

Important part of gaming is to make money for the tribes

By Sid Miller
Spilyay Publisher Emeritus

(Author's note: Everything in this article is pure coincidental. No fact or truths.)

At the present time the Confederated Tribes are in search of income from some investments or some kind of business that would generate substantial income for the tribes. It is apparent that our regular resources are dwindling away at a rapid pace. I can remember when "I was just a cute little tyke," the timber was our major income. But today we don't have timber like that anymore.

The main reason I'm touching on this subject is each year everyone expects a bonus payment, and I believe here lately we have been digging into our reserve to make the payment. That should be a no-no. There must be some sort of program where we can realize profit for the tribes. I am sure there are ideas floating around out there we could work on to build our account. At the present time, there are no activities going on where we could invest to bring in some income.

We have a casino, and at the present time it is no big factor for income. One reason, "A big reason is the location." Let's take a look back to the beginning when we all agreed on the casino. We had the option of building our casino along Highway 26, or try it at our Kah-Nee-Ta for five years, and if it didn't work out we should consider moving it to a better location. Well, how long has it been since we started the casino at Kah-Nee-Ta? And as yet, there have been no good results, and still there has been no mention of moving the casino to a better location. The consultants can tell you it's making money, but it's not visible. It may be making money for the consultants, though!

In the beginning there were several locations mentioned where we could have built the casino. One was at the Northwest corner of the Rez at Bear Springs, or at the junction at Highway 9, to Simnasho and Kah-Nee-Ta from Highway 26, or in Madras.

Many people in Portland say they do a lot of business in Central Oregon, and if the casino were along U.S. 26, they said they would be happy to stop and relax a while in the casino, but Kah-Nee-Ta, they say, is just too far out of the way. Truck drivers say they would stop for a while to play the machines. We have been negotiating on the possibility of building a casino at Cascade Locks. That's the ideal location for a casino, and the citizens of Cascade Locks are in favor of our casino. It would boost their economy also. It would be right along Interstate 84 from the east and a short distance from Portland. If it is at all possible to build there, we should go "gung ho" for a casino there.

Well, that's the pro side of it and the con side, people need employment, and they feel it's too far out of the way to go and work. We are all in agreement that it's way out of reach for local employment, but you fail to see the main point. "Income for the tribes," that's what we want. We could make a bunch of dollars there and bring it back to the Rez and set up programs to employ our local people. Let's make the dollars first, then employ our local people here at home. As a matter of fact, how many local people work steady at our casino at Kah-Nee-Ta? Maybe a handful, but the turnover is great.

Let's wake up, get it through our thick skulls that it's the dollars we need and not worry about one or two people who can't make it to work at certain locations.

Well let's see: Our No. 1 worry is income for the tribes. No. 2, better living conditions for the tribes, and No. 3, we must look to the future for our generations to come. And if there are any other ideas floating around out there, they should be brought to light for consideration. We do need to come up with good plans.

Ahh-Nah-Chi-Toon! Chin-ee-wah? Yun-wil!

Toe Ness

"Before I take your case," said the counselor, "you'll have to give me a \$100 retainer."

"All right, here's the \$100," said the client, handing over the money.

"Thank you," the lawyer retorted. "That entitles you to two questions."

"What! \$100 for just two questions! Isn't that awfully high?"

"Yes, I suppose it is," said the lawyer. "Now, what's your second question." YIKES

IDIOT SIGHTING: At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "this is fun. We should do this more often." Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare.

Powwow court

To family, friends and community, thank you to everyone who bought tickets from me for the Lincoln's Powwow celebration. I enjoyed meeting and talking with all of you. This was the first time I talked to so many wonderful people. I want to also apologize to those who wanted to buy tickets from me at the powwow, but I ran out of tickets on Friday and the committee didn't have anymore.

Anyway, I ended up getting sick on Saturday and Sunday, but I had fun on Friday night. I thank the Lincoln's Powwow Committee for inviting me to be a part of the court.

