

## Letters to the Editor

### Retirement

We would like to say thank you to all that had helped us honor our dad Marvin Meanus Sr. It was a lot of work for all of us and it was a nice turnout for the honor meal and the presentation. Auntie Hilda, Annie, Betty Nason, Sharon, Marva, Michael, Neda, Charlotte Herkshan. I (Lou-el) would like to say thank for everything that you did for us. This would not have been put together without all of your help and guidance. I (Lou-el) have always wished to honor Dad somehow and he doesn't always expect this but he put in so many years of hard work throughout his life. He is very dedicated to his work and family.

Herb, Paul and Bryan from Utilities, thanks for sharing all your memories with us and being a part of the presentation. Captain Moody, thanks for coming in and sharing with family and friends at such a short notice. Thank you to the VFW Post 4217 for honoring dad with a Pendleton blanket and marching him in to begin our day.

Neda, thanks for speaking on behalf of the family and keeping everything moving forward throughout the day. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hunt for coming in and opening the floor for all. Thanks to the cooks, Priscilla Blackwolf, Josie Miller and boys, Cassie Katchia, Betty George, Sharon Katchia and Annie Kalama for preparing this meal, all the food was great and filling. Thanks to all that brought in food and donations to help out.

Our father is very loving and understanding. He always



has a lending hand to his children, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends. We all love him with all that we have and wish him the best in his retirement (finally).

We had this recognition dinner for him and he always says, "I live in Warm Springs, don't be a stranger, come by and visit." Now that he is retired and hopefully relaxing, please stop in and say hello to him from time to time. I am sure for being a busy body all his life he has a hard time keeping himself busy being at home.

A few individuals may have been forgotten when writing this, please don't be offended. We all appreciate you for all you have done for us and hope that we all stay close. Auntie Hilda and Auntie Jeanette, we all love you both too. If it wasn't for you three, who would we turn to for guidance.

**Thanks again to all and take care always. Marvin's children Betty Nason, Annie Kalama, Marvin Meanus Jr., Madene Meanus, Michael Meanus, Marva Lawrence, Evelyn Gilbert and Louella Heath-Jackson. Sisters Hilda Culpus and Jeanette Meanus and all his grandchildren and family.**

### A thank-you

I would like to thank the people of the Warm Springs Nation who have generously kept me in mind as I serve the country in which our nation is set upon. Over the four years I have been enlisted, I have received numerous care packages from Fire Management, Charlotte Herkshan and whoever else was involved, along with the Confederated Tribes. Thank you, VFW, for acknowledging me and my husband (as he is enlisted too) during Pi-Ume-Sha a few years back. It was an honor to be a part of the Grand Entry with the veterans and to speak of my enlistment and duties as the Grand Entry concluded. And thank you to KWSO as they interviewed me during that same summer.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my Father and Mother, Harvey and Florene Scott, who have seen me through this new life. As a rebellious adolescent and teen, without too harsh punishment, I was only given words to think about to ponder about my actions. I did not grow up to be spanked and whipped but suffered the consequences of my parents' words that left me in guilt of what I did. They have taught me to think about my actions and how they affect people. I was selfish, stubborn, and spoiled - but they never gave up hope, they never shunned me, they never sent me to that boot camp in Bend. Mom and Dad, you have raised me well and I hope that I make you both feel like the best parents in the world because that's what you are - the best. I love you both with all my heart. This part of my life is for you.

As I was preparing to depart my house with my recruiter to report to the MEPS (Military Entry Processing Station), I could see the happiness in their faces, their smiles and their



tears. As my aunt and uncle Olivia and Fred prayed over me and my bro Jay and sis Reese were there to see me off, I felt so proud of myself for becoming something. All I thought at the time was that I was making my parents happy and proud of me. I was doing this more for them than myself. As my career flourishes, it will soon become something for myself and I will be working toward my life and family. Whatever I decide, I know they will always support me - no matter what.

