



Spilyay Tymoo

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A Homecoming of Ancestors

Since the 1880s the remains of three ancestors—believed to be Wasco—were part of a museum collection half-way around the world.

A team of Columbia River tribal members—from Warm Springs, Yakama and Umatilla—traveled this week to the museum, the Canterbury in the Christchurch, New Zealand.

A native tribe of New Zealand—long-time friends of the tribes, the Māori—conducted the transfer ceremony, handing the remains back to the Columbia tribes.

The tribal group—including three of the Māori—will now travel to the Columbia River for

this unique and historic return.

The repatriation is unique in that it is an international effort, said Roberta Kirk, Native American Graves and Repatriation Act coordinator. She explains:

The Graves and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) applies to museums within the jurisdiction of the United States. The law requires these museums to return any Native remains and funerary objects to the most appropriate tribe or tribes.

The Canterbury Museum is outside this jurisdiction, so the law does not apply, Ms. Kirk said. Instead, the museum has willingly cooperated during the years-long process that preceded this week's return.

Reburial at Wishxam Cemetery

Tribal members are invited to the ancestral reburial this Saturday, March 16. The services begin at 10 a.m. at the Wishxam Cemetery, Dallesport, Washington. Following will be a tribal meal at the Celilo Longhouse. The repatriation and reburial is a combined and international effort by the following:

The Columbia River Tribes: Confederated Tribes of Warm

Springs Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation.

From New Zealand: Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu—the Southern Māori Tribe, Ohaki o Nga Tipuna—the Māori Advisory Committee; and the Canterbury Museum Trust Board of Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Māori—the Southern Māori Tribe and the Māori Advisory Committee—have given in-

valuable help as well, she said. The Māori themselves have a repatriation program with the Canterbury

Museum, which in the past held many Māori ancestral remains.

In recent years the museum has also returned remains to Easter Island. The return to the Columbia is a first in North America.

How the three Wasco remains ended up in New Zealand is a dark chapter in United States history, said Louie Pitt, Warm Springs tribal Governmental Affairs director. He recounts:

In the late 1800s, with the migration of white settlers to the Northwest, looting by some included Native American graves. The fate of Memaloose Island is an example, where thousands of graves were ransacked.

See **REPATRIATION** on 8

World Championship for Saddle Bronc Rider

For Isaiah Florendo rodeo is a year round sport. With grandfather Evans Spino Jr. and his traveling family, Isaiah makes about 80 rodeos a year.

At age 12, Isaiah had already seen many kinds of rodeo arenas. Yet none were like the renowned Jim Norick Arena in Oklahoma City.

Former home of the National Finals Rodeo, the arena earlier this year hosted the International Miniature Rodeo Association Finals—where hundreds of young people from around the world were in competition.

In the saddle bronc competition—a rodeo specialty for Isaiah—there were four go-rounds. Isaiah won two of these outright. And in the end—with most points overall—he won the International Miniature Rodeo Saddle Bronc World Championship.



Isaiah with the 2018 with this two Finals go-around winner plaques, leading to his World Championship.

Isaiah won the Championship buckle and money, and fine wooden plaques for his two go-

around wins. "I was happy about that," Isaiah says. "I was proud." The win was not his first in

rodeo: Isaiah, a sixth-grader at the Warm Springs Academy, has a total of 14 champions buckles.

At age 8 he won the All-Around buckle at the 2015 Cowdeo. He's won at the Modoc Heritage Junior Rodeo, and the Jefferson State Rodeo, among the many.

The International Miniature Rodeo finals is among his most memorable: "It was my first time at a big show like that," Isaiah says.

With his cousin Siddalee Spino-Suppah, Isaiah is helping to pioneer for Warm Springs the field of big-time youth rodeo competition. Last year Siddalee was the only girl in the U.S. to qualify for the Junior National Finals Rodeo bareback competition.

See **RODEO** on page 5

Vote this Friday

The membership this Friday, March 15, will decide the 1980 Baseline Census Referendum.

The primary polling place will be the Warm Springs Community Center. Residents at Simnasho may also drop off their ballots at the Simnasho Longhouse; and voters in Seekseequa may drop off at the Seekseequa Fire Hall.

The polling hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For the referendum there is a minimum voter turnout requirement of one-third of those eligible. That would 1,155 votes to meet the minimum requirement.

The March 15 referendum asks: "Should Resolution 12,157 determining the blood quantum for the purpose of automatic enrollment be approved?"

Resolution 12,157 is the April, 2016 Tribal Council resolution, suggesting the baseline be adjusted from the 1960 to the 1980 census.

Automatic enrollment

The tribes in 1966 established that a person could be automatically enrolled if the person had one-quarter blood of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

By resolution in 1975 the Tribal Council established the baseline for determining blood quantum, the baseline being the 1940 tribal census. This meant the quantum of Indian blood, regardless of tribal ancestry, of a person on the 1940 census is considered Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs blood.

By resolution in 2008 Tribal Council updated the baseline to the 1960 census, with the same effect: The quantum of Indian blood of a person on the 1960 census is considered Confederated Tribes blood.

And descendants look to that to determine their own quantum of Confederated Tribes blood. The resolution this Friday asks whether this standard should now apply instead to the 1980 census.

Looking back at year as Miss Warm Springs

Over the past year Thyreicia Simtustus has made more than 50 appearances as Miss Warm Springs—in parades and powwows, at fairs and rodeos—while always showing the best side of the tribes.

Some of Reicie's favorite times: The Rose Parade in Portland, and the Crow Fair in Montana, the Crooked River Round-Up, and the Jefferson County Fair and Rodeo, where she rode in carrying the tribal flag. "I liked being in parades and on my horse, which was most of the time," she says.

On behalf of the tribes, Reicie greeted Adam Beach, the actor of *Smoke Signals* fame, when he visited the high school and Warm Springs Academy. And she was a great role model at the Lil' Miss Warm Springs Pageant.

Reicie is in her second year at Central Oregon Community College, studying Aviation.

See **REICIE** on page 5



Miss Warm Springs Thyreicia 'Reicie' Simtustus will present the crown at the 2019 Pageant

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