

## Coyote Valley brings in new management

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff

RED WOOD VALLEY, Calif. — The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, owners and operators of Coyote Valley Casino, formerly Coyote Valley Shodakai Casino, Thursday announced a new management team for the casino.

"We are pleased to welcome a group of seasoned gaming professionals," said Coyote Valley Tribal Chairman John Feliz Jr. "As our casino operations grow, it is reassuring to know that the years of experience this new team brings to the operations ensures that the tribe and local community will benefit."

Norman Runyan has been named the casino's new general manager. Runyan has extensive gaming experience and comes to Coyote Valley Casino from River Rock Casino in Geyserville, where he served as general manager and chief operations officer. Runyan's background includes senior management positions with Casino Arizona in Scottsdale, Ariz. and Apache Gold Casino and Resort in San Carlos, Ariz.

"We decided to change the name of the casino from Coyote Valley Shodakai Casino to Coyote Valley Casino to lessen the confusion with the names of neighboring casinos and to accurately reflect the name that identifies the tribe," Runyan said. "We are very excited to be working with the tribe and helping them to complete their current project for a new permanent casino, hotel and spa."

Coyote Valley Casino's new chief financial officer is David B. Wolfe. Wolfe, who is responsible for all financial and accounting practices at Coyote Valley Casino, recently

managed financial accounts for Lumiere Place Casino in St. Louis, Mo. and River Rock Casino in Geyserville. Wolfe is a registered certified public accountant.

Jody Shaffer has been appointed as Coyote Valley Casino's director of human resources. Shaffer was most recently the director of human resources at River Rock Casino in Healdsburg. Shaffer is responsible for ensuring the casino's employee relations, recruitment and selection, compensation, benefits and labor compliance.

Lynn Mueck is Coyote Valley Casino's new director of table games and bingo. Mueck served as director of table game operations at Konocti Vista Casino Resort and Marina in Lakeport for seven years prior to her position with Coyote Valley. Mueck directs all table game operations, including blackjack, three card poker, fortune pai gow and Texas hold em' poker.

Coyote Valley's new director of marketing, L.A. Brown, joins the Coyote Valley Casino from Table Mountain Casino in Friant, where she established and allocated multimillion dollar advertising and promotional budgets. Brown has also managed marketing departments for casino resorts in Nevada and Mississippi.

The Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians is a 380-member tribe, which regained its federal recognition in 1976. The tribe signed a tribal-state compact in August 2004, that was ratified by the state Legislature and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in December 2004. The tribe operates the Coyote Valley Casino in accordance with the terms of the August 2004 compact.

The tribe signed a memorandum of understanding with Mendocino County in 2007, agreeing to pay in excess of \$16 million over the life of the agreement, to mitigate any impacts of its casino expansion and providing for law enforcement, fire protection, emergency services, traffic and air quality.

## Illegal contributions landed in campaign coffers

By Stephanie Vosk and George Brennan  
Cape Cod Times

HYANNIS, Mass. — Former Mashpee Wampanoag tribe chairman Glenn Marshall and others made illegal campaign contributions to top-ranking Massachusetts Democrats Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. William Delahunt, as well as a former Republican congressman who led the committee that oversaw the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The identities of the politicians are masked in court documents, but federal campaign contribution records clearly indicate the recipients: Kennedy, Delahunt and former Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif.

On the exact dates listed in the court record, between March 2005 and October 2005, Kennedy received \$5,700 in the names of Marshall, current tribal council chairman Shawn Hendricks and council secretary Desire Hendricks Moreno.

Marshall, 59, has agreed to plead guilty to charges filed Monday that he made \$60,000 in illegal campaign contributions, embezzled \$380,000 from his tribe and collected \$10,000 a year in Social Security disability payments while he was receiving pay from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council.

As part of Marshall's plea agreement, he has promised to cooperate with investigators for a lesser sentence.

Marshall has admitted that he repaid "straw contributors" with money from a major tribe investor, Herb Strather of Detroit. The tribe was a registered Massachusetts nonprofit corporation

and it's illegal for corporations to donate to campaigns. Marshall admitted to federal investigators that he was aware of the law.

Politicians are only responsible for knowing where donations come from, that they're within acceptable levels and are reported properly, said Bob Biersack, a spokesman for the Federal Election Commission. "It's not in their power to discover it came from someone else," Biersack said. "You don't have to be a private investigator."

Funds found to be donated illegally must either be given to charity or turned over to the federal treasury, Biersack said.

In the court document that lays out Marshall's charges, "Member of Congress A" fits Kennedy's campaign donation records.

### Donating to charity

Although Kennedy had previously donated \$2,900 from Marshall to the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness, he has decided to further distance himself from the funds, his spokeswoman, Melissa Wagoner, said in a statement yesterday.

"After learning the facts of Mr. Marshall's plea agreement with the Justice Department earlier this week, Senator Kennedy decided to donate all of the money involved to charity," the statement says.

On Oct. 17, 2005, U.S. Rep. William Delahunt received \$6,000 in the names of Marshall, Hendricks, and Marshall's wife. Delahunt's donations match the description of "Member of Congress C" in the court documents.

Delahunt's office continues to

review how much was given improperly and whether to donate it as other politicians have already done, said his spokesman, Mark Forest.

"The point we're trying to make is the congressman's support for the tribe long-preceded any financial support from any (tribe) members," Forest said. "We don't want anyone to believe there is a quid pro quo."

