



Spilyay Tymoo

Coyote News, est. 1976

December 14, 2011 Vol. 36, No. 25

December - Nch'i-An - Winter - Yiyám

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Economic initiative promotes local business

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

As part of a plan to boost public outreach, Kahseuss Jackson presented tribal members with an overview of the Economic Stewardship Initiative last week. Jackson was recently hired as the new Economic Development Coordinator.

"There are four Economic Stewardship goals," he said. "Increasing tribal and private business revenue, increasing the number of enterprise and private business jobs, creating a vibrant small business sector, and developing and improving infrastructures supporting enterprises and private businesses."

The initiative began about three years ago with a series of interviews conducted with people in the community.

"Based on those interviews, Clint Jacks and Teresa Hogue (both at the time working for Oregon State Univer-

sity) took the information and started to develop a framework," Jackson said. "This evolved into the Economic Stewardship Initiative."

Tribal Council has since invested \$10 million into economic stewardship.

Six million dollars went to the Business Investment Revolving Fund (BIRF), providing funds for loans to launch, expand and/or support tribal enterprises.

Two million went to the Private Business Revolving Fund (PBRF) for loans to launch, expand, and/or support private businesses. And \$2 million went to the Capacity Building Fund to insure support for planning, developing policies and procedures, and creating an infrastructure needed to develop businesses and jobs.

Leveraging the Capacity Building Fund, the Small Business Center was also set up to support developing successful private businesses, Jackson said. This center serves as a pipeline to a range of services, assisting new



Kahseuss Jackson

and existing business leaders in several ways.

"Small businesses are an important part of the economy on the reservation. If there are barriers that prevent people from pursuing opportunities that they would like to pursue, our job is to

create a pathway towards some of the resources that they might need."

Jackson appears well equipped to lead the tribes' economic development efforts. Since 2001, he has held positions including: Salmon Marketing Program Coordinator with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Business Development Manager with Warm Springs Ventures; and Budget Manager at the Warm Springs IHS Clinic.

He has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration, focusing on entrepreneurship, and minor in Economics, as well as a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA), all from the University of Oregon.

He also created and launched Celilo Business Solutions, which offered high-level, contemporary and focused analysis and business solutions to tribal entities.

See JACKSON on 3

Drones, obstacles for the reservation

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

With time running out, a call is made to the reservation from search and rescue teams on Mt. Hood.

Within minutes, a probe is launched from the Metolius Bench, flying through subzero temperatures and scanning for signs of life in the terrain below.

Although the missing hiker on the ground cannot see or hear the probe in the sky, the drone can see the hiker through specialized lenses.

Within hours, the person is saved and the tribes are once again mentioned in national news.

That's just one possible scenario, if the tribes successfully enter the unmanned aerial systems market. Other applications include defense, aiding firefighters, delivery of time sensitive materials, and combating drug trafficking over federal lands.

The Department of Defense has adopted the term Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) for what many commonly consider to be specialized remote controlled planes.

The latest figures show that 50 companies, universities and government organizations are developing and producing some 155 unmanned aircraft designs this year, according to the FAA.

The first experiments with UAS technology were attempted in 1916. Later, the U.S. used unmanned craft during the Vietnam War.

Estimates on the increase in global spending for UAS technology by the year 2017 are anywhere from \$5 to \$7 billion. The Defense Department has secured budgeting for UAS projects, as the military has discovered the remote controlled drones are a less expensive way to provide defense and deterrent.

Test flights

Before UAS technology can be manufactured, units must be flight tested. This is where the reservation has competitive advantage, as most of the reservation is open airspace.

In February, Sen. Ron Wyden sponsored a bill that pushed for an increase in the number of testing sites for unmanned aerial vehicles from four to six. The Senate-passed bill still needs to be reconciled with the House version before going to the President.

This means the race is on in a multi-billion per year industry, as groups rush to meet the strict qualifications outlined by the FAA in order to obtain a Certificate of Authorization.

UAV test flights must be conducted or sponsored by a public entity. The FAA defines a public entity as "The Department of Defense and its military branches; other local, state and federal government agencies; and state universities."

