

# E Coosh EEWA: *The way it is*

## SPILYAY SPEAKS



Thanksgiving is a time for everyone to pause and give thanks for what they have today. It may not be much but just the same a person is thankful for what he has.

To celebrate this day we bring out the best we have to show appreciation of what we have. There are so many stories of Thanksgiving today, of the years past with the Indians and Pilgrims. Many years ago when I was just a, "Cute Little Tyke," in school we used to have plays of the Indians and pilgrims.

All the versions of Thanksgiving vary from time to time, sometimes I wonder just what really went on during the first Thanksgiving dinner the Pilgrims and the Indian had. Was it as simple as they make it sound where everyone gathered and had the big dinner?

Today there are some Indian tribes who hold a grudge against Thanksgiving, they say since the first Thanksgiving dinner the White Race started to take everything from the Indians, right down through the years the Indians have been mistreated in every respect. There is a cartoon that shows the first welfare dinner where the Pilgrims were all lined up for the food. Today it's just the other way around, now the Indians are in the welfare line for food.

Like I said, the Indians have been on the short end of the stick every since the Pilgrims got on their feet and were able to make a living. Thanksgiving is the time of the year when you spill your horn of plenty and share with everyone your yearly wealth.

It must have been quite a sight during the first Thanksgiving dinner, with everyone sitting around discussing the weather and what the outcome would be for the coming year. Just think of the communication they must have had back in them days.

In reality, for us Indians we've always had Thanksgiving, and the first one for the year was held in the Spring, when all the vegetation came out, we celebrated what is now known as, Root Feast, where we go through rituals at the longhouse giving thanks to the, "Great Creator," for the bountiful crop of vegetation for the year.

The next Thanksgiving is in the spring also, as the first Salmon run come up the river, and again we gather in the longhouse going through our rituals with the Seven Drum religion, as we pray and give Thanks for the good fish runs.

During the summer months we have another, thanksgiving, known as the Huckleberry Feast, where we go through our rituals once again thanking the great creator for all the fruits that is provided for our use. We have always honored our creator for all the foods he has given us for our livelihood.

When we are going through our rituals with the ceremonies in the longhouse, it is customary that no one should go out into the fields to gather roots or berries, or catch salmon until all the ceremonies have been completed. After all this has been done than people are free to go out take what they need for their use.

After all the ceremonies have been completed and the dinner has been completed than there usually is a pow-wow, where everyone gets out to do their dance. The fancy dance, the grass dance and the traditional dancing, and for the ladies there is the fancy dancing, the jingle dance and also the traditional. Yep! Some really kick up the dust doing his/her dance.

Many years ago at the pow-wows there used to be three war dances and than three Rabbit/Owl dances, where all the men and women would get out and dance together. Today you never see any of those dances any more. That was the best part of the pow-wow, getting with a girl and dancing...Yikes. Well, those good days are probably gone forever. They called that social dancing, and it was really great to see everyone getting into the mood and having a good time. Today those powwows get boring where they have contests after contest.

Oh! Back to Thanksgiving, which is a nice to have family gatherings once a year for a good meal. Sometimes relatives come for miles just for the day and a visit.

## Toe Ness

Employment Manager: "It looks to me as if you've been fired from every job you ever had.  
Applicant: Well, you've got to admit I'm no quitter.  
YIKES!

SS SS SS

Employee: Say, boss, your assistant just died, and I was wondering if I could take his place?  
Boss: It's all right with me if you can arrange it with the undertaker!

SS SS SS

## The season of Christmas is here

**To the editor,**  
It is mixed bag time.... I have been watching the Tribal Construction guys do a great job working on the old HIS clinic. They really are working hard to meet their deadline. Keep it up. A pessimist is a person who is seasick during the entire voyage of life. The police and medics have been seeing a lot of alcohol related events. Home violence, alcohol related sickness, alcohol poisoning. I pray for people to stop, but if you will not, try slowing down. Instead of three six-packs for Saturday night how about two beers and buying two books for the kids to read. Then let your kids read to you, then see if you need to open the beers that night. A prime function of the leader is to keep hope alive. I have read information about the future money issues for the Tribal Government. It sounds like it will take wisdom, truth, character, and love to see it through. I thank God that God has a lot of wisdom, truth, character, and love to give to each of us. I was going around in a circle until Jesus gave me a compass.  
Here at the Presbyterian Church we have begun the season of Christ-

mas. We call it Advent. That means the "coming". Christmas is not the time of Santa Claus. It is the time of the coming of God in flesh and bone to grow up to be the man on the Cross at Easter. The coming is the baby born. Our King is coming, our King is here....

