

Spilyay Tymoo

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Gaming focus turning to new casino jobs

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

There will be as many as 200 local job openings early next year, when the new temporary casino opens.

Gaming planners are preparing for a jobs fair, and soon they will have a list of the positions that will be available.

Current employees at Kah-Nee-Ta will be coming to work at the new Indian Head, but more employees will be needed, said Margie Tuckta, Kah-Nee-Ta board member and gaming director of special projects.

The gaming board is currently hir-

ing a new casino general manager and a human resources director. Once these positions are filled, the focus will be on filling the rest of the jobs, Tuckta said.

More employees—cashiers, floor staff and security—will be needed for the gaming portion of the casino. Other openings will be in the restaurant and gift shop, in maintenance and housecleaning, among other areas.

A total of 280 employees will be needed at the new enterprise. Some positions will be filled by the Kah-Nee-Ta workers, but most will be new jobs.

Meeting the demand will require job training. Gaming will be working with

Workforce Development, tribal Human Resources, and the rest of the organization to meet the challenge, said Tuckta.

She and other board members met with Tribal Council last week to discuss the new casino. Councilman J.P. Patt said the employee aspect of the enterprise is the key to its success.

This is a hospitality industry, he said. "The casino is just a building with machines in it," Patt said. "If we're expecting people to stop, there has to be a reason, or they'll just drive by."

The Northern Quest Resort and Casino of the Kalispel Tribe, in Spokane, is a model for the industry, he said.

Open 24 hours

The new Indian Head casino on Highway 26 will be housed in a 40,000-square foot building beside the plaza.

The casino is temporary, as a Cascade Locks resort and casino is the long-term plan of the tribes.

At the new temporary facility, there will be 500 slot machines, and eight blackjack tables; plus a restaurant with seating for 120, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The building will house a snack bar with seating for 30, and a gift shop. The casino will be open 24-hours, part of the reason why many new employees are needed.

A first for fish passage

This month saw a milestone in the endeavor to bring migrating fish back to the rivers above the Pelton-Round Butte dams.

On October 9, an adult summer steelhead returned to the Pelton fish trap: This was the first fish to accomplish the feat, as part of the reintroduction project.

The fish was reared naturally in the Crooked or middle Deschutes sub basins. Then, as a smolt in 2010, the young steelhead migrated downstream through Lake Billy Chinook, and past the new Round Butte Dam downstream fish facility.

Biologists know the steelhead is one of the reintroduced fish because of a specifically clipped bone. Biologists had clipped the right maxillary bone on all anadromous smolts that were moved from the fish transfer facility to the lower Deschutes River.

The fish, and others like it, spent a year in the ocean, and then returned this month.

The fisheries reintroduction is a project of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric, as owner-operators of the Pelton-Round Butte hydro-facilities.

An overview

Fish passage above Pelton-Round butte has not happened since 1968. The problem over the years was the lack of a downstream current in the lake behind the dams. There were also changes to the water temperature due to the dams. So rather than migrate, the juvenile fish remained upstream.

The tribes and PGE spent several years developing a plan to correct the situation, and reopen the many miles of upstream habitat to the fish.

The unique aspect of the solution was construction and operation of the 273-foot underwater tower and fish collection station above Round Butte dam in Lake Billy Chinook. The fish are collected, sorted and transported downstream, so they can continue their journey to the Pacific.

When Round Butte dam was built in 1964, it included a fish passage system: a gondola/tramway system for the upstream journey; and an intake/collection system for the downstream migration. This original system, however, did not work, due to the unforeseen changes in river currents and temperatures. Eventually, the system was abandoned and a fish hatchery was built below Round Butte Dam instead.

The new underwater tower modifies the currents and temperature to mimic the natural conditions of the river. Meanwhile, the hydro-dams can continue to generate power for sale.

Total cost of this project is estimated at \$130 million.

Jim Manion, manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises, said many individuals have worked diligently on the specific project that saw this month's fish return. Some of them are: The Round Butte hatchery crew who produced the fry for reintroduction, tribal and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel who coordinated the fry releases; the many agency and public volunteers who helped with releases; the Pelton project research crew; and the fish passage crews working for Power and Water and PGE; and the Pelton-Round Butte maintenance and electricians.

