

Christmas is a season of traditions and memories

By Selena Boise
Management Successor

The birth of Jesus Christ is the celebration or remembrance of the season that is upon us. Though the commercialization of Christmas sometimes seems to change the meaning of the season there is meaning behind the traditions of gift giving and celebrations.

The nativity scene is popular and signifies the birth of Jesus that took place in a manger surrounded by farm animals. It is believed that the birth of Jesus Christ fulfilled many prophecies made hundreds of years before his birth.

But in today's culture the season comes once a year and signifies the giving of gifts among friends and family members to show their thanks for their companionship, friendship or caring nature that was provided to them.

This year my biggest Christmas gift was to see my kids together again. My son George has already left for Iraq and it sometimes makes me sad yet. But I was thankful to be able to see him during this season. I never forget his visits home, because we forget all the unpleasant things from our past and make our time together unforgettable.

The other part of Christmas we enjoy is the decorating of the tree and seeing the Christmas lights all over in our community. I'm sure these are traditions that are carried through generations of families, which is a good thing because families come together to do this. Sure the kids fight to see who puts the star on the tree, but we will probably remember every fight and how it ended. Years later we will all laugh about it because it is a Christmas memory.

We get out the Christmas movies and watch them throughout the week and it makes me remember my Christmas as a child and how we used to decorate our tree and put up lights around the house. These are the kind of memories I hope that my kids have about their childhood Christmas.

My favorite is the "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" because it truly separates the meaning of Christmas from the commercialization of Christmas. Jim Carrey portrays the Grinch and it is a comedy with a meaningful message.

Here's hoping your Christmas has a true meaning for you and your family this year.

VFW Auxiliary

Veterans and families, As a member of our Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, first of all I'd like to thank Indian Head Casino for their donation. The veterans and families all enjoyed the foods and special mugs. Thank you. Also the special attention we received when we picked the cups up, you were all so nice.

Forest Products also, you never forget the veterans. Thank you, balloon sponsors. You all did well. The balloons were beautiful (balloon sponsors were Harvey, Tony, Leo and Marella). We now have a few dollars in the bank. But my dream was what the auxiliary is here for, to get the veterans a home, coffee pot, even a pool table, maybe one day, for they need a place to visit, have coffee, etc. Next time we'll find a way.

Also for our help m/m Kelly, Squeelie, Mary, Carol, Terry, also Freda Lucy and Tom for our help with the traditional part of recognizing all veterans. This is the part I like to not be forgotten, for it takes months of planning. I never went by the book and went by the ladies' traditions from 56 years ago. I do know we were not wrong. This is the ladies' place, the way we honor our veterans. We treat all of them as heroes, for this is what they are, for this all comes natural, when we know our place and why we were put in this seat. Good luck to all new officers, hope our dues are current enough to hold. I'll always be around to help, for that is what we do as sisters of the auxiliary. We don't criticize or bad mouth or threaten each other. Let's not do too much change. Thank you. **Eliza Brown-Jim**, member at large to Auxiliary 4217 to Elliott Palmer Post 4217.

Keeping warm

This is a letter saying thank you to all the people who helped me when I needed wood. I called the Senior Program a couple of times asking for wood but was told they didn't have any wood in their wood lot, because they couldn't afford to pay the asking price to the woodcutters.

I went to the VOC department and they gave a cord of wood. By the end of October I burned all that. But during the cold snap I needed more wood to keep my house warm. My house is all electric and it totally wipes me out to have to pay my electric bill.

Thank you, Lauraina (the COO), and Chief Delvis Heath for bringing me some wood. I really appreciate it very much. Thank you to the mill guys who

delivered me some wood, and to the elves who stacked my wood, and for the kindling. **Maxine McKinley.**

A thank you

The family of Troy J. would like to thank the EMT's and Mountain View Hospital. We are saying thank you, Bifford, Wacey, Grandpa, Butch, Lucy, Tom, Creep, Maria, Bobbit, Reland and her girls, Oh, Thomas and Cowboy, Lori and Patti.

We really want to thank Sarah and Sammy with VOCS. A person we would especially like to say thank you to very much is Julie for letting us know what happened.

Another person is Daniel Gilbert.

