



# Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

December 23, 2015 Vol. 40, No. 26

December – Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyam

PO Box 489  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS  
Postal Patron

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

## For Excellence in Community Linguistics

### Award recognizes director's work on Native languages

To Valerie Switzler the Native languages of the Confederated Tribes are of the greatest value. "They are what hold our people together," Val was saying recently.

"They help protect what we have—our culture, hunting and fishing rights, the Treaty."

Her dedication to the tribal languages is well-known among indigenous language experts. Most recently, a professor at the University of Kansas nominated Val to the Linguistic Society of America.

The Linguistic Society then chose Val as the recipient of the 2016 Excellence in Community Linguistics Award.

"This is a world-wide award—



anywhere that native language teaching is going on," said Joana Jansen, linguist with the University of Oregon Northwest Indian Language Institute. The award last year, for instance, went to a linguist working with native language in Canada.

Val will travel to Washington, D.C., in January to accept the award, at the 2016 Linguistic Society Annual Meeting. The Endangered Language Fund is helping with some of the travel expenses. Val's daughter Evaline is planning to accompany her on the trip.

Val first heard the tribal language while growing up in Tenino Valley, where her family had a ranch.

See **LANGUAGE AWARD** on 3

Val Switzler at Culture & Heritage

## Last minute bazaar

The Recreation Department is hosting the Last Minute Christmas Bazaar this Wednesday, Dec. 23, until 6 p.m. The bazaar is at the community center gym and social hall. Stop by and find that perfect gift, while enjoying some homemade goodies.

## Top news of 2015

The grand opening of the Greeley Heights subdivision was one of the great events of 2015 on the reservation.

There are 35 new houses in the subdivision. Funding for the project was close to \$10 million. The project is unique in Indian Country, involving a partnership among tribal, federal, state and private entities. The Warm Springs Housing Authority saw this project to completion.

Meanwhile, some other important 2015 news developments on the reservation will have their main impacts in 2016.

The cannabis referendum is an example. If the project proceeds as planned, this would be among the biggest economic development projects in the history of the Confederated Tribes.

Construction of the greenhouse is planned for the summer, and the growing operation is expected to start later in the year. The first sales would happen early in 2017.

The benefits are more than 80 new jobs, plus eventual average revenue of more than \$27 million a year. Warm Springs Ventures and Tribal Council brought this proposal to the membership.

## Tribes move ahead with cannabis project

The membership voted in favor of the cannabis referendum by a margin of 1,252 in favor, to 198 against. The number of votes—a total of 1,450—was easily more than enough for a valid referendum.

In fact the referendum saw the largest participation by voters in a Confederated Tribes referendum, said Lynn Davis, tribal Administrative Services director. Turnout was high despite the snow and ice during the first part of the election day.

Tribal Council approved the referendum results by resolution on Friday morning, Dec. 18. The Council thanked the Warm Springs Ventures board and staff for their work on the project. They thanked the Election Board, all those who volunteered during the election process, and all those who voted.

Compared to other elections, the cannabis referendum saw many younger tribal member voters, said Beulah Tsumpti, chair of the Election Board.

Participation by the younger membership—both at the polling booths, and in helping to get out the vote—was a welcome development, said Council Chairman Austin Greene Jr.

This may give young people the incentive to vote in future tribal decisions, as they see the power of their vote and the ability to make change, said Don Sampson, Ventures chief executive director.

The result—86.3 percent in favor, to 13.7 against—gives Tribal Council and Ventures a clear man-

date to pursue the project. And the next steps in the process are also clear, Sampson said.

For instance, the state legislature will have to correct a law that currently precludes tribal participation in the state's cannabis production industry. Legislators are supportive of the change, and are expected to act in February to make the correction, Sampson said.

From the start of the cannabis project discussion, Ventures and Council have kept federal and state officials updated and involved.

With the referendum question now settled, the tribes will be working in more detail with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the BIA, and the appropriate state officials.

Ventures is scheduled to meet

with Tribal Council on January 5 for further discussion of the next steps in the process. The plan for now calls for construction of the growing facility during the summer, with the initial product sales happening in about a year, Sampson said.

The tribes are at the forefront of this kind of project, made possible by the legalization of cannabis in the state of Oregon.

"Too often we study these things until the opportunity has passed," Councilman Carlos Smith said. This time though, he said, "I'm glad we're acting in timely way."

See **REFERENDUM** on 3

## Second championship for Series MVP

Andy Leonard and his Portland Red Sox baseball club this year won their second National Adult Baseball Association championship. They won their first title in 2012, after 16 seasons of getting close but just falling short.

Leonard played second base and outfield, and was named the series Most Valuable Player. His batting average was .645, having gone 20 for 31. He had no strike-outs or walks, putting the ball in play at each at-bat.

The performance should help him decide whether to play for Portland again next year spring—in what would be his twenty-second season in the adult league. "I've always said I'll play as long as I can," Andy was saying recently.

An MVP award and second

Championship would indicate he can indeed still play the game.

Andy plays in about 50 adult baseball games a year. Most are with the Portland Red Sox, plus other games at Indian tournaments around the region. They play the Adult Baseball Association World Series in Phoenix, Ariz.

This year he played in two tournaments—the 50-and-over, and the 45-and-over divisions. It was with the 45-and-over team that he won the 2015 championship.

Andy started playing baseball at a young age. At age 5 he moved up to the minor league division, when the usual minor league age was 8. He lettered all four years at Madras High School. Then his adult baseball career started at age 27.

These days Andy stays in shape



Andy Leonard with 2015 MVP World Series bat.

in the off-season with regular exercise, helping him avoid injuries when the season starts.

During the World Series, he stays at a hotel away from most of the

other players. "I like to be able to think about what I have to do, to get ready for the next game," he says.

See **BASEBALL** on 3

### Truck stop

Another 2015 project that could prove to be a major development in 2016 is a truck stop at the tribes' Madras industrial park property. This is a project of the Gaming and Resort enterprise, as approved by Tribal Council in the summer of 2015. The truck stop will create between 40 and 60 new jobs, and will generate an estimated \$2 million in new revenue.

The tribes have 10 acres of trust land at the Madras industrial park. About 1,000 work at the park on a daily basis. The tribes' property has not been in productive use for several years now. That could change next year.

### Carbon sequestration

Another revenue project is the carbon sequestration market program. This is expected to bring in its first new revenue in 2016. The carbon sequestration marketing program is a project of the Natural Resources Branch, Warm Springs Ventures and the Tribal Council.

## Fridays and Saturdays in December

# \$36,000 REIN in the cash

<p><b>Reindeer Games</b></p> <p>6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Win your share of \$3,000 nightly!</p>	<p><b>The Greatest Reindeer of them ALL</b></p> <p>12/25 &amp; 12/26</p> <p>6pm - 10pm</p> <p>Win your share of \$6,000 nightly!</p>	<p><b>Dasher's Hot Seats</b></p> <p>1pm - 4:30pm</p>
--	--	--

IndianHeadGaming.com | 541-460-7777 | US-26, Warm Springs Oregon 97761

All promotions require Players' Club membership to participate. Management reserves all rights. Minimum points required. See Players' Club for complete details.