

Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

February 7, 2024 - Vol. 49, No. 3

Wiyak'ik'ila - Winter - Anm

PO Box 489
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Miss Warm Springs Pageant next Friday

The 2024 Miss Warm Springs Pageant is coming up next Friday evening, February 16 at the Agency Longhouse. Candidates are still invited to participate in the community event. Stop by the Tribal Council office and speak with Sandra or Minnie; or use the contact information below.

The Miss Warm Springs tradition started in the 1950s, when the tribes were commemorating the One-Hundred Year Anniversary of the Treaty of 1855. In 1955 the very first Miss Warm Springs was now atwai Kathleen Heath.

The pageant became a regular and annual tradition in 1969, at the time of the first Pi-Ume-Sha celebration. At that time, now atwai Dorothy 'Pebbles' George was chosen Miss Warm Springs.

And since then, the pageant has happened annually with few exceptions, such as covid. To date, forty women have served as Miss Warm Springs. Miss Warm Springs is honored as a cultural ambassador of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and as a role model for the community.

She may speak at public functions in the community, regionally and nationally. Representing the tribes, Miss Warm Springs attends local events like powwows, rodeos, parades and fairs, and more formal gatherings such as national conferences.

During the pageant, candidates show their understanding of the tribes, the history, traditional foods and food ceremonies; and her own respective tribal ceremonies.

To be eligible, candidates must be an enrolled tribal member, 18-24 years of age, alcohol and drug free and never co-habitated. You can reach Minnie Yahtin at: minnie.yahtin@wstribes.org

Or Sandra Danzuka at: sandra.danzuka@wstribes.org

Wasco Chieftainship meeting

Currently, an Agency District meeting regarding the Wasco Chieftainship is scheduled for Monday, February 12. There will be a light meal at 6 p.m. at the Longhouse, and the meeting to follow at 7.

The Chieftainship is a lifetime position, and a voting member of the Tribal Council for the Confederated Tribes. The Wasco Chief represents the Agency District. The Wasco Chieftainship has been vacant since the passing of Alfred Smith Jr. in September of 2022.

Inspiring story behind new children's book

If you are in the mood to read a great little story that brightens your day, then pick up a copy of the new publication *Celeste Goes to Warm Springs*, created by Theodore E. Perez. This is a children's book though in a way the story and pictures are for any person who would like some fun entertainment and to feel good.

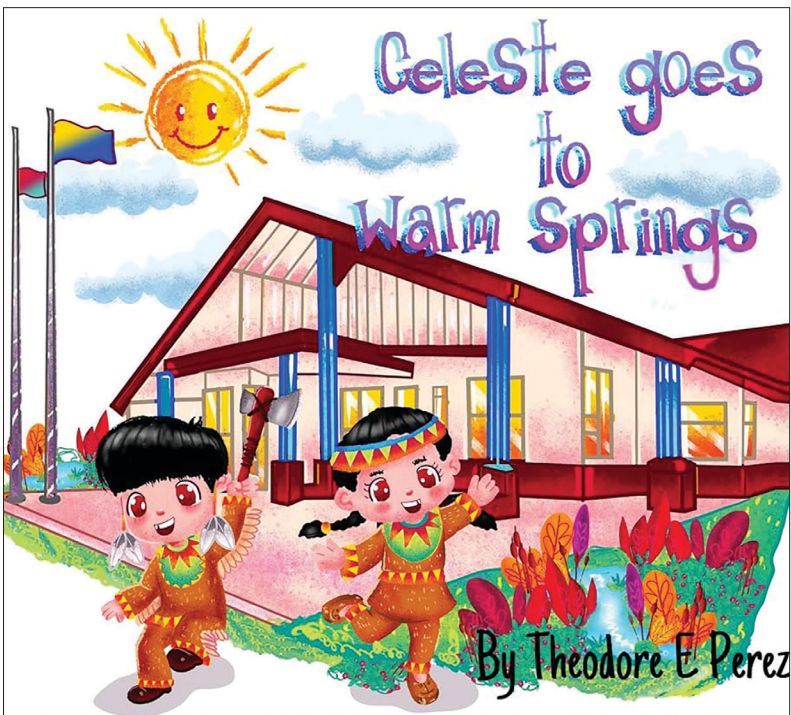
The story is pretty simple, following Papa Theo, his daughter Celeste and her cousins as they visit various places of interest around the reservation. The extreme charm of the book is in the telling of their adventures, and in the bright and beautiful illustrations, together making this a wonderful reading experience.

"It's been selling much quicker than I ever thought possible," author and illustrator Theo Perez was saying.

"And I'm very humbled by the response. At first I was thinking maybe a few of my relatives would be interested in a copy to read to their kids."

