



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The 22 residents at High Lookee Lodge received Christmas trees and fleece blankets from the Indian Head Casino Employee Relations Committee. Delivering the trees for the Employee Relations Committee were Janell Smith, Heather Cody, casino general manager Jeffrey Carstensen, Travel Plaza general manager Eric Angel, Tim Kerr, Kaitlyn Minnic, Roy Evans, Nicole Smith and Jami Deming (on right and at back). On hand at the lodge were Susan Surgeon, Jolene Greene, Lucille Jones (sitting) Helen Putman, Amy Payenna, Reginald Winishut, William Frank and William Rodgers (on left, from right).

## Land buy-back fair market value matter at Council

The Warm Springs Land Buy-Back program was at Tribal Council this week. The issue was in regard to arriving at the fair market value of a property.

Council approved a proposal from the buy-back team that improvements to a property should be included in the calculation of the fair market value of the property in question.

The sale of the property to the tribes would still include just the underlying property, and not the improvement, though the value of the improvement would be considered in the fair market value assessment.

Randy Scott is the contact person for the Warm Springs Land Buy-Back program. You can reach him at the administration building. As background:

The Secretary of the Interior established the buy-back program for tribal nations to give individual landowners an opportunity to help address the problem of fractionation, as part of the *Cobell* settlement.

Divided ownership makes it difficult, if not impossible, to use the land for any beneficial purposes.

In order to make decisions regarding the use of a given allotment a required percentage of the individual owners must consent to the decision. Some owners are whereabouts unknown, which can preclude any beneficial use of the property.

Owners of fractionated interests can sell to the tribes, through the *Cobell*-funded program, receiving fair market value plus \$75.

# Year in Review ~ 2017

## April

Tribal Council approved phase 1 of the final mill site cleanup. This involves the removal of the sawmill building, the biggest problem area at the site.

Another building, called the turbine building or pumphouse, would have the doors and windows sealed to prevent trespass. Tribal Council toured the site last week with the WSFPI liquidation receiver, Hamstreet & Associates.

Total cost of the final cleanup is estimated at over \$300,000. In better economic news:

Indian Head Casino and the Confederated Tribes celebrated the construction start of the Plateau Travel Plaza. The gaming board and staff, Tribal Council and members gathered at the site for the ground-breaking.

The Travel Plaza will be located on Cherry Lane, just off Highway 26 at the Madras Industrial Park, featuring the 13,500-square-foot main building. There will be a convenience store, restaurant with seating for 70 people, a few class II gaming machines, shower and laundry facilities, the gas pumps and diesel for the larger vehicles.

The 10-acre site will include parking space for up to 70 semi-trucks.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Cannabis Commission has hired its executive director. The commission hired Joe Jensen, Environmental Scientist, as executive director.

Jensen has 15 years experience as an Environmental Scientist, and also is experienced with cannabis growing operations.

Fourteen teams of young language students represented the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs at the Language Bowl 2017. There were 44 students in all, with teams representing each of the three languages. There were three each for Kiksht and Numu, and eight for Ichichkin.

The Language Bowl was held at the Wildhorse Casino in Pendleton. Chaperoning the students were 26 adults plus seven elders, for a total of 77 Warm Springs community members at the Language Bowl 2017.

The Confederated Tribes in May celebrated the completion of the fish habitat restoration work on the Oxbow Conservation Area, located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River.

Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day marked its Twenty-Seventh Anniversary in May.

Laurie Danzuka began her third term on the school district 509-J board of directors, having won recent election.

## May

The Veterans Memorial Park Committee hosted a ground breaking ceremony at the Museum at Warm Springs, site of the future Veterans Memorial Park.

The memorial park will be in honor of all veterans from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, representing all military branches and all major conflicts, from the early Scouts to the present.

The Veterans Memorial Park Committee provides this description: The memorial will display the official seals of all the branches of service, along with seven flags.

There will be 10 pillars on a raised mound with the names of the veterans inscribed on the pillars. And there is a plan for walkways of bricks inscribed with the names of donors.

## June

The Kah-Nee-Ta board and management recently met with a potential business partner, as the resort board is hoping to find an investment and possible operating partner.

No agreement was reached with the prospective partner, but the meeting was positive and the person was impressed with the property, the board reported at Tribal Council this week.

On another positive note, the Memorial Day Weekend saw an increase in resort revenue compared to last year, said Marie Kay Williams, Kah-Nee-Ta interim manager.

*(To be continued)*



Spilyay photo

Katrina Blackwolf becomes Miss Warm Springs 2017.

**Call to Artists**  
Plateau Indian Art on Main Street  
Joseph, Oregon

541.432.0505 / www.josephy.org

### Call to Plateau Indian Artists,

With a major grant from the Oregon Community Foundation's Creative Heights program, the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture will select a Plateau Indian artist to give his or her work a place in the city.

The grant includes an artist's award of \$25,000 and funds for art casting and construction. For details or questions contact Rich Wandschneider, 541-432-0505. Or email: rich.wandschneider@gmail.com

The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture – 403 N. Main St., Joseph Oregon 97846

Warm Spring Recreation Department  
Presents  
**Christmas NDN Nite Out**  
Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2017

Social Pow-Wow  
All drummers and dancers are WELCOME!  
MC: Ray "Captain" Moody  
Christmas Dinner @ 5:15pm in the Social Hall  
Social Pow-Wow 6:00pm in the Warm Springs Gym  
Raffle prizes and Gifts  
"Bring your hand drums for 1 set"

Contact Recreation Department for more information  
(541)553-5245