

## Changes coming to Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians announced the addition of five locations to the implementation schedule of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program) as well as operational changes for those locations. The expanded schedule and other changes seek to maximize the Program's impact while also addressing funding and time constraints that will continue to increase in the Program's final three years.

"As the Buy-Back Program addresses increasingly challenging funding and time constraints in its final years, it is taking steps to ensure to ensure efficient and effective use of the Cobell Settlement funds," said Principal Deputy Special Trustee Jerry Gidner. "Tribes and landowners should know that the Program remains committed to supporting tribal involvement and helping landowners make informed decisions."

The Buy-Back Program implements the land consolidation component of the 2009 Cobell v Salazar Settlement, which provided a \$1.9 billion Trust Land Consolidation Fund to consolidate fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers within a 10-year period. The 10-year period is set to expire in November 2022 as specified in the Claims Resolution Act of 2010, the statute Congress passed to ratify and confirm the Settlement. Interests purchased through the Program are immediately transferred in trust to the tribe with jurisdiction over the land. This effort strengthens tribal sovereignty by unifying lands for tribal benefit and use, such as economic de-

velopment, infrastructure, housing, cultural preservation and rights-of-way.

As of Dec. 16, 2019, approximately \$255 million of the Fund remains, \$131 million of which is available for land purchases and \$124 million for implementation. With the \$1.6 billion that has been expended, the Program has consolidated over 893,000 fractionated land interests – the equivalent of nearly 2.6 million acres – and restored them to tribal trust ownership. Notably, tribal ownership now exceeds 50% in 17,700 more tracts of land as a result of the Buy-Back Program; this represents an increase of more than 144% for the locations where implementation has occurred. At several locations, the Program has consolidated more than half of the fractional interests that existed in 2013, with one location in Montana achieving a 65% reduction.

In 2017, the Department announced 20 locations for implementation, noting that the Program would "continually assess progress and may revise the schedule or add locations as capacity and resources allow, depending on the results achieved." Now, given the likelihood that resources will remain after implementation at those locations, the Program is expanding its schedule with an additional five locations. As with the locations announced in 2017, the additional locations were identified based on a number of factors, including the severity of fractionation, appraisal complexity, degree of ownership overlap between locations or geographic proximity, tribal readiness, past response rate and cost and efficien-

cy. The locations are listed below in alphabetical order (not reflective of the order of implementation):

- Bad River Reservation (Wisconsin)
- Lake Traverse Reservation (North Dakota and South Dakota)
- Spirit Lake Reservation (North Dakota)
- Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation (North Dakota)
- Yakama Reservation (Washington)

While planning and other preliminary implementation activities at these locations are beginning now, the Program's ability to extend purchase offers for each location will depend on the availability of funding. And, the Program will continue to prioritize the purchase of cost-effective land at these locations. A Program representative will contact each tribe at the initial stages of planning for implementation. If resources allow, the Program may include additional locations for implementation in the future. Program consolidation results and funding status will continue to be available on the Program's website. At this time, the Program is not requesting submissions of interest for participation.

### CHANGES TO MAXIMIZE PROGRAM IMPACT

With the remaining funding and time limits established for the Program, the Program will maintain its focus on consolidating the greatest number of fractionated land interests. For the five locations announced above, the Program will adjust its operations to increase flexibility and maximize Program impact in the remaining three years.

Individuals who own fractional interests at the

five newly-announced locations should be aware of several Program changes on the horizon. First, the Program's acceptance of returned offer packages will be contingent on the availability of funding. The approval of offers and subsequent payments to landowners will not be guaranteed. Second, the Program will require additional time to process returned offer packages while it determines the availability of funding, meaning that landowners may wait longer to receive payment for interests they choose to sell.

Additional information about these and other changes will be provided in the coming months through updates to frequently asked questions on the Program's website and in communications to tribes and landowners.

### RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNER

Various informational tools are available to landowners, who are encouraged to think strategically about their options and carefully consider how to use the funds they receive from selling their land. The Program's website includes detailed frequently asked questions, a schedule of upcoming outreach events, and additional information to help individuals make informed decisions about their land.

