



Spilyay Tymo

Coyote News, est. 1976

July 5, 2017 - Vol. 42, No. 14
July - Pat'ak-Pt'akni - Summer - Shatm

PO Box 489
Warm Springs, OR 97761
ECR WSS
Postal Patron

U.S. Postage
PRSR STD
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Walls going up at Plateau Travel Plaza

Workers have installed the underground fuel tanks at the Plateau Travel Plaza. The walls are going up for the main building, and the steel frames are in place for the canopies over the gas and diesel pumps.

The project is a little over three months into construction, and the work is on schedule, said Travis Wells, tribal engineer.

With the framing in place, the various components of the operation are coming into view:

There is the main entrance way leading to the convenience store.

The restaurant with seating for 70 is to the back right. From the restaurant window there is a great view of Mount Jefferson.

The main building is 13,500 square feet. There will be showers and laundry facilities, and a Class II gaming room.

The large parking area on the 10-



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

acre site will accommodate up to 70 semi trucks.

The construction contractor and sub-contractors have worked with the Warm Springs TERO, and there are seven tribal members—some from Warm Springs, and some from other tribes—working at the site. All of them were registered with the TERO, Mr. Wells said.

The substantial completion date for the Travel Plaza is March 2018. This will be the only travel center of its kind in the region, the next closest being at Biggs and LaPine.

The project means new jobs for members, and welcome new revenue for the tribes.

Donell Frank (at front) is a tribal member working at the Travel Plaza construction site.

KNT weighs future options

When it first opened in the 1970s, Kah-Nee-Ta was the premier resort in the region.

“The playing field has changed significantly since then,” said Jim Manion, Kah-Nee-Ta board member. “Now we have to find our niche—to make this a unique experience—and become competitive again.”

Part of the solution may involve the landscape around the resort. As an example: Mountain biking is a popular sport, and a fast-growing one.

The tribes could form a partnership with an outside group, and market Kah-Nee-Ta to mountain bikers.

The board has been talking with a group about this idea, and is now seeking input from the membership.

Using the unique surrounding, and having a minimum impact on the landscape, are aspects that make this a promising idea, Mr. Manion said.

Kah-Nee-Ta is popular in the late spring, summer and early fall. A goal of the board and management is to bring people in during the slower months. “We have to broaden the use to make the resort competitive,” he said.

Kah-Nee-Ta last year had to borrow from the tribes in order to maintain operation. This is not a sustainable option. Bringing in a partner to help upgrade the facilities is another approach the board is taking. A partner could invest in the kinds of improvements that for now are not affordable.

Meanwhile, the resort has taken cost-cutting measures, but this can only go so far. At some point there is an impact to the quality of service. “And once you impact service you impact the guests’ experience,” Mr. Manion said.

Membership meeting coming up on CP Enterprise financing

The tribes’ carbon sequestration project, through Ventures and GeoVisions, is moving into a final phase. The concluding process involves detailed third-party verification, registration, and then sale of the credits.

The carbon credits will be sold to a company operating in California, where clean air law requires compliance, or the purchase of credits.

An area of the tribes’ forest, non-commercial timber land, will be managed in a way that meets the California carbon sequestration code. Revenue to the tribe is significant: a net over a number of years of up to \$10 million, said Don Sampson, Ventures chief executive

officer.

This project ties into another Ventures project, the cannabis project, or CP Enterprise. The membership approved this enterprise a year and a half ago.

At the outset some time was needed to clarify various legal aspects, as this will be a unique project among tribes in Oregon.

Ventures and tribes worked with the state legislature and governor to create a compact. This allows the sale of reservation-grown cannabis off the reservation.

Most recently Ventures was able to secure a 100-percent refund on the Oregon cannabis tax, which normally is 17 percent. “We want to thank Senator Ted Ferrioli for

his work on behalf of the tribes,” Mr. Sampson said.

This year the obstacle to getting CP Enterprise in operation has been funding. Ventures looked at partnering with an outside group in order to build the facility and begin operation. But the terms have been unfavorable to the tribes.

Self-funding would be the much more profitable approach, Mr. Sampson said. “The idea is to invest and create the economic engine now,” he said.

Through self-funding, the tribes would pay no interest to any outside source; and the tribes would have 100-percent ownership. This approach accomplishes the mandate of the December 2015 refer-

endum, Mr. Sampson said.

To reach the goal, a part of the carbon sequestration revenue would be invested in CP Enterprise, an economic development project. This would be paid back once the enterprise begins to generate revenue.

Ventures is planning a meeting with the membership to discuss the idea, as the process involves a supplemental budget. “I appreciate the community’s patience with this project,” Mr. Sampson said. “We now have a potential for huge revenue to the tribes. We would be in the ideal situation through self-funding. Let’s get it built and keep the money at home.”



Jayson Smith photos/Spilyay

Senior Miss Warm Springs Coreena Stwyer greets the powwow gathering at the Forty-Seventh Annual Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, featuring the many traditional dancers.





WHERE IT'S *Always* YOUR LUCKY DAY!

\$46,000*

SIZZLIN

SUMMER GIVEAWAY

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

7-11PM

\$4,000 IN CASH OR
\$1,800 IN BONUS SLOT PLAY

SUNDAYS

2-6PM

WIN UP TO \$500
IN BONUS SLOT PLAY

IndianHeadCasino.com | 541-460-7777 | US-26, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

*Total cash & prizes in July. All promotions require Players' Club membership to participate. Management reserves all rights. Must be present to win. See Players' Club for complete details.

