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PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 22, 2022

FROM: Bill Elliott, Chief of Police
Warm Springs Tribal Police Department

Subject: Drug Enforcement on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

On 6/22/2022, Warm Springs Tribal Police Department (WSTPD) police officers conducted a vehicle stop on the portion of Hwy 26 that crosses the Warm Springs Indian Reservation (WSIR) near the town of Warm Springs, OR.

At the time of this vehicle stop WSTPD officers were notified the registered owner of the vehicle, James Paul Bauer, DOB: 11-17-80, for Portland, OR had an outstanding arrest warrant issued from Hood River, OR for DUII and possession of a dangerous drug.

Due to the nature of the underlying charges related to the warrant, a WSTPD narcotics detective was at the scene with a certified drug detection dog. An initial investigation led to the discovery of 34 suspected fentanyl pills, and approximately 6 grams of was purported to be psilocybin mushrooms.

Mr. Bauer was taken into custody on the Hood River warrant arrest and transported to the Jefferson County Correctional facility. Mr. Bauer was also civilly cited into the Warm Springs Tribal Court with fines amounting to as much as \$10,000, in addition to being cited into Jefferson County Court for prosecution under Oregon State statutes.

However, as the possession and transportation of narcotics occurred on the WSIR, and involved the possible possession of fentanyl, a drug that has been responsible for hospitalizations and deaths everywhere throughout the state, this matter is also being forwarded to the United States Attorney's Office for possible felony prosecution under federal law.

The Warm Springs Tribal Police Department (WSTPD) wants to notify the public that even though there are new laws affecting the State of Oregon regarding the possession of controlled substances, on lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) the current tribal and federal drug statutes will remain in

effect.

The protection of the Warm Springs community against the introduction of drugs like fentanyl, heroin, and meth are a priority for this police department. The WSTPD will continue to vigorously enforce all drug laws, which in turn could subject violators to federal criminal prosecution, and/or civil process within the power of the tribe that could lead to the loss of property, such as vehicles, used in commission of these offenses and stiff fines.

We hope that the public take these facts into consideration if they intend to be in possession of any amount of controlled substances while coming onto, or transiting through the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, and understand that the lax drug possession provisions contained in SB-110 do not apply to this jurisdiction.

Even though the Warm Springs community and government embraces prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation as the ultimate means of bringing about a drug safe environment, it also strongly believes in the rule of law as part of its governmental doctrine.

As such, the WSTPD continues to work closely with all facets of the drug abuse and mental health agencies operated by this tribe, but will not tolerate drug usage, possession, or trafficking within its jurisdiction no, matter the amount.

If you would like further information about this matter, please feel free to contact Lt Josh Capehart at 541-553-1171, or Chief of Police Bill Elliott.

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