

Letters to the editor

To Vendors

The tribes’ Human Resources Department is looking for five tribal food vendors. This will be for the annual Tribal Employee Appreciation Day, and a boost for local small businesses. If you are interested in possibly being a meal vendor, reach and share your specialty and menu. The deadline for interested parties is this **Friday, May 17**.

Contact **Monica Arthur** at 541-553-3327. Or email: comp-benefits@wstribes.org

A Thank You

To Family and Friends (You were Heaven sent),
This letter is to express our sincere and deepest Thank You, and an apology to family and friends that weren’t able to make it to the service at Simnasho Longhouse for Leo Washington Jr. The circumstances did not allow the time to have a regular service. We had to move rapidly and have a quick service.

Our sincere appreciation to everyone that did attend, You were our strength and encouragement just by being there:

Antone Fuentes, officiator. The Drummers. Anita Davis for songs and words of encouragement. Carlos Calica, graveside speaker. Brenda Scott, J.T., Flint. Brigitte Scott, Annie and Rosebud.

Sara Scott, food preparation. Neil and Roland. Kevin and Leanne Blueback, Anthony, Miranda and Treanna. Raymond Tsumpti, Howie Arnett, Chris Watson. Gayleen Adams, Radine and Reva Johnson. Mark Johnson, chef. Tony Davis, Jabar Davis.

Archie Caldera. J.P. and Anna Patt, LiP’ John Smith. Dave and Laurie Miller and mother. Dennis and Charlene White, RamonaTanawasha. Kennon and Tara Gibbs, James, Jordon, Jase and Abby. Rick Minthorn, Vernon Suppah Jr. Preston Eagleheart, Leighton Pennington, Lee Sportsman. Alvis III family. The Utilities Department, and numerous other family and friends. Much love and Prayers. Sincerely,

Delcie and Don (Wolf) Miller and Family.

Community notes...

There will be a **Legal Clinic** on May 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Warm Springs Community Action Team, 1136 Paiute Avenue. If you qualify, they can help you with will drafting, estate planning, tenant rights and employee rights, protection from domestic violence, public benefits, homeless rights and expungement of a conviction. Hosted by the Legal Aid Services of Oregon.

Howlak Tichum

In Loving Memory of Neda Rose Sam-Tias (WeeLae – Baby Cakes)

Neda Rose Sam-Tias passed away on March 2, 2024. She was 39.

Neda was surrounded by family, two of her sons, Janathian and Gerald Jr. Tias; mother Marella Sam, grandmother Eliza Brown-Jim, and her sisters and brothers.

Neda was born on July 26, 1984 at St. Charles Madras. She is the daughter of Marella Sam and the late Robert Sam Sr.

Neda graduated from Chemawa Indian School in Salem. Neda married Gerald Lee Tias on September 24, 2004.

She lived in Warm Springs her whole life. Neda loved working at Rainbow Market.

Her love was with her six handsome boys. She loved going to the casino with her sisters.

Neda is preceded in death by her husband Gerald Lee Tias Sr., father

Robert Tracy Sam Sr., grandpa Chester Van Pelt Sr., auntie Jewell Van Pelt. Grandpa Harvey Jim, grandparents William (Bill) and Evelyn W. Sam, Mary Sam-Danzuka, Nancy Sam Johnson, Lavina Tanewasho, grandpa Wilson Sam. Auntie Clydell Barnhart, Gilbert – Lucille Sam, Williams and Suzanne Sam. Lewis: Uncles Leslie (Shula) Sam, Theron (Tweedie) Sam.

Neda is survived by her six sons: Janathian, Gerald Jr., Oswald, Anthony (little Tiger), Xavier and Robert Sam tias. Her mother marella Sam, brothers Tracy, Robert Jr., Thomas Chester Sam and Clarence Vernon Sam. Sisters Sadie Sam, Elsie Sam and JeLeah Warner. Grandmother Eliza Brown Jim, her mother-in-law Lei Lani Requa and family. Along with all her aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews.

Ford Family Foundation award for Miss Warm Springs

Miss Warm Springs Kahmussa Green was chosen to receive a prestigious Ford Family Foundation scholarship.

This is a competitive scholarship, including an interview proces. Only a small percentage of students are chosen for the honor.

Kahmussa, 17, is a senior at Madras High School. In the fall she will be attendning Southwest Community College in Coos Bay on a track scholarship.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the American Indian Business Leaders, and the Native American Student Union.



Kahmussa Green also earned a track scholarship.

For the tribes she is co-president of Warm Springs Tribal Youth Council, and

volunteers her time at the Longhouse.

When Kahmussa and her mother Starla received the

news she had receiveved the Ford Family Foundation scholarship, “We were beyond ecstatic,” Starla says.

The Ford Family Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation with headquarters in Roseburg and its scholarship office in Eugene.

Its investments through grants, scholarships and community building create the conditions so that children have the family, educational and community support they need to succeed in life. The scholarship reward will pay up to 90-percent of a student’s unmet college costs, up to \$40,000 per year.

There is a workshop on **Meat Processing: From Hoof to Freezer** coming up this Thursday, May 16 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Warm Springs Extension Service, hosted by OSU Extension and livestock agents.. There is a free lunch for participants.

MMIP cases

Bree Black Horse was sworn in this month as the federal prosecutor for Miss-

ing and Murdered Indian People cases. This represents a commitment by the U.S. Attorney’s Office and other agencies to combat violence on tribal land and build more trust with Native people.

