

Three Rivers announces Coos Bay casino management

COOS BAY — Three Rivers Casino and Resort recently announced that it has named a full-time, rotating four-person on-site team to oversee the daily operations of its new casino, which is expected to open in April.

Bill Wilson, Shawn Strenke, LaShawn Ferdig and David Barton will make up the team overseeing as many as 90 new casino employees.

All are current Three Rivers employees and have extensive experience in all facets of casino operations, including customer service, employee management and security.

In the role of property shift managers, each will work under direction from Chief Operating Officer Mike Rose and will administer and direct all floor personnel. They also will be promoting guest services and assist in the coordination and supervision of all operational areas in accordance with Three Rivers Casino policies and procedures.

“Running a casino is a complicated scenario, and takes a great deal of supervision and adherence to state and federal laws and procedures,” said Rose. “I have absolute confidence in this team. We think of the property shift managers as the quarterbacks of our gaming opera-



COURTESY PHOTO

New property shift managers for the Three Rivers Casino in Coos Bay are Bill Wilson, Shawn Strenke, LaShawn Ferdig and David Barton.

tion. They are critical to its success, and to the enjoyment of our customers. Having such first-rate property shift managers represents our investment in the success of the Coos Bay casino.

“They were selected and promoted from our existing core staff for their demonstrated ability to clearly understand the culture of our business concept, and to offer the best guest service possible.”

In preparation for the opening of the Coos Bay casino, the property shift managers are currently working on their own comprehensive leadership training and development, and will be assisting with departmental training for all new personnel.

Three Rivers Resort is silver certified by Green Seal, Inc., under one of the toughest national environmental standards based on waste minimization,

water and energy efficiency, hazardous substance handling and environmental purchasing policy.

In addition, Three Rivers projects that its new Coos Bay casino will provide more than 90 full-time equivalent jobs relating to the operation of the facility. These positions will vary from bar tender/server to cage cashier to security to slot tech and several other casino-related roles.

The property shift managers will be involved in all aspects of the recruitment, selection and training process for new employees.

The addition of this facility falls in the footsteps of the Three Rivers’ evolution of its Florence facility into a full resort property. It reflects the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians’ long-term commitment to the local southern Oregon coast community.

“With our increased resort offerings in Florence, plus the addition of the facility in Coos Bay, we expect more south coast visitors and a lot more economic activity for this area,” said Rose. “Building and maintaining positive relationships with this community is very important to the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.”

Poetry reading features Sears, Oregon’s new Poet Laureate

North Bend library hosts free event April 4

NORTH BEND — The North Bend Public Library hosts a free poetry reading for Peter Sears, Oregon’s new Poet Laureate. The event will be held in the library’s large meeting room on Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m.

Sears holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Yale and an MFA in writing from the University of Iowa. He served as a linguist for the U.S. Army Intelligence from 1959 until 1962.

Sears moved to Oregon in 1974 where he accepted the post of writer-in-residence at Reed College. He went on to become one of the state’s most active poets, educators and literary activists.

Sears’ poems have appeared in many periodicals including *Saturday Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* and *Rolling Stone*. He is the author of eight

collections and chapbooks including “The Brink” (1999), which was the winner of the Peregrine Smith Prize and The Western States Book Award. His collection, “Small Talk: New and Selected Poems,” was released by Lynx House Press in 2014.

In addition to writing, Sears has taught writing at both the public school and university levels. As community services coordinator for the Oregon Arts Commission, he assisted writers and local organizations in working with the national Endowment for the Arts, Leila Wallace Foundation and Western Arts Foundation.

Sears remains an active writer, teacher and editor. He lives with his wife, Anita Helle, in Corvallis.

This program is free and open to the public.

Reedsport students show artwork

REEDSPORT — On Thursday, April 2, Coastal Douglas Arts and Business Alliance (CDABA) will feature the students of the Reedsport Community Charter School (RCCS). The event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. in the shop and the art classroom at RCCS.

Although it is being held on a Thursday, this event is a part of CDABA’s “First Friday — Art for Everyone” events. The school is not in session on Friday.

The public is invited, and there will be food and music. RCCS art teacher Carol Colton and shop teacher Guy Marchione have been coordinating this event, which will showcase the art talent of the community’s youth.

The shop class will showcase their various wood projects, such as cutting boards. Colton has been working with students on a variety of projects, including painting and ceramics.

“I am excited to share the art the students created during the recent Braves Session,” said Colton.

Some of the work to be displayed will

still be unfinished and the classroom walls are covered with examples of many of the students’ assignments throughout the year.

Colton described the artwork of senior Jenna Bennett, whose art will be displayed through the summer at the Coos Art Museum.

“Jenna painted a bowling ball with an ocean scene. Although not a chosen piece, it was entered into the Vision 2015, an annual competition underwritten by Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation as a competition for high school students,” Colton said.

Describing the artwork of senior Jessica Howell, Colton said her work has been creating wood cutting boards and burning art on log rounds, both of which she has been selling.

CDABA sponsors the First Friday art events at different locations, featuring different artists.

On May 1, the program will feature art from various members of Forest Hills Country Club.