

Cannabis update

Steady progress for unique enterprise

From the Office of Warm Springs Ventures

As our tribal community knows, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is plowing new ground in Indian Country with the cannabis project.

The tribal voters resoundingly supported this project by 86 percent.

While some tribes have quickly entered into the cannabis industry with a limited approach such as a single dispensary or testing lab, we are the first tribe in the nation to manage the development and regulation of a vertically integrated cannabis business—the Warm Springs facility will grow, extract, process, wholesale, and retail its own products.

This approach allows us to maximize profits. This approach also takes time and careful planning; however, we are making great progress and setting the model for tribes across the nation.

Also, while other tribes have not worked in cooperation with federal and state agencies, and suffered the consequence of being shut down or raided, we have been very transparent and worked in collaboration with our state and federal partners.

This cautious and strategic approach also takes time. Given these circumstances, we are still making tremendous progress and will get this project fully underway this year.

Here are some major accomplishments and a brief explanation of why it has required additional time to complete these critical steps:

Greenhouse

The design is near completion. Next we will put the construction components out for bid to get accurate costs.

Once costs are determined, we can submit this as part of our finance package.

A key reason for the delay in moving forward with construction of the greenhouse is that we selected a new greenhouse manufacturer that would respond quickly to our needs and has better technology for cannabis growing.

We expect site work to commence in August or September. The greenhouse will take six months to complete—approximately in March.

Retail dispensaries

We are actively working to secure tribal dispensary locations in Portland, Salem, Eugene and Government Camp.

We have identified excel-

Check out the enterprise website at wscannabis.com

lent locations, and are working through the licensing and permitting process. Our goal is to open the first dispensary by October/November.

Financing

We have developed terms for financing the project with our partner. This process has taken time to ensure we have a solid financing plan in place.

We expect the loan agreement to be completed in August/September.

Inter-governmental agreement with state of Oregon

We are very close to completing this agreement, which coordinates the tribal cannabis regulation and licensing process with the state of Oregon cannabis regulation process.

We expect this to be completed in August/September.

Warm Springs Tribal Cannabis Commission

The Tribal Commission has been appointed and they

are getting oriented, working on licensing and permitting processes, and will soon hire an executive director.

The commission will work closely with the development entity to make sure operations are in full compliance with tribal regulations.

Tribal jobs and recruitment

We are continuing to prepare for the tribal jobs fair, recruitment and training process in preparation for the opening of our greenhouse and dispensaries.

Because of the delays in other aspects of the project, we unfortunately had to delay our August jobs fair. We expect to reschedule them in September/October and again this early spring.

We apologize for the delay and are working diligently to address some issues that have arisen. Also, we are working closely with the state of Oregon and federal agencies to move forward in a transparent responsible manner.

We are excited to get our Warm Springs Cannabis business underway and will regularly provide updates on our website—wscannabis.com—the tribal radio and newspaper.

Council meets with U.S. Attorneys

Tribal Council meets at least once a year with lawyers from the U.S. Attorney's Office. The annual consultation is to share information, as the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecutes the major crimes that happen on the reservation.

Last week Tribal Council met with three attorneys from the District of Oregon U.S. Attorney's Office: U.S. Attorney for the district, Bill Williams; and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Tim Simmons and Paul Maloney.

Simmons is the office's liaison to the nine tribes of Oregon; and Maloney is now the Assistant U.S. Attorney whose focus is on the federal cases from the Warm Springs Reservation.

This was Maloney's first visit to Warm Springs, as he recently joined the U.S. Attorney's Office, having served previously as district attorney for Washington County.

A focus has been on prosecution of sexual abuse cases, he said. Following a directive from the Attorney General, part of Maloney's work is with the Warm Springs Justice Team, law enforcement and IHS on the development of sexual violence prosecution guidelines.

Some other areas of discussion that came up last week include:

The tribes' cannabis

project. Bill Williams said the office's policy is to follow the Cole Memorandum, which guides federal law enforcement in states that have legalized marijuana.

There are specific areas—cannabis sales to minors, inter-state trafficking, and racketeering, for example—that can incur federal prosecution.

Otherwise, the memorandum suggests the U.S. Attorneys follow the state standard. And it is this standard that has allowed the tribes to pursue the cannabis growing enterprise.