Ms. Black Horse commented that the government has historically failed to meet the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous people with the urgency and resources it demands.

She is a citizen of the Semi-

nole Nation of Oklahoma. She wore regalia of the Northern Plains Blackfoot tribe during her oath of office. The ceremony opened with a traditional sacred song by Yakama Tribal Chairman Gerald Lewis.

Money at state

There are many tribal members that have monies with the state of Oregon.

In order to find it, you

must go to the Internet. Key in ‘State of Oregon, unclaimed property.’ Key in your name and do a search. Everything is pretty self-explanatory. You must have an email, so they can email you with a request for information. **Valerie Squiemphen**, Probate Office.

The next Spilyay is published on Wednesday, May 29 with a submission deadline of May 27. Thank you.

W.S. Housing Authority

(from page 2)

The WSHA is required to certify annually that we are in compliance with the rules and regulations of each program, including that we only housed eligible households at the time of move in.

When issues of non-compliance arise, we are required to address the issue immediately to bring the home and project back into compliance.

The potential cost of non-compliance can be loss of current funding, repayment of funding already received, exclusion from future funding opportunities, financial penalties due to non-compliance and more.

The WSHA is not able to absorb this kind of risk, nor would we want to, so all issues of non-compliance are very serious and addressed immediately.

There is currently some misconception about income eligibility. WSHA is required to qualify households at ‘move in’ based on income, and the household is required to stay income eligible for a set period of time based on the specific housing program.

Households are not required to stay at that income level forever. Households can have increases to their income after they have established their eligibility, and remain in compliance with

the program. Non-compliance occurs when households are not income eligible at move in due to not reporting all income, which results in households being over income and ineligible for the program.

With the exception of our tribal housing rental program, all housing programs require annual recertification of income.

Rent is calculated based on total household income. There are maximum rents that can be charged for each particular unit (often referred to as ‘ceiling rents’), which is based on rates established each year by the federal government. It is based on the number of bedrooms of the home.

• In the upper chart below are the maximum rents for our HUD programs.

• Rent limits for our tax credit programs are based on unit size as well as applicable set aside: These are set out in the lower chart below.

The WSHA Admissions and Occupancy policy was updated in June 2023 to require third party verification of income for all annual recertifications. This requires tenants to sign employment verification forms if they are employed, or provide documentation showing other household income received.

There were instances where households were not disclosing all their household

income, whether it be intentional or not. WSHA needed a way to third party verify so households remained in compliance with their lease and applicable policies. Policies and procedures are now in place to verify household income.

In addition to reporting household income, tenants are also required to report any changes in household composition. This basically means they need to report any time somebody moves in or out of the unit. This allows WSHA to know who is authorized to occupy the unit.

Since the policy was changed in June 2023, there have been many cases where household income was significantly underreported. Our policy states the following in regards to ‘Falsification of information:’

“Upon determination by the WSHA that the information supplied by the tenant is false, misleading, or contains a material omission, WSHA may terminate the lease or adjust the required monthly payment retroactively.”

We try to avoid eviction whenever possible. We have taken action to retroactively adjust rent in cases where falsification has occurred. WSHA has discussed the issue and are taking the following steps to try to bring people back into compliance:

• Tenants have the next 45 days to report any changes in household composition or income without

penalty. If it is self-reported, no retroactive rent adjustment will occur. Rent will be adjusted moving forward only.

• Failure to self-report in the next 45 days will result in retroactive rent charges if falsification is discovered.

• All tenants who have been assessed retroactive rent recently will be credited back the retroactive rent so we can treat everybody equally.

• The deadline to self-report is Friday, June 14, 2024 by 5 p.m.

If you are unsure what your current household composition or household income is, please call your resident services specialist ASAP to discuss.

It is never the goal for WSHA to evict tenants or cause financial hardship, but we do have policies and procedures we are required to follow.

We must house only income eligible households for most of our programs. WSHA and the Board of Commissioners will be looking at existing policies and rent calculations to see if anything should be updated in the next few months.

We are trying to provide housing opportunities today and in the future, but the only way this can be accomplished is by following all the rules and regulations in place. We appreciate your cooperation.

Respectfully,
Danielle Wood, Executive Director, the Warm Springs Housing Authority.

Final FY 2024 & Final FY 2023 FMRs By Unit Bedrooms					
Year	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
FY 2024 FMR	\$741	\$843	\$1,093	\$1,540	\$1,757

The FY 2024 Jefferson County, Oregon FMRs for all bedroom sizes (above). The rent limits for the WSHA tax credit programs, as based on unit size.

Rent Limits	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5 Bedroom
30%	\$546	\$631	\$705	\$778
40%	\$729	\$842	\$940	\$1,037
50%	\$911	\$1,053	\$1,175	\$1,296
60%	\$1,093	\$1,263	\$1,410	\$1,556

Spilyay Tymoo
(Coyote News, Est. 1976)

Publisher Emeritus in Memorium: Sid Miller
Editor: Dave McMechan

Spilyay Tymoo is published bi-weekly by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Our offices are located at 4174 Highway 3 in Warm Springs. Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to: Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 489, Warm Springs, OR 97761. Phone: 541-553-2210 or 541-771-7521 E-Mail: david.mcmechan@wstribes.org. Annual Subscription rates: Within U.S.: \$20.00