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Casino naming at Gorge

The tribes unveiled a name and logo for the proposed casino in Cascade Locks during a special ceremony June 14.

The Bridge of the Gods Columbia River Resort Casino is the proposed name, and refers to a Wasco legend.

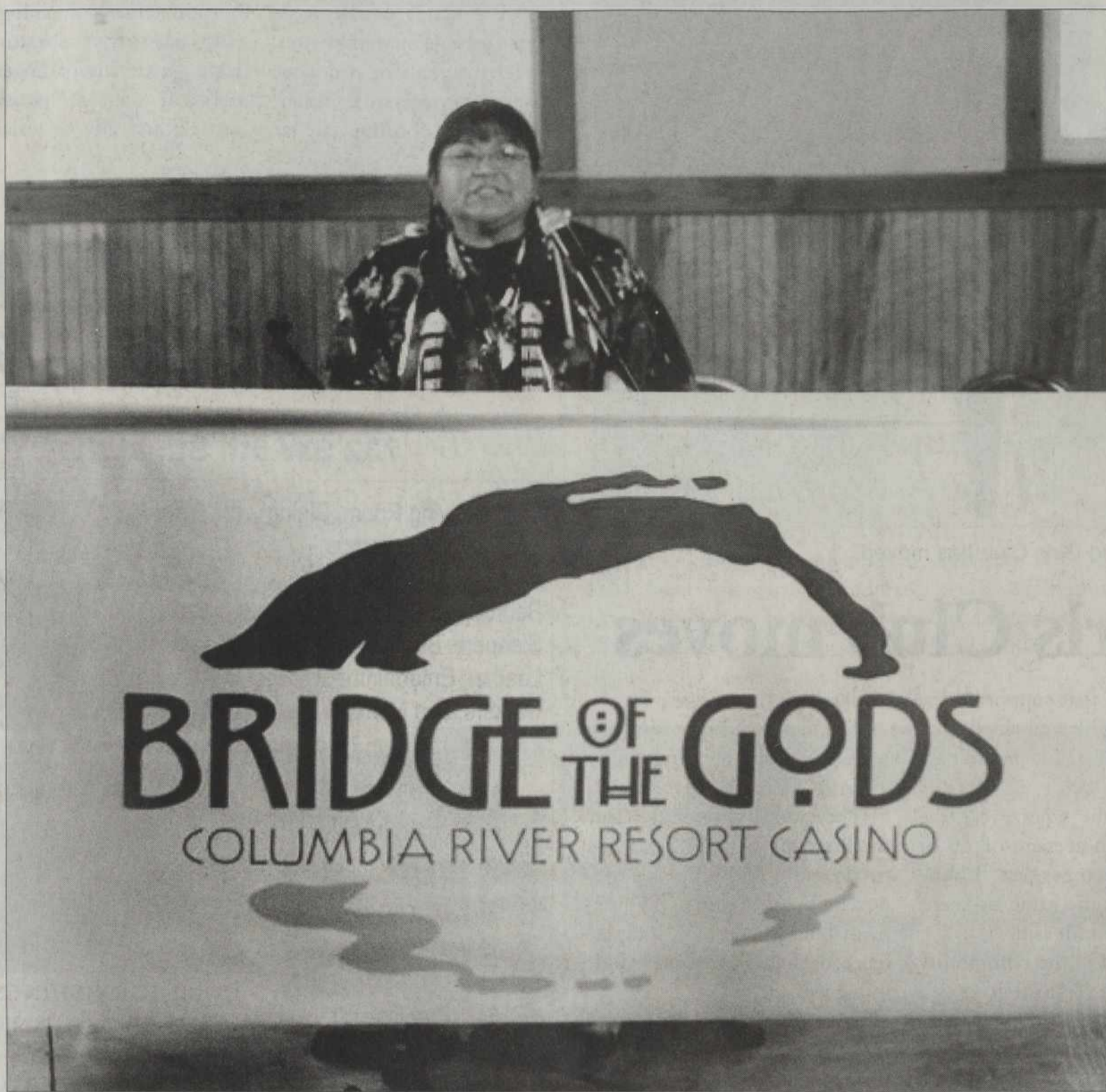
Tribal elder Susie Slockhish told the story to a group of children sitting in a circle at her feet at the Marine Park Pavillion in Cascade Locks.

The legend refers to the idea that an ancient stone bridge across the Columbia River was once created by the Great Spirit and then destroyed by his sons.

Along with drumming and dancing, the unveiling included an honor dance and a circle dance.

The ceremony took place during Cascade Lock's annual Sternwheeler Days Festival.

The logo and name will represent the tribal casino in Cascade Locks from this point forward in advertising, publicity and other applications representing the facility.



Gaming official Margie Tuckta speaks at Cascade Locks, where the casino logo was presented last week.

Right of way study of importance to tribes

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

It may seem simple to flip on a light switch, but that power doesn't come as easy as it seems.

A new study is examining the ways in which energy rights of way can be developed and renewed across tribal lands.

After the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Secretaries of Energy across the U.S. were instructed to conduct a study regarding the energy rights of way on tribal land.

The act declared that energy corridors be determined on federal land in the western U.S.—corridors that can be used for electrical transmission lines and natural gas or hydrogen pipelines.

Because several corridors would pass through tribal land, the study aims to find the best solution in doing so.

That study was to be released in August 2006, but it has now been pushed back to September.

Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, said, "Warm Springs has been engaged in this process for a number of reasons."

According to Manion, "The tribes have right of way easements for energy and want to follow how and what the outcome of this study will do. The study is aimed to describe how processes have been used in the past to establish right of ways across all Indian lands across the United States."

