

In the spirit of the holidays

By Selena Boise
Management Successor

So, are you ready for the New Year? It seems as if the holidays had just started.

But then when you think about it, the shiny ornaments and garland are up before Thanksgiving.

Spilyay Speaks

This celebration is more of a holiday for me this year because I feel open to the spirit of Christmas. Some years it comes and goes, and I somehow miss it.

I hope everyone is enjoying this festive time of year with family and friends. Have you made contact with your friends who you haven't seen in a long time?

I sent out e-mails to my friends who live across the country just to say hello and wish them well this season. I wish that I could see them again.

I went away to boarding school for three years and now I have friends I met in Oklahoma, Utah, and then college friends in Kansas.

I enjoyed being at these places and meeting new people and making friends. But the downside is that they live across the states and I may never see them again.

So I always reflect back to the times we had as friends in school, and I remember their faces, back in the times you didn't let anger, resentment or bad feelings get in the way of being happy.

Sure, there were disagreements, but we never let it last long, because we knew that our time at school together would end and we may never see each other again.

So at Christmas, I try to remember times that I had with my friends because they were happy times.

I hope everyone can let go of whatever regrets, bad feelings, anger, jealousy or hatred may be inside, and remember friends, family, and loved ones who are important.

I know that I have made terrible mistakes and said things that I regret and now I am thinking that I should try to fix it. It may happen and then it might not, but it would be worth trying.

The New Year

With the New Year in the near future, resolutions are about to be made or renewed.

Usually if I fail at my resolutions I just keep trying. I'm getting there.

Last year I vowed to get organized, and I can honestly say that it wasn't easy. I'm not quite there, but I am organized enough to make life easier.

This year's resolution for me is to try and remember that life with family and friends is here now.

Do not live in the past or fret about what happened in the past. Do not worry about what will happen in the future.

To live for today - I believe that if I could do this, then my life would be much better for me.

I hope you make a resolution that will make you happy, and keep yourself on the straight and narrow path to success.

Happy New Year to you all.

Toe Ness

Two secretaries were talking about their dates the previous Saturday. One said, "My date was terrible. Not only did he lie about the size of his yacht, but he made me do the rowing!" Yikes!

Great life

In October 2003 the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs lost a treasure, 102-year-old Kuthla (grandmother), atwai (now in the spirit world) Nettie Shawaway. There is a confounding discontinuity of the cultural knowledge and experience she cultivated in comparison to the diluted efforts we are attempting to maintain and preserve in this millennium. Against all odds, she conducted her life in the fullest realm of our culture; She spoke the native Sahaptin language, ate only the native wildlife/organic foods (over a dozen varieties of roots, huckleberries, deer, elk, bear, salmon and other native vegetables and fruits), and served as a mentor to generations of young girls and women in the kaatnam (longhouse) spirituality where she had a powerful "voice."

She attributed her long life to her diet and spirituality. It is estimated that her mother Sk'wai ampt lived to 106 years of age. It is the inspiration and mystery of a remarkable matriarch that I approach life-long learning.

During the span of Kuthla's lifetime, she heard the stories of the Indian wars, the treaty with the United States government, and she had firsthand experience of the federal boarding schools and the challenges of a new way of life on an Indian reservation. In comparison, my life-world involves the interaction in a drastically different social world divided between modern and cultural traditional ways.

As I reflect on the strength and resiliency of our culture following the postcolonial assault on our traditional way of life, I am grateful for Kuthla's leadership in the longhouse. On a personal note, I am grateful for the enrichment of traveling with Kuthla as my chaperone when I served as Miss Warm Springs, sewing and beadwork from her and her sisters atwai Sylvia Wallulatum and atwai Matilda Mitchell, and the gift of an Indian name for my son Victor Watlamet "Mixaiki."

My trip to Wyoming for the Miss Indian America pageant is my favorite memory with her. I was driving and decided to stop at the Custer Battlefield and she was mad at me for stopping there. I was ay-ya-yaash and headstrong - I thought I knew everything at the age of 17.

We walked around exploring the site and then Kuthla climbed over a fence. She was in her 80's at that time, but her spryness made her seem more like half her age. I watched her in curiosity and wonderment of what she was up to. She went directly to the General Custer monument and kicked it with her moccasined feet!

