

COMMENTARY

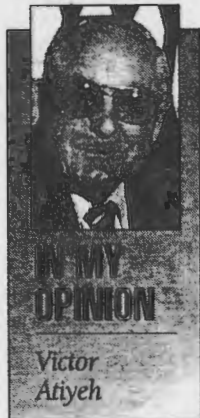
Warm Springs tribes long civic-minded

The strident tone of the op-ed article of Oct. 23, "Casinos could sprout in Oregon back yards," by Susan Garrett Crowley, shows an awesome lack of knowledge about the history, tradition and leadership of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It also un-masks her title of "mediator," for the language she uses shows no sensitivity of one who assumes that title. The Winston Encyclopedic Dictionary defines "mediator" as follows: "One who tries to bring about friendly relations between those who are openly disagreeing."

As a longtime friend of the Native Americans of Oregon who, of course, include the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, I would like to give my perspective on the kind of civic responsibility that has historically been their hallmark.

To begin with, the tribes have worked diligently in the Hood River Basin to restore both salmon and steelhead runs. Just recently, the tribes' new fish hatchery in the Hood River Basin had its grand opening.

A year ago, the tribes joined with the federal government and the state of Oregon to sign a water agreement. This was the first agreement of its kind in the United States between these bodies, and was done over a period of time in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding of the needs of



took such action.

The tribes, on their own motion, have set aside 90,000 acres of land in conditional use (basically wilderness) near Mount Jefferson. Within that area, the high lakes are pristine.

On July 31, 1991, the Tribal Council adopted a reduction in the timber harvest that has since been phased in. The result is a 50 percent reduction in the removal of trees. This was done so that future generations would be able to pass on to their children the benefits that their ancestors gave the current generation.

each of them.

The tribes lease land to the federal government for the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. This facility produces about 750,000 smolts annually. The returning salmon are harvested by fishermen from the Pacific Ocean to the Warm Springs River. A few years ago, when the return was dangerously low, it was the tribes that ceased fishing long before the state

All of the above relates to the natural resources that the Native Americans treasure so highly and that have had so much meaning to them over the centuries.

In regard to the human resource, the tribal leadership and the members of the tribes through their referendum voting, have accomplished so very much. They have established senior centers for their elders, who mean so much to the tribes. They have a Health & Wellness Clinic and an Early Childhood Education Center. For their members who want to go to college, they provide 100 percent of their books and tuition and 80 percent of their living expenses. In March 1993, they opened the now nationally acclaimed Museum at Warm Springs, the purpose of which was to preserve their culture and heritage and at the same time educate the rest of us.

In addition, the tribes have always tried to be good neighbors. For example, they opened some of their lands in the Cascades and on the Deschutes River to non-Indian camping and fishing. They have spent tribal money on facilities at Lake Billy Chinook that are used almost exclusively by the public. Not long ago, the tribes and their museum, resort and casino arranged to bring the Oregon Symphony to the reservation and to all Jefferson County schools. And finally, motorists passing through the reservation

on U.S. 26 are provided with both police and ambulance protection by the tribes.

Now, back to the casino question. In her second paragraph, Crowley said that the tribes propose to build a casino on "newly purchased land . . ." and later in her article she clearly admits that "they currently do not" own the land. The only reason for me to highlight that discrepancy is that it is my understanding that the status of a casino is in the proposal stage only, and that the tribes are proceeding carefully and slowly, for their first priority is to be known as good corporate citizens.

Over my many years of public service, I have honestly believed that if people get together with mutual respect and understanding, a satisfactory solution is always achieved. Militancy and premature anger will never allow for such results. Therefore, I respectfully suggest that Crowley and the "more than 3,000" petitioners value the maturity of the members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and clearly discuss their concerns. I believe she and they will find that to be a highly satisfying experience.

Victor Atiyeh is a businessman, former Oregon governor and legislator and, among other civic work, serves as a board member of the Museum at Warm Springs.

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

Jill Thompson
Editorial Department
The Oregonian
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, Oregon 97201

October 27, 1998

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Attached is an article I have written in response to an Op-Ed one recently published (10/23) and sent in by Susan Garrett Crowley. I truly believe it cries out for a rebuttal because of the unfair distortion it would leave in the mind of the reader if left unanswered.