In addition, Manion said, "There has been some movement in the industry to try to weaken the tribes sovereign right to manage lands pertaining to these easements. It is very important that we watch these issues and protect the rights we have maintained in our treaties."

According to Jim Noteboom, a tribal attorney, it's something that should concern tribal members.

"We don't, of course, know at this point what the report is going to say," Noteboom said. "It will undoubtedly have significant implications for Indian tribes."

The results could potentially allow the government to force rights of way across tribal land.

See **STUDY** on 11

Oregon Tribes Project seeks to preserve culture

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal culture is something that no one wants to lose.

With the Oregon Tribes Project, that's exactly what people are taking steps to avoid.

The project collaborates all of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes with the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Folklife Program in order to document cultural materials.

Myra Johnson, director of the Culture and Heritage Department, has been working with the Oregon Tribes Project since it began.

According to Johnson, people were concerned at first that the project would spread the cultural knowledge to those who aren't part of the culture.

"We did not want to make information available for non-tribal mem-

bers," she said.

Part of the stipulations of the project allows the tribe to make the decision to share materials with the OHS or not. If any materials are given to the OHS the tribes are allowed to decide what it is. The project allows Johnson to work with volunteers in order to take photographs or record demonstrations via video or audio recordings.

To prepare for the work involved, Johnson attended several training workshops, including one on ethnographic fieldwork methodology in 2005.

She plans to document everything from net making to food gathering and cradleboard construction—specifically the construction of Paiute cradleboards because it is an art that is quickly being lost, Johnson said.

See **CULTURE** on 11

Budget discussion beginning

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The tribes have started the budget process for 2007, with the initial goal being to cut \$1 million in expenses from the operating budget.

The cut is smaller than the \$1.9 million that was required from the current year's budget. But the decisions as to where to make the future reductions are still difficult, as much has already been cut over the past few years.

A decision that will determine the extent of the reductions for 2007 will be the distribution of the settlement money from the tribes' trust lawsuit against the federal government.

The tribes are expecting a settlement in the range of \$20 million from the first phase of the trust lawsuit.

The tribes could receive the settlement by the end of the year or early next year, said Ray Potter, the tribes' chief financial officer. Due to a difference in the federal law that applies, the funds from settlement of the trust lawsuit are expected to be received fairly

quickly in comparison to those from the HeHe-McQuinn blowdown settlement, said Potter.

How the trust lawsuit settlement money is eventually distributed—whether part may be used to subsidize the tribal operations budget in 2007—will determine how much if any is to be cut for the 2007 budget, said Potter.

The \$1 million cut that is being discussed at present is the best estimate, said Potter.

The goal in developing the budget for next year is to protect the reserve, or rainy day fund, he said.

Some other issues that effect the budget situation include: a reduced timber stumpage estimate by Forestry; and continuing needs of Kah-Nee-Ta for capital improvements and development of the Bridge of the Gods casino. Power Enterprises meanwhile has seen reduced power sales so far this year.

Like last year, directors and managers of the departments, led by Chief Operations Officer Lauraina Hintsala, will work together on cost savings.

Plight of endangered paiche similar to that of salmon

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

The paiche fish in Peru is in danger. What does that have to do with Warm Springs?

Plenty—at least for Wilson Wewa.

Wewa traveled to Pucallpa, Peru in April to act as a cultural liaison between indigenous groups and natural resource experts who are working together to preserve the fish.

"I was recruited by the Indigenous Environmental Network to accompany their group down there to visit with a couple of indigenous communities," Wewa said.

The group traveled to villages to meet with indigenous groups—people who are proud of the work they're doing to preserve the fish, Wewa said.

It wasn't your typical day of travel, however. Because of the lack of roads, they had to travel by boat—something

that he said was an adventure.

"Even though the Uycali River is probably 1,500 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, it's still about a mile and a half wide," Wewa said. "That was amazing."

The paiche, Wewa said, is a freshwater fish that lives in the Uycali River. "Because of the increase in population in cities like Pucallpa, people are overfishing the Paiche fish," Wewa explained.

For that reason, natural resource experts are hoping to increase the paiche population. According to Wewa, "They're helping the indigenous people, the Shipibo tribe, to help them manage their own resources."

Indigenous groups have even worked to develop hatcheries for the paiche in order to meet the demand for the fish. In Japan, Wewa said, the paiche is a delicacy.



The Paiche fish.

Other resources, like bananas, also saw the effect of population increase but are now being preserved through

the use of orchards. The indigenous groups are able to benefit financially from the development, Wewa said—something that is necessary when a middle-class income brings in about \$26 per month.

Wewa said he felt privileged that he was "able to share the history and the use of salmon and talk about how our people work with federal and state governments."

"I felt really honored to have been recruited by others to accompany this delegation to South America," Wewa said.

"One of the interesting things about our trip was the majority of our group did not speak Spanish, and so we had to use interpreters," Wewa added.

According to Wewa, "My little recollection of high school Spanish was an asset to me."

During part of the trip, the group

met with students to give a presentation and discuss their ideas. Over 12 Peruvian tribes were represented at the university they visited.

"It was really colorful because some of the students dressed in their native dress when they came to our presentation," Wewa said.

"It was a very worthwhile meeting with the young people," he added. "The young people are trying to get a quality education in order to help their people survive economically."

From new types of food and scenery to the presence of vultures everywhere ("They're like chickens," he said), it was a few days that Wewa won't be forgetting anytime soon.

Though the Indigenous Environmental Network is discussing another trip to Sonora, Mexico, Wewa said he isn't sure if he'll be able to attend.