

Thoughts on the New Year, and on gaming

By Sid Miller
Spilyay Tymoo Publisher Emeritus

When the New Year came in, I'll bet there were many resolutions made. Some resolutions are made to try and correct mistakes we made in the past. At least 50 percent of all resolutions will be broken before the end of the year. Many resolutions pertain to quitting smoking, quitting drinking, not spending money foolishly, etc.

Too much gambling might be a good subject to consider, that's if one gambles a lot. But there is an old saying that goes, "Everyday when you get out of bed for the new day, that's a gamble."

Spilyay Speaks

But the point I'm referring to is going out to the Indian Head Casino. To me it's hard to imagine anyone going out there and losing his or her paycheck. Don't know if anyone really does that, but there are some people who become addicted to gambling. They are always looking for that big payoff. Each time a person presses the button and the wheels start to spin, they are probably thinking, "This time I'll get it, I've got to win back what I lost."

I hear people say that they hit the machines for a couple hundred bucks, but I wonder how much they put into the machine before it did pay off. I also hear people say that they played a machine and lost their money and quit the machine, then here comes someone else drops in a quarter and hits a payoff, makes all his money. But that's gambling, huh!

I believe a casino can be just as bad or just as good no matter how you look at it. I believe it is something to be looked at as "personal entertainment," a way to pass time for amusement, and a source of income for the tribe.

Myself, I don't go out there much, maybe once in a while, like once a night. Aye! Once a month or so, as a thing to do, pass the time away. When I do go out there I give myself an allowance, maybe \$5, to spend anyway I want, so if I lose my allowance, I'm done. I consider that my contribution to the tribal gaming establishment.

One of these days I'll hit it and maybe come out ten bucks ahead. I also don't go into the casino unless I find a parking place real close, because I won't walk a half a mile to lose my allowance. At Spirit Mountain they have a shuttle bus going to and from the parking lot, so people don't have to walk. They are let off right at the door. I wouldn't be surprised that many more people would go to the casino if we had a shuttle bus. Well, that's all I got to say about that.

But I still believe if we would move Indian Head Casino to highway 26, it would bring in a substantial amount of income. We really don't have any good income statements from where it is located. Many people in Portland say that they do a lot of business in the Greater Oregon area and pass through a lot. And if the casino were along the highway, they would be more than willing to stop and relax for a while playing the Machines. They say Kah-Nee-Ta is just too far out of the way for them to stop.

I thought that in the beginning we were going to try the casino out at Kah-Nee-Ta for five years, and if it didn't pay off, then we should consider relocating it. Well, it's been a lot more than five years. AHH-NA-CHI-TOON!

Letters to the Editor

A thank you

I would like to say thank you to those who helped out with donations of cash and prizes for my raffle to help pay for the winners of the Christmas Powwow Drumming and Singing Contest. Drums from White Swan, Wash., Pendleton, Chiloquin, and one from Canada.

First place went to Blacklodge, Second to Echoing Thunder, the No. 3 spot went to Quartz Creek. The contest was put on for the singers that have gone on to the good life with the creator. This is a list of those that have drummed with the Wa-wo kya Drum. Lead: Leroy Selam, Dewayne Heath, Timmie Heath, Eli Little, Oly Meanus Sr. Just to name a few I thought was the best way I could let them go and release myself and go on with my drumming and singing.

Again, thanks goes out to Pearl Culps, Wishbone Heath, Lois Knight and all of those of you who bought tickets from me. In all everything went good. If I didn't write you down don't feel that I forgot you. This letter is to thank all who helped.

Roy Heath, drumming and singing contest coordinator.

Be aware

To my people,

Hello friends and relatives. I thought I'd write this letter to perhaps help others before they end up in my situation. I've seen my life turn topsy turvy in about six months due to my and others use of drugs and alcohol.

Instead of free and gainfully employed as I once was, I'm incarcerated up here at the WSPD. Instead of my kids living the "good life" they are in CPS.

When I see my significant other, it is no longer love and satisfaction in her eyes, I only get hate and discontent. Our life is shattered by our abuses. I'm hoping and praying for things to get better. Please don't let this happen to you and cherish what you have.

