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Ascension Craft Cannabis Debuts Clean Green Certified® Product to Stores Across Washington State

With proprietary, sustainable cultivation processes, Ascension is one of the few growers in Washington owned by a tribal entity

The latest business venture to operate in benefit of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has launched its first in a series of branded retail products. Ascension Craft Cannabis, operated by Noo-Kayet Investments (NKI), the economic advancement entity of the Tribe, began operations last fall, becoming one of only a handful of growing operations owned by a tribal entity in Washington state.

Grown under the care of Operations Manager Frank Fauls, Ascension's first harvest matured this spring. After drying, curing, and testing, Ascension has brought six, medical-grade strains to market: Black Lime Reserve, Shoreline 91, Stay Pufft, Piccolo, Purple Berry, and Chem D x Airhorn.

The first products in packaging bearing Ascension's brand and tagline—"tested, trusted, tribal"—are being sold by High Point Cannabis, also operated by NKI, as well as retail cannabis locations around the Kitsap Peninsula with expansion plans. A store finder will roll out soon on the <u>Ascension website</u>. The company is currently growing 20 different strains and has over 200 seed variants in inventory.

Fauls oversees a tight team of five at Ascension, who are responsible for bringing products from seed to shelf. They source the seeds; grow, harvest, dry, and cure the plants; work with state regulators and retailers; and are responsible for branding and marketing.

When Fauls joined the Ascension team in July 2023, he came with vast experience in cannabis cultivation, including years spent as a sole proprietor of a business in Shelton, a consultant for other operations, and a recognized expert in the field. Despite his extensive background, until he began work with Ascension, there was one long-held dream that remained unfulfilled.

"I had always wanted to grow in living soil, using no chemical nutrients. This ensures the cleanest product. This just wasn't something I could do as a small operation with limited resources," said Fauls.

Products from Ascension are Clean Green Certified[®], a rigorous program recognizing sustainable, regenerative, and environmentally responsible practices by growers and

processors. It is the only certification program of its type nationwide, and the closest cannabis product can get to achieving the designation of "organic".

"We knew we had to find a niche in the market, so I suggested going for the Clean Green certification early on and everyone got on board. From the start, the focus was on producing the best medicine possible and reaching for the highest standards to set ourselves apart," said Fauls.

In addition to growing and producing the cleanest, most sustainable product possible, Fauls is passionate about teaching people about the intricacies of cannabis and how the work being done by Ascension intersects with the future of agriculture.

"What we're doing (at Ascension) isn't just about cannabis. It's about agriculture and farming and self-sufficiency. There are businesses that are using operations like ours to turn around herbs and vegetables quickly. This business and how it operates can have a huge impact on the future," said Fauls.

As for the future of cannabis, Fauls sees big things ahead: "A lot depends on what happens on the federal level, but I envision, at some point, certain parts of the nation will be identified like Champagne in France, as having the defining products that others should aspire to. Washington state would certainly be one of those places and Ascension, because of our cultivation practices, would be well positioned to benefit."

ABOUT ASCENSION CRAFT CANNABIS

Ascension Craft Cannabis is a state-of-the-art cannabis cultivation facility and top-tier product. Ascension utilizes the best technology available and has developed proprietary processes to produce the cleanest and highest quality cannabis in the industry. Ascension is Clean Green Certified and available throughout Western Washington.

Find out more at <u>www.noo-kayet.com/ascension-craft-cannabis/</u>.

ABOUT NOO-KAYET INVESTMENTS

Noo-Kayet Investments serves as the economic advancement entity of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Its primary role is to offer strategic direction, manage business operations, provide analytics, support entrepreneurial initiatives, conduct feasibility studies, and secure financing for both new and existing business of the tribe.

Find out more at <u>www.noo-kayet.com</u>.

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