



Spilyay Tymoo

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New state initiative to assess MMIP

The Oregon legislature this year passed House Bill 2625, providing resources for the state to help address one of the most serious problems among tribes.

The problem—many feel it is a crisis, and in Canada referred to as a genocide—is the incidence of missing and murdered indigenous women, or MMIW.

Both federal and state lawmakers and law enforcement agencies are now aware of the problem, and both are taking action. On the federal level a new task force is forming specifically to address the problem.

At a meeting last week with

Tribal Council, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon Bill Williams spoke to the subject: Mr. Williams said U.S. Attorney General Barr recently made important funding decisions to help address the crisis.

His discussion with Mr. Barr happened this fall at a meeting with tribes in Montana, Mr. Williams said.

Tribal Council also met last week with law enforcement representatives from the state of Oregon.

Council spoke with Terri Davis, state police deputy superintendent, and Mitch Sparks of

the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

HB 2625 commissions a report on the incidence in Oregon of missing and murdered indigenous people; and the reasons why this specific group is being targeted.

Loop holes in jurisdiction is seen as one of the barriers to combating the crisis.

The meeting with Tribal Council was the first official step in the process of developing the report, Ms. Davis said.

The task force next will be meeting with the other eight Oregon tribes, gathering information in order to make a recommendation

to the legislature in 2020.

Ms. Davis and Mr. Sparks are planning a community meeting soon in Warm Springs to hear first-hand from the members regarding experiences with cases of missing and murdered indigenous people.

In the U.S. Native American women are more than twice as likely to experience violence than any other demographic. One in three Native women is sexually assaulted during her life; and over 85 percent of these assaults are perpetrated by non-Natives, according to the data.

CEO position at Ventures

Warm Springs Ventures, the economic development enterprise of the Confederated Tribes, seeks to fill the position of chief executive officer. Ventures is a wholly owned company of the tribes. Their mission is “to create sources of revenue through new business development that enhances opportunities for tribal members.”

The chief executive officer will have responsibility for the Ventures operations in accordance with the enterprise strategic plan. The closing date to apply will be January 31, 2020. For additional information please email

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The following some of the details from the job announcement, posted this week:

The chief executive officer provides leadership and management of the Warm Springs Ventures staff, oversight and growth of its subsidiary enterprises, and is responsible for exploring new business opportunities to diversify the local economy with a priority of generating new revenue for the tribes. Some of the qualifications:

A Bachelor's degree in business, public administration, planning or a related field. An MBA is preferred. Also: a minimum of five years demonstrated leadership and management of a multi- and diverse enterprise environments.

A Fall Snowfall

The first day of winter this year will be on Saturday, December 21. The snow fell early, though, making for a winter-like November.

The storm arrived at the Oregon Coast early last week, bringing near hurricane-force winds.

The conditions moved inland, and arrived in Central Oregon the day before Thanksgiving, causing work delays.

Tribal Public Safety teams responded to several accidents, many of them at the top of the grade to the north.

A problem during the early part of the storm was the ability of the response teams to navigate the frozen roadway, said Carmen Smith, general manager of tribal Public Safety.

During the snow event, a



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

The Highway 26 grade was especially treacherous during the November snowfall.

fatal motor vehicle accident happened on Tenino Road, in part caused by the driving conditions.

Schoolie Flats experienced a

power outage due to the wind and snow.

The last time a November storm of this intensity happened in Cen-

tral Oregon was 2002. Over the past week at least five inches of snow fell on the reservation, with conditions now clearing.

Tribal Council discussion with U.S. Attorneys

It was a case of road rage on the reservation: Three tribal members in a vehicle threatened by another driver wielding a firearm. This happened earlier this year on Highway 26.

The suspect was taken into custody, and held in a Portland jail pending trial. Finally after the trial the jury found the person guilty.

Then came the sentencing: Time served, and the person was set free. The question being: Would this have been the sentence if the road-rage incident happened off the reservation?

“I don't agree with the sentencing,” said Tribal Councilwoman Anita Jackson. “That makes it seem like lives here don't matter.”

Tribal Council met last week with the U.S. Attorney for the region Bill Williams; U.S. Attorney

tribal liaison Tim Simmons; and assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Maloney, who takes the lead on many of the federal criminal cases arising on the reservation.

“I agree with you,” Mr. Maloney said. “That was not a good message with the sentencing, and that was not our recommendation.”

At least once a year Tribal Council meets with the U.S. Attorney's Office. During last week's conference, federal law enforcement of cannabis was a topic of discussion, as the tribes are preparing a hemp project through Ventures.

The Ventures plan at this time envisions a CBD operation, now regulated as a standard crop under the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Food and Drug Administration.

Much of cannabis regulation

“is like the Wild West,” Mr. Williams said, as the industry is still new. Eleven states including Oregon have legalized marijuana, Williams said. Illinois will become the twelfth as of January 1, while 33 states allow medical use of marijuana.

Regarding marijuana, the U.S. Attorney's Office focuses on cases involving trafficking, violence, youth endangerment, and abuse of public lands, Mr. Williams said.

Over-production of cannabis is a big problem since legalization took effect, he said.

Methamphetamine continues to be a serious drug problem in Indian country, as it is across the U.S., Williams said.

Another topic at Council was the exclusion order authority of the tribes. Councilman Glendon

Smith raised the question of whether a federal judge—as part of the sentencing of a non-member for a crime committed on the reservation—could exclude the person from the reservation.

Mr. Williams said this has not yet happened, as the federal government respects tribal authority to issue the exclusion.

Councilman Smith said there are cases where a person is aware of the exclusion order, violates the order, spends time in the tribal jail, only to repeat the scenario again and again.

“I know of one individual who has been doing this at least since the 1990s,” Mr. Smith said. “And he doesn't mind spending time in our jail.”

This becomes a drain on the resources of the tribes, he said.

No single-use retail bags after January 1

In Oregon a ban goes into effect on January 1 regarding single-use check-out bags: After that date a retail store or restaurant may provide only re-usable or recycled paper checkout bags to customers.

In certain cases the seller must charge a fee to customers for providing the bag.

The new law repeals the state law requiring retail stores, who provide plastic checkout bags, to offer paper bags as an alternative. By definition in the new law:

A single-use checkout bag is one made of paper, plastic or other material, provided to a customer at the time of checkout, that does not meet the definition of recycled paper checkout bag, reusable fabric checkout bag or reusable plastic checkout bag. Also by definition:

See **HB 2509** on page 2

The Warm Springs Baptist Church invites you to a community Christmas Dinner at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 21.



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