Possible solution for mill

Warm Springs Forest Products Industries and the tribal Natural Resources Branch may have developed a plan to keep the mill operating for at least the next few years.

WSFPI and Natural Resource representatives met with Tribal Council last week, and reported they may have come up with a timber harvest plan that would meet the mill's needs.

The plan would require the acquisition of additional timber for the mill from off the reservation.

The issue is, however, still unresolved; and Tribal Council wants to hold a workshop on the question in the near future.

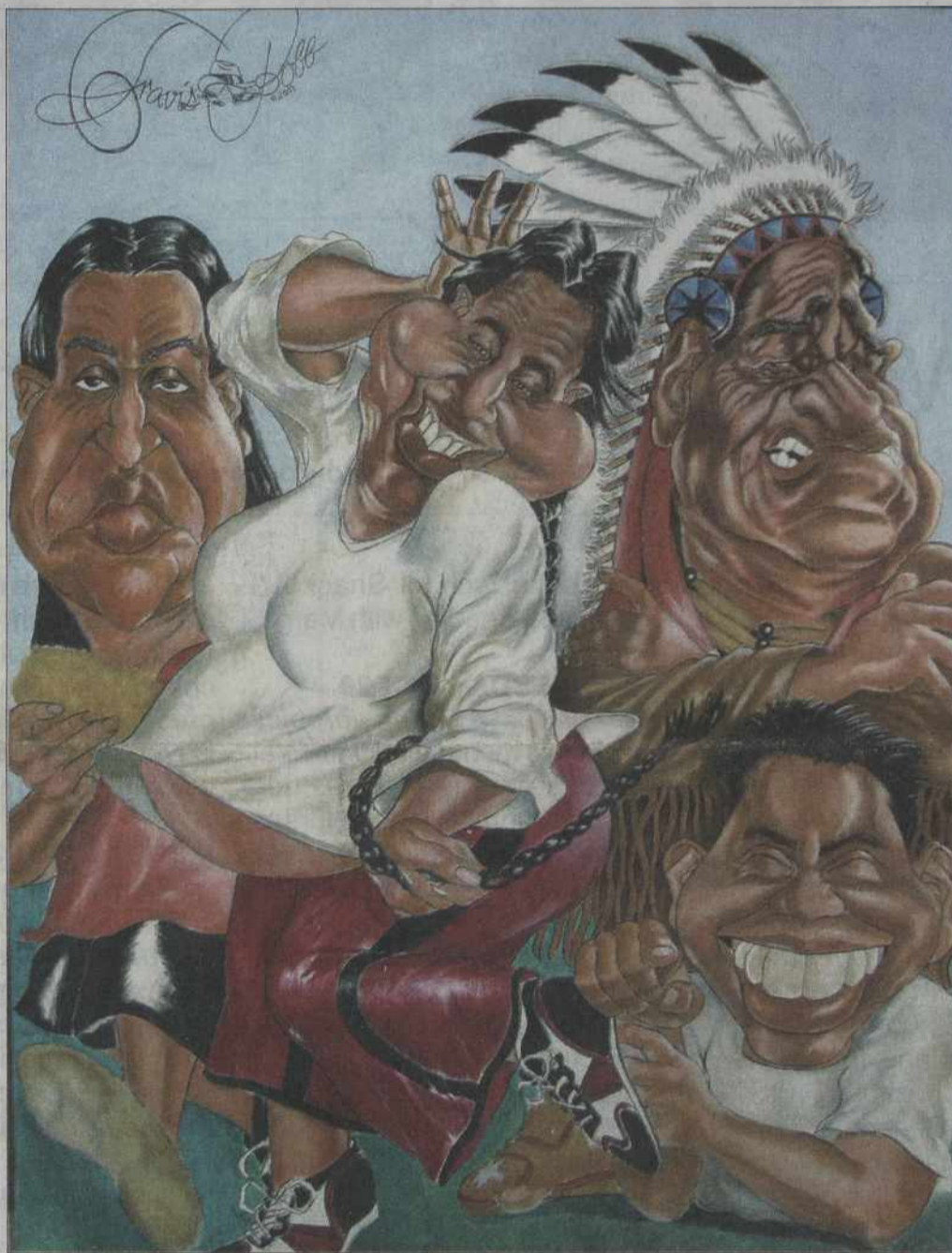
Earlier this year, WSPFI and Natural Resources were far from having a mutually acceptable allowable timber harvest proposal for 2012.