Thank you for your time, a fellow warrior **Keith C. Jr.** c/o WSPD PO Box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

In memory

From your red brothers of Snake River Correctional Institutional Prison, 777 Stanton Blvd., Ontario, and all others who send their respects.

Gaylord Heath passed with

a brave heart and did not flinch in facing his end. His courage and faith in Creator, and self-respect in passing can only be stated as he's a warrior through and through and has every right to be thought of as one of the many strong men of the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes.

All the Native American brothers of the Red Circle send our respects to the family, friends and foes of our deceased now spirit home bound released brother Gaylord Heath. We feel this in a sacred sending, our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow. In the passing of our Warm Springs brother Gaylord Heath on Jan. 7, may the Creator and all his relations on the other side greet their relation and rejoice in the happy hunting grounds beyond our selves of this short life we live upon our Mother Earth and may grief bring relief to all our relations knowing we are not far behind a life takes us all to the next level of life. **Richard Harrington**

Pen pal

To the community of Warm Springs,

Hello I hope this letter reaches you in good spirits and I also hope that everyone had a safe and happy new year. My name is David L. Burchfield No. 13427390, and I am friends with Stuart Smith Sr.

I have 26 months left on my sentence here in the Oregon State Penitentiary system. I am looking for pen pals. I am part Black, part white, part Choctaw Native and I'm 23 years old. I like to write poems and rap lyrics. I am just looking for people who have some of the same interests as I do so we could become good pen pals and maybe in the future good friends. I will be looking forward to the letters that I get from my new friends in Warm Springs. Here's my address: **David L. Burchfield #13427390**, PO Box 9000, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

Nomination

To our People The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs,

This letter is regarding our upcoming elections for Tribal Council. Let me first say that much thought and prayer has gone into this decision. Scripture says in the book of Psalms, that "When the wicked beareth rule the people mourn. But when the righteous are in rule the people

rejoice."

I don't know about you, but to me and mine, we have seen a lot of mourning over the years.

Also scripture says in the Book of Proverbs, "That without a vision the people perish." We don't have to look very far to see that these scriptures speak the truth. Another truth is that when people forget about God and quit serving Him, they bring about a curse upon themselves, financial ruin, death, poverty etc. It's in the Book of Deuteronomy, Ch. 28, where it talks about blessings and curses.

Anyways, on our decision, at this time I would like to nominate my wife, Justine (Tina) Aguilar for a Tribal Council spot for Agency. Please pray on this matter, and may we find again what is the joy of the Lord.

Maranatha (The Lord is Coming), love in the Lord Jesus Christ, His humble servant, **Easton Aguilar.**

Donations

The Warm Springs Thrift Shop is asking for donations of winter clothes: coats, snowsuits, gloves, scarves, hankies, legwarmers, thermals, hooded

sweaters, boots, etc. Bring the items to 2107 Wasco St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It would also be helpful if they were washed. Thank you Warm Springs, Simnasho, High Lookee Lodge, Simnasho Community Church, for all your donations. It is greatly appreciated.

For more information on the donations please call Rena at 553-2287. Sincerely,

Rena Suppah-Gomez

Care baskets

Thanks to the community for helping hands, donations and delivery Christmas care baskets. From **Vio.**

Write soon

To family and friends,

Happy New Years to everyone. I'm just writing to let my people's on the rez know everything's fine and dandy where I'm at. I will write to people when I reach my destination. I'm currently at the intake center in Wilsonville. We do not get commissary here because of our short stay, so I haven't written that much. Hi mom.

Stuart Smith Sr.
SID#12275256 PO Box 9000
Wilsonville, OR 97070.

