



Matt Kentta

Matt Kentta Named Facilities Director

Tribal member Matt Kentta has accepted the position of facilities director for Chinook Winds Casino.

Kentta is a native of Siletz, living in Oregon all but five years of his life, which were spent in Southeast Alaska. For the past nine and one half years, he has worked for the Siletz Tribe and the last five have been with the casino as Facilities Department manager.

According to Kentta, "Working at Chinook Winds is a great opportunity to help the tribe and the community, and meet a lot of interesting people."

A Time to Remember

Saturday afternoon of the fifth anniversary weekend proved to be a time for remembering the successful partnerships that helped create Chinook Winds Casino.

Tribal Council member Jessie Davis recalled the steps the tribe took to secure the construction of the casino, first the tent and then the permanent facility. With the help of Tribal Council Chairman Delores Pigsley, Davis presented people with Chinook Winds canvas bags filled with fifth anniversary goodies as a thank you from the Siletz Tribe.

Representatives from PCL, the construction firm based in Bellevue, Wash.; Kane and Johnson, the architectural firm based in Minneapolis; and Creative Design and Engineering of Newport, Ore., which served as the owner's representative, all attended the event.

A special thank you went to Amos Arden for his dedication in leading the subcommittee responsible for the construction of the child care center and arcade.

Several other individuals were honored, including Stan Speaks, northwest regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Forrest Gerard, former assistant



Henry Morgan wins the quilt made by Karen Van Der Zanden.

secretary of the Interior and long-time consultant to the Siletz Tribe; and Hiroto Zakoji, former general manager of the Siletz Tribe and long-time consultant.

All tribal members in attendance also received fifth anniversary T-shirts and commemorative \$1 coins.

(See photos on pages 15 and 17.)

History of Chinook Winds Casino

For the fifth anniversary celebration of Chinook Winds Casino, several displays were available to the public, including the following history. We thought you might enjoy reading this review covering the events of the past nine years.

Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center, the 159,000-square-foot enterprise of the Siletz Tribe in Lincoln City, is beginning its fourth year. But it has actually been in the gaming business for a total of five years, including "The Tent."

The Siletz Tribe began exploring gaming as a source of revenue in 1991. During that year, a six-member Ad-Hoc Gaming Committee was appointed and with an investment of \$25,000 of timber revenues and a BIA grant of \$15,000, the Tribal Council strategically planned and began lobbying efforts to the Oregon congressional delegation.

Members of the Gaming Committee were Jessie Davis, chairman; Delores Pigsley (tribal chairman); Nelson Witt, CEO; and Craig Dorsay, tribal attorney. Subsequently two Council members were

added to the committee and over a period of time, Frank Simmons, Jane John, Lillie Butler, and Phil Rilatos served as committee members during their tenure on Tribal Council.

Forrest Gerard, former assistant secretary of the Interior, was contracted to advise the tribe on political strategies, and Lou Gallegos, who had formerly served as assistant to Secretary of the Interior Manual Lujan, also was hired as a consultant. In addition, public relations firms were hired to deal with the political issues the tribe would face in establishing a gaming center outside Siletz.

Since the tribe did not have trust land suitable for gaming, it was necessary to acquire fee land in trust for this purpose. From a list of nine potential sites, a 16-acre parcel in North Salem was selected.

Requested by resolution to take the parcel into trust for gaming, the agency superintendent notified city, county and state governments of the proposed acquisition and solicited their comments. The tribe's request was followed by a fully documented

fee-to-trust application on June 22, 1992, which addressed every issue raised by the local governments. It was considered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be one of the most comprehensive fee-to-trust packages ever submitted.

Gov. Barbara Roberts, however, issued a statement two months before the tribe had even submitted its application, not only opposing the Siletz proposal, but **any** off-reservation acquisition of land for gaming by **any** tribe.

Nonetheless, the superintendent and, in turn, the Bureau of Indian Affairs area director, recommended secretarial approval. After his review, Secretary Lujan notified Gov. Roberts on Nov. 6, 1992, that the tribe's fee-to-trust was "in the best interest of the tribe and not detrimental to the surrounding community." He asked the governor to concur with his determination.

On Nov. 20, the governor issued her statement of non-concurrence, claiming "a casino in Salem would erode the social and

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