This December 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be our communion and potluck. Christian Education is at 10 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m. Bring a dish of food to share at potluck after worship. You are welcome to come to the service. God calls us not to solitary sainthood but to fellowship in a company of committed people.

Hug someone you love. Hug someone you dislike. No alcohol or tobacco for children. One day at a time. Buckle up the kids and yourselves. Don't hit or beat on yourself. Pay your bills before gambling then stay home. Read the Bible for its effect on your life. Pray to God to the point of hearing Him. Honor someone. Love yourself. Like yourself. See you in church.

**Pastor Rick R. Ribeiro**  
WS Presbyterian Church  
On the campus

## Thank you for your support

**To the editor,**  
On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone that joined us in sharing the healing process time for our father, Reuben "Shortbones" Johnson, Sr.

A very special thank you goes out to Beulah Tsumpti for her knowledge and spiritual guidance, without you we may not have gotten through this. Thank you also to the Greene family for allowing us to share the day as one big family. As was said "it is good to have families come together and share the healing together".

Thank you for the wonderful and good food cooked by Agnes and crew. To all my friends, and family for being there for encouragement and strength. And, to everyone that

couldn't be there, I know you were with us in spirit and heart. My family is very grateful for everything that was needed to prepare for this traditional ceremony.

This was also a learning experience for all of us, we are never too old or young to learn things. We have had a hard year, but doing this needed ceremony is part of what happens to you and your family. Now, my family can start healing and improving their lives. Thank you Mother and Daddy-step and Randy, just be being there for support, we love you.

**Respectfully,**  
Natalie Johnson & family  
Reuben U. Johnson, Jr. & family  
Heather Schut & family

## Whipple says "thanks" to all

**To the editor,**  
I would like to take this time to thank the Culture & Heritage Committee, Dr. Mary Ellen Conaway, Director of the Museum at Warm Springs and Emily Waheneka. Emily and I attended the Annual American Folklore Society Conference in Columbus, Ohio where I was honored and awarded for my work in Oral History for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Of 786 attendees, I was one of five recipients to receive the Davis Memorial Fund Award, with close to 500 persons applying.

I was very honored to have Emily attend this prestigious meeting with me. Emily and I spent 6 days in

Columbus meeting new people who work with the oral history in their communities. We listened to new ideas on how to work towards documenting effectively for the communities. Again I would like to thank the Culture & Heritage Committee for funding the trip for Emily and I to attend the Folklore Society Conference. I would like to thank Dr. Mary Ellen Conaway for giving me the encouragement to apply. Most of all I would like to thank Emily Waheneka for accompanying me and giving me the words of encouragement to keep working with in the field of Cultural Anthropology.

**Thank you,**  
Brigette M. Whipple

## Encouragement needed

**To the editor,**  
Hi, I'm a single parent. Even though I'm working, it seems like I "just get by" payday-to-payday. I am proud and honored to share that my oldest is off at Job Corps, and trying to earn his G.E.D.  
We heard from him last night and he needs things—Phone cards, envelopes, cards or letters from home.

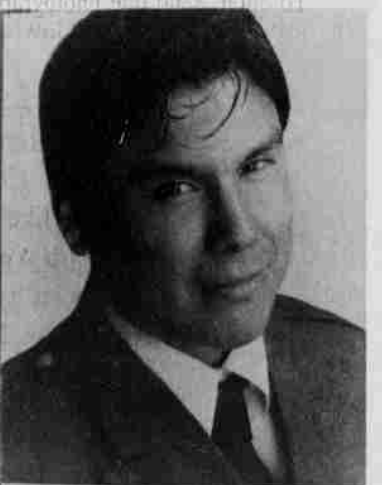
**Here is his address:**  
Rocky Hoptowit  
Timber Lake Job Corps  
59868 E. Hwy 224  
Estacada, OR 97023  
Being his mother, I'll do what I can but I'd appreciate you dropping a line or two of encouragement to "Hang in there" and finish his education. Thanks so much.  
**Tamara J. Kalama and children**

## Happy holidays

**sent**  
**To the editor,**  
Happy Holidays! Happy Thanksgiving to the Frank Family, The Bobb Family, The Payne Family, The Williams, The Parra Family, The Arce's, Lillian Frank & kids, Marlene Bacarra & kids, Charles & family, brother Delbert, Grandpa Delbert, to Monster, Ben Fama, Ty R., all the Yakama relatives, Alma Fama & family in Guam, Frank Tovis, Freddy, Preston.  
Have a happy Thanksgiving and Christmas and Happy 2001 to everyone.  
**Sincerely,**  
Myrna Frank & Family  
Selena Payne & kids

## Pond shares the struggle of being "a star"

Roscoe Pond is a former graduate of Blue Mountain Community College and Portland State University in the state of Oregon. He lives in



Roscoe Pond

Hollywood, California and works as an Executive Assistant to a Television Director. He is also in a multi media-training program consisting of only American Indians under Red Crow Creations that was created by actor Floyd Red Crow Westerman.