Landowners are encouraged to call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (Call Center) at 888-678-6836 or visit their local Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) office to ensure that their address on file is current, ask questions about their land or purchase offers, and request a copy of the appraisal completed for their land.

## Maddock Opera House to host Valentine's Day dinner and show

The Maddock Opera House Association invites you to celebrate your Valentine's Day by attending "Love And All That Jazz" at the Maddock Opera House. Friday, Feb. 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m., You will enjoy a rosemary chicken dinner accompanied by friends, cocktails and live entertainment. Local music instructor, Carson Adam and friends, will perform in a jazz combo. The event is for ages 21 and

older, and includes a three-course meal. Proceeds, in part, will help fund scholarships for local students to attend the International Music Camp.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 27. This is a reserved seating event, so purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. Reserve your tickets by stopping at Harriman's Coffee House or going online to [www.maddockoperahouse.com/store](http://www.maddockoperahouse.com/store)

## Google workshop offered at Carrington Library

Carrington Area Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Grow with Google to help community members learn digital skills, with a workshop at Carrington City Library on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

At the workshop, Google My Business, individuals will learn the following: how to create or claim a Business Profile on Google, manage your business info across Google Search and maps, use Google My Business to connect with potential customers, and create a free website using the info from the Business Profile.

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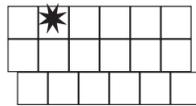
workshop, attendees will learn how to improve a website's visibility in Google's organic search results, on all devices, create a free Google My Business listing, and advertise a business on Google.

Register here: <https://community.grow.google/s/event/a0r1E00000CBppj/workshop-20200206>

Dave Meyers, Google trainer from Minnesota, will be the presenter. There is no charge for the workshop, but there may be a small fee for lunch. Call 652-2524 or 652-3921 for more information. Please register early, as seating is limited.

## Oberon Oracles

by Linda Madson



A correction from last week: The Leeds 55 Club hosted the Christmas get-together for all the clubs in Benson County and not Minnewaukan. I apologize for the error.

Lezlee Thorson visited her dad, Lester Roberts on Tuesday. Lester and Chad Getscher were in Rugby on business Wednesday. Roger visited Lester on Sunday.

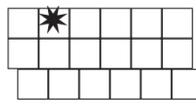
Beau, Bria and Brittin Buehler brought supper and visited Todd, Nadley and Hunter Buehler Monday evening. Tuesday afternoon, Dave Kenner stopped by to visit Todd. Beau, Bria and Brittin visited grandpa Todd on Friday. Later that afternoon, Donnie Buckmeier visited Todd.

John and Donna Grann were in Warwick Tuesday evening to cheer on the New Rockford-Sheyenne Rockets boys basketball team as they played the Warwick Warriors. Ben Grann traveled to the Killdeer area over the weekend. He picked up a friend, Chase Peterson, in Minot. They participated in a benefit coyote hunt for a friend of theirs undergoing cancer treatments. Lacey Grann went ice fishing Sunday evening with friends, Zach Johnson and Elise Burwell.

Thought to Remember: The important thing about your lot in life is whether you use it for parking or building.

## Talk of the Town

by Charlotte Koepplin



New Rockford area folks extend sympathy to the family of Don Anderson.

David and Karen Anderson, Peter and Patti Larson and Sandra and Margie Anderson were Sunday afternoon and supper guests at the Gary and Kathy Anderson home. All enjoyed a blow by blow and pictures by Sandra of her recent trip to Europe.

Ross and Allyssa Lewis and Kenna of Dickinson arrived at the Todd and Karen Koepplin farm Friday. Saturday, despite the stormy weather, all, plus Taylor

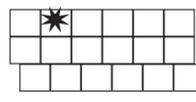
and Amanda Koepplin and Evelyn got together and introduced Ross to the art of making sausage, a tradition of the Koepplins.

Monday visitors at the Shirley Packard home were Judy McKnight and Elaine Thompson.