Apologies

To the people of Warm Springs and the casino. I apologize for having marijuana in my purse when I was at the casino back in February of 2003. I am taking NA classes, I have learned my lesson. Even though I don't smoke the stuff, thank you my people. **N.M. Sooksoit.**

To the community of Warm Springs,

I would like to apologize for my actions. For the incident that happened on December 13, 2003. **Charles Lesarley**

To my family and friends and all my relations,

I know that I have done wrong by my drinking. And I was also driving under the influence, which could have caused a lot of damage to my people or even myself and my

friend. I know it is wrong to drink and drive. Thank you. **Silapam**

I am writing this apology in regards to my DUI I got in June 2003. I wish to apologize to the community, relatives and friends for this mishap. I do not intend to place anyone, including myself, in danger. I am glad no one was hurt in this incident. **Isadore Charley**

Dear Dan Brisbois Jr.,

I'm writing you to apologize for assaulting you on October 23, 2003. I am disappointed in myself, and I am very sorry for any trouble I have caused in your life. I know that you will never forgive me and I wouldn't expect you to. I wish you the best now and in the future. Sincerest apologies from **Travis Jonas.**

Letters to the editor

Please write to the Spilyay at P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, 97761, or drop by the office. Or send your letters by e-mail to this address:

spilyaytymoo@wstribes.org.

For space reasons, letters should be no longer than 350 words in length.

Thank you for writing.

Native American journalist comments on Oregonian articles

The air was cool. The snow had not yet touched the land of a proud sovereign nation of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. But that was to come several days later.

As I first began my two-month visit to this area, I was overwhelmed by the courtesy extended to me by all the tribal members. Though I had, somewhat, noticed a dark mist in the air. Only to learn later of the series of articles that had been published by the Oregonian ("A place where children die," Dec. 7-11, 2003) regarding death tolls on this reservation.

As a Native American journalist, my thoughts included, "Was an invitation extended to these writers to come and interview the tribal members?"

I found the series of articles to be offensive. Not just to the tribal members of the Warm Springs Reservation, but to all of Indian Country.

It seemed as though history was repeating itself. After all, it was written by non-Native

Americans. It was insensitive to bring sorrow and pain back to this reservation. The holidays were just around the corner.

This is a time when families are reunited, traditional meals are prepared and ancestral stories remembered. Some of the messages conveyed in the articles created racist images and the words were inflammatory.

The Oregonian missed the opportunity to provide meaningful dialogue about the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The Oregonian must be reminded of the suffering of our women, men and children throughout the history of this country due to traditions such as slavery, segregation and suffrage.

It takes courage to come before tribal elders and request their permission to take photos or even ask time for an interview, especially on the topic of death of loved ones. I was disappointed by the lack of journalistic ethics demonstrated by The Oregonian.

I have served as tribal secretary for three different tribal chairmen for the San Carlos Apache Reservation of San Carlos, Ariz. I have also been director of the Tribal Elderly Care Center, which involved the physical and spiritual nourishment and various cultural events and programs for our tribal elders.

I am a past editor of the San Carlos weekly newspaper, The Moccasin, and now have been publishing a weekly column entitled, "Traditionally Speaking." Though I have lived most of my life on our reservation, I attended Brigham Young University.

For over 20 years I have been active and involved in tribal government activities and elections. With this experience, I hope that The Oregonian will hear and respect my plea. The record must be set straight.

I believe that the Warm Springs Indian Reservation is a place where children are provided an educational opportu-

nity to excel and to succeed in life. I have three grandchildren, Angelo and Tanasia George and Tableeni Nizhoni White, who attend the ECE. A place where early childhood education begins. A place where our children and grandchildren are nourished with language, education and traditional customs. A place that the leaders of this reservation should be proud of.

Not all sovereign Indian nations throughout Indian Country have this available to their children, who are our future leaders.

My daughter Tanayia Leigh is married to Dennis White, a local police officer and an enrolled member of this sovereign nation. I am proud of my son-in-law, who takes his job seriously and extends his life for the betterment of a safer community.

Regardless of the weather and although the roads are icy, Officer White diligently reports for a job he thoroughly enjoys and takes pride in. These are the

aspects that must be instilled within this community. I challenge the leaders of this sovereign nation to reunite your tribal members.

Over a century and five decades ago, the U.S. government gave you back only 600,000 acres of reservation land after your people gave up 10 million acres of land.

Tribal sovereignty, Indian health and trust responsibility must be protected.

The public interest factor of the articles published in The Oregonian should have weighed in favor of the tribal members of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Ashoong! (Thank you in Apache).

Sandra Rambler.

Spilyay Tymoo
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