



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

March 1, 2017 - Vol. 42, No. 5

March - Wiyalpt - Winter - Anm

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Tribes, state have TERO agreement

Tribal member employment is a top priority of the Twenty-Seventh Tribal Council. On Monday they took significant action toward this goal.

The Council approved a memorandum of understanding between the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs TERO and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

TERO is the Tribal Employment Rights Office, housed in the Warm Springs Ventures building at the industrial park.

With the ODOT agreement in

place, the Warm Springs TERO has jurisdiction over federally-funded transportation projects in a large area of the region.

This will provide construction and other employment opportunities for tribal members. TERO also coordinates training programs for members.

The office serves the Warm Springs tribal members, and any other member of a federally recognized tribe.

Wendell Jim, Warm Springs TERO director, Mary Sando-

Emhoolah, dispatcher, and tribal attorney Brent Hall on Monday presented the ODOT MOU to Tribal Council.

The process of reaching the MOU took a couple of years, as the parties worked out the details.

The timing of finalizing the deal is important, Wendell Jim said: The 2017 construction season will be picking up this spring and into the summer.

The jurisdiction of the Warm Springs TERO includes all of the reservation, plus areas within 60

miles of the reservation boundary.

ODOT projects within this area—including highways 26 and 97, and part of I-5 in the Portland area—are subject to TERO authority. The Warm Springs TERO is the largest in the state.

A western part of the Warm Springs TERO jurisdiction overlaps with that of the Grand Ronde TERO. This area will be co-administered by both of the TEROs.

UAS featured at KNT

One of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. is that electrical power-line installation, repair and inspection. An average of about 40 fatalities are reported each year, with many others suffering serious injury.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in 2015 banned the practice of free climbing transmission towers.

Aerial Rigging Systems Inc.—ARS—is a leader using unmanned aerial systems to make the job safer. The company is a partner of the Confederated Tribes UAS program, a branch of the Ventures enterprise.

ARS chief operations officer Vernie Santos was at Kah-Nee-Ta last week, joining officials from the Bonneville Power Administration, the FAA, Ventures and other guests.

Clearly, the BPA would be interested in the ARS EZ Rig system: There are more than 15,000 miles of electrical lines in the BPA system, with the constant and on-going need for inspection and repair.

The benefits to the tribes of partnering with ARS are also clear—namely, jobs and revenue.

The building that is under construction by the Ventures offices will house a drone production plant, producing UAS for Aerial Rigging Systems.

Kah-Nee-Ta will benefit as home of the Warm Springs UAS training center. Workers will need to learn how to use the rigging system, and will come to Kah-Nee-Ta for training.

The reservation has FAA-approved test sites, including one near Kah-Nee-Ta.

The UAS conference last week included a demonstration of the EZ Rig drone, carrying a special lightweight cable.

Marie Mitchell gave a UAS flight demonstration. She is the first Warm Springs tribal member to earn her FAA Commercial Drone Pilot license.

With the EZ Rig system, the power line worker can fly a cable over the electrical tower. Then, with safety rigging in place, no worker has to free climb.

The drones can also be used for line inspection. Helicopters are an expensive alternative to the use of drones.

The ARS team, BPA, FAA, Ventures and others at the conference toured the training center, nearing completion on the ground floor at Kah-Nee-Ta. This is a major renovation project, funded through a state economic development grant, with the side benefit of bringing fiber optic cable to the resort.

Don Sampson, Aurolyn Stwyer, Ben Bisland and Marie were Ventures hosts at the conference last week.

Taking a swing at Kah-Nee-Ta golf

It was a case of being at the right place at the right time. Like a hole in one. Or better yet, a double eagle.

An avid golfer, Brent Moschetti was a long-time member of the Kah-Nee-Ta course. Mr. Moschetti retired from his medical supplies business at the end of last year, with the idea of playing more golf.

A short time later he received word that the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course was closing, due to finances at the resort.

He knew that closing the course for a year or two—letting the fairways and greens go fallow—would mean the course would probably never open again, at least not without substantial and costly renovation. “And I would hate to see it close,” Moschetti was saying recently.

So he contacted the Kah-Nee-Ta board and management. His proposal



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Brent Moschetti recently cleared the overgrown brush that blocked the sign golf course entrance.

was that he would operate and maintain the course and clubhouse.

This was a decision based on love

of the game, and a desire to help the resort, rather than for profit. “As long as I don’t lose money,”

Moschetti says of the venture.

Over the past few weeks he has already made improvements at the course, trimming trees, getting the rough under control, re-sanding the traps, landscaping around the clubhouse. The course will open on March 10, and the concession should be ready by April 10.

Here is an interesting golf fact: Every year there are tens of thousands of holes-in-one. The double eagle—three under par on a hole—is much more rare: There are only a few hundred of these each year.

Visit the Kah-Nee-Ta Golf Course clubhouse and you’ll see a certificate showing Brent Moschetti and his late father Wilbur are one of only four father and sons in the U.S. ever to have both hit double eagles.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and partners hosted Eagle Watch in February. The Quartz Creek Drummers and Dancers were the feature on Sunday at the Pelton Overlook Park. PGE and Oregon Parks are partners in the weekend event, this year marking its Twentieth Anniversary. Live birds of prey (below) were on hand for Eagle Watch.



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