Thank you so very much, all of you. Sincerely, **Mary, Taco, Jenny, Sally, Hamley and Bonius.**

Hoops tourney

Now that the attempt at the Thanksgiving Youth Basketball Tournament is over, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for their support:

Warm Springs Composite Products, Gary Ruhl Construction, Warm Springs Power Enterprise, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino, Tomcat Logging, JR Smith Logging, Wissie Inc., the Education Committee, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Mark Jackson, Mike and Max Clements, DMJ Automotive, Dan Larson, Erickson's Thriftway, Warm Springs Market, Cal Mukumoto, Sam Starr, and an anonymous donor.

Any time there are teams entered in any tournament, you have a successful event, therefore we had a successful tournament! Congratulations to all the teams. Special thanks to Trey Leonard for being our tournament director and keeping things on track. I couldn't have done it without you, Trey. **Val Squiemphen.**

True meaning

To all family, friends and community,

I pray everyone has a safe, joyous and loving Christmas and Happy New Year from our house to yours, wherever that may be. In this season most people think of Christmas as how many presents he/she will be receiving and forget that we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior. Here is a letter that says it all:

The True Meaning of Christmas

Late one Christmas Eve I sank back, tired but content, into my easy chair. The kids were in bed, the gifts were wrapped, the milk and cookies waited by the fireplace for Santa. As I sat back admiring the tree with its decorations, I couldn't help feeling that something was missing. It wasn't long before the tiny twinkling tree lights lulled me to

sleep. I don't know how long I slept, but all of a sudden I knew that I wasn't alone.

I opened my eyes, and you can imagine my surprise when I saw Santa Claus himself, standing next to my Christmas tree. He was dressed all in fur from his head to his foot just as the poem described him. But he was not the "jolly old elf" of Christmas legend. The man who stood before me looked sad and disappointed. And there were tears in his eyes.

"Santa, what's wrong?" I asked. "Why are you crying?" "It's the children," Santa replied sadly. "But the children love you," I said. "But the children of today seem to have somehow missed out on the true spirit of Christmas.... and it's not their fault! It's just that the adults, many of them not having been taught themselves, have forgotten to teach the children." "Teach them what?" I asked.

Santa's kind old face became soft, more gentle. His eyes began to shine with something more than tears. He spoke softly. "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Teach them that the part of Christmas we can see, hear, and touch is much more than meets the eye. Teach them the symbolism behind the customs and traditions of Christmas we now observe. Teach them what it is they truly represent."

Santa reached into his bag and pulled out a tiny Christmas tree and set it on my mantle. "Teach them about the Christmas tree. Green is the second color of Christmas. The stately evergreen with its unchanging color represents the hope of eternal life in Jesus. It's needles point heavenward as a reminder that man's thoughts should turn heavenward as well."

Santa reached into his bag again and pulled out a shiny star and placed it at the top of the small tree. "The star was the heavenly sign of promise. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of fulfillment of that promise of the

night that Jesus Christ was born. Teach the children that God always fulfills His promises and that wise men still seek Him." "Red," said Santa, "is the first color of Christmas." He pulled forth a red ornament for the tiny tree. "Red is deep intense, vivid. It is the color of the life-giving blood that flows through our veins. It is the symbol of God's greatest gift. Teach the children that Christ gave His life and shed His blood for them that they might have eternal life. When they see the color red it should remind them of that wonderful gift."

Santa found a bell in his pack and placed it on the tree. "Just as lost sheep are guided to safety by the sound of the bell, it continues to ring today for all to be guided to the fold. Teach the children to follow the true Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep."

Santa placed a candle on the mantle and lit it. The soft glow from its one tiny flame brightened the room. "The glow of the candle represent how man can show his thanks for the gift of God's son who was born that Christmas Eve long ago. Teach the children to follow in Christ's footsteps, to go about doing good. Teach them to let their lights shine before men that all may see it and glorify God. This is what is symbolized when the twinkly lights shine on the tree like hundreds of bright, shining candles, each of them representing one of God's precious children, their light shining for all to see."

Again Santa reached into his bag and this time he brought forth a shiny red and white striped candy cane. As he hung it on the tree, he spoke softly, "The candy cane is a stick of hard, white candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus and the shape "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus who came to earth as our Savior. It also represents the crook the Good Shepherd uses to reach down into the ditches of the world to

lift out the fallen lambs who like sheep have gone astray. The original candy cane had tree small red stripes which are the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed, and a large red stripe that represents the shed blood of Jesus so we can have eternal life. Teach these things to the children."

