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Spilyay Tymoo

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Board, management reflect on eventful year at Kah-Nee-Ta

The past year has been an eventful one at Kah-Nee-Ta, with good financial results, and change to the resort and casino operation. The Kah-Nee-Ta board of directors and management are now looking forward to continued improvements in 2008.

Through September of this year, Kah-Nee-Ta revenues have outpaced the prior year by \$900,000. This has led to a net income figure of slightly more than \$3 million for the property. Significant improvements in the ca-

sino and the rooms divisions have bolstered this year's numbers.

"New slot machines in the casino and good head-counts in the hotel from the independent traveler have joined together, and so far are producing a strong year," said Garland Brunoe, Kah-Nee-Ta general manager. "I am anxious to see how the entire year is going to turn out."

After a year of transition, Brunoe has finally filled all of the primary director positions that will help in taking

Tribal member employment for Kah-Nee-Ta has steadily increased over the last several years from an average of 36 percent to 44 percent of the total employees.

Kah-Nee-Ta to the next level.

Brunoe admits it has taken more time than he wanted, but he believes

Kah-Nee-Ta has found individuals with a great deal of experience and knowledge in their particular fields who can lead the resort and casino in the right direction.

The areas of expertise include finance and accounting, human resources, hotel and casino operations, marketing, and a new position that has been created to focus on the guest experience.

Without a doubt, said Brunoe, Kah-Nee-Ta is focusing its efforts on the

guest. Toward that end, employee training and development plans are being constructed and implemented to ensure that employees have the proper tools to service and satisfy the guest.

Brunoe said the cornerstone of Kah-Nee-Ta's future success is the guest, and what the guest experiences during the visit to the resort. And the obvious link and key to being successful are the employees.

See KAH-NEE-TA on page 9



Ceded Lands tour group pictured with wind power generator blade at Bigblow Wind Farm. Below, the group puts their signatures on the blade.

Growing interest in wind power

A growing interest in diverse energy projects on the reservation was evident during the annual tour of the Ceded Lands. The tour takes several days to complete, as the Ceded Lands, to which the tribes have treaty rights, is a large area.

While at the Columbia Gorge, the tour group wanted to visit a renewable energy facility. Instead of a hydro-project, the group decided to visit a wind farm.

They visited the Bigblow Wind Farm, operated by Portland General Electric, just east of Biggs Junction.

The group had a chance to see the large windmill blades up close, and signed their names on one of the blades.

Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises is currently studying the details of developing a wind farm on the reservation. Through federal grant money, Power and Water Enterprises is funding an engineering study of road requirements necessary to develop and maintain the wind turbines in the Mutton Mountains.

The \$150,000 grant will also fund a study of power transmission requirements from the turbines to the main

power grid. A third study will look at the potential environmental issues associated with development of wind turbines.

Recent state policy regarding renewable energies have made wind power an attractive potential economic development project for the tribes.

According to the state law, within the next 20 years Oregon must get a quarter of its electricity from renewable resources.

— By Dave McMechan



Photos courtesy of Jim Manion.

Tribal Council approves 2008 budget

The Tribal Council has adopted the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs budget for 2008.

Total revenue for the year is projected at \$24.8 million, with nearly half of the total coming from Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprise. The enterprise is expected to provide \$11.5 million in revenue next year, according to the budget document.

Timber revenue is projected at \$2.5 million. The trust-fund claim lawsuit

settlement accounts for \$3.37 million.

Gaming is expected to provide \$1.165 million in revenue to the tribes; Composite Products revenue to the tribes is projected at \$500,000; and the Credit Enterprise, \$500,000. Contract support-indirect income is projected at \$2 million. Other sources — interest, fees, leases, and other sources — account for the rest of the revenue.

Total expenditures for the year are projected at a little over \$19 million.

Amount available for per capita is projected at \$5.9 million.

The tribal operating expenses are projected at nearly \$17.4 million. Most departments received in the final budget the amount that was proposed for 2008. Council added a little over \$100,000 to the Public Safety Department budget, over the amount proposed. No department receives less than the amount proposed.

Williams teaches tradition of hide tanning at museum

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Community members had a chance to learn about hide tanning with a class offered by The Museum at Warm Springs. Roberta Williams taught the class and said she wanted to be sure to pass on the skill she learned from her mother.

The class first began, Williams said, after she was riding the local transit bus and began speaking with a museum employee about the need for a hide tanning class.

Soon they began offering the class for 15 students.

The class started Oct. 22 and Williams said she's been busily teaching almost every day since then.

Now only one woman remains, and is still scraping her hide in order to get it finished, Williams added.

Out of the 15 participants, about six finished, Williams said—but she welcomes anyone who would like to finish or like to learn the skill to seek out her advice.

"The people that didn't finish, they could come back to me later on," Williams said, adding that a few people hope to finish during spring.

Williams learned the skill of hide tanning from her mother, Rose Mitchell.

Mitchell taught all her children, according to Williams' brother Leander Kalama. "This is just like family teaching," he said.

According to Williams, the most important thing about the class to her was the ability to pass on the skill.

"The reason I wanted to teach people is so that my mom's teaching won't be lost—our culture, our heritage won't be lost," Williams said. "I want it to keep going."

"There's a few that my mom taught, too, hopefully they still remember," Williams added.

In fact, it's a skill that is slowly becoming less and less known.

It's not that people don't want to learn about hide tanning, Williams added. "There's a lot of people that want to learn but the work is really hard," she explained.

At times, the work varies depending on the hide. "Sometimes you'll get a good hide and it'll get done for you, and another time you'll get a hide that's double layered," Williams added, explaining that a double-layered hide requires additional scraping.

According to Kalama, very few people are still able to practice hide tanning. Either that, he said, or they just aren't knowledgeable about the skill.

See HIDE TANNING on page 7

Meth prevention program targets younger generation

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

Methamphetamine use is increasing in the younger generations, and those with the Meth Task Force are trying to combat the problem with education.

Wayne Miller, meth prevention coordinator, recently spoke to health classes at Jefferson County Middle School as part of a drug prevention week.

He typically goes in to speak to the classes every semester, Miller said, because new groups are taking the health classes. The program he teaches is called Meth 101.

However, it differs at each grade level, Miller said. "You have to take in a whole different perspective," he explained.

While the sixth grade students are typically very open about methamphetamine use within the homes, Miller said, seventh graders are less willing to talk about it and eighth graders are typically very reluctant to speak of the subject.

According to Miller, "It's really educating the students about how meth is really affecting the community—not only the community, but families."

In general, he said, the program helps make students aware of what to

do if they encounter methamphetamine use.

"Drug dealers are starting to focus on the younger generation now by simply handing them the drug itself," Miller explained, because the drug has a very high retention rate for first-time users.

The majority of people who try methamphetamines become addicted.

By giving the students statistics and teaching them about what meth use does to a person's body, Miller said, it helps convince more students to stay away from it.

"When we go in there and educate the students about what methamphetamines can do to young minds which are still growing, and how many brain cells are still growing, that kind of gets them to re-think their values about trying it," Miller said.

As a stipulation of a grant that the program receives, Miller said, they need to conduct meth education programs at three levels.

Besides educating students at JCMS, Miller will soon be speaking with high school students as well as students from grades three, four and five.

Before he presents the information to elementary school students, however, Miller is working to fine-tune the curriculum.

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