

A great tradition of giving thanks

By Selena Boise
Management Successor

Happy Thanksgiving to all relatives, friends, and Spilyay Tymoo readers. We at the Spilyay are thankful for another successful year at the newspaper office.

Spilyay Speaks

Ever wonder about the history of Thanksgiving?

I read about it on the Internet and here's what I found.

Well, the Pilgrims set sail from Plymouth, England on September 6, 1620 bound for the resourceful "New World." They were separatists who merged together to be called Pilgrims, and John Carver was elected their first governor.

They first sighted the land off Cape Cod but later settled in a place they called Plymouth. It offered an excellent harbor and plenty of resources, and the local Indians were non-hostile.

But their happiness was short-lived, as they were not equipped to handle the winter. They were then saved by a group of local Native Americans who befriended them and helped them with food. Soon after, the Indians taught them how to cultivate corns and grow vegetables to store away for hard days.

By the next winter they raised enough crops, and the winter came and passed without much harm to them. They knew they beat the odds and it was time to celebrate.

They celebrated it with a community harvest feast where the friendly Native Americans were invited. The Pilgrims would have such feasts in England. The recipes included corn (or wheat by the Pilgrims usage of the word), Indian corn, barley, pumpkins and peas, fowl, deer, fish, and the yummy wild turkey.

However, the third year was bad as the corns were damaged. Pilgrim Governor William Bradford ordered a day of fasting and prayer, and then rain happened to follow. To celebrate, November 29 of that year was proclaimed a day of thanksgiving. This date is believed to be the real beginning of the present Thanksgiving Day.

So the Thanksgiving Day was a celebration of harvest. They were thankful for the harvest they received after having their corn damaged, and that they were able to harvest and store it to begin with. The harvest, corn, and preservation for winter was taught to them by the Indians.

The people of Warm Springs today celebrate each year for the roots and huckleberries.

Well, to further tell the story, Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 (approved by Congress in 1941), set Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday of every November. Before that it was the last Thursday as set by Pres. Lincoln. But the last Thursday would end up sometimes being the fifth Thursday, falling too close to Christmas, leaving the businesses less than a month to cope with two big festivals.

Well, I think that having a celebration for a community feast is a nice way to give thanks.

It gives us time to think of other things to be thankful for in our lives.

I asked my children what they are thankful for, and one responded that something to be thankful for is having grandparents still here with us. Hey that's a good one.

Happy Thanksgiving and have a good feast to celebrate.

Little pumpkins

On behalf of the children and staff of Warm Springs Early Childhood and Head Start Program, thank you parents, grandparents, family members, and tribal departments for participating in the "Little Pumpkins Parade" on Oct. 29. Without all of you it would not have been possible.

A special thank you to Lisa Johnson, Lena Ike, and Nancy Mendez for contacting all the tribal organizations. Thank you to Danni Katchia for taking all those great photos of our ghouls and goblins, Jolene Soto and family for the decorating the main lobby and setting up tables, and Marie Tom and her family for making and donating decorations.

To the teachers and parents of A-pod and B-pod, great decorating. It looked spooktacular.

Thank you Agnes Wolfe for the time and help you gave your classroom teachers. Thank you to Tribal Council and Kah-Nee-Ta Reservations for your candy donations.

To the Warm Springs Police Department, Officer O'Riley for providing traffic control so our children and staff could cross the road safely to I.H.S. Lastly, to I.H.S. for allowing us to come over to trick or treat, and visit all of you and your patients. If I have missed anyone forgive me.

Jodi Orr, Acting Family Partnership Coordinator, Warm Springs Head Start/Early Head Start.

War veterans

I wish to thank the Madras Lions Club for recognizing Korean War Veterans. The club recently placed a plaque in their honor at the Museum at Warm Springs. It means a lot to us who served in frontline positions.

Chesley Yahtin Sr.

Thank you

I am writing to thank the diabetes program for putting up the \$50 for the fourth, fifth and sixth grade boys to play tackle football. The boys had fun and learned some good skills of the game. I would also like to thank

Roy Spino for donating his time to coach the sixth graders. It is a challenge to put all of that time into coaching and hold a job.

I hope to see more kids get involved next season. You cant say you didn't hear about it, because the radio station announced it every day. Our kids need something to keep their time used constructively, instead of running around acting like thugs. Sports are a good way to do that. Besides baseball and a few other tourneys, there is nothing. And until we get our own high school we are cheering on future White Buffalos. So please, parents and kids, get involved in activities that are available. Thanks again. Orlando Stevens.

