

Fire: donations, including clothes, are needed for the family

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"Our tanks ran out of water and we had to call mutual aide, which was the Jefferson County Fire Unit," says Fire Chief Danny Martinez.

A total of 30,000 gallons of water were used to put this fire out.

Yahtin was on their way to Texas on vacation with her four kids when she received news of the fire.

The airline she was traveling with moved her and her kids to first class seating and collected donations in flight. "The crew and travelers were so nice to me," says Yahtin. She was amazed that strangers would donate money and provide comfort to her and her children.

Yahtin was told that she should enjoy her vacation with her kids, because her children



Photo by Selena Boise

Warm Springs Fire and Safety responds to the Yahtin residence fire.

don't understand that everything has been lost in the fire.

She will return in early January to Warm Springs, and will then have to face the facts

with her children and start over.

Fire and Safety has planned to set up donation cans in local stores and accept donated

items for the Yahtin family. When they return they will need to basics for living.

"Given the time of the year with Christmas, New Year

coming forward, it's even harder to accept the facts. I ask that you look into your hearts and mind and donate what you can for this family. One of these days we may need to same," concludes Fire Chief Danny Martinez.

For anyone who can donate clothes, the following information should be of help:

Minnie Yahtin wears about 22 blouse, and 20-22 pants.

Idela, age 10, wears 10-12 girls sizes. Julia, age 7, wears 6-10.

Gerred, 5, wears 6-8 boys. Frank, 3, wears toddler, 4-6.

Other suggested items for donation include blankets, tooth paste and tooth brushes, shampoo and conditioner, combs and brushes, hair ties, mop, broom with dust pan, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, glasses and cups, a toaster

"I ask that you look into your hearts and mind and donate what you can for this family."

Fire Chief Martinez

and coffee pot, TV, VCR, trash cans with bags, bath towels, wash cloths, first aid kit, lotions, calendar, rugs, school supplies, etc.

Donations for the Yahtin family can be dropped off at the OSU Extension office located in the Education Building. The office can be reached at 553-3238. Donations can also be dropped off at Viola Govenor's residence. She can be reached at 553-1369 (h) and 553-3313 (w).

Print shop still closed for cleanup

The basement of the tribal Education Building is still closed, as a work crew continues cleaning the entire basement area.

Tests have shown the basement, where the tribes' print shop is located, has a mold problem.

All of the furniture has been removed from the basement, and will be cleaned with alcohol to remove the mold. The floor, walls and ceiling will also be cleaned.

The crew doing the work is from the North West Fire Fighters hazardous materials branch.

It may be a few more weeks before the print shop workers, Joe Badoni and Lucy Suppah, can return to the shop. The problem began back in mid November, when people upstairs from the basement reported feeling sick.

An inspection showed mold contamination, according to North West Fire Fighters.