Instead, Amazon.com and the Barnes & Noble Bookstore offer the publication for sale.

Mr. Perez is the director of Warm Springs Commodities. His grandmother is atwai Celestine 'Celeste' Brunoe. Theo shares how his new book came about:



Cover of the publication (above); and right, Theo Perez.

While he was growing up Theo and his grandmother would read bedtime stories together. Later in life, when she had passed away, Celeste became the inspiration for Theo to create a new story for children.

In her memory, he says, "I thought we should make our own bedtime story. We should have one set here in Warm Springs, and we should have a positive image of Warm Springs for young people."

Bringing his idea to actual publication has taken a few years. He stayed at it, though, through many trials and errors. After all, he had

made a commitment to his grandmother. "When I make a promise," Theo says, "even if the person passes, I have to follow through."

He attributes this quality, and his creative side in general to a condition, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and high functioning autism. "It can be both a curse and a blessing," Theo says.

There were days when his work on the book would turn out easily and beautifully, and days when it was terrible and had to be completely redone. "So it maybe took me longer than most people," he says.



The result has been well worth the wait, as *Celeste Goes to Warm Springs* is a great addition to the literature of the tribes. In addition, all proceeds from sales of the book go to a non-profit of his kids' choosing.

Theo dedicates the book to Josephine Tafoya, Theo Orion Brunoe, Jocelyn Rose Greene, Cecilia Ann Brunoe, and atwai Celestine Brunoe. And on the Acknowledgements page of *Celeste Goes to Warm Springs*, Theo writes: "To the Warm Springs, Oregon community. May we continue to rise and overcome as we grow together in a positive light."

— Dave McMechan

Name the gaming area at Plateau Travel Plaza

In 2018 the Confederated Tribes and Indian Head Casino opened the Plateau Travel Plaza. Over these six years, the full-service travel stop—with its *Food, Fun and Fuel!*—has been a great addition to the tribal enterprises, employing up to 70 people, and creating many good-paying jobs for tribal members.

The Travel Plaza itself, open 24 hours, features top diesel and gas fuel services with the best prices around; plus the convenience store with deli, and other amenities for travelers like showers and laundry. The Three Teepees Café—now with new hours and new menu—is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The well-reviewed café also offers food to go and call-in orders, at 541-777-2815.

And of course, the 13,500-square-foot Plaza building hosts the gaming room, with 40-plus slots open Monday and Tuesday 12 noon to 10 p.m.; and Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. "That is probably our number one attraction," said Shawn McDaniel, Indian Head Casino general manager.

"Then second would be the fuel prices," Mr. McDaniel said.



The 'gaming room,' as the popular attraction is currently known, is across from the Three Teepees Café, and is in need of a more fitting name.

"It is a big attraction," said Esten Culpus, director of the Plateau Travel Plaza. "And we have many regular customers." Some players stop by when they don't have time to drive down the hill to Indian Head, Mr. Culpus said.

The Plateau gaming room became especially well-known in the area starting back in 2020 during covid, when the Oregon Lottery was closed, for instance, Esten said.

With its consistent success, the tribes' gaming enterprise is looking to invest in upgrades to the gaming aspect of the travel center, McDaniel said. The current planning phase of the improvement

project brought up the idea of a name for the gaming area, he said.

The gaming enterprise always hosts a community contest when it comes to finding the perfect name for one of its features, from Indian Head to the Cottonwood Restaurant, Tule Gill, Three Teepees Café and the Plateau Travel Plaza name itself. Anthony Anderson submitted that winning entry during the 2017 travel plaza naming contest.

The prize for the winning entry is \$250. All tribal members can participate by sending name suggestions to: guest.services@indianheadgaming.com

These are some of the contest guidelines:

The name should reflect positively and descriptively upon the tribes and the travel plaza. The name has to be original, and not likely to be confused with another similar business or enterprise; and not be the trademark, trade name or property of another person or entity.

During the contest, in instances where the same name is submitted, the judging committee will select the one with the earliest entry by time and date.

The author of the winning suggestion, chosen by the selection committee, will receive a \$250 check. Members of the committee will not know the names associated with the contest. Additional rules:

Only two entries per submission. The winner is solely responsible for all federal, state and local taxes on the prize.

Besides emailing to guest services, entries may also be mailed to Indian Head Casino, attention Belinda Chandler, director of Market; PO Box 890, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Or email her at: belinda.chandler@indianheadgaming.com

— Dave McMechan

GAME DAY TV GIVEAWAY

Plus you could win
\$50 Slot Play!

Sunday, February 11th

IndianHeadCasino.com • 541-460-7777 • US-26, Warm Springs, OR 97761

SAME DAY ENTRIES. See Players' Club for details & times.