Atwai Nettie

Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate atwai Nettie Shawaway at her memorial Nov. 6 at Simnasho Longhouse. I apologize for how my part at the end of the main giveaway wasn't clear, and I want to thank Wilson Wewa, Suzie Slockish, Shirley Heath and Bobbie Conner for helping straighten that out. Thanks to Wilson for speaking and handing out the things with me. I wanted to recognize the people those things were for, and their contributions to Auntie's life but there wasn't time then, so I'm writing this letter instead.

I first met Auntie in the early 70's when I was the first woman John Umtuch brought home to his parents, atwai Don and Hazel Umtuch in Toppenish. The second weekend I was over, Auntie and her sisters arrived on the Umtuch doorstep with wing dresses for "John's new bride." John and I didn't go far together but I never lost my in-laws and remained close to his family, acquiring new sisters, Lorintha, Patricia, Louiza, and Julie, and Hazel just gathered me in as another daughter.

Auntie claimed the Umtuchs and so she and they used to visit me a lot when I lived in Washington and she lived in Parker. She used to get cedar from my trees up at Poulso where I was working, bake bread in my fireplace, and go around with all of us. When Hazel unexpectedly

passed away and the other girls were working and I wasn't and had my own money, I started making myself available to help Auntie after she moved to Warm Springs.

Wilson was right: I drove her around a lot. We went to visit a lot of people in the Northwest, to Round-Up, to Lapwai, to Senior Days all over, to Lorintha's graduation from college, to root dig, to Priest Rapids where she was a digger, etc. As her health declined, I became more active in caregiving and advocating for her interests with Health and Wellness, Housing, and whatever she wanted done.

She and her sister, atwai Sylvia, had me set up a meeting with a representative of the governor so that they could try to protect sacred sites like Enola Hill, and meet with an Interior Department fellow who came all the way from La Grand just to hear their input into the Nez Perce National Monument then being planned. I also spent many times with her in the hospital and interfaced for her between her and the medical staff. I tried to champion her wishes and support her as she wanted until I was ultimately prevented from doing so. I only knew her a little while in her great, long life, a little over 30 years. But so very many people cared about her and she loved everyone, no matter what a person's failings. She might have been disappointed in you but she loved you nevertheless. I want to thank all those people who supported her and who helped me help her.

Thanks to Olivia. Thanks to Gail Turcotte. Thanks to Blaney, to atwai Geri Blodgett a special thanks to "her cooks," Shirley Heath and Nola Queahpama.

Thanks to the Health and Wellness staff. Thanks to the staff at the Fire Station and the EMT's who came to check on her many times. Thanks to the staff at Mountain View Hospital. Special thanks to Levi, Cris, and Terry. Thanks to Nola Q. and Neda Wesley who made special efforts to bring her traditional foods. Thanks to Neda who made beautiful pillows for her, made herself available to translate for Auntie in the hospital and who helped when the

house was being cleaned out. Thanks to the Veterans whom she supported all through her life and for their honoring her. Thanks to Antoinette for all her efforts on behalf of Auntie before she passed, for the funeral, and with the memorial. Thanks to all Auntie's nieces and nephews who helped with the memorial, and to Nola and her family who cooked for it. Thanks to Auntie's Washington relatives, Clea, Sybil and everyone who came and helped out with the memorial.

Thanks to all the people from Pendleton - Tessie Williams, Cecilia Bearchum, Thomas Morning Owl and his mother, Armand Minthorn and his wife Bobbie, Leah, Dana and Elliot Conner. Thanks to Fred and Olivia for helping plan her great 100th birthday.

Thanks to Teresa Crane. Thanks to Bobbie Conner and Leah. Thanks to Lonnie Alexander. Thanks to the staff of Tamustlikt. Thanks to all the folks from Priest. Thanks to Alex Buck, and to his mom, Angela. Thanks to Rex Buck. Thanks to atwai Effie Culpus. Thanks to atwai Janet McCloud for her concern about Auntie.

Thanks to the Housing Department and Lyle Rhoan.

Thanks to the museum and Kah-Nee-Ta gift shop folks. Thanks to Aurelia; and thanks to Kunya. Thanks to Viola Governor; and to those among the High Lookee staff who really did care about her. Thanks to Klarice and her, and to Trish, Suzie L.B. and her daughter who spent many good times with Auntie.

A special thanks to Delvis Heath and his family. And thanks in particular to both Suzie Slockish and Shirley Heath.

Thanks to Minnie and Mariah. Thanks, too, to my sweetie, George Llufto Smallman, and thanks to my many friends who felt friendly enough to joke with him and help him feel welcome at the memorial.

