



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf

Katrina Blackwolf has wanted to be Miss Warm Springs for some time now.

"Especially since I was Little Miss Warm Springs in 2000, I've looked up to the older girls who were Miss Warm Springs," Katrina was saying the other day.

Over the years she has also been the Miss Columbia River Powwow Queen, and Junior Miss Yakama Nation. "That really gave me more confidence in myself, and helped me with public speaking," Katrina says.

Growing up, Katrina lived in Warm Springs. "I went to Early Childhood Education and elementary school here," she says. "And I made a lot of friends."

She learned tradition and culture from her grandparents, especially grandmothers Galen Jackson and Katie Blackwolf-Bevis. Here grandfathers are Amos Nelson and John Bevis. Katrina's parents are Zelma Walsey and Levi Blackwolf.

Later during her youth, Katrina moved to Toppenish, Washington. "I played a lot of sports in high school—softball, basketball and cheerleading," she says.

She was president of the Future Farmers of America, and won a Student Lead Scholarship award.

Now she goes to Yakama



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Miss Warm Springs 2017 Katrina Blackwolf

Valley Community College, majoring in Biology. "What I'm really interested in is teaching anatomy, human anatomy—that's what I want to do with my degree and in my career."

At school she is president of the Yakama Valley Community College Indian Club. Katrina, Indian name Tallulucas, gave this statement during the Miss Warm Springs Pageant:

"I have gone through a lot in my life, and have learned that the most important thing you can do during any situation is to love yourself. So as Miss Warm Springs I would promote that exact message, 'Love yourself.'"

Suicide prevention will be one of her platforms as Miss Warm Springs.

Her talent at the Miss Warm Springs Pageant was Fancy Dancing. "I chose that because it took me a long time to get to where I am today—it's been a long journey."

Katrina likes going to new places and meeting new people, so she will be perfect as Miss Warm Springs.

"I like meeting new people and embracing their hospitality because it always brings a good memory," she says.

— Dave McMechan

## Council approves cannabis agreement

Warm Springs Ventures has developed an inter-governmental agreement with the state of Oregon, regarding cannabis production on the reservation. This is a major step toward implementing the production enterprise.

Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson and legal counsel Ellen Grover reviewed the agreement last week with Tribal Council. At the end of the discussion, Council gave their approval by resolution, voting 6-1-0.

A signing ceremony with the state could happen as early as this month, Mr. Sampson said.

The agreement was 11 months in the making, including extensive negotiation with state officials including the Governor's office and legal counsel, and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates the industry in the state.

This is a unique agreement in Oregon, and only the fourth such document in the U.S. The other three are with tribes in the state of Washington.

The inter-government agreement is the document that will allow the tribes to export its cannabis products into the state market.

(See **AGREEMENT** on 3)

## Looking to new year with UAV program

Twenty-seventeen will be the year when the tribes' unmanned aerial systems program really takes off.

January and February in particular will see milestones in the UAS program.

In January, Warm Springs Ventures will coordinate a flight demonstration for the Bonneville Power Administration. The BPA demonstration will be at the de-energized transmission line on the reservation.

Ventures' partner Aerial Rigging Systems will fly their EZ Rig Drone, and demonstrate their power line rigging system. The business potential for this use of drones is large, as the market covers all power lines in the U.S.

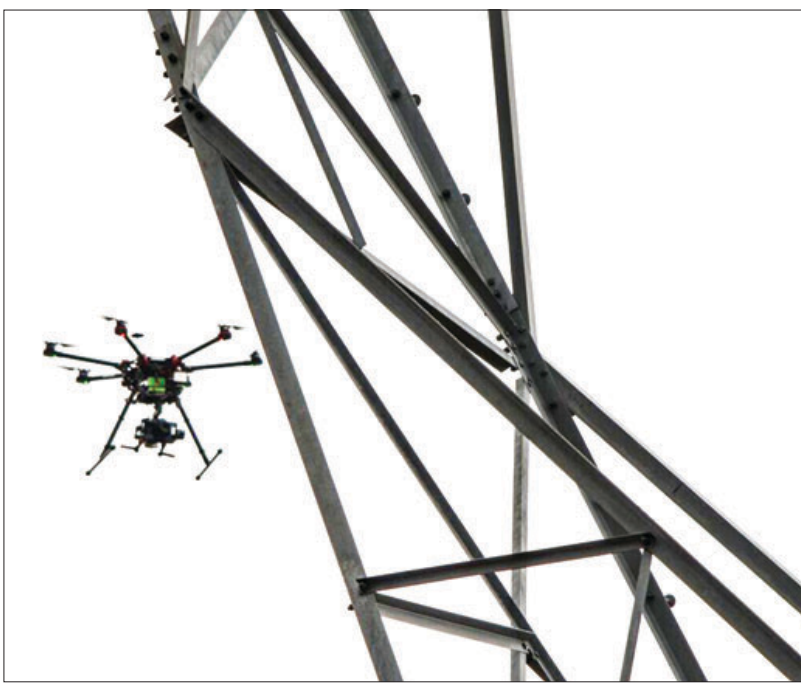
Then in February, Ventures is planning a grand opening of the UAS Innovation Center at Kah-Nee-Ta. And later in the month, Ventures will host a Drone Public Safety Conference at the resort.

