



Spilyay Tymoo

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Casino project moves forward

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

The Gaming enterprise board has approved moving Indian Head Casino from Kah-Nee-Ta to the Highway 26 location in Warm Springs. Groundbreaking is expected to happen the first part of next month.

"We're working very diligently to make this project a reality," Kah-Nee-Ta board chairman Deepak Sehgal said. The cost for the project will be an estimated \$12.5 million. "We are working with a number of financial institutes to secure the best deal that we can."

Sehgal said he hopes to have the facility open by New Year's Day 2012, with some hurdles to clear.

Some of the work that lies ahead will be tackled by project engineer Travis Wells. This includes all of the initial engineering for the site preparation, water, sewer and power. Natural Resources has been utilized for necessary environmental clearances.



Courtesy of the casino planning team.

3D renditions of the New Indian Head Casino. The existing plaza is to the right in the picture at top. The museum is at the lower left in the picture below.

"We have been working closely with the Tribal Land Use Committee to make sure we comply with all tribal rules and regulations. However, we have hired outside architects to design the building and hired general contractors to construct the facility. We will be making sure that every opportunity is made available for tribal entities and tribal members when the general contractors begin work."

Recent concepts for the design of New Indian Head Casino reflect the influences of Celilo Falls scaffolding and the reflection of water from the Columbia River. Colors for the design were pulled from actual photos of Indian Head Canyon.

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Input sought on 2 projects

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Portland General Electric, tribal and Oregon Bioenergy officials held two public scoping meetings last week seeking input from tribal members regarding two potential projects on the reservation.

Transmission line

John Sullivan and Todd Jones presented the PGE power transmission line project, which would run through the north-end of the reservation along an existing right of way.

The project would place a 120-foot to 290-foot tall lattice structure tower at an interval of less than five structures per mile on tribal land.

"The purpose of the transmission line is to enhance the reliability of the grid," Sullivan said. "This is also going to provide some access to more renewable energy as we plan for the future power needs."

In this project, PGE intends to parallel existing transmission line corridors as much as possible.

"Of course, we're trying to minimize the impacts on homes, farms, businesses and the environment," Sullivan said. "We wanted to take this time to listen to the community members here and consider any feasible alternatives."

The transmission line project will have an aggressive timeline, he said. PGE would like to have the transmission line in service by 2015.

"We're watching Idaho Power and PacifiCorp. They're each having issues with their projects. The state and federal processes are not complimentary. We're trying to get them done parallel, and we hope to start designing in 2011."

Biomass plant

Curt Magnall and John Rivers, of the engineering firm CH2M Hill, then gave an overview of the proposed Warm Springs biomass plant, which would be located in Lower Dry Creek.

"This is going to be a state of the art facility," Magnall said, "designed for optimum efficiency and reliability. It will operate 350 days a year, 24 hours a day. It will be equipped with effective emission control, designed to meet all regulatory standards."

Up to 10 fuel trucks an hour would bring in the wood supply and offload into the fuel pile. A conveyor replaying system would feed the fuel into the facility. The tribes has agreed to dispose of the ash waste.

See BIOMASS on page 8

TeleCo begins with office construction

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Co. began work last week on remodeling the old apparel building at the industrial park.

The building will be the main office of the telecommunications company, housing electronic equipment, offices and customer service area. The main area of the building has been vacant for the past several years. The structure needs a new roof, among other improvements.

The Warm Springs Telecommunications Company (WSTC) last year received \$5.3 million—half by grant and half as a loan—from U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

The company—the tribes' newest enterprise—will bring high-speed Internet, telephone and video to the reservation. About 1,000 local homes and businesses will have access to the company's services.

The enterprise itself will employ 19



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

On hand for the groundbreaking were TeleCo general manager Adam Haas, chief executive officer Jeff Anspach, Tribal Councilman Scott Moses, state director of USDA Rural Development Vikki Walker, TeleCo board director Sal Sahme, and tribal Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica.

people. Board members believe the improved telecommunications on the reservation will bring new business and more employment opportunities.

WSTC is only the ninth tribally-owned telecommunications company in the U.S., out of a total of 565 federally recognized tribes. The nine tribal

telecommunications companies are members of the National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA).

Jose Matanane, past president of the association and former general manager of the Fort Mojave telecommunications company, was on hand last week for the Warm Springs teleco dedication.

The Fort Mojave company has been in operation for about 20 years, employs 17 people, and serves 1,100 customers. Since the company began, "We've seen the quality of life go up," Matanane said.

The monthly service rate at Fort Mojave is very reasonable, including a \$1 per month rate for those who qualify for the hardship program, he said.

The oldest tribal teleco is Cheyenne River Sioux Telephone Authority, founded in 1958.

See WSTC on page 9

Tribes' fisheries recovery effort earns top honors

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Over the past decade, the Confederated Tribes and Portland General Electric have invested greatly in fish recovery.

The tribes and PGE have spent over \$100 million on fisheries restoration in the Deschtes basin.

The single biggest project has been the development and operation of the fish collection facility at the Round

Butte hydroelectric dam. The facilities include the unique 273-foot fish collection tower behind the dam.

This effort by the tribes, through Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises, and PGE has earned national recognition.

Most recently, the National Hydropower Association presented the tribes and PGE with the Outstanding Stewards of American Waters award.

This award recognizes large-scale and innovative projects that serve as

models for the hydro industry.

Also this month, the American Council of Engineering Companies named the tribes, PGE, and the engineering firm CH2M Hill, as recipients of the council's Grand Award.

This award "recognizes projects that demonstrate a high degree of innovation, achievement, and value."

Earlier, recognition came from the Edison Electric Institute, and the Associated General Contractors of America.

The tribes' and PGE's fish recovery and habitat restoration program was developed as part of dam relicensing of 2004. The dams are owned and operated by the tribes and PGE.

The restoration work has involved cooperation among more than 20 local, state and federal agencies, irrigation districts and environmental groups.

The facilities at the Round Butte dam are the single biggest component of the overall restoration work.

The Round Butte and Pelton dams

were built in the 1960s. Round Butte created Lake Billy Chinook.

The lake had had no downstream surface current, until the construction and operation of the fish collection tower just a couple of years ago.

With no current, the juvenile fish did not migrate downstream. Now, they follow the current to the tower, where they are collected, released and allowed to continue their migration. This restoration reopens 226 upstream miles to salmon and steelhead migration.