I understand that it is up to you to decide if my response will be published in full, edited, put in Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor or not published at all. In fairness, however, I hope you will select one of the alternatives except that of no publication.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor Atiyeh

Attachments (2)

TO THE EDITOR

The strident tone of the Op-Ed article of October 23rd entitled "Casinos could sprout in Oregon back yards" by Susan Garrett Crowley shows an awesome lack of knowledge about the history, tradition and leadership of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. It also unmasks her title of "mediator" for the language she uses shows no sensitivity of one who assumes that title. The Winston Encyclopedic Dictionary defines "mediator" as follows: "One who tries to bring about friendly relations between those who are openly disagreeing."

As a long time friend of the native Americans of Oregon which, of course, includes the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs I would like to give my perspective on the the kind of civic responsibility which has been historically their hallmark. The list is long and could be even longer if I could remember all that I have observed in the past.

To begin with the Tribe has worked diligently in the Hood River Basin to restore both salmon and steelhead runs. Just recently (October 30th) the Tribe's new fish hatchery in the Hood River basin had its grand opening.

A year ago the Tribe joined with the federal government and the State of Oregon to sign a water agreement. This was the first agreement of its kind in the United States between these three bodies and was done over a period of time in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding of the needs of each of them.

The Tribe leases land to the federal government for the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. This facility produces about 750,000 smolts annually. The returning salmon are harvested by fishermen from the Pacific Ocean to the Warm Springs River. A few years ago when the return was dangerously low it was the Tribe who ceased fishing long before the state took such action.

The tribe, on their own motion, has set aside 90,000 acres of land in conditional use (basically "wilderness") near Mount Jefferson. Within that area the high lakes are pristine.

On July 31, 1991, Tribal Council adopted a reduction in the timber harvest that has since been phased in. The end result is a 50% reduction in the removal of trees. This was done so that unborn generations would be able to pass on to their children the benefits that their ancestors had given to the current generation.

All of the above relates to the natural resources that the native Americans treasure so highly and have had so much meaning to them over the centuries.

In regard to the human resource the Tribal leadership, and the member of the tribe through their

referendum voting, have accomplished so very much. They have established Senior Centers for their elders who mean so much to the Tribe. They have a Health & Wellness Clinic and an Early Childhood Education Center. For their members who want to go to college they provide 100% toward their books and tuition and 80% for their living expenses. In March of 1993 they opened the now nationally acclaimed Museum at Warm Springs, the purpose of which was to preserve their culture and heritage and at the same time educate the rest of us.

In addition, the Tribe has always tried to be a good neighbor. For example, they opened some of their lands in the Cascades and on the Deschutes River to non-Indian camping and fishing and have spent tribal money on facilities at Lake Billy Chinook that are used almost exclusively by the general public. Not long ago the Tribe, its museum, resort and casino arranged to bring the Oregon Symphony to the reservation and to all Jefferson County schools. And finally, motorists passing through the Reservation on highway 26 are provided with both police and ambulance protection by the Tribe.

Now, back to the casino question. In her second paragraph Ms. Crowley said that the Tribe proposes to build a casino on "newly purchased land ----" and further down in her article she clearly admits that "they currently do not" own the land. The only reason for me to highlight that discrepancy is that it is my understanding that the status of a casino is in the "proposal" stage only and that the Tribe is proceeding carefully and slowly for their first priority is to be known as good corporate citizens.

Over my many years of public service I have honestly believed that if people get together with mutual respect and understanding that a satisfactory solution is always achieved. Militancy and premature anger will never allow for such results. Therefore, I respectfully suggest to Ms. Crowley and to the "more than 3,000" petitioners to value the maturity of the members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and clearly discuss their concerns. I believe she and they will find that to be a highly satisfying experience.

(Victor Atiyeh is a businessman, former Governor and Legislator and, among other civic work, a board member of the Museum at Warm Springs)

Casinos could sprout in Oregon back yards

If Warm Springs tribes succeed in building Hood River facility, other cities will be dealt in, too

By **SUSAN GARRETT CROWLEY**

If you don't want a gambling casino in your back yard, you may want to take note of what's going on right now in Hood River.