Congratulations to Cassie Sam for winning! We took a cute picture, huh! Thank you to everyone and God Bless always. Rheianna "Ti-Ui-Pum" Wolfe

Settlement

(This letter is an excerpt from longer comments submitted into the record regarding the settlement funds.)

Regarding the use and distribution of the McQuinn blowdown-HeHe fire judgment funds awarded to the Confederated Tribes for their individual use and social and economic development, as tribal members we, speaking on behalf of ourselves and other concerned members, make the following comments and budget recommendations.

We question the legality of resolutions no. 10.450 and resolution no. 10.451 passed by Tribal Council that reflected a retroactive payment of \$1.5 million covering tribal government operations and \$4,352,000 appropriated from the tribes' revenue reserve fund for repayment of the \$1,000 special per capita bonus that each tribal member received in December 2004. These two budget appropriations as well as the budget appropriations for 2006 and 2007 from the HeHe/McQuinn settlement funds are in violation of Article V, section 1(T) of the tribal constitution as amended July 1973 that states:

"To appropriate for tribal use of the reservation, any available tribal funds; provided that any such appropriation exceeding \$2,500 shall be subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior; and provided further, that any appropriation in excess of \$25,000 in any one fiscal year, for any purpose, other than per capita payments shall be of no effect until approved by popular referendum. The foregoing limitations shall not apply to expenditures made pursuant to tribal budget, provided that not less than 90 days before the effective date of such budget, it is posted in three public places on the reservation for not less than 30 days and provided further, that a public hearing is held on such budget and thereafter the budget is approved by the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative."

The following questions are raised in regard to any retroactive authority the Secretary of the Interior participated in and approved that violated any part of the above Article V, section 1(T) as follows: "that any such appropriations exceeding \$2,500 shall be subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior" and provided further "that any appropriation in excess of \$25,000 in any one fiscal year for any purpose, other than per capita payments, shall be of no effect until approved in a popular refer-

endum."

The wording in Article V, section 1(T) in part provides the necessary approval for the 2004 Special Per Capita distribution of \$4.352 million because it states that "any appropriation in excess of \$25,000 in any one fiscal year for any purpose," other than Per Capita payments does not have to be approved in a popular referendum. However, the question arises about the wording in the first sentence of Article V, section 1(T) "to appropriate for tribal use of the reservation any available tribal funds" and asks whether "any available funds" included any future funds to be taken from the HeHe/McQuinn settlement funds?

Rosella M. Moseley, Marcus K. Moseley, family members.

Casino plan

Wouldn't it be prudent for the Warm Springs Tribal Council to order a temporary halt to all gaming compact negotiations pertaining to Cascade Locks casino? Although the casino was passed by referendum I don't believe the language wasn't specific enough to grant unlimited authority to the gaming board, site team or our paid consultants. If Warm Springs truly operates as a co-operate structure, tribal members have a very legal right to ask and expect answers to their concerns pertaining to an off-reservation casino. This group of individuals has become too self-righteous thinking they are the only ones capable of making good economic decisions.

This group of individuals has been so careless and cavalier in the securing of a precedent setting gaming compact for all gaming tribes in Oregon that it personally raises questions of competency. The little information that has been shared with the enrolled membership would be hard pressed to be referred to as progress.

Not one of Warm Springs' strongest negotiating strengths was even presented during the negotiations process. Warm Springs has an annual operational budget of \$200 million in Central Oregon, another \$135 million has been obligated to restore upriver fish runs, fish runs that by the way we had nothing to do with destroying, \$350 million in construction start-up expenses, annual operating expense, increased housing demand, 1,200 permanent full-time taxpaying jobs and revitalizing the economic future of Cascade Locks. In comparison to the incentives Oregon has offered other big businesses to locate in the state, isn't this an insult.

