To Pebbles, my sister, my friend,

You were there with me until the end.

I woke up thinking of you today,

I was getting ready to visit because I had plenty to say.

Then I remembered you're not with us any more,

So I sat down and wondered "Why go out the door?"

Last year our families came together as one,

To share the holidays, and your birthday, we had so much fun.

Our dreams of the future, as where we would be,

A year ago we thought we had two more years, maybe three,

To watch our children and grandchildren grow up right.

Little did we know how hard you would fight,

The illness that took over, the doctors you would see,

Held little hope that we'd be celebrating another year as a family.

But you're in a place where there's no more hurts and pain,

A beautiful place where angels roam and Jesus reigns.

Your girls are doing well and you can be proud as can be,

They are growing up and taking responsibility.

I miss you very much and often wish you were here,

But all I have to do is look at your girls and know you are near.

I can hear you in their laughter and listen as they talk,

Telling of things that happened in their daily walk.

They come to church and go to school every day,

They've been a God-send to us, so don't worry okay?

We'll see you one day when we're called home up above,

So until then, we've got memories that are filled with love.

Love and miss you very much Pebbles.

Tina

Birthday, Christmas and other wishes...

Izzy (Gamps), Wishing you a very Happy Birthday on December 26. Hope we share many more together, Love ya, Faye.

Iz, happy birthday. Hope you have many more. Always, Tee, Tana, Joe and Chan.

Smokey Bear and the staff at Fire Management would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy your time with friends and family.



This poem I have given to someone very special awhile back but I would like to send it out to my sister Lillian Jo, wanting you to know that I love you so very much and to keep your head up girl! Can we ever give someone else all they desire from us? Of course not. Our satisfactions must come from within ourselves. But too often, too many of us look to others for the striking we desire rather than getting it from a feeling of accomplishment. Too many friendships are based upon these terrible needs of one person and friendships such as these never last, for they are based upon a false notion - that the other can fulfill our emotional needs. Too often we become demanding when the other does not fulfill these needs. The pain of discovery - the point at which we realize that we asked too much of this friendship, that we asked too much of the other person, that we expected the impossible - this is the point at which "friendships" are very often ended for good.

Surely each of us remembers a time of having met someone whom we thought to be just absolutely everything we admired in another.

We never thought it would be possible to find someone who had all of these wonderful qualities and suddenly we felt so lucky to be becoming friends with them. But as time moved along, we began to see flaws in the other, flaws we wished weren't there, flaws we can't accept, because we thought the other person, as it's their fault we saw them as perfect when they weren't. Unfortunately, our own immaturity doesn't permit us to see that the fault was ours, because our expectations were far beyond reasonable or even normal. Perhaps the most common error all of us make is that we seek to find a perfect person. We are all looking for one who is loving, kind, compassionate, generous, loyal, fun-loving, just, unselfish, always willing to help one another, one who is committed to all ideal, one who lives by the Golden Rule, and one ...this one...who is our friend.

We all seek this person, because it is what we want to be and when we meet another who might have several of these characteristics, as most of us do, we suddenly think about that person as having ALL of these sterling qualities. And it is at this juncture that we forget that we only assumed that to be true. But we conduct our friendship along those lines, that is, until a few cracks appear and we see that this person we idealized has flaws also. And with this sister I would like to say to you and your friends Merry Christmas 2003! Much love from your younger sister Angeline.

I would like to wish my daughters and my sister a belated birthday. To my youngest daughter Whitney Mae Goodlance, happy birthday, Nov. 21.

To my oldest daughter Kendra Reanne Meanus, happy birthday Nov. 30.

To my sis Madene Meanus, on Dec. 1.

I also want to tell my dear friend who I miss so much, happy birthday to Judy "sweet stuff" Kalama.

I thank you again for your time. With respect and happy holidays to everyone back home from Michael Lone Meanus #65571-065 United States Penitentiary 3901 Klein Boulevard Lompoc, California 93436.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Cheryl, Holly and Gus. From Dave.

May the joy of Christmas be with you always from Spilyay Tymoo ad department
Sam Howard, Selena Boise

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