Janet Laube and Yip Yip took a quick trip to Jamestown Tuesday, where Yip Yip had a vet appointment. Sunday afternoon they were visitors and supper guests at the Charlotte Koepplin home after getting dug out from the storm.

## Pleasant Prairie

by Charlotte Koepplin



Charlotte Koepplin enjoyed a phone chat with her Aunt Lucille Saldivar from Anaheim, Calif., on Tuesday morning. A little family and weather catch up since the holidays.

Jimmy Indergaard was a visitor and dinner guest at his Uncle Mervin Indergaard's home Saturday and a Sunday visitor and supper

guest at his sister Ruth and Andy Braaten's home.

Sunday Margie Anderson was among family to enjoy a visit and supper at the Gary and Kathy Anderson home.

Tuesday afternoon found Candy Jensen a visitor and supper guest at the Charlotte Koepplin home.

## Senior Meals

Jan. 27 – 31  
**Monday:** Ham, Baked Potato with Sour Cream, Vegetable, Apple Sauce.

**Tuesday:** Cranberry Glazed Chicken, Parsley Potatoes, Broccoli, Pudding, Pear Sauce.

**Wednesday:** Shredded BBQ Beef, Baked Potato

with Sour Cream, Vegetable, Apricot Sauce.

**Thursday:** Sweet and Sour Pork, Vegetable Rice, California Blend, Pineapple Sauce.

**Friday:** Chicken and Rice Hot Dish, Peas and Carrots, Orange Juice, Fruit Sauce

## Public Notice

### MINUTES OF EDDY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING EDDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE JANUARY 7, 2020, 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson. Also present were Commissioner Neal Rud, Commissioner Glenda Collier, Auditor Patty Williams, and Rachel Brazil, New Rockford Transcript.

Neal Rud made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Glenda Collier. The motion carried.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting. Neal Rud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

After review of the financials and expenditure and revenue budgets for the month of December 2019, a motion was made by Glenda Collier to approve both the financials and budgets. The motion was seconded by Neal Rud and the motion carried.

Neal Rud made a motion to approve the following bills and it was seconded by Glenda Collier. Roll call vote: Rud, Collier, and Gehrtz voted aye.

Payroll.....	51,526.71
Donna Anderson.....	193.96
Cash & Carry Lumber.....	66.44
Central Plains Water Dist.....	56.00
Cole Papers Inc.....	294.27
Glenda Collier.....	115.85
Lyle Dahl.....	652.50
Corey Erickson.....	536.75
Audrey Gjestvang.....	831.74
Jon Klabo.....	785.00
Roger Langley.....	569.50
Melinda Martin.....	140.00
Matthew Bender & Co Inc134.31	
Nyle Myhre.....	590.52
ND Tax Commissioner.....	1,722.56
Elect Fed Tax Pay Sys 17,193.22	
Aflac.....	169.39
ND Public Emp Ret.....	12,447.57
Ameritas Life Ins Corp.....	264.10
Pitney Bowes Inc.....	80.74
Quill Corporation.....	51.46
Sunshine Spray Svc.....	9,307.50
Bank Forward.....	27.70
Cash & Carry Lumber.....	331.50
Central Business Sys Inc.....	139.40
Central Pharmacy.....	616.41
Cole Papers Inc.....	240.56
City Of Sheyenne.....	18,995.45
City Of New Rockford 72,711.25	
NR City Park Dist.....	26,747.64
Dakota Dust-Tex Inc.....	133.25
Dauenhauer Diesel Rpr.....	435.38
Decorated Wearables.....	584.10
Do It Best.....	358.11
Dollar General-Regions.....	800.00
Eddy Co Cou On Aging 9,821.03	
Eddy Co Treasurer.....	6,335.00
Eddy-NR Library.....	4,917.03
Evans Funeral Home.....	730.00
Tolna Fire Dist #1.....	1,786.70
Warwick Fire Dist #2.....	647.64
NRFD #3.....	5,601.93
Garrison Div Cons Dist.4,923.40	
Governsoft.....	13,317.00
Historical Society.....	1,285.84
Chandy Howard.....	197.79
LRDHU.....	16,199.75
Lake Region Law Enf.....	6,478.75
Lake Region Re-Ent.....	1,235.00
Leaf.....	116.00
Linderman Const, Inc.....	13.98
Mick's 281 Service.....	1,154.91
Ntl Assoc. Of Counties.....	450.00

