

# Tribes, state officials talk at Capital

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs joined the eight other Oregon tribes in Salem last week.

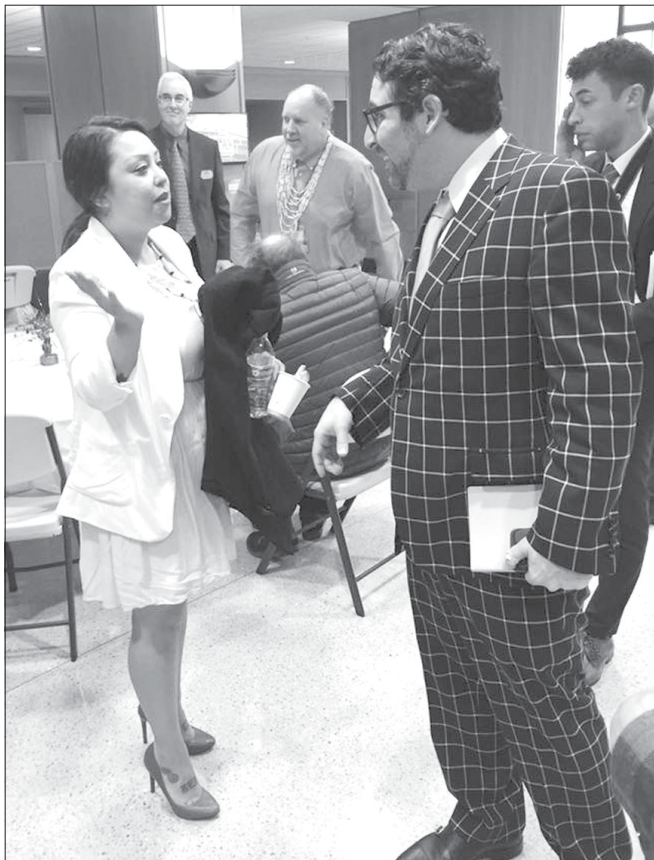
The event was Tribal Government Day at the Capital.

The tribal leaders met with the state legislators and staff members, state employees, and the public.

During Tribal Government Day, February 9, Warm Springs Tribal Councilwoman Val Switzler, director of Culture and Heritage, had the opportunity to testify in favor of Oregon Senate Bill 13.

SB 13 would direct the state Department of Education to develop curriculum relating to Native American experience in Oregon, and to provide professional development related to curriculum.

The law would require Oregon school districts to implement this curriculum;



Courtesy Jane Hill

In Salem last week, Tribal Councilwoman Carina Miller speaks with Gov. Kate Brown's chief legal counsel Benjamin Souede at the Capital.

and would direct the Education department to make reports related to development of the curriculum.

This would apply to students in grades k-12. Topics to be included in the SB 13 curriculum would include:

Tribal history, sovereignty, culture, treaty rights, government, socio-economic experiences and current events.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Tribal Council and the Education Committee have long been advocating this approach to education, especially in the Jefferson County 509-J district.

The tribes are trying to include this approach in the new long-term agreement between the tribes and the school district.

At the state level, the Senate has a work session on SB 13 scheduled for this Thursday, February 16.

# Transportation plan meeting in W.S.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is updating the Central Oregon Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- 1) Identify transportation gaps and barriers for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and low-income populations in accessing needed health and social services; and
- 2) To prioritize solutions (actions, projects, programs, operations, etc.) to meet identified needs and/or leverage opportunities.

The Plan will help coordination between providers of transportation and health and human services in order to better use transportation re-

sources and serve more people. The public, including human services and transportation representatives, are invited to attend the Warm Springs Transportation Strategy Session on Thursday, February 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the High Lookee Lodge, 2321 Ollalie Ln, Warm Springs.

For more information contact Judy Watts at 541-548-9534; email: [jwatts@coic.org](mailto:jwatts@coic.org)

COIC serves as a project leader, planner, and project administrator for a variety of regional transportation planning and coordination initiatives. The goal of these projects is to improve and enhance the availability of transportation options to Central Oregonians.

# Congressman: discussion on jail, cannabis, business, resources

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, the heating and cooling, washer and dryer, generator, boiler and other parts of the jail are often in need of repair, Suenaga said.

There are times when the tribes have to transport all the inmates to the Jefferson County Jail, because the Warm Springs facility is not acceptable for housing inmates.

Fortunately, Mr. Suenaga said, the Public Safety Branch has a good relationship with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, which operates the county jail.

Any help the Congressman could give in prompting the BIA to address the matter would be greatly appreciated, Suenaga said. Rep. Walden asked for the lead contact person at the Agency district office, and said he would follow up with the inquiry.

### Cannabis project

The next item was presented by Pi-ta Pitt, working on the tribal Cannabis project. He said the tribes have cooperated openly and transparently with the Department of Justice and the BIA during the planning of the cannabis project.

The tribal grow operation on the reservation would involve a lease of tribal trust land, requiring further coop-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Tribal economic development coordinator Kahseuss Jackson speaks with Congressman Walden. To their right, Branch of Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe talks with Walden's policy advisor and Central Oregon office director Nick Strader.

eration with the BIA.

A goal of the tribes, Pitta said, is to see federal officials treat the tribes equally with the state in regard cannabis, which Oregon residents in 2014 voted to legalize.

Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson said the tribes have invested valuable time and expense in the cannabis project, which tribal voters approved overwhelmingly in December of 2015.

Regarding the move to legalize cannabis: "It's a big

question, the approach this administration will take," the Congressman said.

His impression, he said, is that the administration often prefers to defer to the states on some issues. "My sense is that they'll have other priorities," he said.

Cannabis is still illegal under federal law, while many states, including California last fall, have legalized marijuana. Seven more states

could join the list in 2017.

### Old infrastructure

Louie Pitt, director of tribal Governmental Affairs, served as moderator of the meeting with Rep. Walden.

Mr. Pitt also brought up the subject of the reservation infrastructure, especially at the campus and the industrial park. Developing a strong small business community is not possible with-

out proper infrastructure: At the campus, Pitt said, the pipes are 1930s ear.

Tribal economic development coordinator Kahseuss Jackson also emphasized this point. The BIA, which installed the original piping at the campus, and tribes need to work on a broad resolution to this problem, rather than repairing breaks as they happen.

The condition of the res-

ervation infrastructure, Jackson said, "is prohibitive to economic growth."

### Natural resources

Branch of Natural Resources general manager Bobby Brunoe talked about an issue involving the Forest Service and tribal huckleberry areas off reservation. A final piece from the Forest Service is needed to fulfill the wilderness legislation, passed some years ago, he said.

Mr. Brunoe also talked about the complex water issues facing the Deschutes basin, including fish and other species protection. The tribes, he said, have made a large investment in restoring fish runs, and saw a good recent return.

### Public broadcasting

As a final matter, Sue Matters, director of KWSO 91.9, said public broadcasting funding helps community radio stations in providing a great service.

Congressman Walden, who has a background in community radio, said his approach would be to keep the funding at the current level. He is a chairman of the subcommittee on Communications and Technology. He also serves on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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