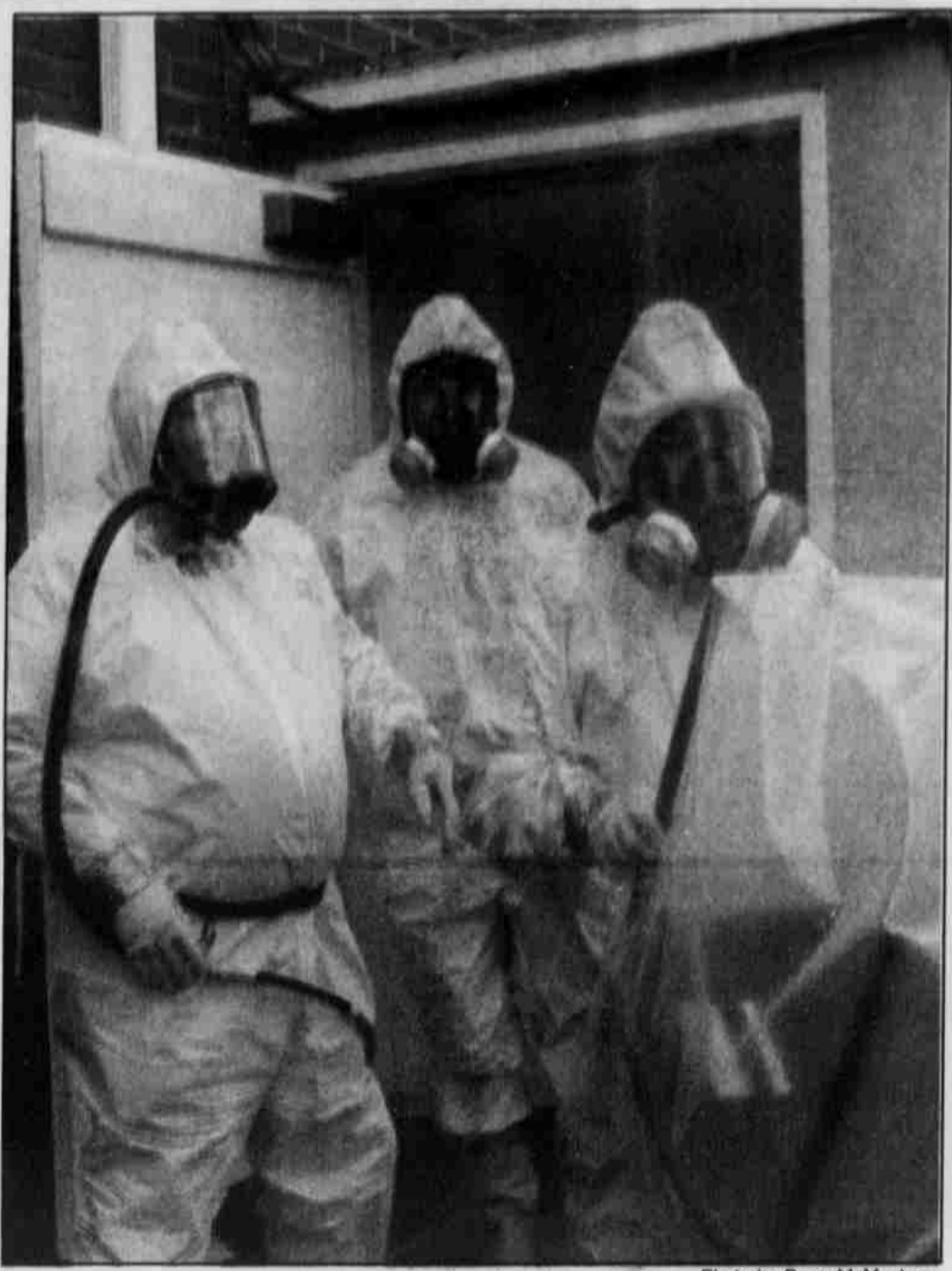


Photo by Dave McMechan

Hazardous material workers remove items from the Education Building basement.

Young artists to display their work

The Ninth Annual Tribal Youth Art Exhibit is fast approaching.

This exhibit will feature a variety of art from the talented young artists from Warm Springs and Madras.

Class and individual work will be accepted.

The deadline to submit art will be January 10, 2002.

At 5 p.m. everyone is invited

to attend the opening reception on January 17, 2002 from 6-8:30 p.m.

This exhibit will be on display in the Changing Exhibits Gallery from January 17 through the middle of March, 2002.

If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact Natalie Kirk at (541) 553-3331 extension. 18.

Kah-Nee-Ta offering winter swim course

The Kah-Nee-Ta Resort is offering winter swimming lessons.

The lessons will be taught by Red Cross certified instructors.

The classes are Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, and Feb. 2.

Various sessions are avail-

able. Cost is \$30 per child.

The Learn to Swim Class is for children 5 years and up.

There will be a maximum of 10 children per lesson. Space is limited.

Call to make a reservation, or for more information, 553-1112, extension 3453.

Gaming: opinions differ over Gorge vs. on-reservation

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Julie Quaid, director of the Early Childhood Center, is one of the people in support of building at the Gorge, in particular at Cascade Locks. "We have to go where the customers are," she said.

If the tribes build a new casino on the reservation, "We'll have the same problems we have now," said Quaid.

A casino at HeHe, she said, "would be too far from Portland, and it would end up serving the local community."

