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The Jamestown Sun



Contributed / United Tribes Technical College
Duncan Williams, right, guides Masaharu Ishii in placing a stamp by his name in the Ireicho, or “Sacred Book of Names.” The book will be on display and available for stamping at the UTTC Library during the weekend of Sept. 5 and 6.

‘Snow Country Prison’ memorial to open

Honors imprisoned Japanese Americans during World War II

BY C.S. HAGEN
Forum News Service

BISMARCK, N.D.
After 15 years of planning and raising money, the United Tribes Technical College will open its “Snow Country Prison” memorial, dedicated to Japanese Americans who suffered through years of internment during World War II.
“Snow Country Prison” is the nickname for Fort Lincoln internment center, located on UTTC land. The prison housed 1,920 Japanese Americans, many of whom were first-generation immigrants, during World War II as



Contributed / United Tribes Technical College
Fort Lincoln internment camp during World War II. The wooden barracks at right are where Japanese were sent during the first years of the war.

part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Enemy Alien Control Program.

Before Fort Lincoln was established, the land upon which it rests

already had a deep history of pain and loss.
In 1863, bands of Dakota and Lakota fled to the plains where the internment camp would later lie. A U.S. general from Minnesota was trying to capture the Indigenous peoples in the wake of the Dakota Wars of 1862, said Dennis Neumann, an archive consultant for the United Tribes Technical College.
The land was later seized by white settlers, who eventually built military training facilities for troops sent to the Philippines and the Mexican-U.S. border.
Before the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942, the base was

already holding German nationals, mainly merchant seamen, whose ships had been seized in American harbors.
One of those incarcerated in 1942 was a North Dakota businessman named Harry Teiku Hayashi. He was the founder of the entertainment complex Rainbow Gardens in Carrington, North Dakota, and was taken away from his wife, Anna Hayashi, and their children. He spent nearly four years behind barbed wire at Fort Lincoln before he was released.
After his release, Hayashi discovered Rainbow Gardens was in ruins. There was nobody to take care of the

property. At more than 50 years old, he no longer had the strength to keep the business going, according to newspaper reports at the time.
The \$1.3 million memorial — funded by grants, more than 100 individual donors and the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation — will be open to the public for the first time on Friday, Sept. 5. It features a center drum circle, like a Native Medicine Wheel, flanked by two interpretive walls. One wall bears the names of Hayashi and others interned at Fort Lincoln, the other is a timeline of regional

MEMORIAL on A2

State’s attorney gives no timeline on review of agreement for sale of Spiritwood Resort

BY MASAKI OVA
The Jamestown Sun

JAMESTOWN — Stutsman County State’s Attorney’s Fritz Fremgen gave no timeline to the Stutsman County Park Board on Tuesday, Sept. 2, on when he will review verbiage in an agreement that would transfer the permit to operate Spiritwood Resort to a bank.
The Stutsman County Park Board approved on Aug. 8 tabling the sale and issuing a permit to new operators for Spiritwood Resort at Spiritwood Lake. The park board also approved tabling a request to enter into a consent to collateral assignment of permit agreement with the American State Bank of Grygla.
Fremgen previously said language in the agreement would transfer the permit to the bank. He said the language says the bank would control the place but not have

any obligation, duty or liability under the permit.
Fremgen said Tuesday that he hopes to review the consent to collateral assignment of permit agreement as soon as possible.
“I’m not going to give you a deadline that I can’t give you,” he said. “I do not control my schedule.”
Rob and Leah Brooks requested a 25-year permit on Aug. 8 through Bruzx Enterprises LLC for Spiritwood Resort. They plan to purchase Spiritwood Resort.
Eric Nordstrom, co-owner and general manager of the resort, asked the park board on Tuesday, Sept. 2, if it would consider giving the Brooks a 20-year permit to operate Spiritwood Resort. He said the park board previously discussed issuing a 15-year permit to the new owners.
The park board took no action on the request.

Nordstrom also asked the park board why the parks portfolio – a committee that includes appointed park board members – discussed a permit fee of \$25,000 per year to operate Spiritwood Resort without him or the Brooks present. The current permit fee is \$1 per year.
Robert Brooks said the Brooks were told they could leave because the parks portfolio meeting was over. Alonge said she called the Brooks and left a voicemail.
Nordstrom said the bank approved a loan for the Brooks based on current financial statements provided to them. He said the bank’s decision did not include an extra \$25,000 a year for a permit fee and he and the Brooks are both paying insurance on the property.
Levi Taylor, commission chairman, said the parks portfolio discussed the potential to

implement a \$25,000 a year permit fee but that would be offset by improvements at Spiritwood Resort and taxes paid.
Nordstrom also said it’s been over a month since the bank’s attorney has been able to get ahold of Fremgen to get the verbiage corrected in the consent to collateral assignment of permit agreement.
Stutsman County Commissioner Chad Wolsky said Nordstrom should have talked to the park board before a deal to sell the Spiritwood Resort was made.
Nordstrom said he notified the county that he is listing Spiritwood Resort for sale at the end of 2024.
Jessica Alonge, Stutsman County auditor/chief operating officer, said the permit to operate Spiritwood Resort is not transferable. When the county was notified about the listing (OF>>>???) Spiritwood Resort,

Alonge said she told Nordstrom that when he has a buyer and is ready to take that next step, let the county know because the permit would need to be amended for the new permittees.
Taylor said Nordstrom and the Brooks should work out a short-term management agreement together if he wants to hire them to manage Spiritwood Resort in the short term.
Commission approves federal aid projects
The Stutsman County Commission unanimously approved on Tuesday federal aid projects County Roads 44 and 69.
County Roads 44 and 69 will be overlaid in 2026.
The total cost of to overlay County Roads 44 and 69 is about \$1.9 million and more than \$2 million, respectively.
The federal aid projects will require a 20% local share from the highway aid fund.

Commission prioritizes projects grant applications
The county commission unanimously approved three projects to apply for grant funds through the Flexible Transportation Fund program.
The state Legislature approved the Flexible Transportation Fund program this year. The program will provide grants for projects that reduce long-term maintenance and operational costs and improve the connectivity, efficiency and safety of the state’s transportation network, according to the North Dakota Department of Transportation’s website.
Approximately \$116 million will be allocated to local public agencies by the North Dakota Department of Transportation through the grants.
David Schwartz, road consultant, said the top three projects in order of

TIMELINE on A3