I think it would be prudent to clear the air of all of the rumors that have been circulating in the community: that the access property to Cascade Locks has silent partners that are negotiating in our behalf and are paid employees of the tribes; tribal employees are being told that they are left to their own devices on their own if they desire to work or relocate to Cascade Locks; what are the tribal member training programs to upgrade skills and why hasn't this training already started? Which of these scenarios potentially are in violation of our Constitution and By-laws or raises questions of morality or ethics. My personal feeling is that our Tribal Council is purposely being misled along with the tribal members. So we have to remind the federal agent of

his fiduciary responsibility to protect us from unscrupulous misleading individuals or a specious gaming compact. This also is an indication of where the new chief executive officer has placed his priorities personal above the people.

I would have a hard time agreeing that this group of people is entitled to receive an additional \$4 million out of the McQuinn settlements. Thank you. Randy Smith.

McQuinn

Firstly, hello to all my family and friends.

I feel compelled to put in a word or two about the McQuinn Blowdown-HeHe Fire settlement. It's obvious that our (us tribal members) names had to be included in the lawsuit; that is, our elected officials filed claims for damages in our name and on our lands. So, obviously the monies should be disbursed evenly amongst the tribal membership and some senior citizen programs.

The only time our elected officials care about "the rest of us" is when they're up for reelection or they need our vote on something.

And what's this about, "part of the money would also be used to repay the tribal reserve fund, which was used to provide the December 2004 per capita"? I didn't even get mine! I had to fill our paper work to get it replaced.

And whose bright idea is it to think of using any part of the monies toward the Gorge casino? It's still too much up in the air, and besides I voted against the Gorge casino. What good is it going to do for the tribal membership, as a whole? It sure isn't helping our tribal members with jobs being way off the reservation.

I live off the rez with three daughters. I have bills just like everybody else.

I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking of how this "rightfully our" monies could help all of our families. Being on a fixed income with SSI disability; I sure could use some help, as well as my daughters.

And then there's always been this issue of Tribal Council's accountability; that their concerns are of a few. It's obvious that a lot of people feel that way and it sure looks that way.

Let's remember, they are elected. Vote them out next time. Those of you fellow members: you know we need change; you feel strongly about it. Don't be shy, get out there and run for Tribal Council, give us someone to vote for. Give us a good change.

People, don't forget: "We the people, for the people, of the

people, by the people." Stand up, speak up, be heard. Ron-Dee Redfox.

Revival

There will be a revival March 18-24, 2005, beginning at 7 p.m. nightly at the Warm Springs Full Gospel Church with Easton and Tina Aguilar. Everyone welcome. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed: for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke 14:13-14. And the Lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:23.

The laws

Why are there laws - executive department of our tribe will not follow i.e. the 1855 Treaty with the (she-tike/kicksht tanun); incorporated federal charter? To be a leader, you must serve the people i.e. follow the Indian traditions, customs, rituals of our tribe. Our songs say so, how we came to be here. Do not incorporate your own idea - set all the people back.

Elders said: "Keep the blood strong." Weddings were made before you had grown up - no outside blood allowed, as it is now. Look at as we're racist. We are not - it's traditional. See: Medicine Dance. The animals did not marry outside their own - still talk their own language as we are to. God made that way - I'm just a messenger. One mind, heart, spirit, body, it was the way - all watch out for each other, no one was labeled a bum. Money has eroded our lands. No one will take it to their grave, no one. Being a leader, you must serve with love, consideration. No hate of all sorts. Name all the meats, all the roots, all the fruits. How we come to be 7 drum? These are just a few foods for thought, arrives out of our 1855 Treaty protection. You are beautiful, gifted, don't ever forget it.

The animals made compact to carry on the (Wuni-Sha) Medicine Dance. All sang "The Indians are coming - the Indians are coming!" "We will be their clothes and food." So, laws were made from our animals. Martinez Eugene Charles. (Sue-wy-y) Ie-Wa-Nicht.

Letters

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay. When writing, please keep in mind that letters should be of no more than 350 words. And no statements that are libellous against another person can be published in the paper.

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