As time creeps up, I'm due to either re-enlist and transfer or be discharged from active duty in June. I do not know what I'm going to do at this time. It depends on what kind of sea billets they have available. If I get out of the military I plan on moving to my husband's hometown of Lexington, Kentucky, with our daughter Kayla, as he would like to pursue college and become a fire fighter and I will go to college and get a business degree of some sort. We plan on returning to the Rez when she is old enough for grade school because we would like for her to learn the languages. That's what we plan to do, but you know how things change.

As I end this letter, I would like to express my deepest thanks and respects to my Father and Mother, family and friends and to those who continue to support the troops. **PS3 Taylor, H. L.** (Personnel Specialist Third Class Petty Officer), Personnel Support Detachment Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.

### High school

A high school in Warm Springs? Is it just a whisper of something of such delicacy that if we said it any louder it would just whisk away in the wind. Time is trying all of us of Warm Springs.

We are not rising to the challenges set in the future. The idea of going to school is something that the average Warm Springs child sees as an everyday hardship. We have heard it time and time again, excuse after excuse, reasons why "I didn't make it to the bus, my clothes weren't dry, the bus comes too early, so-and-so teacher is a racist, I'm afraid."

Afraid of what? Violence? Things have happened in our schools that we the parents don't ever hear about.

There are divisions among our children of one community, divisions that are the product of negligence of the supervisory body to deal with the issues that our children get so involved in before they become so much of an issue that their ability to learn is compromised and the child's life spirals out of control in so short of a time.

It doesn't take much anymore, a dirty look, he said-she said. The values of us as a people are not being taught. The

instructors at the schools we send our children to have no stake in our youths' future. What they teach our kids will have no effect on their lives, will not have any effect on their kids' future, so what do they care? "Kick them out of class and suspend them, so I don't have to deal with them."

This happens all too often. Those who do pay attention learn a simple white concept. Make as much money as I can as fast as I can. I'm not sure these are the things our community needs "now." Self-respect, honor, pride - I'm sure these are.

We are losing our people by sending them to another community to learn their values, not ours.

We are losing them by encouraging athletes to compete for a town that is not theirs. Imagine, though, if we were to keep them here inside our own borders. Imagine what we could mold them to be.

Imagine the sporting events. Imagine the headlines. Imagine a class of 250 skins walking down an aisle built by skins for skins. Imagine the pride, the influence of the whole community...

That's what we would be, finally, a whole community. **Jeremiah Johnson.**

### 'Down under'

Thank you Warm Springs and supporters.

Australia, wow. First of all I'd like to recognize the people who invited me to be a part of the Oregon-Washington wrestling team. Second, my family for their continued support, and I'd like to thank the community of Warm Springs for their financial contributions and support, which I needed to make the trip "Down Under."

I never thought I would ever get a chance to do something like that. I didn't know people did things like that for high school kids. Now that I have gone and had a great experience I still can't believe I went and wrestled down under in Australia. It's an experience I'll always remember. I never imagined sports and athletics would take me halfway around the world to compete. Australia is a nice place to go, if you ever get a chance I suggest to you go. It will be worth your time and money.

Our first stop was Hawaii. We did our official weigh-ins upon arrival there and never looked back. This was fine with me due to all the buffet style meals we were treated to morning and evening. I also was able to visit Hawaii, another place I didn't think I would ever see. It was one of the coolest places I've ever been. Besides seeing hoola girls, I went boogie boarding, snorkeling in the warm ocean by Waikiki beach, checking out sea turtles, ocean eels, sea coral and exotic fish. Ate native Hawaiian foods, experiencing their beauty and culture during a Polynesia show put on by local natives. I was able to take a boat out to Pearl Harbor and see the sunken Arizona battle ship.

We flew into Sydney, Australia and on to Brisbane where we stayed for the wrestling tournaments. I wrestled four dual style matches and four tournament style matches against guys from Pennsylvania, New Zealand and Tennessee. My record was four and four and I came home with a competition medal.

I met and made friends with people from all over the United States, including other Native athletes competing in wrestling, volleyball, football and track and field. I still keep in contact with some of my Oregon-Washington teammates as well as some of the other Natives. In talking with some of the other kids, I found out there were a lot of others invited, but couldn't make the trip due to lack of funding. I feel very humble and grateful that my family and Tribe helped make this trip possible for me.

