

Spilyay Tymoo

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Academy principal is new superintendent

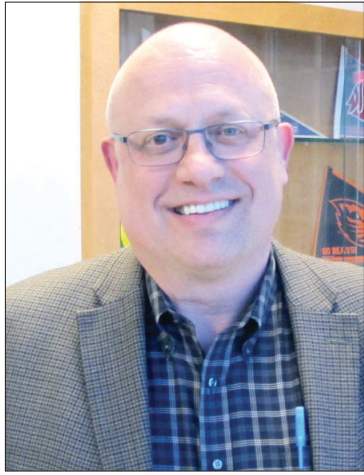
The Jefferson County School District 509-J Board of Directors hired Warm Springs Academy Principal Ken Parshall as the new district superintendent.

Mr. Parshall has been the Warm Springs Academy principal since the beginning of the 2015 school year.

For the first two years of his tenure as district superintendent, Parshall will continue to serve as the Warm Springs Academy principal.

This will be a challenge, he said; but he wants to see the positive momentum continue at the Academy.

Parshall will take over as superintendent at the end of the current school year, after the resignation of current superintendent Rick



Principal-superintendent Parshall

Molitor.

The board members were unanimous in their choice of Parshall as

superintendent. They were especially excited about his experience and success in turning around and improving school performance.

Before joining the Warm Springs Academy, Parshall was principal at McNary and McKay high schools in the Salem-Keizer district. Later he was Salem-Keizer assistant district superintendent, overseeing 63 schools.

Another change coming up within the school district is the board of directors. There are three positions up for election on the five-member school board. The vote will be the third Tuesday in May.

Candidates who are running include:

Position no. 1: Laurie Danzuka of Warm Springs; and Brian Crow of Madras.

Position no. 2: Jamie Hurd of Madras; Juan Leach Orozco of Madras; Sue Matters of Warm Springs; and Gary Sisk of Madras.

Position no. 3: Tom Norton of Madras; and Alyssa Macy of Warm Springs.

It looks possible that this new school board, and new superintendent will work with the tribal Education Committee and Tribal Council on a new long-term education agreement with the tribes.

Proposed law to address sea lion problem

Columbia River tribes support a proposed law to protect salmon and steelhead runs in the Columbia River by allowing for more efficient removal of predatory sea lions.

Studies by the National Marine Fisheries Service and others show that predatory sea lions are having an ongoing significant and detrimental impact on the fish runs.

NOAA Fisheries Service estimates that up to 45 percent of a recent spring chinook run was potentially lost to sea lions.

Twenty years ago sea lions in the Columbia were not a problem. In more recent years, though, they have moved up the river, and even into smaller tributaries.

The proposed law to address the problem is the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, introduced last week by Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.) and Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.).

A limited removal program has been in effect since 2011, but a review concluded the program insufficiently addresses the impacts to endangered salmon. And hazing is not an effective deterrent (related article on page 5).

The new legislation would clear up inefficiencies and red-tape to allow more effective management of the sea lion population in the Columbia.

The Children's Protective Services hosted an awareness march last week, with more than 100 people joining in the walk. They marched from the CPS building to the community center, where they enjoyed a lunch.

Joining the CPS team and families were employees from the Health and Human Services Branch, Warm Springs Police and Fire and Safety, and others.

The day was to raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay



Cannabis Commission hires executive director

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Cannabis Commission has hired its executive director. The commission hired Joe Jensen, Environmental Scientist, as executive director.

Jensen has 15 years experience as an Environmental Scientist, and also is experienced with cannabis growing operations.

As an Environmental Scientist, Jensen has worked with Oregon tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

He began growing about eight years ago, when a family member developed a medical condition that required cannabis.

The combination of qualifications—on the environmental regulatory side, and the cannabis growing aspect—were factors in the hiring decision, Cannabis Commissioners said.

Jensen started work last week. His office is located at Warm Springs Ventures.

The hiring process took some time, mainly because of weather: The commission advertised the job late last year, but found it impossible to schedule all the interviews because of the snow conditions this past winter.

An initial project that Jensen will be focusing on is the development

of the greenhouse growing facility in the Dry Creek area. The timeline for this is in the 6-month range, with Warm Springs Construction doing part of the job, Jensen said.

The first crop can be expected about four months later, he said. Hiring the personnel needed to run the operation will be another priority coming up soon.

The tribes have a Cannabis Code, and a formal agreement with the state of Oregon. These will allow for the production of the cannabis on reservation, and its transport off the reservation. All the sales will be off-reservation.

The crops will be grown in accordance with the state standards, developed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Jensen said. The regulatory authority on the reservation is the commission; while off the reservation the authority is the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

The testing of the tribal cannabis will be done by an independent third party testing lab. It is possible a tribe in Washington may provide the service to Warm Springs, said Don Sampson, executive director of Warm Springs Ventures. Some time in the future an interesting enterprise for the tribes



Joe Jensen

could be the development of its own testing lab, Mr. Sampson said.

Unique enterprise

The hiring of the commission executive director is a great step toward carrying out the mandate of the tribal cannabis referendum.

The membership is December 2015 approved the idea by a large majority vote. Ventures then began the process of working out some complicated legal aspects of the project.

For instance, the state of Oregon had legalized cannabis earlier

in 2015. But the reservation is outside of state jurisdiction, requiring instead work with the federal government.

The agencies involved were the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Marshal's Office, and especially the U.S. Department of Justice.

The tribes' cannabis project is unique, so the talks were about a subject with no precedent.

In time, all parties were on board with the legality of the tribal proposal, which essentially is for equal treatment and access to the legitimate state market.

Ventures, Tribal Council and legal counsel developed the tribes' Cannabis Code, and an agreement of understanding with the state of Oregon.

Tribal Council appointed the Cannabis Commission: Ronald Roome, attorney and former tribal judge pro tem; Shana Radford, Health Liaison with Health and Human Services; and Starla Green, who has many years experience in law enforcement.

Their recent commission action was to hire Jensen, who arrives here from Scappoose with wife Hilary and son Liam.

Final phases of mill removal

Tribal Council approved phase 1 of the final mill site cleanup. This involves the removal of the sawmill building, the biggest problem area at the site.

Another building, called the turbine building or pumphouse, would have the doors and windows sealed to prevent trespass. Tribal Council toured the site last week with the WSFPI liquidation receiver, Hamstreet & Associates.

The problem at the property is one of liability: if someone were trespassing and suffered an injury, for instance.

Last year all assets at the mill were auctioned off, leaving items of no value: old tires, concrete, wood debris and the smaller scrap metal.

There are eight buildings on the 20-acre site—the main office is the best example—that have value and will remain standing.

Total cost of the final cleanup is estimated at over \$300,000. Some of the work, in the "boneyard" area closest the river, could be done by Warm Springs Construction.

For budgeting purposes the Tribal Council separated the project into phases, the first phase addressing the most problematic areas, like the sawmill structure.

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