### 'Member of congress B'

Rep. Richard Pombo, a California Republican who was unseated in November 2006 amid questions about his ties to jailed lobbyist Jack Abramoff, received \$12,000 on April 21, 2005, in the names of Marshall, Hendricks and Moreno.

Pombo was at the time chairman of the House Resources Committee, which has budgetary oversight of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

He matches "Member of Congress B" in the court document.

His political action committee also received \$8,000 on March 7, 2005, in the names of Marshall, Hendricks and Moreno. The committee fits the court document description as "Political Action Committee A."

Pombo did not return a call seeking comment yesterday.

It was Abramoff that first directed Marshall's contribution strategy while the tribe pursued federal recognition.

In early 2003, Marshall, "Political Consultant A," believed to be Stephen Graham, who has worked with the tribe since that time, and "another officer of the tribal council," held meetings with Abramoff.

Hendricks was vice chairman of the

tribe at the time.

"Abramoff advised them that in order to advance its recognition effort, the tribe needed to make significant political contributions to certain members of Congress so that they might build political pressure on the (Department of the Interior) to act favorably on the tribe's petition," court documents say.

A spokeswoman for the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs said Tuesday that the federal recognition process is "fact-based" and follows strict guidelines. She did not respond to further questions yesterday.

Abramoff pleaded guilty on Jan. 2, 2006, to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials. The Mashpee Wampanoag were not part of that case.

The court documents in Marshall's case lay out only a fraction of similar contributions made by the three council members and their families since 2003.

On Sept. 29, 2003, while the tribe was working with Abramoff, Pombo's political action committee received another \$12,000 in the names of Marshall, Hendricks, Moreno and three members of Marshall's family.

In total, contributions in those names to federal campaigns reached \$50,000 between 2003 and 2006. They also donated more than \$10,000 for state campaigns, according to court and state records.

Several contributions were also made by Graham, the tribe's hired consultant, on the same days and to the same candidates as the tribal leaders.

## Dismissal



Associated Press

Paraguay's former Indians Affairs Minister, Margarita Mbywangui, gestures after being dismissed by President Fernando Lugo, unseen, after four months in the post in her office in Asuncion, Friday. Education Minister Horacio Galeano did not give a reason for the dismissal. Other tribe leaders have charged that she favors her fellow Ache Indians over other indigenous groups. Mbywangui countered that tribes object to her leadership because she is a woman. Paraguay has 20 indigenous groups totaling 108,000 people.

## Sioux tribe delivers turkeys for holidays

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The Rosebud Sioux Tribe purchased 2,600 frozen turkeys for Christmas distribution to households in the 21 communities on the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

A grocery store in Rosebud submitted the low bid of \$27,700 for the 12-14 pound turkeys.

"It is money worth spending," said Melissa Poignee, the tribe's community services director.

The tribal council allocates money from its Rosebud Casino account to provide a turkey annually for the holidays. Because up to five or six families can

sometimes live in a single household, the tribe can afford to deliver only one turkey to a household rather than one to individual families, she said.

Poignee said 3,000 turkeys were delivered for Thanksgiving.

She generally works with a \$50,000 budget for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, the tribe added \$10,000 to help cover rising prices.

The turkeys are delivered to the Community Services Warehouse, where designated representatives from each community pick up the turkeys and deliver them.

## NSU's Cherokee education program has first graduate

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. (AP) — Northeastern State University's Cherokee Education degree program now has its first graduate.

Greg Drowning Bear received his bachelor's degree on Saturday during the university's fall commencement ceremony. The program is a partnership between NSU and the Tahlequah-based Cherokee Nation.

NSU says it is the only pub-

lic university in the nation to offer a teaching degree in an American Indian language.

Drowning Bear and his wife moved to Tahlequah in 2004 from north Alabama to enroll their children in a tribal Cherokee language immersion school.

He says that most of the fluent speakers of Cherokee are older than 40 and that for the language to survive, it needs to produce fluent speakers.

## South Dakota men charged with artifact trafficking

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two central South Dakota men are accused in separate indictments of trafficking American Indian artifacts from public land.

Brian Ekrem of Selby and Richard Geffre of Pierre are each charged with two counts of trafficking in archaeological resources and one count of trafficking in Native American cultural resources.

They pleaded not guilty in federal court in Pierre.

According to the indictments, the items included copper arm bands, beads, stone knives, bone tools, pipes, pottery, bone fish hooks, antler arrow points, cannonballs and other artifacts.

Both men were released on bond.

## Stillaguamish bet on bigger casino

By Krista J. Kapralos  
Everett Herald Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Stillaguamish Indian Tribe plans to open the new wing of the Angel of the Winds Casino the Sunday after Christmas.

Crews have been working on the

\$44 million renovation and expansion project for most of the year. It will triple the casino's size by adding 84,000 square feet.

The project's timeline hasn't changed since crews began working early this year.

"We're on time and on budget," said Travis O'Neil, general manager of the

casino.

The expansion comes four months after the Tulalip Tribes opened a luxury hotel adjacent to the Tulalip Casino. The hotel, spa and new gaming areas have drawn record numbers of visitors to the Tulalip Indian Reservation.

O'Neil said Angel of the Winds has a more hometown feel than the Tulalip

Casino and other glitzy options in the region. Gamblers who want an early look at the new wing might even have a chance, he said.

"We'll bring people in to have a sneak peak," he said. "We'll offer that here and there."

The official opening will occur Dec. 28.