



# Spilyay Tymoc

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## Native firm chosen as casino architect

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoc

The Confederated Tribes have chosen an Alaska-based architectural firm for the design and development of the new casino at the Columbia River Gorge.

The tribes' gaming expansion team has chosen the firm of ASGC, based in Anchorage, for the casino design and development work.

ASGC is the largest Native American-owned architecture and design firm in the U.S.

The company, which also has an office in Albuquerque, New

Mexico, employs 800 people. ASGC is a subsidiary business of Arctic Slope Regional Corp. (ASRC), one of 13 corporations established under the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

ASRC's board of directors is comprised entirely of Native Americans, specifically Inupiat Eskimos. Seven of the nine members of the corporation's executive staff are Native Americans.

ASGC is known for designing projects that reflect the culture and spirit of Native American clients, and the natural sur-

roundings.

The ASGC design and development proposal for the Gorge casino involves a consortium of development companies. For instance, the firm of Walsh Bishop, based in Minneapolis, Minn., will be providing some of the architectural and engineering services. Walsh Bishop has worked with 33 tribes on 58 development projects. In Oregon the firm designed the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Spirit Mountain Casino.

For the Gorge casino, W&H Pacific, based in Beaverton, will also be part of the consortium.

W&H Pacific will focus on landscaping aspects of the project. This firm is familiar with the Gorge casino plan, as W&H Pacific has provided some preliminary engineering service at the Hood River site.

### World-class facility

The company of Walker Parking is also part of the consortium. This firm will be providing expertise on the important issue of parking at the new casino.

There may be up to 2,000 parking spaces at the Gorge facility, so making best use of

available space is critical.

The Confederated Tribes' gaming enterprise in the fall advertised the requests for qualifications from architectural firms that may be interested in the project.

The advertisement generated responses from 22 well-qualified firms nation-wide. The 22 applicants were narrowed to the five most outstanding.

The final five were all highly qualified, from cities like New York and Seattle. Following extensive review of these five firms, the gaming development team chose ASGC.

The choice was a difficult one, as all of the applicants provided impressive resumes of their work, said Olney Patt Jr., Tribal Council Chairman, who was among the team that reviewed the applicants.

"They all had experience in casino design and construction, not only Indian casinos but Nevada casinos," said Patt.

In making the final choice, Patt said, "One thing that ASGC continually stressed was that they are interested in building a world-class facility, and that has been our aim all along. We want this to be one-of-a-kind."

## Museum adopts shorter work week

For the last 10 years, since its inception, the Museum at Warm Springs has been open 362 days a year.

In the spirit of economic frugality, and to catch up on some exhibit work, the museum board decided to close the museum on Mondays and Tuesdays, until March 1.

Winter is a slow season for the museum, so this is a good time to switch to the shorter work week, said Carol Leone, museum executive director.

"We had a few zero-visitor days and decided it doesn't make sense to stay open on these days," said Leone. "And we want to do our part (in reducing the tribal budget)," said Leone.

Two open positions at the museum will be left unfilled until March 1, saving the tribe additional funds, she said.

The two positions are in the gift shop and in maintenance.

Meanwhile, said Leone, "The office is humming. It's a positive thing."

She said that not having the facility open allows for more time to focus on administration and other planning. The staff is busy preparing for next year's Tenth Anniversary celebration of the Museum at Warm Springs.

Natalie Kirk, museum curator, will focus her attention in January on care for the artifacts in the permanent collection.

Selected artifacts are changed for other artifacts about twice a year. Most artifacts are permanent, due to permanent written text that matches the item.

"We're plugging away and looking forward to a really exciting next year," said Leone.



## New housing



Crews with the Warm Springs Construction enterprise are working on the Bear Drive housing construction project, which will bring 25 new homes to Warm Springs. At top, Frank Reese buries a new water line that will serve the houses. The heavy machinery is being operated by Derrick Flowers.

