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# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Resort welcomes Smith as new GM

By Duran Bobb  
Spilyay Tymoo

Growing up and working on his grandparents' ranch in Eastern Oregon, where his first job was feeding the horses, Carlos Smith didn't even have the opportunity to stay in a hotel. Today, he runs one.

His grandparents, Wilbur and Louise Williams, taught Smith the value of hard work and instilled upon him the value that good work is rewarded with more than just a paycheck.

"After I graduated from high school," Carlos said recently, "I moved back to the reservation and lived with my grandmother, Faye, and my great-grandmother, Fannie Wahenekah. I started working at Kah-Nee-Ta in 1994."

The ranch taught Carlos to give his all. He had never worked in a hotel before in his life, but he wasn't afraid

to give it a try.

"I found that there was always an opportunity in the hotel industry, because you're always going to have both unhappy guests and employees. I threw myself into any door that opened to me, whether it was being a bellman or washing dishes or working the front desk."

His hard work was soon noticed. "A non-tribal member who was hired on as the general manager started up the tribal member management trainee program," Smith said.

"He kept his eye open and several of us were chosen to participate. Scott Moses was one of them. We all know where he is today. Rusty Calica is another one, and today he's the head purchasing manager for the new casino."

For three years, Carlos and the other five chosen were thrown into the duty of learning every aspect of the hotel



Carlos Smith

industry.

"He pretty much opened the door for us," Carlos says. "At the time that I was working for the tribe, I was also

studying Computer Science. So it really taught me that if you're willing to work hard, they will call you in when someone doesn't show. You'll become the go-to guy."

After 12 years, in 2006, Carlos left Kah-Nee-Ta.

"It was time to move on," he said, "and my eyes were on the Portland market. I got a good job working for the DoubleTree. They're the third largest hotel in the state. I worked with them for four years."

Carlos was then promoted to General Manager for the Hilton Garden Inn in Lake Oswego.

"After a while, you really become used to the strict rules that they have on how to run a hotel. Everybody plays by the rules. Hilton knows how to run a profitable hotel."

See SMITH on page 6

## Tribes approve eel plan

By Duran Bobb  
Spilyay Tymoo

The four Columbia River treaty tribes that make up the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission have approved a plan to halt the decline of lamprey and reestablish the eel populations.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes are Warm Springs, Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce.

Eels, also known as *asm* in the *Ichishkin* language, have been harvested as a traditional food by the Warm Springs tribes.

The plan laid out by CRITFC seeks to improve passageways for lamprey, restore and protect habitat, and will reduce toxic contaminants and will help to aid in re-colonization of the eels throughout the basin.

Some of the gathering places for eels, said *atwai* Emily Wahenekah in a previous interview, were Sherars Falls, Celilo Falls, and at Willamette Falls near Clackamas. "Willamette was at one time an Indian word," the *atwai* said in her interview. "The White man couldn't say *Wilampt*, that's what we called it before. That meant Like Blue. In the language, *lampt* is blue."

Once the eels were harvested, *atwai* said, they were often brought back to He-He where families had certain areas along the river for soaking, cleaning and drying.

"That's one quality about drying," Neda Wesley said. "Salmon have it, and eels have that same quality. If you bring it home to dry it just won't come out the same way. You have to dry it by a river, because the water has a relationship with our food."

Most of the eel was used, including the meat, which was hung to dry after soaking in the water. The oil was also gathered as the eel dried and was good for the hair. The skin was crisped by a fire. And the soft backbone of the eel, called *shiyat*, was dried and eaten.

"The eel tails were given to the babies," *atwai* Emily Wahenekah said. "It was like a pacifier. It would help them while they were teething, or just kept them busy."

Dried meats such as eels and fish were also used when people would go camping in the mountains, tribal elder Suzie Slockish remembers. "They would come in handy then, because out in the woods after a hard day of work it would taste so good."

See EEL PLAN on page 2

## Cardinals visit

A large part of the Warm Springs community was on hand for the Louisville Cardinals vs. Portland Pilots women's basketball game, Dec. 17. The tribes had 1,500 tickets that were given away to tribal member students and their families.

The event, at the Chiles Center in Portland, featured a half-time 12-and-under game between the Sacred Thunder team from Warm Springs vs. Nixaawii of Umatilla (see page 3).

Another attraction was the Cardinals-Pilots game, featuring Shoni and Jude Schimmel, who play for Louisville. The Schimmel sisters are Umatilla tribal members with family and many fans on the Warm Springs Reservation.



Shoni and Jude Schimmel at the Chiles Center in Portland.

Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

## 2011 Year in Review

# Telco, casino, fires notable stories of 2011

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoo

The year 2011 saw a milestone in the effort to bring migrating fish back to the rivers above the Pelton-Round Butte dams, when adult summer steelhead returned to the Pelton fish trap. These were the first fish to accomplish the feat as part of the reintroduction project.

In Warm Springs, the year 2011 saw the resolution of Housing and Urban Development complaints about the Warm Springs Housing Authority. And the tribes successfully lobbied the Oregon Legislature to address the issue of tribal police authority off the reservation.

The Wasco people met several times regarding the Chieftainship vacancy. This question remains open as we begin 2012.

The StoryCorps history recording group visited Warm Springs during the summer of 2011; and the Warm Springs Library opened, among the many 2011 news events on reservation.

Each December the Spilyay attempts to list the significant events that



Architect's drawing of the casino, set to open in February.

happened in the community during the year.

The year 2011 saw these developments on the reservation:

### W.S. Teleco

First, the Warm Springs TeleCo made great progress toward serving the reservation. New staff came on board, and the new teleco office opened at the industrial park were.

The teleco will bring high-speed Internet, telephone and video to the reservation: About 1,000 local homes and businesses will have access to the company's services.

The enterprise itself will in time employ 19 people. Board members

believe the improved telecommunications on the reservation will bring new business and more employment opportunities.

The Warm Springs TeleCo (WSTC) is only the ninth tribally-owned telecommunications company in the U.S., out of a total of 565 federally recognized tribes. The teleco enterprise was funded through a federal grant and loan.

### New casino

Probably the most visible, if not the most anticipated, project of 2011 has been the new Indian Head Casino.

Construction began in early May at the Highway 26 construction site. The

opening is set for February 2012.

The new casino will be housed in a 40,000-square foot building beside the plaza. There will be 500 slot machines, and eight blackjack tables; plus a restaurant with seating for 120, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There will be a snack bar with seating for 30, and a gift shop. The casino will be open 24-hours, employing 280 people.

As the tribes face future budget cuts, the hope is that the casino will increase gaming revenue, alleviating some of the budgetary stress.

See YEAR IN REVIEW on page 2

## Simnasho End of Year Dance Friday

The End of the Year Round Dance at the Simnasho Longhouse is set for this Friday, Dec. 30.

Masters of ceremony will be Kenneth Scabbyrobe and Carlos Calica. Stick man: Colin Chief.

All singers invited. Dinner at 6 p.m. Round Dance will start after the meal. Everyone is welcome to join the Simnasho community for this event.

Sponsored by members of the Simnasho community. For more information, contact Captain.

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