

UAS at KNT looks to break ground

A key part of the Warm Springs Ventures unmanned aerial systems program is the training center at Kah-Nee-Ta. This will help with Ventures' goal of developing a Center For Excellence in Fire Fighting on the reservation.

The work at Kah-Nee-Ta will involve remodeling the lower floor area, and creating conference and classrooms, and a UAS training simulator.

There is a chance the ground-breaking for this

work could happen in the next two to three weeks, said Aurolyn Stwyer, Ventures business and marketing director. Funding is coming through a state grant program.

Funding for tribes to prosecute non-Indians

For the first time since the Violence Against Women Act became law in 2013, tribes will be able to obtain federal funds to help them exercise jurisdiction over non-Indians.

The landmark law recognizes the "inherent" authority of tribes to arrest, prosecute and sentence certain non-Indian offenders for some domestic violence crimes. But Congress never

funded a program that was designed to help tribes strengthen their justice systems.

That's finally changing now that Congress included some money in a fiscal year 2016 appropriations measure. The Department of Justice is now accepting applications for the new Grants to Tribal Governments to Exercise Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction Program.

The lack of federal funding hasn't stopped tribes from writing new laws, improving their courts and making other changes that enable them to comply with Violence Against Women Act.

The law requires tribes to protect the constitutional rights of all defendants if they choose to participate in the special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction program.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed a proclamation making the week of May 14-21, **American Indian Week**. The proclamation reads in part:

Our state's efforts to build a healthy environment, strong economy and thriving communities will be strengthened by consulting with the historical knowledge and traditional expertise of the First Oregonians.



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