## Nite Out is next week

The Christmas Indian Nite Out will happen Wednesday, Dec. 18.

The holiday, event sponsored by Primary Prevention Youth Development and the Recreation Department, will be at the Agency Longhouse. Master of Ceremonies will be Captain Moody. All community members are welcome.

Activities include a family dinner beginning at 6 p.m., followed by powwow at 7. All drums are welcome.

Fun and games along with Christmas door prizes are included throughout the evening.

For more information call Austin Greene at 553-3243, or Sheila Clements at 553-4914.

## Court considers water agreement

By Dave McMechan  
Spilyay Tymoc

The amount of water is large, enough to serve a city the size of Portland, or to irrigate 100,000 acres of farmland.

In more technical terms that amount is 450 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water, or about 3,400 gallons per second.

The Confederated Tribes have the right to use this quantity of water in the Deschutes Basin.

In addition to this "consumptive right" - water taken from a river and not returned - the tribes have much larger "in-stream" water rights.

The in-stream rights - up to 3,500 cfs in the Deschutes, and 1,050 cfs in the Metolius - help ensure protection of the environment, especially fish habitat.

The tribal water rights are the oldest in the basin, originating with the Treaty of 1855.

A problem in modern times, though, has been that the tribal water rights were unspecified.

The problem is being resolved through a water rights settlement agreement among the tribal, federal and state governments.

The three parties first began working on the agreement nearly 20 years ago. After lengthy negotiations and many public hearings, the parties signed a binding document in the fall of 1997.

A final step in concluding the agreement is to make it legally binding on all water rights holders in the Deschutes basin.

This process involves consideration of the agreement by a judge, in this case Deschutes County Circuit Court Judge Stephen Tiktin.

Last week, Tribal Council and other officials gathered in Deschutes County court for a hearing before the judge on the

*The agreement tends to reflect the fact that tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation are fishing tribes.*

water rights settlement agreement.

Prior to the hearing, the Oregon Water Resources Department provided notice by mass mailing to the 27,000 water-rights holders in the Deschutes Basin.

One person, a landowner whose property is served by a well, objected to the settlement agreement, but the judge denied the assertion.

A hearing was set for Jan. 7, at which time the judge may incorporate the settlement agreement into a court decree.

At that point the provisions of the agreement would be binding on all water-rights holders in the basin.

The agreement is unique in the nation. Often a tribal water right is determined by calculating the acreage on the reservation that could be irrigated for farm use.

This formula would have resulted in water rights to the Confederated Tribes far lower than the ones established in the settlement agreement.

The agreement, instead, tends to reflect the fact that tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation are fishing tribes.

This standard provides a right to volumes of water many times greater than the irrigable acreage standard.

Another important part of the agreement is that it acknowledges the Confederated Tribes' exclusive right to manage all waters on the reservation, such as Shitike Creek, the Warm Springs River, etc.

## 3 sentenced for murder

The three men accused of murder last year on the reservation were sentenced recently to lengthy terms in federal prison.

The three men are Ronald L. McKinley and Angelo Fuentes, both 23, and Tony Gilbert Jr., age 19.

Earlier this year, McKinley and Fuentes pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the death of Michael Saludo.

Before that, Gilbert entered

a guilty plea to a count of second-degree murder.

At the sentencing hearing at the end of November, the judge ordered McKinley to serve 40 years in prison.

Fuentes received a sentence of 30 years. Gilbert received a sentence of nearly 20 years.

The difference in the sentencing reflects their respective levels of involvement in the murder, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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## Christmas Bazaar on Saturday

The 27th Annual Warm Springs Christmas Bazaar is set for this Saturday, Dec. 14.

The bazaar is an opportunity to shop for and find Christmas gifts for friends and relatives.

Vendors will be selling

handcrafted Native American items, including bead- and woodwork. The food vendors will be in the social hall, and the craft vendors will be in the gym. Doors are open to the public from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.