

On schedule progress at Travel Plaza

Construction is moving on schedule at the Plateau Travel Plaza, with the foundation area in place for the main building. Crews are also working on the large parking lots, gas and diesel pumps stations, utilities and infrastructure.

Indian Head Casino general manager Jeff Carstensen and tribal engineer Travis Wells gave an update on the project last week, during an on-site interview with KTVZ News Channel 21.

The substantial completion date for the Travel Plaza is March 2018. The business will be on 10 acres of tribal trust land at the Madras Industrial Park.

The main building will be



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Kirby Nagelhout Construction crew at the Plateau Travel Plaza building site.

13,500-square-foot in size, featuring a restaurant and convenience store, shower

and laundry facilities, a few Class II gaming machines, among other amenities. The

parking area will accommodate up to 70 semi trucks, Mr. Carstensen said.

The casino board and management, and Tribal Council planned the project thoroughly over a period of years. The feasibility study—concluding the project will be a profitable addition to the tribal enterprise family—was the determining factor in going forward.

The Plateau will be only travel center of its kind in the region. The next closest are at Biggs and LaPine.

Hundreds of semi-trucks travel by site each day on Highway 26, with many more nearby on Highway 97. These are in addition to the thousands of other vehicles passing vehicles, and the 1,000-plus people who work at the Madras Industrial Park.

Business opportunity

Warm Springs Ventures made some improvements recently at the building, known as the old gift shop, located by Eagle Crossing at 2197 Highway 26.

Ventures wants to rent the 1,300-square-foot structure to a small business owner. The historic building has two bathrooms, storage and a newer HVAC system, and new paint. Rent: \$500 per month plus utilities. Call or email Sandra Danzuka at Warm Springs Ventures with any questions, 541-553-3565. Email: sdanzuka@wstribe.org

A business plan is part of application process.

Tribes expand Willamette wildlife program

The Confederated Tribes and Branch of Natural Resources work with the Bonneville Power Administration on the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

Last year the tribes, Natural Resources, BPA and other partners celebrated the dedication of the Red Hills Conservation Area.

This is a 279-acre conservation area in Yamhill County now owned and managed by the tribes.

Through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, BPA provides the land purchase funding, as mitigation for loss of other tribal fishery sites. The tribes' Branch of Natural Resources then serves as manager, with opportunities and access provided for members.

More recently, Tribal Council approved the purchase through the program of two other tracts in the valley.

One is nearly 152 acres in size, located in Clackamas County, referred to as the Austin Hot Springs property.

The previous owners of this land had passed away, and the tribes and BPA, and estate trustees negotiated the acquisition. The property can now be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of fisheries and other wildlife.

The acreage will "be permanently protected and enhanced through a perpetual

conservation easement" under the terms and conditions in the agreement.

Similarly, Tribal Council also approved the purchase, through the BPA mitigation program, of nearly 182 acres in Marion County.

This acreage is referred to as the Little Sweden property, and Natural Resources will manage it in the same spirit as the Red Hills and Austin Hot Springs properties.

Public notice - IRRTIP

The Fiscal Year 2017 Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Improvement Program (IRRTIP) for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Oregon.

The 2017 Indian Reservation Road Transportation Improvement Program for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is available for public review and comment at the Warm Springs Planning Department located at 1233 Veterans Street in Warm Springs.

Written comments can be mailed to the

Planning Department at P.O. Box C, Warm Springs, OR, 97761.

The Transportation Planner will be available, in person, at the Planning Department from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, to present information, answer questions and take comments on the proposed project list.

Comments should be received before close of business on Friday, June 9, 2017.

For more information, call the Planning Office at 541-553-3509.

Warm Springs Planning Department.

Warm Springs Ventures CEO planning move back home

Warm Springs Ventures chief executive officer Don Sampson will be leaving the position later this year.

"I have to move closer to home," Mr. Sampson said recently.

This is a decision based on family consideration, he said. His mother and his father, Chief of the Walla Walla Tribe of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, are getting on in age. And being closer to them is becoming more important.

"But I'm not going to just walk away from Ventures," Mr. Sampson said.

He is thinking September will be the time when he will leave for Umatilla.

Mr. Sampson has overseen the initiation and development of promising economic projects for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

A goal is to see these further along before he leaves.

The carbon sequestration project is an example. This project has the potential to generate millions—possibly more than \$20 million over years—for the Confederated Tribes. The project involves the sale of carbon credits to a petroleum company in California.

Another project that is getting close to a significant turning point is the cannabis project (*story on page 1*).

Finding a general manager, and working through more of the partnership details, are goals before he leaves, Mr. Sampson said.

Meanwhile, the unmanned aerial systems program, tribal Construction, and NATIVefax are also moving forward.

The tribes and Ventures advertised the CEO position a few weeks ago, and have

already received a number of applications.

The deadline for applications is June 6. Here are some details:

The chief executive officer has full responsibility for the daily operations of Warm Springs Ventures corporate office and enterprises in accordance with the Warm Springs Ventures strategic plan, operating/business plans, and annual budgets as approved by the board. Ventures is the economic development enterprise of the tribes.

The Ventures CEO is responsible for the day-to-day operations of six existing business divisions: Warm Springs GeoVisions, Warm Springs Construction, Warm Springs Property Management, EagleTech (UAS), NativeFax and Warm Springs Ventures.

A complete job descrip-

tion and application requirements can be found on the Ventures website:

warspringsventures.com

Project Updates

The Oregon Department of Transportation invites you to provide input on amendments to projects in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

On the 1st and 16th of each month, ODOT will post for review changes made in the previous 15 days to projects in the STIP; we invite you to check in regularly and provide comments.



Please visit:

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TD/STIP/Pages/STIPDocs.aspx> (under the heading "STIP Amendments for Public Review").



Send comments to: OregonDOTSTIP@odot.state.or.us or mail to: STIP Amendment, 555 E. 13th St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

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