Santa brought out a beautiful wreath made of fresh, fragrant greenery and tied with a bright red bow. "The bow reminds us the bond of perfection which is love. The wreath embodies all the good things about Christmas for those with eyes to see and hearts to understand. It contains the colors of red and green and the heaven turned needles of the evergreen. The bow tells the story of good will towards all; and its color again reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. Even its very shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It is a circle without beginning and without end. These are the things you must teach the children."

"But where does that leave you Santa?" I asked. The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why, bless you my dear," he laughed. "I'm only a symbol myself. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the children are taught these other things, there is no danger that I'll every be forgotten." "I think I'm beginning to understand at last," I replied. "That's why I came," said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach these children these things... then who will?"

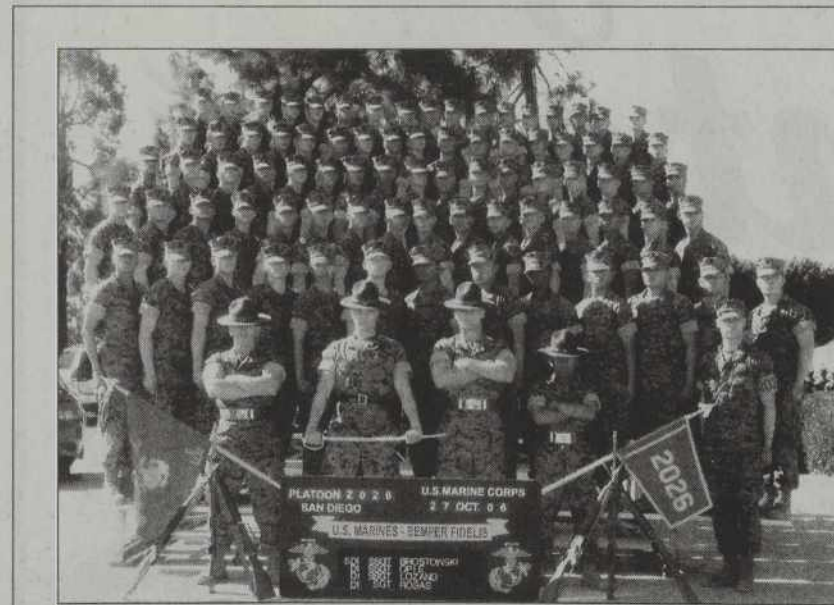
Tina Aguilar

Apologies

I would like to take this time to apologize to my people and the community for my error. It would seem a responsible and logical response to begin life in an accountable manner. I would never intentionally hurt my loved ones by accident. **Rudy Paul Jr.**

To the people of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, I am sorry I broke tribal law on Oct. 10, 2006 by driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless endangering. I do know these offenses I committed are against the law. Although I know this, I went ahead and did what I wanted without thinking of anyone else at all. For all this I am very sorry.

I apologize to my family for the shame my actions have brought to our family name. Further, I apologize to the following: by brother Dan, whose car I was driving, and my daughter. They were directly impacted by my actions. I also want to say that I will try harder to follow tribal laws in the future. Sincerely, **Nena T. Boise.**



Marine platoon of Kevin Lee Gadberry. Submitted photos

U.S. Marine

Kevin Lee Gadberry recently graduated from basic training and has received three weeks of combat training. Gadberry (right) is the grandson of Lucy Gadberry, Lee Gadberry and Ira Smith.



Happy birthday and other wishes...

Happy first birthday Dec. 13 to our baby boy **Kylan Rayne Yaw.** You have grown so fast. We love you. Mom and Dad.



Happy belated birthday to our big baby boy **Tyrece Ellison David, 7**

years old. Hope you enjoyed it. We love you. Love, **Hiram, Mommy.**

Happy first birthday Dec. 13, baby **Kylan.** We love you. Love, **Keshia, Marris, Jr-Man, Tyrece, Simyan.**

Happy birthday **Tyrece** on Nov. 25. I love fighting with you. Love, **Myan, Kylan.**

Happy second birthday Dec. 21, **Brady "Ham" David.** Love, **Hiram and**

Edna, the Angels.

Happy birthday 7 years, **Dec. 10. Ellise "Sissy" David.** We love you. Love, **Hiram, Edna, and the Angels.**

A very Merry Christmas to my son **Tyson Taylor.** With love from your mom.

Happy Birthday Irene, hope you had a good one. Tony, Selena and the kids.

Happy Birthday to Chris on December 25th, hope you have good day. We love you, Tony, Selena, and the kids.

Happy Birthday Grandma Gladys on January 1st. We love you and we hope you have a good day. Tony, Selena and the kids.

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