National Sheriffs' Assoc.....	65.00
ND Assoc Counties.....	14,655.61
ND County Commiss.....	1,040.00
NDACo Res Group.....	12,892.32
ND Clerks Association.....	100.00
ND Recorders Associ.....	200.00
ND State Radio Com.....	120.00
NR Utility Services.....	252.93
NCPD.....	7,380.00
NP Electric Coop.....	120.00
Otter Tail Power Co.....	34.66
Praxair Distribution Inc.....	41.55
Purchase Power.....	503.50
RDO Equipment Co.....	420.48
DP Pub Sch.....	18,919.66
NR-S Sch #2.....	371,684.00
Midkota School Dist.....	46,033.88
Warwick School Dist.....	19,262.32
Soil Conservation.....	14,254.57
State Treasurer.....	4,873.40
Stutsman Co Corr Ctr.....	210.00
Transcript Publishing.....	505.34
Township Payouts.....	68,889.17
Tyler Technologies.....	158.65
Viking Electric.....	1,790.00
Water Resource.....	17,496.98

Neal Rud made a motion to approve the sheriff's report for the month of December 2019, and it was seconded by Glenda Collier. The motion carried.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the Transfer of Funds from Human Services to County General in the amount of \$1796.65. Neal Rud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
Todd Weber, Road Superintendent, discussed snow removal on bus and mail routes, township supervisors not calling in for roads to be cleaned, and the lack of enforcement of landowners mowing ditches, which is causing snow problems on many roads. Discussion was held on alternatives for snowplowing of townships roads.

Todd discussed the gravel needed on County Road 12 and that he will be purchasing a stockpile of gravel that meets his qualifications for future use in maintaining roads.

Bryant Huso informed the Commission that he is resigning as the Weed Control Officer at the end of January. He offered to stay until a replacement can be found and would like to be a member of the Weed Board. He presented a job summary of the position and a list of the current members of the Weed Control Board.

Paul Lies, Sheriff, discussed the memorandum he received from Judge Foughty's office and the conclusion reached that if the Act of May 31, 1946 is repealed, neither the State of ND nor the Spirit Lake Tribe would have jurisdiction over crimes committed on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation by Non-Indians against the person or property of an Indian. The exclusive jurisdiction would lie with the Federal Government.

parts of the memo and her concerns in signing the memo. The Commissioners recommended that Paul and Ashley work together to revise and present a memo they are comfortable with and to not sign until they are satisfied.

The Commissioners reviewed the letter from Christopher Jones, ND Department of Human Services, regarding the Department's approval of the Central Prairie Human Service Zone's Agreement.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the estimates from Cash & Carry Lumber, Linderman Construction, Inc., and Taverna Electric for repairs to the ceiling of the county shop in Colvin Township. Neal Rud seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Discussion was held regarding the damage done to the front steps of the courthouse from removal of the old chairlift. An estimate of the cost of repairs and pictures of the damage will be emailed to Access Elevator & Lifts, Inc., along with a request for them to cover the costs.

Neal Rud made a motion to approve staying at the mileage rate of \$0.58 for reimbursement of private use of vehicles for year 2020. Glenda Collier seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the Pledge of Securities at Bank Forward, and Neal Rud seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The list of duties of the Chairperson of the Commission was reviewed.

Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 10:20 A.M. The next regular meeting will be January 21, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.

Dave Gehrtz, Chairperson  
ATTEST: Patty Williams, County Auditor  
Published Jan. 27, 2020

## Public Notices

"Because the public has the right to know"

**TROUBLED?**  
Phone 1-701-662-5050  
24-Hour Crisis Line  
Collect Calls Accepted