Indian Head Casino, said Quaid, "has become a local playground for adults in our own community, whether they can afford to gamble or not."

Pastor Billy Joe Berry is another tribal member who favors building the casino at the Gorge.

"We need to work at becoming economically self-sufficient," said Berry. If expanding gaming to the Gorge will meet that goal, then the idea is a good one, he said.

With revenue from a Gorge casino, "We'll have the resources to support the needs of our community." A main reason why he would support a Gorge casino, he said, is that the additional revenue would

help in providing opportunities for the children growing up on the reservation.

Louie Pitt, director of Tribal Government Affairs, is another advocate of a Gorge casino.

"If you look at this from the perspective of long-term economic self-sufficiency," said Pitt, "then the Gorge is the best option."

The tribal government, he said, is responsible for proposing to the people the option that will best meet the long-term goal of economic self-sufficiency.

Difference in revenue

From a purely financial standpoint, a Gorge casino would most benefit the tribes.

The recent revenue estimates for the casino sites are as follows:

For the Hood River site at the Gorge, between \$17.5 million and \$20.5 million per year.

For Cascade Locks site, between \$32.5 million and \$38.5 million.

And for the Highway 26 on the reservation, between \$4.1 million and \$4.9 million.

In other words, a casino on the reservation would generate about one-quarter as much

Opponents and advocates of a Gorge casino cite to the need for new local jobs in support of their respective positions.

money as a casino at Hood River, and one-eighth as much money as a casino at Cascade Locks.

Tribal members are fully aware of these figures, and yet many of them also are in favor of gaming expansion on the reservation.

On-reservation site

The most frequently mentioned on-reservation building sites are Highway 26 at the HeHe Junction, and the nearby flats.

The reason that some favor the on-reservation site over one of the more lucrative Gorge sites is jobs, said Jeff Sanders, Compliance Office of the Confederated Tribes.

Many in the community feel that if the tribes invest money in development of a new casino, then the new jobs should be available to tribal

members, said Sanders.

Very few tribal members would want to move to Hood River to work at the casino, he said.

Madeline Queaphama-Spino, director of Vital Statistics, agrees with this assessment. "The biggest concern that I hear," she said, "is jobs."

Daisy Ike, the Confederated Tribes juvenile coordinator, said, "To keep the jobs local, we need the casino here."

Ike said she would like to see a casino at HeHe, with development of an RV park nearby, a swimming pool, motel, shops and other amenities.

One day, when gaming is no longer a moneymaker, then the casino building could still be of use to the tribes. This would not be the case if the structure were built at the Gorge, said Ike.

Issue of jobs

Interestingly, both opponents and advocates of a Gorge casino cite to the need for new local jobs in support of their respective positions.

A new casino would create many new jobs, and these should be available to tribal members living on the reservation, advocates of the High-



"If the choice is between HeHe and the Gorge, then I'm still undecided."

— Patti Brunoe

way 26 site say.

Advocates of a Gorge casino, however, point out that casino jobs are already available to tribal members at Indian Head.

But only between 25 and 31 percent of the jobs at Kah-Nee-Ta, including Indian Head, are held by tribal members.

As Tribal Council vice-chairman Garland Brunoe stated in an earlier interview, casino jobs apparently are not the kind that many tribal members are looking for.

Revenue from a Gorge casino could be used to diversify the economy of the reservation, Gorge advocates say.

It is not a good idea to base a large part of the local job market on a single industry, such as gaming, Gorge advocates say.

Instead, they say, the Confederated Tribes should look toward the option that will

generate the most revenue, which can then be used to create new jobs in a variety of employment sectors.

Not like Madras vote

Back in May of 2000, tribal members were asked if they wanted to go off-reservation with gaming, through construction of a temporary casino in Madras.

The vote was 582 No versus 287 Yes, or nearly two-to-one against.

A difference of opinion exists among tribal members regarding a Gorge casino. But the difference is nothing like that of May 2000.

At the present time a vote on the Gorge casino would be too close to call.

During the year 2002, resolution of the gaming expansion question will be a big, if not the single biggest issue facing the Confederated Tribes.