



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

April 27, 2016 Vol. 41, No. 9

April – Hawit'an – Spring - Wawaxam

PO Box 489
Warm Springs, OR 97761

ECR WSS
Postal Patron

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

A new beginning for Kah-Nee-Ta

Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa is one of the real treasures on the reservation. And now there is a renewed effort by the resort board and staff to invest in this unique destination.

The first project is a remodeling of the Juniper Room. The idea for the remodel came from the resort food and beverage manager Alp Kalyon. He suggested the idea to the board, which gave the okay.

The remodel work itself was done completely in-house, by the resort maintenance team and other staff, said Deepak Sehgal, who is helping oversee improvements at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The Juniper Room is now a more open area, where the guests can enjoy the atmosphere of the lodge lobby.

How this project happened—with the inspiration and work coming directly from staff—is how the overall resort improve-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

The remodeled Juniper Room is the first project in the renewed effort to better promote Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa.

ments are happening, Sehgal said.

“We want the employees to be a big part of the planning. We’re open to any new ideas to help the resort,” he said.

Some other improvements that are coming to the resort are new

high-definition televisions, new beds and bedding, new carpets and drapes. Even the front doors will be replaced with a more modern entranceway.

The interesting wood-work panels on the existing doors will be pre-

served, and could be incorporated as artwork elsewhere in the lodge, said Priscilla Frank, board member.

The resort will also be re-focusing on the culture of the tribes as part of the experience for the guests, Mr. Sehgal said.

This will begin at the front desk, when the guests first check in. They will be given a bottle of water with a label that explains the significance of water to the tribal members.

The narrative on the label was written by Duran Bobb. “In a single drop of ‘chush,’ there is life,” the narrative begins.

And concludes: “Now we invite you to participate in this timeless tradition... *Chush!*”

It has been too long since the resort has seen this much care and attention, and the progress will be welcome and exciting to see.

2 Ventures projects coming up

Two of the economic development projects Warm Springs Ventures is working are the unmanned aerial systems training center at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge, and a plan, involving Bear Springs, to increase tourism revenue to the tribes.

The Kah-Nee-Ta project will involve a \$350,000 investment in the resort. The lower floor area will be developed into a UAS training center, including flight simulation.

Ventures and the resort have a lease agreement, and are in the design conceptual phase. The project will involve bringing fiber access to the resort, which will be a benefit to the other guests who are staying there.

The Warm Springs Telecom is another partner in the project. The resort will see the benefit of more guests, as companies start using the UAS center for training. This will especially help in Kah-Nee-Ta’s off-season.

Tourism, transportation

Ventures also wants to develop increased transportation options between Government Camp and Warm Springs, said Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson.

In the winter, many tribal members work at the ski resort at Mt. Hood—a jump from 10 employees to 85 over the recent two winters—and transportation can be an issue.

There also is the potential for expansion of tourism to the reservation, with the benefit of the added revenue, Sampson said.

Working with the Administration for Native Americans, Ventures is seeking grant funding to develop a recreation and tourism marketing plan. This could involve the Bear Springs area, and improvements to existing structures at the location.

Groundbreaking for grow facility

The Confederated Tribes this Friday, April 29, will mark a milestone in the development of a promising new enterprise. The tribes and Warm Springs Ventures will host the ground-breaking for the greenhouse facility that will house the cannabis growing operation.

This enterprise will be unique in Indian Country, one that holds promise for new revenue and jobs for the tribes. The ground-breaking will be Friday from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the greenhouse site, half a mile on Lower Dry Creek Road off Highway 3.

On hand will be the interested community members, Tribal Council and Ventures board members and staff.

Invited guests include Benjamin

The cannabis cultivation enterprise is expected to create more than 80 new jobs for the tribes. Most of these will be in various positions at the greenhouse, while others will be in the retail outlets.

Once in full operation, the enterprise could generate annual net revenue of more than \$20

million.

Warm Springs Construction is serving as the general contractor for the construction of the greenhouse facility, said Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson. The construction phase will involve up to 30 jobs, he said.

See **GREENHOUSE** on 7

Souede, legal counsel to Gov. Kate Brown; Sen. Ted Ferrioli; Stan Speaks, BIA regional director; former governor and 2016 Museum at Warm Springs Twanat Award recipient Ted Kulongoski.

As legal counsel to the governor, Mr. Souede has been working with Ventures on establishing the cannabis

cultivation compact between the state and tribes, said Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson.

Sen. Ferrioli has been an advocate for legislative action that allows the tribes to compete fairly in the market, Sampson said. And Stan Speaks has been the tribes’ lead BIA contact in the approval process—

the first-ever of its kind in Indian Country.

Mr. Kulongoski serves on the tribes’ Gaming and Resort board, and has been a long-time friend of the tribes.

Another guest speaker will be Roy Sampsel, chairman of the Ventures board. Mr. Sampsel is an indigenous leader in areas of tribal governance and natural resources. He has served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Interior for the Pacific Northwest; Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Policy; and director of the Institute for Tribal Government at PSU.

See **GROUND BREAKING** on 7

Receiver appointment for WSFPI

Tribal legal counsel this week is expecting to file a petition in tribal court asking for the establishment of a receivership for Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

This is being done as directed by Tribal Council resolution, as the mill as currently operated is no longer viable.

The receivership process will involve appointment of the receiver, who will assume the legal control of the WSFPI assets, and begin evaluating the claims of the various creditors.

Counsel has recommended the appointment of Edward Hostman for the position, as he is experienced in this kind of procedure.

There will be tribal court



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Some of the valuable inventory at the WSFPI yard.

over-sight, possibly by a pro tem judge retained for this particular case.

Tribal management and legal counsel have met with the proposed receiver, and have given him a general overview of the situation.

Specific plans for how best to deal with the WSFPI assets and debts will develop once the court has made the receivership appointment.

The tribes are also working with Clyde Hamstreet, of Hamstreet and Associates, who works with companies that require financial turnaround. The WSFPI enterprise is not viable, but the Confederated Tribes have the valuable asset of timber as well as the mill complex.

The goal will be to develop a plan going forward, giving the greatest return on the use of the asset, whatever that may be.

The forest resource could be managed to allow timber harvest, and then sale of the logs for the financial benefit of the tribes. The Tribal Council is asking Hamstreet and Associates to develop all viable options.

The carbon sequestration program has also shown that there is value in the timber that is left standing.

The timber resource is a tribal trust asset. Revenue generated from the resource has been used for the senior pension, for instance, as this income is not subject to taxation.

Other sources of tribal revenue, those not based on the use of a trust asset, are subject to taxation.

Willamette fisheries matter

Tribal Council on Monday met for discussion about a recent development at the Willamette Falls fishery. Recently, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to allow ceremonial fishing on scaffolds by members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde at Willamette Falls.

Council members were concerned that Warm Springs had not been involved in the process, as Willamette Falls is a traditional and Treaty fishery of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The Council stated the intent to contact the state for discussion of the circumstances.



\$45,000
Spring Splash
for Cash

\$20,000 Spring Cash Weekends
Friday & Saturday Drawings
\$2,000 Cash & \$300 Bonus Slot Play nightly, 7pm-11pm
Last Chance - Ends April 30

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

*\$45,000 Spring Splash: Total cash & prizes in April. All promotions require Players' Club membership to participate. Management reserves all rights. Minimum points required. See Players' Club for complete details.

