

## Letters to the Editor

### A thank you

To the people of Warm Springs:

This letter can finally be written without shedding tears. Our family would like to take time to give thanks to you all for your love, support, prayers and kind words during our most difficult time.

Special thanks to Aunt Suzie Slockish and Nola Queahpama for their love, guidance and support throughout the whole process; Millie, Annie, Lovey, OE and Padge for cooking the meals; to the drummers and dancers; our honored speakers, Marcia Soliz, Raymond Tsumpti Sr., Jody Calica and Paster Rick Ribeiro; Rosie Johnson for dressing and taking care of our mother; Sam Starr and Lawren Slockish for their assistance at the Longhouse and cemetery; the Charley Family for lighting up the house; Beatrice and Bucky for cooking for us while we cleaned; and anyone else who assisted us during this time.

Though not as sharp now, words can't describe the feeling of pain, hurt and sorrow still felt today. She was taken from us too early, having many things she still wanted to do, many things she NEEDED to do; but it was not meant to be. She left all of us a legacy to hold onto, many moments to cherish and a lifetime of lessons to

learn from and teach others.

Her biggest fear was not doing enough to help people; she tried to carry everybody's burden for them. She was that type of person.

She will be remembered as a caring, loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandma, great grandma and good friend; a good friend, not afraid to tell you something for your own good. She did many things for many people, trying to find ways to help, and could always be counted on in a pinch to lend a hand and give her support and love.

Our Dad, Earl said it best, that the Warm Springs Hot Shots were her "pride and joy." She thought the world of them and proved it by putting together an awards luncheon for them and the whole Fire Management Staff late last year. It was a sight to behold; she talked and talked, using her own personal persuasion that we all knew so well getting people involved; talking to anybody and everybody, to get the help that was needed. She got a lot of people to lend a hand, but she's the one who organized and got the whole thing done and all in about 2 month's time!

While on Tribal Council, she was the driving force behind the "rainy day fund," the Pelton Dam project, and the McQuinn Strip, wanting to leave something for the generations yet to come.

There is a vast emptiness left here among our family,

community and Tribe, shoes too big for any one person to fill.

It is our hope that the many people she touched will pay it forward; the lessons, the teachings, and the hope she had for a better future for everyone; she will be remembered as a frontrunner in everything she did.

Even the people she made mad, there was always respect for her. It was never about "Rita," it was always "what can I do and what needs to be done to make it better for our tribe." She made us all very proud for being a leader among her people.

Thank you to everyone for the flowers, cards, hugs and prayers; to the many people she touched; to the many young people she mentored; to all of the people she left behind, know that we appreciate everything everyone did to help our family through this very difficult time.

There are still many people that give us words of encouragement, uplifting words and prayers, thank you all!

**The Family of Rita L. Squiemphen, "Wa-thlu-na"**

*If you are interested in advertising in the Spilyay Tymoo, call Yvonne at 541-325-1089.*

*Or email: yvonne.iverson@wstribes.org*

## Diabetes Conference in November

The Second Annual Diabetes Awareness Conference will be on Nov. 7 at the Community Wellness Center.

There will be foot screening during registration; blood sugar/blood pressure screening, and a flu vaccine clinic. Other services available include:

Medicare/Medicaid with the IHS business office ;

Weight of the Nation with Eric Bradford and Dwight Carpen; vision with Dr. Corey; diabetes foot care with Cameron Coker; exercise with the diabetes prevention program; 25-hour nurse hot line information with Diane Fuller; kidneys and diabetes with Jeri Kollen; exercise tips and exercise activity with Edmund Francis; and Bingo

with Montell Elliott.

The conference will be from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. All community members are welcome. There will be a light breakfast in the morning; and lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The conference is sponsored by the Model Diabetes Program, the Senior Center, Diabetes Prevention and Tribal Wellness.

## University celebrating Native Heritage Month

Willamette University is celebrating Native American Heritage Month in November.