I have the utmost love and respect for the faithful liveli-

hood of our beloved Simnasho elders Kuthla Nettie and her sisters, as well as my Kuthla Sadie, Tilla Tom, Pusha Herb Stwyer Sr. and Ulla Lucinda Heath Stwyer. I also have gratitude for those Miss Warm Springs ambassadors who are no longer with us, atwai Dorothy Pebbles George, Sally Rhoan, and Trudee Clements. Nai! Nak'ishayat (Aurolyn Stwyer-Watlamet)

A thank you

I wanted to take this time to thank my mother Lolita Greeley, my sister Maria Godines, and her husband Angel Godines, for their recent donation to the Simnasho Long House. They donated two long benches with blue padding and backs to Simnasho Long House. These benches came from a church in Bend that no longer needed them. It makes me feel good that my family thought of the long house and did that. My mom said she thought of elders who could sit on the benches in comfort and rest their back also.

Olivia Kirk Wallulatum.

In appreciation

This thank you message may come a little late, but there are many caring people out there who deserve a big thanks. All those who helped our family through a very trying time probably don't realize how much each of you very kind people have helped us.

Our mom was a very special person who took time to see that each one of her family members were treated equally and fairly.

In our personal lives, school, sports, 4-H, whatever, we can truly say she was 100 percent supportive. She did her best to keep us humble, to respect and love our people, do the best you can and enjoy and feel proud of what you have done.

She had a one of a kind very friendly smile. But she was one person who would let us know while we were growing up "the realities of life." Her work here on Earth was done. She completed her "circle of life" and our Creator has called her home. We will miss her, but her teachings will always remain with us. Her spirit will be with us the rest of our lives.

Here is a list of people we want to thank. For each of you a tremendous thank you and a big hug for all of you. If we missed anyone please don't take it personal. Thank you to:

Our cousins Janice Clements, Lucille Suppah, Shirley Sanders, Myra Johnson, Irene Towe, Wilson Wewa Jr. The parents of Deborah Mae Quinn who is Bob and Marilyn Gregory, our local doctors, Dr. Creelman, Dr. Rudd, Dr. Ohlman, Mountain View Hospital staff, the Hospice staff at Mountain View, our Washut drummers, Shaker people, Madras EMTs. And any

people who donated their time and energy, food, money, donations, and it's very important to remember all who offered prayers.

This is only a small part of the people we want to thank and all of you out there who weren't printed, thank you too. We wish and pray everyone will be careful these holidays. God bless you all. From Tillman, Walt, Willy, Jack, Bob, Lowell.

New attitude

Dear friends and family of Warm Springs,

I'm now sitting time for some trouble I've gotten myself into (drug related). I'm really missing my kids right now and well, just simple things. Cooking dinners, bathing the kids, getting ready for bed, going to the store, drinking pop or going for a walk.

I hate what I've gotten myself into and what it's doing to the people I love. Although, everything happens for a reason. I now realize there's a lot I was taking for granted.

Finding myself rethinking a lot about life. What I do with my free time, the kind of people I chose to call friends, and future goals.

Please forgive me for what I've done. For all the children who look up to me, I'm sorry. I'm working on bettering myself and what's around me. Thanks for your time. Sincerely, Rose Brown-Antunez.

Craft night

The staff and students of Warm Springs Elementary School would like to thank the following businesses for their generous dollar donations, which enabled us to have our Third Annual Winter Family Craft Night: Warm Springs Forest Products Industries, DE Composite, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Casino and Lodge, Warm Springs Power Enterprises.

We appreciate your generosity in supporting our program, and most importantly, our students. Sincerely, Dawn Smith, principal.

Rodeo rider

Well this letter is long overdue. It's been two months since I represented your tribe at the Indian Nationals Final Rodeo in Saboba, Calif. I wanted to get this letter out sooner but work, family, the holidays and other business have kept me from getting this out in a timely fashion.

I'd like to start out by thanking my parents Pete and Margaret Bruised Head for always being there for me. Dad, I don't know if I'll ever be able to fill your shoes, you are my inspiration champ. Mom, thank you for getting on me when I needed it. I love you both.

Many thanks to my mother-in-law Frances Allen for all that she has done for us this year and

continues to do. From babysitting to fundraising, her encouragement, she's as solid of support as I can get.

Thank you Auntie Arlene Bryant for your raffle donations and fundraising, for loving my kids, for the positive words you encourage me with when I don't win.

Thank you, Lyman Cauliflower, for allowing me to ride your horse to win the steer wrestling at the INFR, and Casey Green, for passing your seat to me in the calf roping.

This year's accomplishments couldn't be possible without the support of my boss Glen Carpenter and Leslie Cochran Davis. Thanks to both of you. Also Steven Stewart and Ernie Scott for picking up the slack, thanks, guys.

Thank you, Joann Smith and Bridgett Whipple, for the raffle items, and thank you, Joann, for your raffle sales.

