

# Heath honored with memorial race at Meadows

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

Martinez Heath was honored with a memorial race at Portland Meadows Racetrack recently.

A renowned thoroughbred jockey, Heath died in October 2006.

Nicknamed Peanuts for his size, Heath was the son of the late Warm Springs Chief Nathan Heath.

According to his nephew, Robert Heath, "He was a hell of a rider. There's never been a horse that he couldn't ride."

As for the memorial race, Heath said, "It's an honor to be remembered. It'd make a whole lot of difference if you honor a person when they're alive rather than when they're gone."

Still, Heath said, "It's a real good honor for him to have this."

Heath was born in Simnasho, on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, May 4, 1945.

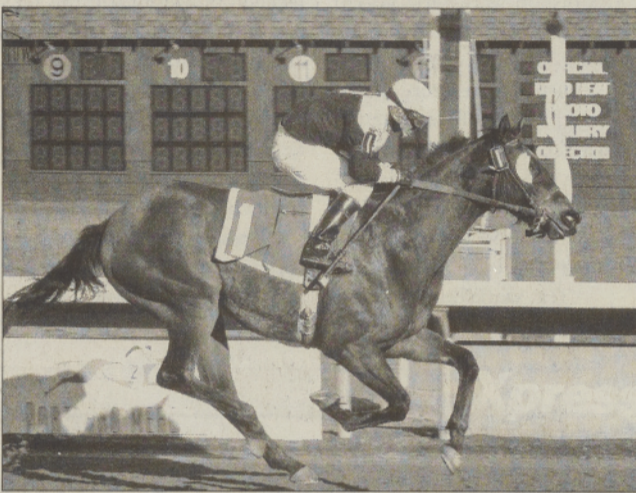
He began receiving recognition for his skill as a jockey as early as age 16.

After seeing Heath ride at Portland Meadows, Hall of Fame jockey Johnny Longden took Heath on as an apprentice.

Heath went on to ride seven winning races in one



Family and friends (above) of the late Martinez Heath show the blankets from the recent Memorial Horse Race in his honor, held at Portland Meadows.



day in Fresno, California, in 1963. In 1966 he won 105 winning races, and Heath later rode

the horse Renewed Vigor to victory in the Equipoise Mile in Chicago in 1967.

During his 25-year career, Heath rode at many major racetracks around the country.

Heath was known for being a force to be reckoned with on the racetrack, and for having a quick smile and making friends easily.

Martinez Heath was one of nine children born to Nathan and Lilly Heath.

Martinez is survived by two daughters, Mariah Martina

Heath and Tiffany Rose Heath, and three grandchildren, all of California.

Other survivors include brothers, Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, Sanders and Benson Heath, and sister Nola Queahpama: all of Warm Springs. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

## Not too late for baseball, softball signups

It is not too late to sign up for baseball and softball. Anyone interested should check in at the Warm Springs Community Center. Or call Danni Katchia at 325-6790; Louella Jackson at 553-0441; or Julie Mitchell at 777-0473 to get your paperwork in.

Please bring the following to complete the applications to be eligible for tryouts and the 2008 season: Three proofs of residency (such phone bill, drivers license, utility bill, car registration or insurance card, etc.)

Birth Certificate. Fees. Warm Springs fundamentals will be Monday and Tuesday, March 17-18. Warm Springs tryouts are Wednesday March 19 for girls; and Thursday March 20 for boys at the Pappoose fields in Warm Springs.

### Need help with a legal problem?

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call us at 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

## Fluhr

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One of his favorite things to do is help his mother, Zack added. "It's great. She's kind of like the top boss."

In Sherman County, Lynn's husband Glenn also serves as assistant fire chief in addition to running their trucking company.

According to Glenn, they make sure to spend quality time as a family no matter how busy they are with so many careers.

As for his wife, Glenn said, "I'm very proud of her. There's not a day that goes by that I'm not proud of her. She's really accomplished a lot."

"It's really neat to see how well she works with people to get things accomplished for the better of the community," Glenn added.

So far Lynn has done plenty to improve the Sherman County station, including applying for numerous grants. So far they have received over \$300,000 in grants—a huge addition to their \$39,000 budget.

"It's always a blessing to get a fire grant," Fluhr said. "We replaced our first structure engine in 2005 and it hadn't been replaced since 1974."

A career in the fire industry is something Fluhr said she



Lynn Fluhr

Stuart von Borstel first met Fluhr when an outgoing fire chief of the South Sherman County District suggested her as a replacement. After several years with Fluhr as fire chief, von Borstel said, "It's miraculous what she's done for us."

"Her enthusiasm and her energy is going to be impossible to replace," von Borstel said. "I've never seen anybody that I've felt was a harder worker."

In fact, von Borstel said, his son volunteers with the department and works with Fluhr and her husband.

"He absolutely loves working with those two," von Borstel said. "He said he'd do anything for Lynn. She doesn't demand stuff, she just has a respect of the volunteers and she has a respect of the board. I don't really know that I can say enough about her."

In general, von Borstel added, "She has just been a huge asset to Sherman County as a whole."

As for Fluhr, she said, its her love for the job that keeps her motivated.

"I love my job enough to commute an hour and a half one way to get here," she said.

would recommend—especially if helping people is something you enjoy. However, she added, you have to have a certain mindset to not let thing affect you negatively.

Her proudest accomplishment so far include the honors of serving as fire chief, Fluhr said. But don't expect her to take all the credit.

"My motto is it's a team effort; it's not me," she said.

And it's not something she could accomplish without people behind her—"I have the best, encouraging people in my husband and my mom and dad," Fluhr said.

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