Most of all, thanks to everyone who carries on the traditions, who learn the songs, and who represent Auntie's culture now and in the future. Bless you.

Gail Campbell

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.

Letters of apology

To the Warm Springs community, I would like to take this time to apologize for driving under the influence of intoxicants on or around Nov. 6. Would you please accept this sincere apology because drinking and driving is dangerous to all. John Ball.

To the people of Warm Springs I apologize for being under the influence of alcohol on the morning of Oct. 23 with a 0.13 BAC. I had to go to court and plead guilty for my actions. I am very sorry and will not do it again. I know drinking has caused a lot of hurt on the rez. Elijah Squiemphen.

To the people of Warm Springs I would like to apologize for drinking and acting stupid on Oct. 31 at 3:17 a.m. I'm not a person who drinks and when I did, I got caught. I'm glad I went to jail before something really bad happened to me or I got hurt. I would just like to say sorry. Stephanie Rowe.

I express my heartfelt apology for driving under the influence within the community of Warm Springs. The awful choice I made is not advised for anyone. My choice jeopardized safe roads within our community, my job, my personal wellbeing and positive efforts toward a healthy life. Please accept my apology. Thank You. Marge Kalama.

I was arrested on Oct. 22 by the Tribal Police for DUII. At the jail I blew a 0.16 blood alcohol level. I am sorry for driving on the reservation while intoxicated. Please accept this letter of apology. Charlie Chee Jr.

To the citizens of Warm Springs, I would like to take this time to apologize for my driving under the influence of both alcohol and marijuana. To the best of my ability this will not happen again. Roscoe Thompson III.

I would like to say I am sorry for driving under the influence on the night of 10-24-04. I also would like to thank those who stopped to make sure I was okay. Amanda Tom.

To the people of the Warm Springs Reservation, I am writing this apology for two charges. I was arrested in the middle of November for carrying a weapon when prohibited and attempting to elude a police officer. I apologize for endangering people during an instant of bad judgement. I am incarcerated for a while, to pay for my actions. Also I apologize for having a weapon on the same morning I was arrested and lodged here at the WSCF. Warren Wallulatum.

Happy birthday and other wishes...

Merry Christmas to family and friends, from the Diaz family in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Yerlonda and Jesus Diaz Justice, Holly, Kat, Shania, Hakela, Emmanuel, and Sunshine.

Happy Birthday to Holly, Kat, and Justice. How time flies. Enjoy your time with your family. Let the party wait, leave the bitterness, and enjoy today because tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

Congratulations to Melinda and Joe for making the Dean's List in Haskell. We're very proud of you two. Love, Gramma Evelyn and your uncles in Washington.

Happy birthday to Kurtis Leonard. We love you. Your Gramma Evelyn and your uncles in Washington.

Happy belated 16th birthday to Kurtis Leonard. "Take your time and enjoy who you are. Keep it real,

Happy first birthday to Tyson Marcus Wabeneka on Nov. 15. We love you, from Mom, Dad and Sonny.

Happy birthday Grampa, from your loving grandsons Sonny and Tyson.

Happy birthday Dad on Nov. 24. We love you very much, from your baby girl and Mack.

Happy first b-day (pumba) Tyson Wabeneka. Love ya lots, Uncle Cory Sr. and Auntie

Congratulations to Melinda Polk and Joe Thompson for making the President's Honor Roll at Haskell. And happy holidays to Ashley and John Kalama. You are all in our hearts and on our minds. Keep up the good work. From Jessie, Kurtis and Tommy Thompson.

son." From your family, Mom and Tommy, Melinda and Joe Thompson.

Vanessa. Happy b-day or our Dad Erland Suppah on Nov. 24. Love, Mr. and Mrs. Stwyer.

Happy b-day to our grandpa Erland Suppah Sr. Love, Shaniah and Alexis, Antoine and Chance, Cory Jr. and Coreena.

Happy first b-day to our cousin Tyson Wabeneka. Love, Shaniah, Antoine, Cory Jr. and Coreena.

Happy b-day to Grandma Marcelena. Love, Mr. and Mrs. Stwyer, Shaniah, Antoine, Cory Jr. and Coreena.

Happy 18th birthday to my baby girl Ina Kaleak.

My gosh how fast you've grown now. You're a young adult.

Hope you had a good day. I miss you babe.

Be good, like you are. God bless.

Love, Mame, Alvin and Pedro.

Happy first birthday to our baby boy Heaven Kalama on Nov. 16. With lots of love, Mom and Dad and family.



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