



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

December 9, 2015 Vol. 40, No. 25

December - Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyam

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Ballots coming in on cannabis initiative

December 17 referendum needs 1,100 voters

A Warm Springs delegation met earlier this month with BIA regional director Stanley Speaks, and deputy regional director Bodi Shaw.

From Warm Springs were Tribal Council and Ventures board members, and legal counsel.

The meeting focused on the legal aspects of the tribal cannabis proposal.

"The meeting gave the tribal delegation certainty that our process has support of the regional director and the deputy regional direc-

tor," said Pita Pitt, Ventures board member.

BIA Regional Director Speaks said, "We feel comfortable that the tribe is proceeding with an appropriate plan to develop this business."

The tribes' cooperation with the state of Oregon and the U.S. Attorney's Office is a key reason why the BIA is supportive, Mr. Speaks said.

Tribal officials are planning to meet again with the U.S. Attorney's Office again shortly after the referendum, if the vote is in favor, said Pita Pitt.

The referendum asks the membership whether Tribal Council should be authorized to "allow, regulate and operate an on-reservation,

tribally owned cannabis cultivation and extraction facility, with retail sales allowed only off the reservation."

Eighty-five new jobs, and annual revenue of more than \$27 million revenue are the reasons why Tribal Council and Ventures are making the proposal.

If the referendum were the pass, there are some important aspects that would have to be worked out.

The tribes, for instance, would work with the state toward an agreement for the operation. Involvement of federal law enforcement would be another vital aspect. The location of the grow facility is another matter yet to be determined.

The Warm Springs Post Office

is in receipt of completed absentee ballots for the referendum. These ballots are being kept in a secured ballot box in the Warm Springs Post Office.

Election officials will retrieve the box at the end of the business day on the date of the election, next Thursday.

The post office had received between 50 and 100 ballots as of Tuesday morning of this week, said Karla Hawes, Warm Springs Post Master.

A voter response of at least one-third is required for a valid referendum. As there are about 3,300 eligible voters, the response must reach 1,100 for a valid election.

Miss Warm Springs candidates

The Miss Warm Springs Committee is looking for young women who are interested in being Miss Warm Springs 2016. The pageant is planned for December 28.

If you are interested, please call the Tribal Council office at 541-553-3257. Or you can email: minnie.yahtin@wstribes.org

Chance to win bighorn tag

The tribal Natural Resources Branch is hosting a hunter reporting raffle, with one of the prizes being a 2016 bighorn ram tag.

The raffle is open to hunters who turn in all their tags and completed reporting for the closed 2015 hunts. Submit these to the Natural Resources Branch by Feb. 2 in order to be entered in the raffle.

Other prizes include 2016 Ceded Land doe tags, plus various hunting and fishing gear. Multiple names will be drawn at a public hunters meeting in February.

Veterans housing support session

Warm Springs will host a Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing meeting this Thursday, Dec. 10.

The Warm Springs Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 1191 Hollywood St., Warm Springs.

The Presenter will be a Carolyn Bateson, VA community reintegration services director. Veterans and their families are invited to learn about the HUD-VA partnership, the VASH program and its goals, eligibility and benefits, and supportive housing.

W.S. Housing Authority

Warm Springs Housing Authority is partnering in the presentation, with information on program development, supplemental housing and needs assessment.

The Warm Springs Housing Authority is in the process of developing a local program that takes aim at ending homelessness for veterans, by utilizing the HUD-VASH program.

HUD is in the process of inviting 30 tribes to participate in the program. Each tribe will be awarded 15 to 25 units, and HUD will provide rental assistance.

Determining eligibility for individuals can be difficult, and the VA has a eligibility department that provides assistance. For more information call 541-553-3250.

Almost ready for Christmas

Warm Springs Recreation is hosting some holiday events over the next couple of weeks. They had a craft-making session (right) last week.

The Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar is set for Saturday, December 12, from 10 to 4 at the center. Call for a table, 541-553-3243.

Indian Nite Out is coming up on December 22.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Council, Natural Resources start work on fish agreement

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are a party in the Columbia Basin Fish Accords, approved in 2008.

The accords are a detailed fish management and habitat improvement plan for the basin and tributaries. The ten-year accords are set to expire at the end of 2018, and the tribes are now starting talks toward a new agreement.

Natural Resources general manager, and tribal legal counsel John Ogan met with Tribal Council this week for an update on the accords process. Important issues will come up as the parties begin the negotiations. As an example, Councilman Carlos Smith mentioned this issue:

During the start of a fishing seasons, state and tribal scientists make an estimate of the number of fish that can be expected to return in the particular run.

The state then opens the commercial fishing season in the lower part of the Columbia River. Some time later, as the fish move up the river, the tribes open the zone 6 fishery.

It can happen that the initial run estimate turns out to have been too high. At which point the allowable catch is reduced.

However, by this time the fishermen in the lower part of the river

have already harvested based on higher estimate. And the reduction happens higher up in the river, such as at the usual and accustomed tribal fishing areas of zone 6.

The 2008 Fish Accords are an agreement among four treaty tribes of the Columbia, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The accords included specific habitat restoration projects that have been carried out in the basin. The management of water at the Columbia dams, and hatchery management, are other aspects.

For the tribes and federal agencies, the accords were a solution to ongoing disagreement over fisheries management in the basin. Before, the federal agency would issue a "biological opinion" regarding a certain operation, and the tribes would successfully challenge the opinion in court.

With direction from a federal judge, the tribes and agencies worked out the accords, which were nevertheless challenged in court by environmental groups. The challenge to the accords is still pending, which could complicate the negotiation process.

Nestlé water plan faces new challenge

Tribal Council and many community members are against a proposal by the Nestlé company, and the city of Cascade Locks, to bottle and sell water from Oxbow Springs.

The spring is a source of water for the Oxbow Fish Hatchery at the Columbia River, where the tribes have treaty fishing rights.

Earlier this year, it appeared the Nestlé-Cascade Locks proposal might go forward. It appeared Cascade Locks had traded water rights from the Herman Creek aquifer with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, in exchange for rights to Oxbow Springs.

Cascade Locks would then be able to work with Nestlé in developing the bottling plant, using the pristine Oxbow Springs water.

Meanwhile, though, the tribes, community members, state legislators and others voiced their opposition.

Gov. Kate Brown recently informed the state Fish and Wildlife department to withdraw the agency's application to trade the

water right.

The application was before the state Water Resources Department.

The governor's action will allow for greater tribal and other public participation in the decision to use the Oxbow Springs water as a commercial water source.

Earlier this year, Tribal Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr. stated the tribes' opposition in a letter to Gov. Brown and other officials:

"Water quantity and quality and hatchery operations are of paramount importance to ongoing treaty-based rights of the Tribe in the Columbia River area, and to ongoing federal litigation," he said.

"These factors are not only reasonable to evaluate but of critical importance for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed water transfer, particularly in the context of climate change... and more frequent droughts and dry years."

See OXBOW SPRINGS on 3



Fridays and Saturdays in December

Reindeer Games

6pm - 10pm

Win your share of \$3,000 nightly!

The Greatest Reindeer of them ALL

12/25 & 12/26

6pm - 10pm

Win your share of \$6,000 nightly!

Dasher's Hot Seats

1pm - 4:30pm

\$36,000 REIN in the cash



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