About a month ago, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs announced a proposal to build a casino on nonreservation, newly purchased land on the west side of Hood River beside Interstate 84.

If they succeed, the state can expect a flood of similar requests by other tribes to open casinos on nonreservation land in cities all over Oregon. As the Warm Springs tribes have frankly pointed out, urban centers, preferably on major highways, are where the target customers are.

At best, off-reservation casinos in Oregon cities will compete with the state's fund-raising engines that help support schools and economic development. At worst, your neighbors and your families will be exposed to the seductive world of casino gambling.

Evidence shows that pathological gambling is more prevalent where casino gambling has recently been introduced. Casino gamblers bet more heavily, accounting for almost half of all expenditures by Oregon problem gamblers. The addiction rate triples for teen-agers. Gamblers from 18 to 20 years old account for nearly one-third of all monthly gambling expenditures in Oregon, slightly more than the entire over-55 age group.

Fortunately, promoters of a casino in the gorge have a near-impossible row to hoe before they can site a gambling facility at their preferred site.

The simple reason is that even if the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs owned that land — which they currently do not — they have to overcome three obstacles before they can open the lid on this Pandora's Box.

Until then, they have the same right to build a casino as every non-Indian has: none.

Until then, just like every non-Indian, they must honor the Oregon Constitution, which prohibits casinos.

To establish a casino on newly purchased land, the tribes must first have the land declared part of their reservation trust land by the secretary of the interior, Bruce Babbitt. Unless that occurs, the land is no more tribal reservation land than is Lloyd Center or your back yard.

Second, Babbitt must give the tribes permission for a casino on that newly acquired land.

And finally, Gov. John Kitzhaber must also give permission for a casino. To do that, he must agree with Babbitt that a casino on newly acquired land "would not be detrimental to the surrounding community."

Before that can happen, you can rest assured that he'll hear from citizens all over Oregon who don't want him to

set the precedent for an off-reservation casino in every town.

He'll also hear more from the more than 3,000 people who in three weeks' time have already signed petitions opposing a Hood River casino, and who have packed two public forums with overflow crowds.

How often has newly acquired land been designated reservation trust land for an Indian casino? According to one expert observer, almost never. Despite many requests, it has happened only a handful of times nationwide since 1990.

The tribes' effort is a risky long shot. Even if they succeed, they'll see casino opponents in court. Why, then, do we see comments such as Andy Fisher's Oct. 1 article, "Sovereignty confers right to build casino"?

That's because casino promoters, in a bait-and-switch tactic, have raised the specter of a casino on land the tribes already own on the Columbia Gorge Scenic Highway on the east side of Hood River, across town from the I-84 site.

Although they do in fact have a right to build a casino on these scenic highway parcels if they choose, the parcels are so steep that the lines defining them on a topographic map almost blend together in places. Moreover, the parcels have no easy access from I-84, a critical requirement for a casino to be successful.

By mentioning this site, the tribes have sought to create the impression they have a "right" to develop a casino anywhere, including newly acquired land. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

They have also sought to use the natural concern most of us feel for the beauty of the scenic highway to stampede us into acceptance of the alternative I-84 site on the opposite side of Hood River, the site the promoters really want.

The Oregonian, understandably concerned for gorge scenic values, played with this option in its editorial of Sept. 18, "Riverbank gambling." But make no mistake: A casino on the western I-84 site would be just as intrusive on gorge scenic beauty, and will mar the economy and gateway of one of the gorge's loveliest signature towns.

We should reject what amounts to a false choice. Urge Kitzhaber to firmly shut the lid on this Pandora's Box before it opens in your town as well.

Susan Garrett Crowley is a Hood River mediator and a founder of No Casino!, a group opposing development of a gambling casino in Hood River.

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER PAGE

DATE: October 27, 1998
TO: VIC ATIYEH
FROM: JIM NOTEBOOM
RE: SUGGESTED ADDITIONS
FILE NO.: W1260.4

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page): 2

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Vic, following are some suggestions for additions to your letter.

ADDITIONALLY,
The Tribe has always tried to be a good neighbor. For example, they opened up some of their lands in the Cascades and on the Deschutes River to non-Indian camping and fishing.

