

Holidays are a time to be thankful

By Selena T. Boise

It is that time of the year, the time to ask yourself what it is you are thankful for.

We should have thankfulness for our own personal lives, and then the tribal membership as a whole. We are members of this community for the rest of our lives.

Even if a person moves away to go to school, he or she will always think of this reservation as home, because our families are here.

Spilyay Speaks

When I asked one of my children what they have to be thankful for in their lives, one of them responded with:

"To be thankful for what we have in our lives is a wonderful thing, when you stop to think about it.

I'm thankful for everyone who has been there for me, and I'm thankful for all those who taught me their wisdom (my mom, dad, grandpa, grandma, Lanada, Willie Roy, and Tigger)."

I believe that she has a good point about people being there.

I am thankful for friends and people who are there to listen to me when I have something on my mind.

Sometimes it's hard to say things, and then it's bottled up inside for a long period of time, and I am sure that is not good for a person's health.

My friends listen to me as I let out my thoughts and feelings, and I find a calmness and can truly make a decision for myself.

When I got home last night I was thinking a lot about thankfulness in my life. I am thankful for my husband and my children, because without them our house would not be a home.

The Tribal Council members have a lot to truly be thankful for, because they were chosen to act on behalf of the tribal membership.

They are currently making decisions about the 2004 budget, and there are decisions that may make people unhappy. There are some people who will take their budget cuts, and make do with what they have.

Budget decisions are made with all comments considered.

The people who are making the decisions for the tribes are thinking in the best interest of the tribal members.

They held open district meetings to hear all concerns and comments from the tribal membership, and are now on the verge of posting the budget.

As we make it past these times in our lives we come upon the Christmas season, and truly react to thankfulness of the season and the people who have made differences in our lives. I believe that is what Christmas is about: Remembering somebody for the contributions they have made in your life for the past year, or every year.

I wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Drive safe, and buckle up, it's icy out there.

Toe Ness

What did the snail say when it was riding on the back of the turtle?

Answer: "Wheeeee!"
Yikes!

Thank you

To all the wonderful people of the Warm Springs community:

I've always felt like it was like me against the world. Like there is no hope. All the time, work and work, and never get ahead. Then I've been caring for my mom for the past five years and it seemed like it got worse. The place I hated the most was the post office, because all the bills arrived like clock work every month. My mom made me promise not to tell anybody, about her cancer until five months ago, and then she finally told the whole family herself.

I'm glad all her friends and family came to see her in the home.

Thank you all, you know who you are. Thanks to everybody, for the caring ones with the kind words and beautiful songs. To the wonderful cooks and servers and drummers. I will really miss my mom because her and I was always together going to stick games, casinos, longhouse functions.

To my sister and aunts, uncles, nieces, cousins, nephews, in-laws for helping with every kindness and support and for being my strength and rays of hope. Thank you to all the people who gave financial aid. Thanks to all Veterans', and Ladies Auxiliary. Respectively yours,

Lois and M and Nicole Knight.

School sports

We know everyone has to go through eye-opening experiences in their lives. Depending upon who you are as a person is how you respond to such an experience.

With that said, many would like to believe that our present day Madras athletic program is untainted and pure. Many would like to believe that all of our student athletes are asked and encouraged to participate.

There is even a written school policy that states, "Athletic programs are both educational and recreational and should encourage participation by many students as possible." Nice generalized statement, it should cover all of the bases, but how true is it really?

We are sure that many parents have had similar experiences of encouraging your child to participate in a particular sport. You tell your child they have just as much of a chance of making it as the next. You let them know that they are equals with their peers. You do just as our school policy states; "encourage" them without any prejudices introduced.

But, in reality that time is very short lived for many of us "average" parents. You must then introduce all of the "behind the scenes" selection "criteria" to your child. The "criteria" that no one ever talks about because it shows how tainted our athletic program is. The "criteria" everyone is too afraid to talk about because of the stigmatism it can carry for you, your family and especially your student athlete if you bring it up. The "criteria" that it is unwritten, unspoken and not openly admitted by those who practice it.

This hidden "criteria" is there, like it or not. All you have to do is take a "two-eyes" open look at our athletic programs. Do you see a nice well-rounded athletic program that does as it was written, encouraging as many students as possible to participate in it? Or do you see an athletic program that seems to have that same reoccurring "theme" to it?

Now, when the athletic program is questioned, there are never any "to the point" answers.

You will be given many different responses or excuses as to why the athletic program is the way it is. You will be asked to second question yourself or worse yet second question your student athlete. You will be given the "illusion" it is pure and true, but all you have to do is open your eyes.

All you have to do is see the students athletes who are there and see who the student athletes who are not there. You can easily see those student athletes who don't participate because of the hidden "criteria" that is now engrained into our athletic programs. There are even plenty of student athletes who had to face the hard fact that didn't "fit into" the mold and are cut from the team. You don't have to go far to find all of these student athletes who were never "encouraged" but rather discouraged. These student athletes see it; learn it, live it and their perception of athletics is now forever changed.

Once you do and see the "real picture" think about what can be done to change it and don't be afraid to speak out about it.

