



Spilyay Tymoo

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No easy solution to Wasco Chieftainship question

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

It became apparent at last week's Wasco chieftainship protocol meeting that a tough choice faces the people in selecting the successor to adwai Chief Nelson Wallulatum.

If the next chief is selected in the traditional manner of lineage, then there are several candidates who are qualified.

So far, the candidates announced at last week's meeting are George Clements, Garland Brunoe, Derek Tasymp, and J.R. Smith.

"I've heard there are a lot of people

who aren't satisfied with our candidates," facilitator Terry Courtney said at the opening of the meeting.

"I felt that a lot of 30- and 40-year-olds don't have a voice. If I had to vote right now, I'd have to vote for a relative. But we have many others that should be voted for. The chieftain lineage has been passed on to all the Wasco men. Look around. There are some younger respectable men who have lived good lives."

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tribal custom," Ginger Smith said. "We need to have a referendum to change that, that's the bottom line."

"At the last meeting, I thought it was determined that it wouldn't be by voting," Austin Smith Sr. said. "Unless I missed a couple of meetings. Selection through a more traditional manner, isn't that what we're doing?"

"The freedom is to the people," Courtney said. "You are the decision-makers. The lineage is through all of us—we could all be considered candidates if we followed lineage. We're asking now what the people would like to do."

"I heard the men were going to have a meeting," Vernon Smith Sr. said. "Nobody ever invited me, and I'm from the Agency District of Wasco descent. I have chieftainship from both sides in my family, but we have to look at the younger people. Our time has passed. We had our chance, and blew it."

"I'm actually only one-eighth Wasco,"

Jefferson Green said. "I've been only to a few of these meetings. Sometimes I wonder if we elected the chief, how many people would want to be chief if it's not a political position on Council? Everybody has input on what they think a chief should be, like being present at the ceremonies... I don't think it would be such a bad idea to have a woman chief. I don't see other men at the dances and practices. It's all women. They've been the backbone of our people for so many years."

Others at the meeting, held last Monday evening, Sept. 12, stated different ideas about the chieftainship.

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Deer Ridge powwow this Friday

About 50 people from Warm Springs are expected to attend the first powwow at the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution.

That is the number of people who requested the background check in order to attend, said corrections facility pastor Tim Woods.

Two drum groups, one from Warm Springs and one from Tulalip, are also expected, Woods said.

The powwow is this Friday, Sept. 23. Visitors can begin arriving at about 8:30 a.m. The powwow is expected to last until about 3:30 p.m.

Deer Ridge, a minimum-security prison, opened in 2007. This will be the first powwow held at the facility. An average of five Native Americans from Warm Springs are among the 760 inmates at Deer Ridge. Another 25 or so are Native Americans from other tribes.

Inmates at other corrections facilities in the state have hosted powwows on a regular basis. This Friday's will be the first at Deer Ridge.

The inmates there have been planning the event for several months, making gifts for those who attend. There will be a salmon fire pit, the drums and traditional dance. The powwow will be conducted in an outdoors area by the prison sweat lodge.

The prison is located east of Madras on B Street. For information call 541-325-5999. Or email:

tim.n.woods@doc.state.or.us

— By Dave McMechan

Member art show, trail opening in Oct. at museum

The Eighteenth Annual Tribal Member Art Show begins on October 13.

The deadline to submit your artwork for the show is this Friday, Sept. 23, at 5 p.m. The exhibit grand opening will be in the museum lobby on Oct. 13.

Also in October at the Museum at Warm Springs:

The Twanat Trail grand opening will be on Oct. 22, from 2-4 p.m. The trail, along Shitike Creek, features new interpretive signs. Call the museum for more information, 541-553-3331.



Festival at the Gorge



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Dallas Winishut (picture at top) gives a crafts demonstration at the riverside park at Cascade Locks, during the Festival of Nations; while Foster Kalama provides the flute music.

The tribes and Cascade Locks hosted the Sixth Annual Festival of Nations the weekend of Sept. 10-11.

The festival began as the tribes and Cascade Locks were first planning for development of a casino at the industrial park at the Port of Cascade Locks. Salmon restoration and indigenous traditions of the tribes are the focus of the annual festival.

Gaming Update

Max bet on Jan. opening

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

The first major construction job in Warm Springs for quite some time is moving forward steady and sure.

"As of last week, we're still on schedule for the building to be completed by January 2012," Kah-Nee-Ta board chairman Deepak Sehgal said. "We're planning the transfer of the casino from Kah-Nee-Ta to the new building during the first three weeks of January."

Those plans are tentative due to the aggressive nature of project timelines.

Names for gift shop, grill

Passers-by along Highway 26 can see the new structure taking shape. The new facility, located next door to the Plaza, will be the home of the Cedar Basket Gift Shop, the Tulee Grill, and the Plateau Restaurant.

The venue names were chosen by entries submitted by tribal members. One winning entry, the Plankhouse Restaurant, was reconsidered because it was in use by another tribe.

Another way tribal members can become involved with gaming project is by attending one of the meetings which will be planned in the very near future.

"We'd like to start a better conversation with tribal members on job opportunities," Sehgal said. "There are going to be jobs which will need to be filled. So keep a look out for meetings designed to inform members on

jobs availability, requirements, training, and where to go to file an application."

With the opening only four months away, Sehgal says time is of the essence.

"There are still many hurdles to cross before we reach the finish line," he said.

Each setback could delay the opening.

Compact approved

One hurdle was cleared a few weeks ago when both the Tribal Council and Gov. Kitzhaber signed the compact for the Highway 26 Indian Head Casino. "The document was sent to Washington, D.C. for final approval, and we'll be hearing back on it within the next few weeks," Sehgal said.

The initial opening of the casino will be for tribal members and invited guests only, with a target date of January 23 or 24. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a celebration at that time.

The grand opening, to be held around February 4 or 5, 2012, will be open to the public.

"We have had great cooperation with the many sides of the tribal government and the contractors in place on the project," Sehgal said. "I want to thank each of them."

In other Kah-Nee-Ta news, Harry Taylor unexpectedly submitted his letter of resignation last week, effective immediately. "Mr. Alan Post will be the acting general manager and the Kah-Nee-Ta board will begin the process of hiring a new manager," Sehgal said.

Teleco prepares for beta testing

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

With facility construction complete at the old apparel building, next month the reservation will take one more step towards the 21st century when Warm Springs Telecommunications Company fires up the equipment to begin beta testing.

Beta testing allows a company to test a product or service by providing it to a few customers to try out.

Last week the teleco staff began moving into the new office, located next door to Construction.

"Finally we're starting to get the central office equipment installed," Warm Springs Ventures general manager Jeff Anspach said. "We've purchased the meta-switch, which is the big switch-

board. This is state-of-the-art equipment, with all sorts of bells and whistles"

This is an important step towards the goal of an opening date this November.

"Generally, you have your first customer as a beta tester who is on for a month while you work through the bugs in your system," Anspach said. "You have to make sure it's pretty air-tight before you end up taking on other customers, so you know your system will perform as advertised. But we're moving along pretty fast. Now, we start moving in and install the equipment before we deploy the plan."

The plan is to build two extra towers, one in Simnasho and one in Seekseequa.

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