



# Spilyay Tymoo

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July – Pat'ak-Pt'akni – Summer - Shatm

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## Moving day at first new Housing units

The first four families of the new Greeley Heights subdivision moved in to their homes last week.

The Warm Springs Housing Authority hosted a grand opening for the \$9.7 million project.

On hand were the families that have qualified for the homes, community members, and many of the funding and planning parties that have been part of the unique project.

The Greeley Heights project involved a number private and public entities, federal and state:

Present at the opening ceremony were representatives from the state of Oregon, the HUD Northwest Office of the Native American Programs, the Bank of the West, and Prestige Affordable Housing Partners, among others.

They arrived for the occasion from their home offices at San Francisco, New Jersey and Ohio, for instance.

Warm Springs Housing director Scott Moses was the



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

master of ceremonies. "This is big for us, providing 35 new homes for the families," Councilman Moses

said. "There were obstacles, but we were able to adapt and get it done."

He thanked the development partners, the Warm Springs community and Tribal Council for the support over the past year.

Mike McHam from the state of Oregon said the Greeley Heights project is the first of its kind in the state.

The state worked on a project in Indian Country about 20 years ago, but the Greeley Heights project is the first such residential development on a reservation, he said.

The hope is that this can serve as a model for future projects needed to relieve the housing shortage on the reservation.

Fifteen of the Greeley Heights homes will be three-bedroom units, 15 are four-bedroom, and five will be five-bedroom units.

(See HOUSING on page 3)

John Ball Jr., Rose Ball (with baby), Taya Holliday (cutting ribbon), Darrell Ball and Scott Moses dedicate one of the new units.

## Funding for UAV program

The Warm Springs unmanned aerial vehicle program is on track to receive significant operational funding.

The funding comes from the state of Oregon, through the Oregon Innovation Council and SOAR Oregon.

SOAR is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen the state's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) industry. Total new UAV funding to SOAR is at \$3 million.

The Warm Springs Reservation is one of three FAA-approved UAV test sites in the state. The other two are in Pendleton and Tillamook. The \$3 million will be divided among the three sites.

The Warm Springs UAV program is a project of Warm Springs Ventures, the economic development enterprise of the Confederated Tribes, as approved by Tribal Council.

An aspect of the Warm Springs UAV program involves utilizing Kah-Nee-Ta as a meeting and training center for companies in the UAV business.

Tribal Councilman Kahseuss Jackson sees the potential for new local jobs through the UAV program. The focus should be on having a UAV business locate on the reservation, such as at the industrial park, he said.

Councilman Jackson discussed this issue in Warm Springs last week with Oregon Rep. John Huffman (R-The Dalles).

On hand for the discussion were Council members Evaline Patt and Reuben Henry, Chief Joe Moses, tribal planner Lonny Macy, engineer Travis Wells, tribal property coordinator Randy Scott, Government Affairs director Louis Pitt, construction manager Tom Adams and Ventures' Ben Bisland; plus representatives from ODOT and Business Oregon.

The industrial park has property that could be developed to support UAV related commercial activities, including manufacturing, but there would need to be infrastructure work, including water and sewer.

How to fund this work is the main issue. Rep. Huffman said he will work with the tribes to find a solution.

## Summer concerts

Two concerts are coming up this weekend at Indian Head Casino.

Banda La Movida performs on Saturday, July 25 at 6 p.m., and this is a free event.

Curtis Salgado performs the next evening, Sunday, July 26, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 541-460-7777 for information, or see page 12 for details.

## WSFPI, partners present operation plan

The Warm Springs Forest Products Industries management and board have come up with a plan that should keep the mill operating for at least the next couple of years.

Part of the plan involved a downsizing. The mill had to cut about 20 jobs, and now employs 86 people. Seventy-seven percent of the employees are tribal members or married in to the tribe.

All of the mill workers have taken pay cuts. With these and other savings, the cost of operation has been reduced by about 18 percent, said John Katchia Jr., mill manager.

WSFPI management and board

members worked with the tribal Branch of Natural Resources, the BIA, and the tribal Finance Department in coming up with the plan.

The most important part of the plan is the re-payment provision from WSFPI to the tribes.

During hard financial times, the enterprise had gotten behind on stumpage and other payments to the tribes.

The new plan, presented to Tribal Council this week, includes a repayment schedule that will bring the back payments up to date in about three years.

The plan also provides for the

prompt payment of new stumpage fees that come due.

All of the parties involved—both on the tribal and BIA side—agreed the plan looks like a good one. And a lot of work went in to the process, with full cooperation by everyone involved.

"I think these are the best answers we've ever had as to the mill operation," said John Halliday, BIA superintendent for the Warm Springs Agency.

The repayment aspect of the plan is critical because the BIA could not approve new timber sales without an assurance that the tribes would

be compensated for the timber harvest.

### Fifty year anniversary

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs purchased the mill for \$15 million, following an August 1966 referendum.

The operation has changed greatly over the years, as the lumber market has changed.

A significant reduction in the allowable cut of reservation timber is scheduled for 2017. And this will present a new challenge for the mill.

## Lifetime experience for Youth Council

by Ashley Meanus  
and Keeyana Yellowman  
Warm Springs Youth Council

Members of the Warm Springs Youth Council were fortunate to attend the first-ever White House Tribal Youth Gathering.

The Youth Council Gathering was held in Washington, D.C., on July 9. We also spent the following five days participating in the 2015 National United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference.

This trip was a once in a lifetime experience, and the Warm Springs Youth Council members who participated were very blessed to have been apart of



Alyssa Macy/Spilyay

it.

As we left Warm Springs, we had an open mind and open hearts. We were ready to learn and become better leaders for our community.

The day before the White House Tribal Youth Gathering we had the opportunity to tour the U.S. Capitol, as well as meet with Congressman Greg Walden and Sen. Merkley of Oregon.

Both Rep. Walden and Sen. Merkley were very interested in our concerns.

(See YOUTH COUNCIL on 3)

Warm Springs Youth Council at the Capitol: Keeyana Yellowman, Mitchell Lira, Ashley Meanus, Gavin Begay, Summer Brunoe, Malia Collins and Felician Conner (from left).



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