



Spilyay Tymoo

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Veterans Memorial Park ceremony Saturday

A plan that has been in discussion for some time now will mark a milestone this Saturday, May 13.

On that day at 11 a.m. the Veterans Memorial Park Committee will host a ground breaking ceremony at the Museum at Warm Springs, site of the future Veterans Memorial Park.

The memorial park will be in honor of all veterans from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, representing all military branches and all major conflicts, from the early Scouts to the present.

The Veterans Memorial Park



Conceptual rendering of what the Memorial Park may look like.

Committee provides this description:

The memorial will display the official seals of all the branches of service, along with seven flags.

There will be 10 pillars on a

raised mound with the names of the veterans inscribed on the pillars. And there is a plan for walkways of bricks inscribed with the names of donors.

Tribal Council gave its approval

for the project a few weeks ago to the Veterans Memorial Park Committee.

The committee then worked with an architectural firm, which donated its service, to develop the preliminary design.

Representing the committee are Tamera Calhoun, president; Charles Tailfeathers, vice president; Susan Guerin, secretary; Johnathan Courtney, treasurer; trustees AJ Atencio, Dennis Dowty, Dan Martinez and Alvis Smith III; and Chaplain Phillip David.

Oxbow project dedication

The Confederated Tribes this week are celebrating the completion of the fish habitat restoration work on the Oxbow Conservation Area.

The official on-site celebration is planned for this Thursday, May 11, beginning at 10 a.m.

The Oxbow Conservation Area is located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River.

After the opening ceremonies on Thursday, the Natural Resources Branch will host a tour of the project, with stops at the various phases—there were five of them—of the overall work.

After more than 15 years of planning and work, the 1,022-acre Oxbow is now one of the largest stream restoration projects in Oregon.

The work involved the planting of tens of thousands of trees, the movement of many tons of earth, the placement of river restoring structures, among other aspects.

The project restores habitat on two miles of the Middle Fork of the John Day that was severely altered by dredge mining in the early 1940s. This project is also adjacent to another restoration project completed in 2009, so over 2.5 miles of the river has been restored in this area.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs acquired the property in 2001, through a mitigation funding program with the Bonneville Power Administration.

Tribal Natural Resources and Fisheries began developing an approach to determine how to go about reversing the damage and rebuilding a healthy river. The next decade and more saw the five-phase effort that has returned the once badly damaged site back into a productive fishery.

Language Bowl 2017

Fourteen teams of young language students represented the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs at the Language Bowl 2017. There were 44 students, with teams representing each of the three languages. There were three each for Kiksht and Numu, and eight for Ichichkiin.

The Language Bowl was held at the Wildhorse Casino in Pendleton. Chaperoning the students were 26 adults plus seven elders, for a total of 77 Warm Springs community members at the Language Bowl 2017.

(See LANGUAGE BOWL on 8)



Teams waiting to compete at the Language Bowl.

Photo by Gerald Cardenas

Positive report during recent cannabis update

The Confederated Tribes' cannabis project is unique. No other tribe in the state has tried, or is trying to develop such a project. For this reason the process has taken more time than initially expected.

Warm Springs Ventures and the Commission oversee the cannabis enterprise. Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson met last week with Tribal Council, giving an update on the latest developments with the project.

One of the more difficult points had been the lease arrangement for the area that will house the grow facility.

This was complicated as the BIA had no precedent for such an arrangement. Positive news is that a lease arrangement should be done in the near future, Mr. Sampson said.

Another delaying project has been the partnership that the tribes will need in order to develop and initially manage the facility.

Mr. Sampson mentioned that the tribes could have an opportunity to get the project going soon, with some modification to the original concept.

Once in operation and generating revenue, the tribes would have more options in terms of further

development of the facility.

The initial concept was a grow facility that would be completely indoors, inside a specially designed greenhouse.

Ventures tried to work out a partnership and funding arrangement for the development of the greenhouse. But this proved to be difficult, especially in terms of funding and revenue sharing.

An idea being looked at now is to partner in the development of an outdoor grow area, at the same site as the future greenhouse.

The outdoor site would be secure with high fencing and wire, and a visual block, among other security precautions.

A 36,000-square-foot outdoor grow facility could be in operation very soon, such as starting in June, Mr. Sampson said.

A down-side is that the outdoor facility would not at first create as many tribal member jobs. But the facility would be a way to generate revenue in order to continue with the enterprise.

University partners with tribes in planning Native theme dorm

The University of Oregon is working on its first Native American dormitory wing. Tribal leaders met at the university last week to have a first look at the design.

This is part of the effort by the University of Oregon, in partnership with the Oregon tribes, to recruit more Native American students.

The university, its Native American Advisory Council, and the tribes have an on-going effort in the recruitment. The Native-themed dorm housing is the latest project.

Natives are among the least represented minority population in higher education.

(See U of O on 10)

Siletz Tribe proposes North Salem casino idea

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians announced a plan to build a casino in North Salem.

The Siletz announcement came just several days after the opening of the Cowlitz Tribe's ilani Casino Resort.

The Siletz announcement says the casino could open in 2021, and may be expected to bring in \$185.4 million in gross annual revenue. And they estimate the creation of 1,500 full-time jobs.

Cost of construction is estimated at \$180 million. The size would be 140,000 square feet.

The idea is possible because Siletz has property, already in trust,

in North Salem off I-5 at exit 258. The Grand Ronde casino is nearby.

A unique aspect of the Siletz proposal, as stated in their announcement:

This casino, if it happens, "will give Oregon tribes the opportunity to come together to share 25 percent of the net revenue of the entertainment facility."

The plan as announced calls for 50 percent of net revenues to be distributed with participating tribes, and another 25 percent to go to the state and local governments.

Honor Seniors Day on Friday

Warm Springs Honor Seniors Day will celebrate its Twenty-Seventh Anniversary this Friday, May 12.

Honor Seniors Day, hosted by the Warm Springs Senior Program, is the popular event that sees hundreds of guests from around the region visiting the reservation.

Most of the activities happen at the Agency Longhouse, throughout the day. Trips to the casino are also a popular feature.

Volunteers of all kinds are needed. If you would like to help, contact the Senior Program at 553-3313.

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