



Spilyay Tymoo

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Council okays lease plan for KNT

Tribal Council last week approved a request from the Kah-Nee-Ta board to proceed with a lease agreement with the new investment partner, AV Northwest.

AV Northwest will manage the resort operation and make substantial investment, perhaps \$16 million, for improvements at the property.

"Tribal Council is supportive, realizing our limited options for

making Kah-Nee-Ta competitive in the Central Oregon market," said board chairman Jim Manion.

Kah-Nee-Ta had been facing the possibility of closure at the end of this year. The new agreement is the best way to make the resort again a viable enterprise, the board and Council agreed.

Facing possible closure of Kah-Nee-Ta, the board early this year reached out to AV Northwest.

Through negotiation over the months the parties reached terms calling for a lease of 25 years.

During that time the management of the resort would be under AV Northwest. The tribes would receive compensation through the room tax.

The list of needed improvements at Kah-Nee-Ta, as outlined by AV Northwest, is extensive: A new heating and cooling system,

new paint, improvements to the rooms, pools, restaurant and café, to name just a few.

An intriguing aspect of the plan is a new hydro- and physical therapy center at the Kah-Nee-Ta Village. The hot springs would be put to use in the treatment of young people who are recovering from muscular and other conditions.

Members health survey

A team is conducting an important health survey among tribal members ages 18 and over. The survey information will help guide tribal health care priorities in the coming years. The survey team includes Warm Springs Community Health, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, and Warm Springs Prevention.

The survey takes about an hour. Participants receive a \$30 gift card. Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. explains the details of this project:

Greetings tribal members, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are conducting an anonymous survey of tribal members, called Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems. This survey will help the tribe collect health-related information, so services and programs can be adapted to meet our needs.

The information is also vital for our grant writing efforts so we can secure funding for current and future tribal programs. We are partnering with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board on this project.

The Warm Springs Tribal Council approved the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems (BRFSS) project, and the Health and Welfare Committee approved the questions that will be asked during the survey. The project has been reviewed by the Portland Area Office Indian Health Service Institutional Review Board, and all project staff will be held to strict confidentiality when handling Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs member contact and health information.

The Warm Springs BRFSS interviewers and area Indian Health Board staff will attempt to contact all tribal members over the age of 18 via telephone and door-to-door this coming fall and winter.

See **HEALTH SURVEY** on 3



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The fuel canopies and pumps are in at the Plateau Travel Plaza, and work on the Plaza center is on schedule as well. Construction of the Travel Plaza, a project of Indian Head Casino, began about seven months ago, with completion and grand

opening in the spring. Pictured above is the outside of the convenience store. Inside to the right will be the restaurant, and a Class II gaming room. The building is 13,500 square feet, with showers, laundry facilities, and other amenities.

Land buy-back opportunity for members, tribes

The Department of Interior has signed the land buy-back cooperative agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

"The tribes look forward to working with the program to create cultural, residential, governmental and economic opportunities by consolidating fractionated lands for the benefit of our tribal community," said Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr.

"The Tribes will be better equipped to manage our lands both on and off reservation," Mr. Greene said. "Land is important to us for the continued sovereignty of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Wasco and Paiute people."

The land buy-back program is part of the Cobell lawsuit settlement. Almost \$2 billion of the settlement went to the buy-back

program across Indian country.

Some tribes have already successfully completed the program. Randy Scott, from tribal Land Services, is the main contact person for participants in the Warm Springs buy-back.

The problem of fractionated allotment interests arose with succeeding generations after the original allottees. The heirs have inherited only percentage interests in the

land. With multiple owners, productive use or sale of the property, back to the tribes for instance, is prohibitive.

The land buy-back program gives fair market value to each individual who has an interest in an allotment, plus \$75.

The other reason to participate is that it is in the best interest of the Confederated Tribes.



Photos courtesy of Preston Meanus

The Honoring Veterans Powwow



This year marked the third year of the return of the Warm Springs Honoring Veterans Powwow—Atmaisha Sulcime—organized by Preston and Andrea Meanus. The Veterans Powwow Committee raised the prize money from individuals and organizations, and wishes to thank all who contributed. During the powwow at the Agency Longhouse, Master of Ceremonies Fred Hill Sr. gave public recognition to all who gave. For the 2018 Veterans Powwow, the committee will be raising donations throughout the year starting now, Preston said.

Tree lighting next week at center

Warm Springs Recreation invites the community to its Cowboy Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, November 30. The tree lighting will happen on the front lawn of the Community Center at 6:30.

There is a meet and greet with Santa from 6:45 to 7:30. Show up in your cowboy hat and boots if you want, or at least be sure to bundle up.

The Lights Parade and Crafts Fair is coming up with Recreation, Native Aspirations and Health and Human Services on December 7.



Thanksgiving Buffet

Thursday, November 23 | 11:00AM to 8:00PM

BREAKFAST MENU not available during Holiday Buffet

\$19.00 Players' Club Price • \$23.00 Reg | \$12.00 12 and under

IndianHeadCasino.com | 541-460-7777 | US-26, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

*Total cash & prizes in October and November. **Cash option available. All promotions require Players' Club membership to participate. Management reserves all rights. Must be present to win. See Players' Club for complete details.

