



# Spilyay Tymoo

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## Concert, car show coming up at casino

Two of the biggest American rock bands of the 1980s will headline a concert coming up in June at Indian Head Casino. The bands—Great White and Slaughter—each had platinum-selling records in the mid- and late 1980s. They will perform on an outdoor stage by the casino on Saturday evening, June 10.

A week later, Saturday, June 17, the casino will host the Seventh Annual Indian Head Car Show. The colorful and popular show, with a \$500 prize for Best in Show car or truck, will benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs.

The casino is again open seven days a week, starting at 9 a.m. daily.

Indian Head meanwhile is getting ready for the Cottonwood Restaurant to re-open full-time within the next couple of months. The Cottonwood is currently open on Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. The partial closure of the Cottonwood Restaurant has been because of staffing, and the need to keep the Tule Grill and Plateau Travel Plaza restaurants open during their regular hours, said Indian Head Casino general manager Shawn McDaniel.

“We want to make sure the Tule Grill and Plateau are at full staff, so we’re not spread too thin,” he said. Mr. McDaniel, the finance staff and board of directors met recently with Tribal Council for these and other updates.

Both the casino and Plateau Travel Plaza are doing well financially and employment-wise, Mr. McDaniel said. Like other casinos, and business in general, Indian Head had to make major adjustments during the pandemic years of 2020-22. The casino and Travel Plaza are now bouncing back to their pre-pandemic popularity. The rock show, upcoming car show, being open every day, and the upcoming Cottonwood full-time re-opening are great examples.

The casino now has 120 employees, McDaniel reported. The Plateau Travel Plaza employs about 40. Close to 50-percent of the casino employees are Warm Springs tribal members, as are more than half of the employees at the Plateau. Counting employees who are married-into-the tribes plus other Indians, 64-percent of casino employees are tribal affiliated.

The casino offers the most competitive pay rate among casinos for its employees, as hiring continues back to the pre-covid standard. At Indian Head there are 53 vacancies in all areas of the operation. At the Plateau there are 16 vacancies. You can learn more at the casino Human Resources Department at their Plaza office by the casino, or on the website under ‘Careers’ at indianheadcasino.com

Tickets to the June concert, including for the VIP area, are also on sale now at the website.

## For excellence in water management

Chico Holliday oversees one of the most challenging, and at the same time important services on the reservation. This is because safe drinking water is among the foundations of any community. Public safety, health care, education, food, business—all are made possible by the water, the chuush that opens all tribal feasts. So when there is a problem with the water, it’s an emergency for everyone.

Mr. Holliday is the general manager of tribal Public Utilities. He has been the front-line person managing the water situations on the reservation for the past several years, during some of the worst drinking water events in recent history on the reservation.

The actual cause of these water problems, of course, began some decades ago, in some instances even longer: The water infrastructure had aged over time to a point when a few years ago the system began to fail badly, requiring the mandatory boil-water and water outages of recent summers.

Large pipes and valves—all decades old and no longer large enough to serve the population—had to be replaced. The



Utilities general manager Chico Holliday at OAWU conference with the Water Manager of the Year Award.

water treatment plant itself required major and expensive equipment replacements. Mr. Holliday worked with the previous and current Tribal Councils to secure tribal, state, federal and other funding to help ad-

dress the problems.

And after these recent years of constant attention, the Environmental Protection Agency recently signed off on its emergency safe-drinking water orders regarding to

the tribes’ Agency drinking water system. “That’s huge for us,” Chico says. “For the water we’re fully in compliance with the EPA, and no longer under the compliance orders.”

Each year the Oregon Association of Water Utilities—the OAWU—holds its annual meeting of water managers from across the state. The OAWU is an independent association of water managers, with hundreds of members who take care of large water systems such as for cities and towns, water districts, schools, industry, tribal reservations, etc. The Confederated Tribes have been a member for twenty years.

For their 2023 meeting the OAWU met in Sunriver. The conference is a chance for the water managers to share knowledge and experience, catch up on the latest developments, and also to present various awards to individual water managers, such as the Rookie Water Manager of the Year, and Office Manager of the Year.

The top award this year—Water Manager of the Year—went to Warm Springs Public Utilities General Manager Chico Holliday, and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Holliday had been nominated for the award by state and federal water agencies.

WATER continues on 6

## New reader board for Recreation

The Warm Springs Recreation team for many years has seen the need for a bright and informative reader board outside the Community Center. There are all kinds of activities going on there all the time, and the reader board is a most convenient way to share the schedule of upcoming events, as well as other community information. “This has been in the works for 23 years,” said Austin Greene Jr., Recreation director. When the budgeting was secured this year, “It’s finally became a reality, and it turned out very nice.”

Earlier this week (right), Recreation staff and youth check out the new reader board, a great new addition to the community!



D.McMechan/Spilyay

## Very large maintenance project at Pelton-Round Butte

The Pelton-Round Butte hydro-dams are the largest such system within the state of Oregon. The dams are several decades old, having been built in the 1950s and ‘60s. Ongoing maintenance keeps the various parts of the system running, generating power revenue for

the tribes and ownership-operating partner PGE.

One of the largest maintenance projects in recent years is currently happening at hydro system. This is the replacement of the turbine shut-off valves at the Round Butte Dam powerhouse.

The new valves will replace the

current leaking turbine shut-off valves.

The leakage through the current valves has continued to worsen over time, and the current mitigation effort of pumping wood chips into the seal at some point will no longer be enough to allow de-watering of the turbine. This will then

prevent maintenance activities from occurring in the area, explained Cathy Ehli, executive director of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises. The valves in questions are very large, and have been shipped to the U.S. from Europe, where they were built.

DAMS continues on 6

**TWO OF THE 80'S BIGGEST ACTS TOGETHER IN ONE NIGHT!**

*Great White*



**SLAUGHTER**

June 10<sup>th</sup> • Tickets \$45 - \$75 • On sale NOW at IndianHeadCasino.com or the Indian Head Casino box office!