### An editorial by Roscoe Pond

**The Hollywood Struggle**  
It is said that Hollywood is the dream of millions. People from all corners of the world descend upon Los Angeles, California to seek out fame and fortune. Some carve out a career while others never get their foot in the show business door. It is a rugged path of much hardship and struggle. As an actor and an American Indian I live and breathe that hardship and struggle. I don't think I would want it any other way.

In the beginning, I remember going on my first audition for a film called "The last of the Mohicans". The year was 1991. I received no acting part nor did I get a chance to be a background Extra. Looking back at that time it really was my start in the business. That same year my stage career had already begun.

It is a decade later and the struggle is still the same. Yet, all along the way rejection has become a way of life. Hollywood has always been a place of catch 22 and it has its perks too. I recently received my Screen

Actor's Guild eligibility Voucher's on a Film called "Slackers". Actress Cameron Diaz has a cameo appearance.

When I first started out in the business, I was stereotyped as just an American Indian. Now with experience behind me I have come to explore other areas of choice in ethnic roles. I recently have gone on auditions for Hispanic, Korean, and Japanese parts. My agent even went as far as categorizing me as a dark Italian. After years of relying on my long flowing black hair for just Indian roles I cut it all off to get rid of a stereotype and to explore more range as an actor.

It is said that Hollywood is the dream of millions. People from all corners of the world descend upon Los Angeles, California to seek out fame and fortune. Some carve out a career while others never get their foot in the show business door. Well, I think I got my foot in the door and I am stepping forward. The Hollywood struggle continues.

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my Sonny Chad Rack Love Auntie Sherri

**Congratulations to Wolfman Suppah for getting Hotshot of the year. From Farrel & kids**

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Jericho From Mom, Jaden, Grandma Tracey**



Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Son Wolf Jericho James Suppah Love you lots From, Dad, Mom, Lil Sis Jaden November 22, 2000

Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday to our precious lil girl and sister, Torey Thomas on the 28<sup>th</sup>. We love you lots!! Mom, Dad, and your favorite ya-ya Brent.

We'd like to wish all the following friends and relatives a Happy and very grateful Thanksgiving this year. We hope and pray it's a fun, good and fulfilling one for you. To:

Grandpa Leslie and Starr family Mom (Sandra) & Torey Thomas Gina Brito & Lanell Rowe Martha Heath & family Gina Suppah & Marcus Michelle & Lalo & family "Nik" Wolfe & family Sandy & Orlando Perez & family And everyone else Love, Angie, Jarod and Brent Thomas

To our Baby Brother, Chad Victor Thurby, Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday. We love you very much Sonny. Love your Nana Dot & Yaya Bobby

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my sweet little grandson, Chad Victor Thurby. With all my love, Grandma Norma

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my little Punkin, Chad Thurby, from Big Punkin (Auntie Roni), Len, Curly Sue and Bubs.

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Chad Victor Thurby Love Uncle Clint

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my Sonny boy Chad Victor Thurby, I love you very much with all my heart. Love Nanny Peters

High Five, Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my nephew, Chad Thurby Love, Auntie Lorena & Jake Wise

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to our nephew Chad Thurby, Love Auntie Bernie, Uncle Jamie & family

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to a sweet little girl, Ellise David. We love you Baby Girl. Love Dena, Bobby, Dot, Jr. & Chad Thurby

Happy Belated 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Tyrece on November 25<sup>th</sup>. We love you and I'm glad you had a good first birthday. Love Dena, Bobby, Dot, Jr. & Chad Thurby.

To Kevin Ruiz Happy Birthday November 15, 2000 From Tyrone, Maureen & Carol

To NetVa October 25, Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday From Tyrone, Maureen & Carol

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to my favorite little nephew, Chad Victor. We all love you with all our hearts and hope you have a good first birthday.

We look forward to being with you for the rest of your life. Love Auntie Pat & Uncle Bob Speakthunder



Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday to our gift from God, Chad Victor Thurby. We love you with all our hearts. We hope your first birthday (December 8<sup>th</sup>) is very special like you. Love Mom & Dad.

## Editor's Note

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes articles and letters from its readers. All letters, preferably 300 words or less, must be signed by the author. Letters will not be printed unless signed. Thank you letters and poetry will be published at the editor's discretion. All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of Spilyay Tymoo. Spilyay Tymoo reserves the right to edit all copy or refuse publication of any material that may contain libelous or malicious statements.