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Art Show

The Museum at Warm Springs is hosting the Tribal Member Art Show, on display in the Changing Exhibits room. Anita Davis won the Judges Choice Award in the Contemporary Category for her beadwork (above). Travis Bobb entered one of his paintings (right).



Duran Bobb/Spilyay

Chieftainship selection moving forward

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

At last week's Wasco Chieftainship Protocol meeting, facilitator Charles V. Jackson presented the people with a recommendation compiled by the families of nominees, George Clements, Alfred Smith Jr., Garland Brunoe, Derek Tasymp, Grant Clements Sr. and John Katchia Sr.

"No small group or handful of people can make a decision for the entire group of Wascos," Jackson said. "Even though not all of us come to these meetings all the time, I think at some point we need to realize that we have to make a decision and move forward. We want to hear your concerns, and whether you have thoughts about this recommendation, either pro or con."

The proposal is to request that the tribes support the voting process. "It may require additional funds for the election board and Vital Statistics," Jackson said.

"The constitution says it's supposed to be by tradition," Emma Smith said.

Cassie Katchia read from section seven of the tribal Constitution. "The election shall be by secret ballot or custom as desired by the prevailing dis-

trict.' So it is up to the district," she said.

Jackson called for a show-of-hands vote, asking how many of those present wanted to select the next chief by election. Sixteen people out of an estimated 60 raised their hands.

Tommy Kalama was concerned over the meaning of "Agency District" in the proposal.

"I grew up in Hollywood and I vote Seekseequa," he said. "But I'm Wasco. I shouldn't have to run down to Vital Stats and change my district to vote for the next chief."

Mona Smith-Cochran said, "I think the gentlemen of the Wasco people should come together and meet in a good way, with a good heart, and make the selection of who is going to represent the Wascos."

Tribal elder Perthina White then spoke of when she was a young girl and her father was asked by tribal leaders to become the next chief. She said:

"The Wasco Chief had passed away then. All the Wasco men got together and decided on who they were going to ask to be the next chief. The elders of the Wasco men came to our house to see my dad. They told my dad that he had been chosen, but he turned them down because my mother was sickly. He said he was honored. But my

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 26, hosted by the Smith family.

mother would have to take charge of the position, if he was chosen. She would have to go with the other women and dig roots and go huckleberry picking for the feast."

Her father couldn't allow her to do the things she would be required to do while she was sick.

During the meeting last week, Mike Clements said, "I've read the prevailing customs statement over and over again. When the last chief was with us, he said you guys can do it the way you want the people to do it. The Tribes can't tell you how."

The first chief, George Meacham, wore the bonnet from 1932 until he drowned in the high lakes in 1943, Clements said. At that time the Wascos went without a chief for 11 years.

In 1953, the Wasco men presented names for candidates as the next chief. They were Joe McCorkle, Walter Miller, Cy Katchia, and Roy Meacham. As Clements recalls, McCorkle won by a single vote.

"They identified all the Wasco people they knew, from all districts. They

didn't limit the votes to one agency."

Chief McCorkle passed away in 1958. There was another election involving five candidates. Three of them were Millers: Floyd Miller, Avis Miller and Walter Miller. One of them was Bill McCorkle. The other was adwai Chief Nelson Wallulatum.

Chief Wallulatum began serving the people in 1959.

"I worked closely with adwai Chief Wallulatum," Roberta Kirk said. "He gave us direction. He had services for the remains of our ancestors that we brought back. So whoever our next chief will be, we're going to come to him for direction. That's a huge responsibility. We have ancestors in museums that need to be brought home. So being the next chief means remembering the people today and not forgetting about the ancestors."

George Clements, Grant Clements Sr, and John Katchia Sr all gave short statements and presented their lineage. The next Wasco Chief meeting is scheduled for October 26 with dinner at 6 p.m., hosted by the Smith family. All candidates are requested to be present for questions and answers.