

Final approval of Cobell settlement

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A federal judge last week approved the \$3.4 billion settlement over mismanaged Indian royalties in a case that represents the largest class-action settlement ever approved against the U.S. government.

Elouise Cobell of Browning, Mont., claimed in the 15-year-old suit that for more than a century, U.S. officials systematically stole or squandered billions in royalties in exchange for oil, gas, grazing and other leases.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, in approving the settlement after a daylong hearing, said the legitimacy of Cobell's claims could not be questioned.

"The government mismanaged these resources on a staggering scale," Hogan said.

The settlement does not make up for the losses Indian tribes suffered for more than a century, Hogan added, but "at

least it provides some certainty" to hundreds of thousands of individual Indians who will now receive payments of least \$1,000 each from the government. Many will receive substantially more money.

Cobell, a member of the Blackfoot Tribe, will receive \$2 million, and three other named plaintiffs will receive payments ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000 each.

"The process has gone on long enough," Hogan said, noting that hundreds of potential beneficiaries have died in the 15 years the case has wound through the courts and Congress.

Many members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are participating in the settlement.

Long settlement process

The government and lawyers representing Cobell settled the

lawsuit in December 2009 after years of court battles and appeals.

Congress approved the settlement at the end of last year, and President Barack Obama signed it into law. But the case still needed Hogan's approval, which he provided late Monday after a daylong hearing on the merits of the case and legal fees to be assessed.

In a statement, Obama said the decision "marks another important step forward in the relationship between the federal government and Indian Country."

Resolving the dispute was a priority for his administration, Obama said. He promised to engage in "government-to-government consultations with tribal nations" regarding the land consolidation aspect of the settlement to ensure that it moves quickly and fairly.

Interior Secretary Ken

Salazar said the settlement not only resolves the contentious 15-year Cobell litigation, "but also honorably and responsibly turns the page on an unfortunate chapter in the department's history, demonstrating President Obama's commitment to reconciliation and empowerment for American Indian nations."

Under the settlement approved Monday, \$1.5 billion will go to at least 300,000 Indian account holders. Another \$1.9 billion will be used to buy back and consolidate tribal land that has become subdivided and difficult to manage over the years. An additional \$60 million will go to a scholarship fund for Indian students. In a controversial decision, Hogan awarded Cobell's lawyers a total of \$99 million — less than half the \$223 million they were seeking but nearly double the \$50 million government lawyers had recommended.

Births

Aidan Joseph Hanchor Kalles and Roberta Hanchor Jr. are pleased to announce the birth of their son Aidan Joseph Hanchor, born on March 30, 2011, weighing 10 pounds 2 ounces, and 19 1/2 inches long.

Aidan joins sister Talliah, 9; and brothers Desmond, 8, and Lenso, 6.

Grandparents on the father's side are Kalles and Noelle Hanchor Sr of Owyhee, Nevada. Grandparents on the mother's side are Atwai Edwin Thomas Sr. and Atwai Illon Wahsise (Kalama) both of Warm Springs.

Demarcus Jade Thomas Greene Derek J. Greene and Trissie Fuentes of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Demarcus Jade Thomas Greene, born on June 10, 2011.

Demarcus joins sister Aurora Rose, 8.

Grandparents on the father's side are atwai Roberta Greene and atwai Edward Henry Jr.

Grandmother on the mother's side is Rosetta Fuentes.

Birthday, anniversary wishes...

Happy 34th Anniversary to our dad and mom, Robert and Marella Sam Sr.

This June 29, 34 years of marriage, Happy Anniversary dad and mom. We all love you. Thank you for all that you do for all of us, as an example for your pride and joys (grandchildren). You are setting such an amazing example of what a marriage is, a parent and grandparent should be. You two went this far with all the love, caring for all of us and it is all still there. We do all really love you both. Hope your day is a good one. With all our love, From Tracy Ray—Thomas Chester—Robert Tracy Jr.—Jealeah OOah Sam—Neda and Gerald Tias Sr.—Sadie and Woody Picard Sr.—and Elsie and Joey.

Happy Happy 34th Anniversary out to 2 people that we all love so much, our grandpa and grandma Robert and Marella Sam Sr. We all love you a lot. Thank you for all you do for us. Love from all your grandchildren: Woody Jr.—Dartanian—Kaylobe—Chantel—Elisha Picard—Shasta—Clarence Vernon Sam—little Tracy Ray and Gerald Tias Jr.