They spent tribal money on facilities in Lake Billy Chinook

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that are used almost exclusively by non-Indians. They acquired key recreational parcels on the lower Deschutes River at Sherars Bridge and Harpham Flat from private landowners and allow wide public usage of those lands.

The Tribe and its museum, resort and casino worked to bring the Oregon Symphony to the Reservation and to all Jefferson County Schools.

Motorists passing through the Reservation on Highway 26 are provided with both police and ambulance protection by the Tribe. And the list goes on and on.

Vic, feel free to use, discard, modify or whatever any of these suggestions. Thanks for pitching in for the Tribe. Regards, Jim.

PLEASE CONTACT _____ AT THE ABOVE NUMBER IF YOU HAD ANY TROUBLE RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION. THANK YOU.

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4:10 pm
Monday, October 26, 1998

Hi Governor,

Rudy asked me to put together some material for you. I hope this is what you had in mind. If not, please let me know and I will try and find the information for you.

Thanks,

Nat

Nat Shaw
Public Relations Coordinator
(541) 553-1352 - 553-1338

Post-It® Fax Note 7671		Date	# of pages
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INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNOR

Early in 1986, the Warm Springs Tribal Council adopted Resolution 7410, calling for the use of an integrated planning approach in the development of all future resource management plans.

On July 31, 1991, Tribal Council adopted a reduction in the timber harvest that has since been phased in. The end result is a 50% reduction in the timber harvest. This was done so that unborn generations would be able to pass on to their children the benefits that our ancestors passed on to us.

Approximately 71,000 acres of land are managed with an emphasis on big game habitat. Deer and elk populations have increased significantly.

The Tribe has regulated fishing both on the Columbia and Deschutes for decades, in fact since time immemorial. Indians did a good job of managing resources until dams were constructed, and the habitat seriously damaged.

The Tribe manages the fishing at Sherars Falls. This land belongs to the Confederated Tribes, however they continue to let non-Indians fish there. A number of times when there was not adequate fish to harvest, fishing was closed.

The Tribe has worked diligently in the Hood River Basin to restore both salmon and steelhead runs. This Friday, October 30, the Tribe's new fish hatchery in the Hood River basin will have its grand opening.

The Tribe has been working in the John Day watershed to bring about restoration. The Tribe has worked with land owners and others to produce a healthy watershed and good fishery resources.

The Reservation has some of the best spotted owl habitat in the Northwest. The Reservation also features outstanding bull trout habitat due to the condition of our watershed, brought about by good management practices.

The Tribe established a bull trout sanctuary in Lake Billy Chinook. The Tribe worked with the Oregon commission to go along with the plan, and the area now is a bull trout sanctuary.

The Tribe leases land to the federal government for the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. The facility produces about 750,000 smolts annually. Returning salmon produced by the hatchery are harvested by fishermen from the Pacific Ocean to the Warm Springs River.

The Confederated Tribes have been careful about land development. There is only limited housing along many of the rivers and streams. People can enjoy a unblemished setting.

The Tribes high lakes are pristine. We have 90,000 acres of conditional use or basically "wilderness" area near Mount Jefferson. The 90,000 acre wilderness area is set aside from a

land base of 640,000 acres.

The corridors along Highway 26 have not been logged, unlike other areas of the State.

In recent years Tribal Council has reduced timber harvest by 50%. The Tribe advocates protection of other resources for cultural reasons. (*roots, berries, game habitat, stream side protection.*)

Through the Integrated Resource Management Plan, the Tribe continues to link rangelands to forest land. Thirty miles of fencing has been built in the last 5 years to keep cattle out of riparian zones. This results in better water quality and fish protection.

Hundreds of miles of reservation roads have been closed and ripped up in the last five years for stream protection and wildlife habitat enhancement.

A year ago, the Tribe joined with the federal government and the State of Oregon to sign a water agreement. This was the first such agreement in the United States between a state government, federal government, and an Indian tribe. Again, the Tribe demonstrated vision in protecting it's own water rights in a spirit of friendship and statesmanship.

Throughout the history of the Tribe's interaction with it's

neighbors, the Tribe has always strived to be a good neighbor. Every year the Tribe makes a sizeable contribution to the Collage of Culture in Madras, makes donations to the Shriners children's hospital, and many other worthwhile projects and causes.