



Spilyay Tymoo

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Positive first report on new casino

By Dave McMechan
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Tribal Council last week heard the first gaming report since the opening of Indian Head Casino on Highway 26.

Revenue from the enterprise was reported as on target, and the first weeks of operation have been successful. "I have nothing but praise for our staff," said Ken Billingsley, Indian Head general manager.

"This has been the best team effort we've had in a long time," said gaming

board member Deepak Sehgal. Bringing the casino into operation in less than a year required cooperation among Council, the board and gaming staff, Utilities and public safety, among the many partners, he said.

Tribal Council Chairman Stanley Buck Smith asked whether there had been any problems so far.

Billingsley said that having the casino open on dedication day, Feb. 4, was a major challenge. "We had techs working around the clock" in the days before the opening, he said.

For various reasons—the physical

move from Kah-Nee-Ta, for instance—not all of the 500 machines were operating on the first day, Billingsley said. And during the first weekend, there were two ATM machines at the casino, which proved to be not enough. One of the machines was filled three times during the first day.

On the Monday following the dedication, Billingsley said, "We went back to the drawing board."

Staff worked out the issues that had arisen during the dedication weekend and following days, and by the grand

opening, Feb. 24-26, the casino was operating much more smoothly.

Council Chairman Smith asks about the parking situation.

"Employees have been parking at the museum," Billingsley said, "but they are moving back to the casino this spring." A row of spots in the casino lot will be designated for the employees, he said.

A plan with the state for extension of the turn-lanes should be in place by June, he added.

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May ballot to decide W.S. school

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Tribal officials are encouraging members to register to vote, as an important local issue—a k-8 school in Warm Springs—is on the May ballot.

Tribal Chief Operations Officer Urbana Ross said it is important for tribal members to register as soon as possible in preparation for the upcoming vote.

The existing k-5 school in Warm Springs is the oldest operating school building in the district. A new school in Warm Springs, proposed at Greeley Heights, would cost between \$18-\$20 million.

Passage of the school district bond measure in May would fund half of the construction cost. The tribes would fund the other half, if the membership agrees by tribal referendum.

Total of \$26.7 million

Jefferson County school district community members recently gathered to examine the conditions of existing school buildings, identify priorities for construction and repair, and make recommendations to the school board on possible funding sources.

The facilities committee recommended, among other items, constructing a new school in Warm Springs.

They also recommend construction of a performing arts auditorium in Madras, and the refurbishing existing athletic facilities.

The total proposed bond for the district is \$26.7 million, the Warm Springs k-8 school being the single largest item.

Reservation residents in Wasco County are also a part of the school district, Ross commented; so they will be able to vote on the Wasco ballot for the school referendum.

Tribal members will vote once for the school district bond proposal, and then again in the tribal referendum.

No tax increase

The overall goal of the school district bond proposal is to improve school facilities, while maintaining the current yearly property tax rate in Jefferson County.

This would be possible because the bond that funded construction of the Jefferson County Middle School is nearly paid. Passage of the upcoming May measure would result in no property tax increase, as the middle school bond is retired.

The middle school bond rate is \$3.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The new proposal calls for \$3 or less per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The bond measure ballot will be due on May 15. The Confederated Tribes could conduct a tribal referendum at the same time.

If the bond measure fails in Jefferson County, funds for facility improvements will be factored into the general school district budgets over the coming years. District leadership will weigh and prioritize facility needs and their potential to impact staffing levels, class sizes and the number of school days for students.

There will be a meeting at the school support building across from the Madras High School this Wednesday evening March 7 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Superintendent Rick Molitor at 541-475-6192.

Determination fuels success at law school

By Duran Bobb
Spilyay Tymoo

Mary Bodine remembers a day when her dream seemed far away. There was a time when people told her that she wasn't good enough.

"Every time someone tells you that you can't do it, prove them wrong," she says now. "Do it ten times better than what they thought was possible."

Bodine is the granddaughter of Greta Polk, Tommy McDonald, Mary Ester Bodine, and Edward Bodine. When she was 17, she graduated from David Douglas High School as valedictorian.

"I was interested in the medical field then, and thought about doing toxicology," she says. "Then I decided I wanted to work on the policy and legal ends of salmon and toxic contamination. I applied to law school."

At the age of 20, Mary was accepted to Lewis and Clark Law

School. This May, she will have one year of law school to complete her goal.

"I'll graduate with a JD, mostly having focused on Indian Law and Environmental Law. Later down the road, I might pursue a PhD. One day I'd like to work with tribes in some capacity and also to work in the legal field in environmental law and/or Indian law."

Competition in Hawaii

Recently, Bodine competed in the National Native American Law Students Association Annual Moot Court Competitions in Hawaii. So many students applied for the competition that teams had to qualify to become representatives.

At the competition, teams were presented with a hypothetical legal scenario.

"We were informed by the author of the problem that Rebecca Guiao and I were the only team to spot an issue in the scenario. We wrote about this in our competition brief. Later, the author had to re-write her brief to the panel judges because of our finding."



Mary Bodine

Last month, Mary was selected to be a Udall Congressional Intern in Washington, D.C. The internship will be next summer.

"I'm excited for this amazing oppor-

tunity," she said. "It's a chance to see the East Coast. I'm a bit anxious, since I have never been out of Oregon or away from my family for more than two weeks."

During her free time, Mary enjoys camping and snowboarding with her boyfriend of three years, Dominic Stromberg. She also enjoys expressing herself through tradition.

"I'm a part of a Native American dance company called Northstar Painted Sky," she says. "I have been dancing with them for about six years. We do performances throughout the Northwest, to help educate people about tribal dance and tribal issues. I am a fancy-dancer and on occasion enjoy jingle dress dancing."

As far as motivation, Mary is certain of one point. "You have to keep on moving forward. Find the positive things that motivate you to become an even better person."

Tribes, state plan for adult fish return above dams

This summer and fall, a good number of adult salmon and steelhead are expected to return for spawning in the upper Deschutes, Crooked and Metolius rivers. This would be the first time in several decades that migrating fish go past, and spawn above the Pelton and Round Butte dams.

The tribes and the state of Oregon have management responsibility of the fish, and the two entities recently

worked out a plan for the upcoming fish runs.

The tribes and the state each conducted two-year studies on the re-introduction of migratory fish above the dams, said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

Based on these studies, the tribes and state developed a single management plan.

The plan calls for release of half the adult fish above the dams into Lake Billy Chinook. The expectation is that these fish will migrate upstream for spawning.

Half the returning adults this year will be kept at the Round Butte hatchery to be used as brood stock. Juveniles from the hatchery will later be released upstream next year.

Biologists are expecting that a good

number of fish will return this year, said Manion. Based on observations over the past couple of years, he said, "The system is working."

The tribes and PGE have worked for several years on a fisheries program to return the migrating fish above the dams. The effort included development and operation of the fish collection tower and facilities at the Round Butte hydroelectric dam.

Fifty-five years ago

At right is an R. Metheny photograph of Celilo Falls, courtesy of the Museum at Warm Springs. This week marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of the flooding of the falls by The Dalles Dam. The flooding happened on March 10, 1957. On that date, hundreds of observers looked on as rising waters silenced the falls, submerging the fishing platforms and the village of Celilo. This ended a tribal existence at the falls that had existed from time immemorial. Celilo was the oldest continuously inhabited community on the North American continent. The rock formations of the falls still exist below the surface of the reservoir.