Happy Happy birthday to our G-grandma Eliza Jim. Love you. Have a good day, from: Woody Jr.—Dartanian—Kaylobe—Chantel—Elisha Picard—Shasta—Clarence Sam—Little Tracy Ray and Gerald Tias Jr.

A big Happy Happy birthday to our uncle Tracy Ray Sam. We all love you and miss you a lot. Can't wait til you get home or grandma takes us to see you. From little Tracy Ray—Gerald Jr.—Clarence—Shasta—Elisha—Chantel—Woody Jr.—Kaylobe—Dartanian.

Happy birthday grandma. Hope your day is a good one. Lots of love from Tracy—Sadie and Woody Sr.—Robert

Jr.—Thomas Chester Sam Neda and Big G—Jealeah—Elsie Joey.

Happy birthday mom. Love you, have a good day. Love from: Robert and Marella Sam.

To our son on this June 30, Happy Birthday Tracy Ray Sam. Son, we love you and are proud of you. Son, you know we will be here for you all the time. Love you son, miss you, keep the calls coming. Love from dad and mom.

Happy birthday to our Tracy Ray Sam. Have a good day. We all miss you, from: Maria Lopez and family—Julie Sam family—Tweet-it Sam—Mona Lopez family—Plum Gilbert family—Jenny Smith family—Taco Sam family—Sally Smith—Carlos Lopez family—James Sam.

This June 28 happy birthday to Sheryl Lee Lopez, you have a great day. Love you Sheryl. From Robert and Marella Sam family.

Happy Anniversary uncle and auntie Robert and Marella Sam Sr. Love you a lot. Have a great day. From Mona Lopez family—Carlos Lopez family—James Sam—Plum Gilbert family—Jenny Smith family—Taco Sam family—Sally Smith—Sheryl Lee Lopez—McKinlye Lopez—and Creep.

Happy 34th anniversary Robert and Marella Sam. Take care. Love you, from Mom and Harvey—Lillie Van Pelt—Levi Van Pelt family—Chester Van Pelt family—Tiger Van Pelt family and Wolfman.

One June, Happy birthday to our grandson Tracy Sam. We love you son and miss you too. Have a great day. Love you. Grandma and Grandpa Eliza and Harvey Jim.

Happy birthday Tracy Ray Sam, you have a great day. We all miss you, from Levi Van Pelt family—Lillie Van Pelt family—Chester Van Pelt family—Tiger Van Pelt family and Wolfman.

Oregon Ducks tourney, auction at Kah-Nee-Ta

Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino will be the site of the golf tournament featuring former Oregon Duck greats Maarty Luenen, Cristin McLemore, and entertainers Supwitchugirl, the Duck Mascot, members of the Oregon Cheerleading team as well other Duck guests. The event is Saturday evening, July 9, beginning at 6.

There is still room for foursomes as well as individuals. The price has been lowered to \$100 per player and includes 18 holes with cart, goody bag, and dinner. The barbecue dinner/auction and social will be at the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course clubhouse Saturday evening, July 9, beginning at 6.

This is your chance to purchase items such as signed helmets and balls as well as other items that help raise money for student athletes at the university. Dinner only tickets are available for \$10 but must be RSVP prior to July 6. If you would like to golf or attend the dinner following, please contact: highdesertducks@gmail.com

Pi-Ume-Sha Health Fair



The popular health fair on the Wednesday before Pi-Ume-Sha again drew many participants.



Splyay staff photos

Housing

(Continued from page 1)

WSHA staff members drafted unique documents to resolve the findings because no other documents existed which would fulfill requirements. "We have actually had several agencies contact us within this short time to ask permission to begin using these documents as templates.

So on top of this excel-

lent work my staff did in resolving the findings, they also managed to run Housing."

The office manager for Housing is Sharon Jones. Rudy Clements is the maintenance supervisor. Tom Strong is special projects. Saphronia Katchia is in charge of finance.

WSHA employs approximately 25 tribal members.

Defensible space

(Continued from page 2)

Fuels with a high degree of both vertical and horizontal continuity are the most hazardous particularly when they occur on slopes. Also remember, heavier fuels (brush and trees) are more hazardous than light fuels as grass.

The actual design and development of your defensible space depends on several factors: size and shape of buildings,

materials used in their construction, the slope of the ground on which the structures are built, surrounding topography, and the types and sizes of vegetation on your property.

All these areas will affect the design of your defensible space. For more information on defensible space please contact Warm Springs Fire Management at 553-1146.

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