Verleen Tom (Holliday by now), congratulations and best wishes for your and your new husband, and thank you for everything you have done and continue to do. Winona Strong, you crazy lady, thank you, too.

Thank you Warm Springs Forest Products Industries,

Warm Springs Ventures, Rodney Smith Logging, DMJ Automotive, Pete Peterson Heavy Equipment Repair, The Chance Corp., the Blood Tribe of Standoff, Alberta Canada, and Kenny and Frances Allen for your financial support. I was proud to represent you.

I'd also like to thank my beautiful kids Ashton Summer (Ashy Poo), Hazen Lane (Jake), Jessie Alex (Cowgirl) who think I'm the best even if I get bucked off or if I miss a calf or steer.

Thanks to my wife Sammy for all the sacrifices, for keeping the horses in shape, for doing all the book work, knowing what I did wrong, bluntly telling me, and helping me to improve, and for being my wife. I can't think of a better team. We whipped 'em again, Josey.

And a big thank you to the Warm Springs community, all family and friends near and far, and to the Regulators (you know who you are).

I can truly say there is hardly any greater feeling than living the dream. Last but not at all least, I thank God for all my blessings. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Clint Bruised Head.

Letters of apology

To the Warm Springs Reservation I apologize for my actions that took place in Nov. 2004. I won't let this happen again. I know alcohol is affecting our people, and I now understand that we lose so many Natives due to driving while intoxicated. Again, I apologize. Stephanie Belgard.

To the Warm Springs police officers and also my family and community, I am truly sorry for my bad behavior and wrongful attitude when I was under the influence of alcoholic beverages on Halloween Eve. Bad spirits were partly to blame but I've been through court and was dealt with in a fair manner in the disposition. Thank you Judge W. Smith and prosecution for your professionalism on this matter, and I will try to make a positive out of this again. Thank you Judge Smith for your compassionate justice. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Murray Kalama.

I would like to apologize to all tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs for violating Warm Springs Tribal Code No. 350.210.20 section 2a. I have taken full responsibility for my actions when I was stopped on Oct. 24, 2004. I appreciate and am grateful for the rights tribal members are so very privileged to enjoy. I realize that when we violate the tribal laws that have been put in place to protect us all, we put those rights at risk for all. I now regret violating the law and will take care to follow all tribal laws and regulations in the future. Tommy Fuentes.

The years I've been here were more welcome and the actions that occurred here I've lived, were the problems had with my ex-wife. I am saying that I am sorry to her. Hopefully as the years go by we can get along again for our children. Douglas Jones.

To the people in the community of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, please accept my humble apologies for the crime/offense of driving under the influence. On the evening of Nov. 5, 2004 on Tenino Road. I put my passenger, myself and others out on the road that night in danger. There was no excuse for my willful misconduct. And to officer Whittenburg, sorry about my attitude. Once again, I'm sorry for my actions and I will see to it that this never happens again. Friends don't let friends drive drunk. Respectfully submitted, Damion C. Katchia.

I would like to apologize for my actions on Aug. 7, 2004. I was driving a vehicle and had gotten stopped about 11:30 p.m., then charged with DUI. I didn't mean to put anyone in danger but by driving that way I did once again. I would like to apologize for my action. Since then I have made a choice to a better life. Thank you. Rachel Winishut.

To the community of Warm Springs, I would like to apologize for my actions on Dec. 5. I was driving under the influence of alcohol. I had put a lot of people at risk that day. I am glad no serious things came of my choice. William Clements Sr.

I Henry Yahtin would like to apologize for driving under the influence of intoxicants and resisting arrest. I am sorry for those actions and will seek counseling and anger management.

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. Letters may be mailed to: Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Letters may be up to 350 words in length.

Birthday and holiday wishes...



Happy holidays to all our family and friends. With love from the del Nero kids, Cassandra, Wah'ske'siw and Trevin.

Happy Holidays to Rbeianna Wolfe and Joshua Warner. Mommy loves you.

Wishing my daughter Jessica (Ms. Independent) a Happy Birthday for the 21st.

I know it's been difficult for you to let Melinda go, but you've really done a wonderful job with both of my grandchildren, and I love you very much. Keep being strong-willed and supportive for Melinda and Kurtis, and they will continue to make us proud.

And watch out for Lester's prunes! Happy birthday, Jessica. Love, Mom and your brothers in Taholah.

A very Merry Christmas to my "Mom" Margie and "Dad" Joe Tuckta. Yes, you too sunshine. Jermayne, Keno and family, sister Cena and family.

Merry Christmas to my honey, Allan Warner. Love you. Thank you for standing by my side. Love you.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Mom and Dad. And happy birthday, Mom. Love, Dave.