Technically, the tribes have not yet applied to become a public entity with the FAA.

"We had a conference call with the FAA and let them know of our intentions to become designated as a public entity," said Jeff Anspach, chief executive officer for Warm Springs Ventures.

While the FAA's definition of 'public entity' does not specifically name tribal governments, some feel the designation may have potential consequences with tribal sovereignty for statuses other than that of public entity.

See UAS TESTING on 3

Lights Parade

Over 1,000 people attended the annual Lights Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting, were held the evening of Dec. 1 at the Community Center.

The number of parade floats increased this year, and *The Peanuts* themed float created by the IHS Clinic staff took home the first-place trophy.

Added to the event this year were the bonfire and the performance of *Peace Came in a Cradle* play, written by Carol Allison and directed by Lucinda Green. "I was asked to write the play using culture from Warm Springs. In past years it has been performed at Lucinda's Christmas at her house," explained Allison.



Warm Springs youth joined Santa on the Early Childhood Education Float.

Casino manager oversees gaming transition

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

Declining revenue has been a serious problem for the tribes in recent years. Timber revenue and power revenue are down, as they have been for years, reflecting the national economy.

The Cascade Locks casino has been delayed indefinitely, and many would say, unfairly.

Meanwhile, the tribes have relied on income from legal settlements, investments, and reserve funds to maintain essential services to the membership. And these funds are being depleted, bringing budget cuts and job layoffs.

The picture is bleak, but there is hope, as the new Indian Head Casino will open early next year. It is hard to overstate how important the casino will be for the tribes.

New manager joins

The manager of the casino, Ken Billingsley, has been on the job for about a month. He has a temporary office at Kah-Nee-Ta, which he is using until he moves to the new casino.

By his desk at Kah-Nee-Ta is a sign with the message: "Perfection is demanded. Excellence is accepted." This summarizes his philosophy for how the

new Indian Head Casino must operate.

"We have to provide an experience for our customers that they never forget," Billingsley says, "one that keeps them coming back again and again."

The location and design of the new casino are excellent, he said, but customer service will be the key to the casino's success.

"From the people out front who meet the guests, to the people in the back who may not be seen as much, we start with customer service," Billingsley says.

He says this about the new gaming enterprise: "The casino belongs to each and every enrolled member of the tribes, and I'd like for them to take pride in this new venture."

Challenging work

Billingsley joined Indian Head Casino as general manager in mid November. With the transition under-way from Kah-Nee-Ta to the new location, his job has been challenging.

He puts in 12- to 16-hour work days, usually arriving at his office at 6 a.m. or before. "Eight hours a day would not get us to where we need to be," he says.

He does not complain about the long work hours, as he's enjoying the



Ken Billingsley

challenge. Recently, he's been hiring and training managers who will direct the different areas of the new casino. He's working on issues related to separating Kah-Nee-Ta Resort from the gaming enterprise, and he's organizing the physical move from Kah-Nee-Ta to Indian Head. As part of the move, planned for January, more than 320 gaming machines will be transported from Kah-Nee-Ta to the new casino.

Billingsley, a Standing Rock Lakota member, grew up in Warm Springs. He

attended high school in Madras. For a time he worked with the Warm Springs gaming enterprise back in 1996, shortly after the tribes opened the first Indian Head Casino.

Since then he has gained extensive experience in the Indian gaming industry. He worked for the past 11 years as the regional director for the National Indian Gaming Commission, with his office in Arizona.

In that job he was responsible for overseeing compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act for over 55 casinos, working with 33 tribes in the Southwest region.

New day for gaming

The new Indian Head Casino will be open 24-hours a day, with employees working in three shifts. This will be new, as the current casino operates about 16 hours a day with two shifts. Besides just gaming, there will be a 120-seat restaurant, the Cedar Basket Gift Shop, Players Club Room, the Tule Grill, among other features.

Construction is on schedule, with dedication day set for February 4, 2012, and the grand opening will be later in the month. And then, "Gaming is going to be much different for the tribes," said Billing