Police, fire and search and rescue agencies from around the state are planning to attend. A drone public safety expert from FireWhat? Inc. will be the keynote speaker.

FireWhat? is a geographic information systems and technology company, mapping emergency incidents and creating technologies to track responders and assets in and out of the field.

As an example of the use of drones in fighting wildfires: A drone can determine the hot spot location or locations of a fire, without putting anyone's safety in jeopardy.

The Warm Springs UAS program—a Ventures and Tribal Council economic development program—is entering its third year. The FAA approved the reservation



Courtesy Warm Springs Ventures and Soar

A focus of the tribes' UAS program is the use of the drones in power line maintenance, inspection and repair. The drone at left was test flown this summer next to a de-energized power line on the reservation.

as a test area in December 2014.

Ventures then sought state economic development grant funding, which is paying for the Kah-Nee-Ta project, including the installation of fiber optic cable to the resort.

Developing the UAS Innovation Center included some challenges, because the center is unique in the nation, said Aurolyn Stwyer, Ventures business and marketing director.

Equipment at the center will include, for instance, a dozen drone flight simulation computers. A drone expert at Central Oregon Community College was helpful in determining the best equipment for the center, Ms. Stwyer said.

When in operation, the center will include FAA certified pilots who will provide the training.

### Jobs potential

There are four areas with job potential for the tribes with the UAS program, Aurolyn said. The jobs aspect of the program has been important in obtaining the state funding, she said.

First, the UAS center will need certified observers. They will be in the field when companies and individuals are testing their drones.

A second area of employment will be in drone manufacturing, Aurolyn said. Ventures is planning to build a manufacturing center at the industrial park, at the vacant site near the Ventures offices.

A third area of employment: The training center itself will need staff. And fourth: Ventures is looking at developing a drone park at Kah-Nee-Ta.

The park would include a large net-enclosed area where people can learn to fly drones. Because of the net, the site would be considered an in-door facility, with fewer certification restrictions. Hobby enthusiasts would find it ideal.

The drone park would also be unique. Ventures is planning a feasibility study for the project. When in operation, the park would create jobs such as flight trainers.

### New regulations

In 2016, the FAA released new regulations that change the process by which a person can become a certified commercial drone pilot.

These changes made it easier to acquire a commercial UAS license, and this development was a major benefit to the tribes.

Rather than having to acquire an actual pilot's license, which is expensive and can take a year and, the commercial drone certification process can happen in a matter of days or weeks, and is much less expensive. This creates greater demand for use of the upcoming Innovation Center at Kah-Nee-Ta.

### Growth industry

The FAA estimates that 20,000 drones are currently registered for commercial use. The 2016 FAA regulations are expected to produce a 30-fold increase in a matter of months.

The FAA forecasts there could be as many 600,000 unmanned aircraft used commercially during the first year following the recent adoption of the new regulations.

## Timber Co. okayed for 2017

Tribal Council voted last week to continue the Warm Springs Timber Co. through 2017.

The vote came after a meeting with Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe and Clyde Hamstreet, of Hamstreet and Associates, the consulting firm hired to establish and oversee management of the timber company.

By continuing the company through this year, the tribes could realize more than \$2 million in timber stumpage payments, Mr. Hamstreet said.

The timber stumpage payments are the source of the Senior Pension and per capita payments.

The timber LLC brought in about \$1 million in payments during 2016, when the company operated for about half the year. Hamstreet gave a review of how the company came about, and its purpose:

First, the company is structured as a limited liability company (LLC), wholly owned by the tribes. Through this structure, the tribes are protected from any potential liability for operation of the company—an accident or timber contract issue, for instance.

(See **TIMBER CO** on 3)

The Warm Springs Seniors Program will host the Elders Holiday Luncheon this Thursday, January 5, at the Agency Longhouse. The luncheon celebration begins at noon, weather permitting. You can reach the Senior Program at 541-553-3313.