Another important development: Officers of the Warm Springs Police Department have participated in recent training that gives them authority to cite non-Indians into federal court for alleged crimes on the reservation.

Councilwoman Brigitte McConville brought up the issue of railroads blocking access to fishing sites at the Columbia River. The access roads are gated and locked, she said. Councilman Jody Calica mentioned a similar concern: Tribal members having to park in areas by the highway, which can lead to a citation.

Oil transport by rail is another issue at the Columbia, said Council Chairman Austin Greene. Bill Williams said he wants to work with the tribes on these issues.

Team to resolve TERO boundary issue

The Confederated Tribes continue to work with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the establishment of the tribes' Tribal Employment Rights Office boundary jurisdiction.

Tribal Council last week appointed a team to negotiate a solution to a sticking point that has been on-going for some time now.

The tribes' established the Warm Springs Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) in 2015. The office, part of Ventures, has authority to ensure that public contracting projects include fair representation of tribal member workers. The TERO is also a source for worker training.

The TERO jurisdiction applies to projects

on the reservation, such as ODOT contract projects on Highway 26 through the reservation. The jurisdiction also extends to an area immediately beyond the reservation, and this aspect brought the current impasse.

60-mile radius

The Warm Springs TERO is the third such office in Oregon, the other two being the Grand Ronde and Umatilla tribes'.

The TERO jurisdiction boundaries for Grand Ronde and Umatilla extend 60 miles from the exterior boundaries of their reservations.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are suggesting this same standard—60 miles from the exterior boundary of the reservation—apply to Warm Springs.

The issue would at first seem to be simple, as the pre-

cedent exists with the Grand Ronde and Umatilla. However, the matter remains unresolved, even as the 2016 construction season is passing.

The goal now is to resolve the matter before the start of the 2017 season.

The problem is that 60 miles from the exterior boundary of the Warm Springs Reservation would overlap to the west with the TERO boundary of the Grand Ronde. This would include some highway areas that will involve ODOT contracting projects.

A suggestion from Warm Springs is that the Grand Ronde and Warm Springs TEROs share in the projects that come up in the overlapping areas.

There are enough projects for both tribes, the Warm Springs TERO offi-

cials say.

A second idea—one that Warm Springs does not support—is that the 60-mile radius for Warm Springs be calculated from the center of the reservation. In that case, the boundary to the west would no longer overlap with that of the Grand Ronde.

Following discussion last week, Tribal Council appointed a team to work with ODOT and Grand Ronde on a solution.

Team members include the secretary-treasurer Glendon Smith, Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson, Government Affairs Director Louis Pitt, the TERO staff, and Council members Lee Tom, Brigitte McConville and Jody Calica.

Birth announcements

Anthony Jesse Gonzales Jr.

Anthony Gonzales Sr. and Ida Frank of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Anthony Jesse Gonzales Jr., born on August 3, 2016.

Anthony Jr. joins sister Lawanda.

Grandparents on the father's side are the late David Gonzales, and Georgina Suppah.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Eldred Frank and Andrea White.

Rowena May Begay

Atcity Begay and Calley Begay of Simnasho are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Rowena May Begay, born on August 13, 2016.

Rowena joins brother Landon, 5, and Colton, 3.

Grandparents on the father's side are Anson Begay and CR Begay of Simnasho.

Grandparents on the mother's side are Mick Scroggs and Tamara Scroggs, of Metolius.

PIONEER ROCK & MONUMENT

www.pioneerrock.com
Find map to shop under CONTACTS on website

Specializing in Native American Design For Over 25 Years

HEADSTONES
GRAVE MARKERS MONUMENTS & STONE SIGNS

201 Crafton Rd. - PO Box 348
Goldendale, WA 98620 509-773-4702

OSCAR'S EXPERT AUTO REPAIR
Complete Service Foreign & Domestic



Serving Central Oregon Community ~ Warm Springs
You need to get back on the road call Oscar's Expert Auto Repair. Towing available...If you fix the car with us, we give you the towing for half price. Call Oscar or Byron for more info

541-390-1008 **541-923-3554**
821 SW 11th St. ~ Redmond www.autorepairedmond.com