

Question of value with Buy-Back

The value of certain allotments on the reservation—properties that could be sold back to the tribes through the Land Buy-Back program—was a point of discussion at Tribal Council last week.

Council met with appraisers from the Office of Appraisal Services, an office of the Department of the Interior. Appraisers from the office are working with tribes and the BIA to implement the Buy-Back component of the Cobell settlement.

One-hundred and five reservations, including Warm Springs, are identified in the 10-year Cobell Land Buy-Back process.

The Office of Appraisal Services last year used a process called 'mass appraisal' to come up with fair market value calculations for more than 340 tracts on the reservation.

Acquisition offers to the allottees will be the fair market value, as determined by the Office of Appraisal Services.

Council members and

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staff last week expressed some concern about the fair market value figures that the office had calculated for at least some of the tracts.

The mass appraisal process is defined as: "The process of valuing a universe of properties as of a given date using standard methodology, employing common data, and allowing for statistical testing." In this process, details of hundreds or even thousands of land transactions from the surrounding region are collected.

The information is then applied to a certain tract, with adjustments if necessary, in order to determine its fair market value. Valuation factors can include acreage, road access, timber, urban rating, etc.

Another appraisal process is 'site specific,' defined as: "An appraisal process that analyzes one tract at a time, based on the physical and economic characteristics of the subject property compared to similar properties."

In some cases the mass appraisal figure for a tract can be significantly different—much lower, for instance—from the figure derived from a site specific appraisal. The goal then is to reconcile the figures.

The plan has been to mail offers to more than 300 allottees as early as this week. The Office of the Special Trustee, and the Warm Springs Land Buy-Back representative Randy Scott have suggested delaying the mailing until some fair market valuation questions have been clarified.

The appraisals that were done last September, though, are valid for nine months; so there is a time element. Council will address the issue again soon.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The Plateau Travel Plaza is set to open in early March. For tribal members the Plateau will open on Friday, March 2. The opening for the general public will be on Saturday, March 3. The official Grand Opening will be in early April. Picture below is the store area facing the main cashier desk.



41st Lincoln's Birthday Powwow



Courtesy Honey-Rose Butler



Courtesy Lana Shike

Having some fun at Lincoln's last weekend: Anilese Roselyn Danzuka (above), 18 months, daughter of Owen and Arlena Danzuka; and Boreena Stwyer, Miss Lincoln's Powwow 2018.



Courtesy Marge Kalama

Veterans Memorial Park Committee working on funding

Individuals, businesses and other organizations can take a true part in the Warm Springs Veterans Memorial Park.

Personalized, engraved bricks—honoring Warm Springs veterans—will be incorporated into the memorial park pathway and central memorial feature. These would be perfect for family members of the veterans.

The memorial park committee has different size and style bricks to choose from: The 4x8 bricks are \$150, and the 8x8 bricks are \$250. You can have just words on the brick—the veteran's name, branch and years of service

for instance—or add a military design.

The committee members to speak with about the bricks are Johnathan Courtney, Tamera Calhoun, Charles Tailfeathers or Dan Martinez. You can reach Mr. Courtney at: Coujw196@gmail.com

The memorial park committee met with Tribal Council this week for an update. The group has the preliminary drawings for the memorial and park, and are now working toward design engineering blueprints.

The committee, working with the community development director, last year secured a large grant from

the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The tribal capital fund and the bricks will add to the needed funding.

Veteran and family volunteers are already planning to help with the work, with Warm Springs Construction ready to do the site preparation work.

The design of the memorial, by architects of the Museum at Warm Springs, includes an elevated mound, and walkways leading up to the central feature. Seven flags of the military branches, large basalt pillars with veterans names, a central fountain and flame feature, a bronze Warrior, and the Soldier's Cross add to the memorial.

Note from Warm Springs Sanitation

Warm Springs Sanitation has reported an increase of tires and hazardous materials such as motor oil and hydraulic fluid at the tribal landfill transfer stations.

They remind folks that tires cannot be left

at the transfer stations, and must be taken to the commercial entrance to be disposed of.

There is a cost to dispose of tires. The tribes pay an outside disposal company for this, and the prices have increased.

If anyone sees non-Warm Springs residents using the landfill and transfer stations, please report it to Russell Graham at 541-553-4943, or call the Warm Springs Police Department.

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