



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Land Buy Back response deadline near

The deadline to respond to a purchase offer from the Warm Springs Buy Back program is coming up soon, on Tuesday, April 24.

If you have already returned your paperwork, no further action is necessary. Otherwise, if you have received an offer and are interested in selling, staff is available to answer questions, or assist in completing the paperwork.

You can reach the Warm Springs Land Buy Back office at 541-615-0997.

The coordinator is Randy Scott, and the outreach coordinator is Tiffney Yallup.

Randy and Tiffney have their offices at the Media Center, 4174 Highway 3, Warm Springs. You can

email: [randy.scott@wstribes.org](mailto:randy.scott@wstribes.org)

Principal parties in the Warm Springs Buy Back—Mr. Scott, and Fiduciary Trust Officer Charles Jackson—met recently with Tribal Council.

At the time of the meeting last week, only 111 responses to the Buy Back offers had come in. Of that total, 103 had been accepted.

The total was in response to 677 offers that had been made to landowners of Warm Springs Reservation allotments. The total response to the offers was low; or at least the responses so far had been coming in at a slow pace, Mr. Jackson said.

To state the situation another way: The Warm Springs Buy Back

program has available approximately \$4 million for purchases among the Warm Springs allotment owners.

To make the purchases from the 103 who had so far accepted (these numbers as of early last week), the cost would be about \$440,000.

That would leave unspent a large part of the available \$4 million.

Funds that remain unspent at the close of the Warm Springs program would revert back to the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. These funds would no longer be available to benefit the Confederated Tribes, or Warm Springs allottees.

### 'Fair market value'

The Buy-Back Program implements the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement. The settlement provided \$1.9 billion—the largest component of the Cobell Settlement—to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value.

On the Warm Springs Reservation, allotment interests that are purchased through the Buy-Back program go to the Confederated Tribes.

See **BUY BACK** on page 7

## Costly cleanup at Longhouse

The Agency Longhouse was closed to the public earlier this year, as testing of some areas of the building were positive for methamphetamine contamination.

Tribal management then began the process of finding a company to remove the contamination.

This process has turned out to be more complicated, and more expensive than was initially anticipated.

The tribes sought bids from companies that could de-contaminate the Longhouse. Upon inspection of the building the companies indicated they could not address the methamphetamine contamination until the completion of asbestos and lead paint mitigation.

This would require two consecutive bids—first for the asbestos-lead paint mitigation, followed by the methamphetamine decontamination.

The two-part process would be very drawn-out, said Secretary Treasurer Michele Stacona, updating Tribal Council on the situation earlier this week.

Management then looked for a company that could accomplish both mitigations at one time.

A company based in Idaho would be able to do this work; so as a means of bringing the Longhouse back into use in a timely way, Management and Finance presented this option to Tribal Council.

The cost of the work would be \$192,000. Making this amount available for use at Longhouse would require use of previously allocated capital projects funding.

As there are other public buildings on the reservation—restrooms at Elmer Quinn Park, for instance—that appear to require mitigation work, the recommendation was to make a total of \$300,000 available.

Tribal Council by resolution made the necessary adjustment to the current year budget to address the matter.

## Lil' Miss Warm Springs

The 2018 Lil' Miss Warm Springs Pageant is coming up on the evening of April 25. Recreation will host the Pageant in the Social Hall of the Community Center.

Categories of the Lil' Miss Warm Springs Pageant are:

Lil' Miss Warm Springs, 9-11 years of age. Junior Miss Warm Springs, 12-14 years of age. Senior Miss Warm Springs, 15-17 years of age.

The current Lil' Miss Warm Springs are Lil' Miss Warm Springs Kiahna Allen, Junior Lil' Miss Warm Springs Gigi David, and Senior Lil' Miss Warm Springs Coreena Stwyer.

## Wheeler Fair & Rodeo Queen Mary Olney

Mary Olney is the 2018 Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo Queen—a first for both Warm Springs and Wheeler County.

Mary is a junior at Madras High School, where she excels at academics, being an Honor Society student.

She plays varsity softball, and is president of the Lyle Gap 4-H Livestock Club.

Just recently Mary was voted incoming president of the Future Farmers of America Madras Chapter. For the current school year she is the FFA chapter vice president.



The Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo Queen Coronation Dinner is coming up at the fairgrounds in Fossil in mid May.

Mary and family are raising items for the auction that will benefit the fair and rodeo.

Her mom is Sonia Heath, who works at the Early Childhood Education Center, and her grandmother is Catherine Watah.

This will be a great and interesting chance to share our Warm Springs culture at the Wheeler County Fair and Rodeo, Sonia said. And for their part the Fair Board is excited to have Mary as their ambassador, and the 2018 Fair and Rodeo Queen.

Mary Olney following the 2018 Fair and Rodeo Queen competition.

## Great grand opening at Plateau Travel Plaza

The grand opening of the Plateau Travel Plaza saw a great turnout of customers and other friends. "We are grateful to have the support of the entire community as we open our doors," said Eric Angel, Travel Plaza general manager.

"On behalf of the Confederated Tribes, we look forward to many years of neighborly relations, economic growth and enduring success."

The Travel Plaza offers some unique and incomparable amenities, both for residents of the local community and visiting travelers.

There is parking for up to 70 trucks in a secure lot. There are laundry facilities, full service and self-serve fueling, a 3,000 square-foot convenience store stocked with favorite items, home style seated dining and takeout food, a convenient off highway location, a variety of gaming options at the indoor casino.

A key distinction of the Plateau Travel Plaza is that it is positioned as a family-friendly destination for area residents, said Belinda Chavez, director of marketing at



Gaming board chairwoman Fran Ahern addresses the gathering at the grand opening. With her in the picture are board members Ted Kulongoski and Elizabeth Furse, Miss Warm Springs Thyreicia Simtustus, and Tribal Councilwoman Brigitte McConville.

Indian Head Casino, "This new complex offers so much for those who live and work

right here in the Warm Springs and Madras community," Ms. Chavez said. "We view it as an af-

fordable, convenient family destination for entertainment, food and fun."



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