The university's Indian Country Conversations and the Native American Enlightenment Association will present free events including:

**Thursday, Nov. 1:** Dino

Butler will speak on the American Indian Movement. 7 p.m. in room 209, Eaton Hall. Street parking on State Street.

**Thursday, Nov. 8:** Cultural Frybread Night. Student-led food and fun event: University Center, second floor, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sparks parking lot.

**Thursday, Nov. 15:** 1491s, Native Sketch Comedy with Sterlin Harjo. 122 Ford Hall, 7 p.m. Street parking on State Street.

All events are free. Contact Leslie Whitaker for more information: lwhitake@willamette.edu

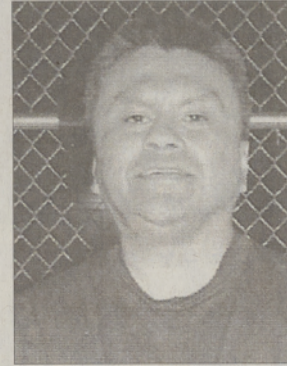
## Howlak Tichum

*Richard Wayne Payne Jr., 1972-2012*

Richard Wayne Payne Jr., aka "Monster" man, passed away on October 8, 2012. He was 40.

Richard was born on March 3, 1972 to father Richard W. Payne Sr. (now deceased) of LaPush, Wash., from the Quileute Reservation; and mother Josepha Meanus Crowe (now deceased) of Warm Springs/Yakima/Wasco reservations.

Richard Jr. was the youngest of three full-blood children. His sister is Josie Payne Williams, and half sister Linda



George Meanus; his brothers are Elliott Yahtin, Owens Yahtin, Vergil Wetson, and Randy Yahtin Sr. and Edgar Yahtin Jr. Richard is survived

by many nephews and nieces and grandchildren.

Richard was the son of a chief; his father was Chief of the Quileute Tribe; and he is grandson to atwai Chief Tommy Thompson of Celilo and Flora Thompson.

I thank my brothers and sisters of the 1910 Shaker Church and my brothers of the 7 Drums for your songs and prayers. God bless you all. Sincerely,

Josie Payne Williams, Quileute Tribe, the Yahtin and Meanus families.

*Clara Lynn Kennedy, 1980-2012*

Clara Lynn Kennedy passed away on October 8, 2012. She was 32.

Clara was born on March 19, 1980.

She is survived by her mother and her brothers; Adrian, Michael, Wes and Darren Kennedy; and Laura Kennedy; and many, many aunts and uncles and



other family members.

We will miss her smile and laughter, but she will always be in our hearts. She is joined to rest with her past fiancé Richard Payne Jr.

They are our guardian angels now. Sincerely, The Kennedy family.

### Very grateful

To the community of Warm Springs,

I would like to say from my heart, Thank you for being here when my family was in need. I thank you for your help, your time and prayers and donations for my family.

I would like to say a special thanks to the Utilities Department and Dixon Davis, and the Tribal Council secretary for the flyers. Thank you to the Vital Stats Department, the Police Department, Sam Starr, Rosie Johnson, Ramona Starr and

her daughter Sena Polk Ruiz and family, Alfreda Mitchell, Rosanna Saunders, Marcella Sam and family; Tina Aguilar, and the Broken Bow of Madras.

I do apologize I didn't name or missed anyone. I am sorry but I do thank you. God bless you my people of Warm Springs.

I love you all. Keep praying for us.

Sincerely, lots of love, Josie Payne Williams and family, Teresa, Dana, Kristi Williams and family, Cheddy Black, Walter III, Dona Ariel Payne, the Yahtin family.

### Shaker Church meeting Nov. 7

To 1910 Shaker Church members, encourage each and everyone to attend the business meeting to discuss Warm Springs leadership. Potluck style dinner at 6 p.m. at the 1910 Shaker Church. Wednesday, Nov. 7.

Tamera J. Kalama, Credit Enterprise, 541-553-3201.

Next Spilyay deadline is Friday, Nov. 9. Thank you.

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