While there, we were able to swim in the Olympic pools, visited an opera house, and went to "Dream World" theme park. We were able to walk downtown Brisbane and check out the local stores and shops. We visited the "Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary," where we saw koala bears, birds of prey, Tasmanian devil, wild dingoes, kangaroos, crocs, tigers, white tigers and python snakes. We were even able to hold baby alligators.

I would encourage other Native athletes to keep their grades up in school so they can keep competing in high school sports. If your grades are in order, the rest falls into place. You just have to do the work. My parents told me if I wanted to do high school sports, my grades would have to be there. When things were hard in the classroom, it made it easier for me to keep trying, knowing I would still be able to compete. I know plenty of kids who started out

playing sports at the high school, but had to drop due to grades. I am trying very hard to keep my education the number one priority, because I know for a fact it enables me to compete in sports and has opened up a whole new world for me.

I look forward to my senior year in high school and competing again for the White Buffalos in football and wrestling.

Thanks again for helping me achieve a once in a lifetime chance to travel "Down Under."

**Blaine Cole Begay.**  
(Note: Since his return home, Blaine has been invited to play football in England in March for the USA All-stars and is currently doing fundraisers.)

### 3 Warriors

The 3 Warriors Market employees would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the crowd of over 200 grandparents, parents and children that made their way to Simnasho for our birthday celebration.

We had a great meal with a lot of food. Thanks to the newly crowned Miss Warm Springs Nicola Stwyer for joining us for the evening. We had about 30-35 little people dressed in their regalia and for their efforts for getting ready each received a toy and a birthday shirt. We also shared a birthday shirt with those that brought the good food, the Washut Drummers, the drummers on the big drums, and our Elders.

The evening was organized to celebrate the existence of the store and to give the community a chance to gather in a good way and enjoy each other's company. By listening to the people and all their laughter, we feel that the evening was a hit.

In 2005, the store was open 364 days from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. and ready to do business with any individual that entered the building or pulled up to the fuel pumps (In 2005 we closed on Pi Ume Sha Sunday so the staff could Pi Ume with the rest of the tribe). We understand the fact that we must provide our customers with the groceries/fuel that they need and that we must provide it as a reasonable cost while yet making enough profit to suit tribal management's expectations. We do the best that we can. We have no control on traffic, fires, winter storms or other hurdles yet we have continued to make our own way. We have continued to increase our customer base not only on the reservation but also Wapanitia, Wamic, Pine Grove and Maupin. This is all done on a daily basis with only a staff of 2 full time and 6 part-time employees.

We would like to thank all those that continue to support the store with your business and your verbal support and we look forward to another busy year. We have included a list of the door prize winners (you had to be present to win as we had several leave a little early and they lost out) and we have included a list of those that helped to make our birthday celebration a good time.

Thanks, from 3 Warriors **Market Staff, Roy, Levi, Patrick, Katie, Alveda, Ivy, Mary and Captain.**

### B-day wishes...

Happy birthday Romelle on February 14. From Dante, Joe, Matt and Ang.

Happy birthday Dena on February 12. From Dante, Joe, Matt and Ang.

### Advice

"It's better to be alone than in the wrong company."

Tell me who your best friends and I'll tell you who you are. If you run with wolves, you'll learn how to howl, but if you associated with eagles, you'll learn how to soar to great heights.

A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he's really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses. The simple but true fact of life is that you become like those who you closely associate with - for good or bad. The less you associate with some people, the more your life will improve.

An important attribute in successful people is their impatience with negative thinking and

negative acting people. As you grow, your associates will change. Some of your friends will not want you to go on. They'll want you to stay where they are.

Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how. Not everyone has a right to speak into your life. You're certain to get the worst bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person. Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere. Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life. **Rayfield Mitchell**, No. 60839-065. U.S.P. Hazelton, P.O. Box 2000, Bruceon Mills, WV 26525.

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