Leevi Herkshan and Danni Katchia

Jingle dresses

I would like to request that the person who borrowed my daughter's jingle dresses please return them. We loaned out a purple velvet jingle dress and an orange/blue jingle dress. I cannot remember who borrowed them, but please return these items. We would appreciate it.

Barbara Jim, 553-3475 work, or 553-0470 home.

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.

Apologies

To whom this may concern:

I know this has been a long overdue apology; I just want to say to the people that I'm writing this apology for the incidents that occurred back in 2002. Also my apologies to the community, my deepest regrets that this ever happened. Sincerely,

Deanna L. Lamebear

To the people of Warm Springs, I'm writing on behalf of my stupid actions on the early evening of 9/20/03. I realize I put myself and other people's lives in jeopardy. For this I truly am sorry. Please accept my apology. Thank you.

Emily D. Yallup

To the community of Warm Springs and those who were at the Texaco gas station on Nov. 1, 2003, I truly am so very sorry. I was wrong to show up as I did, it was very ignorant on my behalf. It won't happen again, jail is no piece of cake. Again I am so sorry.

Emily D. Yallup

I, Manuel Alvarado, am sorry for driving while intoxicated in the Warm Springs area on 8/30/03. This will never happen again. Thank you.

Manuel Alvarado

My name is Ikie, I attended summer school in June.

There was a theft crime that was committed, and as much as I hate to say it, I had taken part by taking candy.

Today, I pleaded guilty; I served eight days in detention. Plus I'm serving time for a different crime. I'll be leaving soon to treatment in Klamath Falls. So further more I am sorry, I am now paying time for my crime. Not only do I have to live with the charge of Theft III, also with the shame. Ikie M. Heath

I am apologizing to the Warm Springs Reservation for my DUI in the past, it won't happen again.

Sally Medina

To the people of Warm Springs,

As a requirement of my sentence for driving under the influence of intoxicants, I apologize. I know the dangers of drinking and driving and I intend to remedy this by simply abstaining. However, I would like to mention that I have been stopped three times with no probable cause and let go with no charges. I just believe that my side needs to be heard too. Sincerely,

Doreen Johnson

Spilyay Tymoo
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Happy birthday and other wishes....

Happy belated birthday to Sandra (Mom, Grandma) on Nov. 8. Hope you had a special day and we wish you the best for your "new" year. Love you, from Angie and Brent Thomas.

Happy big "fifth" birthday to the bigger special girl, Torey Rayann Thomas on Nov. 28. We're thinking of you and hope you have the fullest, funnest day plus many more to come, we love you. Love from Mom and Bro Brent Thomas

We wish to all our family and friends a Happy Thanksgiving and hope you all get your best "grub" on and get your fullest from Angie and Brent Thomas.

Cherilyn L. Starr

The black clouds that had me feeling down, all of the bad feelings have disappeared.

The rainbow I prayed for has just appeared, I follow the rainbow, I find you my dear.

I've been waiting in the rain for hours, just seeing you is believing.

Sometimes it's sad, I pray and try to make it through another day.

You pulled me out into that light, for you are my Starr.

My guiding light, you held on to me in my darkest hours.

I love you, you know this to be so, I think back on my worst days and here you were.

And for these days I'm thankful which makes me love you even more.

Happy seventh birthday on November 30, to our lil' sonny boy Taron G. Rabbie. Love, grandma Myra and Virg.

Happy birthday to our big brother Taron. Love, Kali, Trinity and Dominique.

Happy seventh birthday to our fav sonny Targon G. Rabbie. Love, Phyllis and Doren.

Happy birthday Phyllis. Do have fun. We love you. Love from Mom and Auntie Shir.

Happy birthday Phyllis. Do have fun. We love you. Love from Mom and Auntie Shir.

To Pilla Willa, happy birthday Nov. 22. From your loveliest Aunt.



To love you, to hold you in my arms, this time without you, seems like forever.

You were knocking at my heart's door, I did myself a favor and let you in.

How sweet it is to be loved by you. I close my eyes at night and wonder, where would I be without you in my life.

I've made mistakes in my life, but I'm only human. When I wake up it is a new morning, everyday's a new day.

I think of the morning I'll be coming home to you. I place in your hand my heart to hold, and to release our spoken dreams. I love you very much. You brat. Talk to you soon.

To my Dad, brothers, sisters, neices, nephews, aunties, uncles, cousins, grand-nieces/nephews, children and friends, Happy Thanksgiving, and I love you.

(I hope that you will read this poem and take the time to tell your loved ones.)

If Tomorrow Never Comes.

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall asleep, I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time, I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise, I would video tape each action and word, so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time, I could spare an extra minute or two to stop and say "I love you," instead of assuming you would know I do.

If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share your day, well I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an oversight, and we always get a second chance to make everything right.

There will always be another day to say our "I love you's," And certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything I can do's?"

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today?

For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day that you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss, and you were too busy to grant someone, what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear. Tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear. Take time to say "I'm sorry, please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay".

And if tomorrow never comes you'll have no regrets about today. (I love you and miss you, Sister)....

God Bless You. Sarah J. Frank