

## 7 Cedars Resort Hires Debbie Wardrop as Hotel Manager



Debbie Wardrop

Debbie Wardrop has been hired as Hotel Manager for 7 Cedars Resort's \$40 million expansion and will lead the hotel team in the pre-opening of the first of a three-phase project that includes 100 rooms, coffee bar, and meeting space on the west side of 7 Cedars Casino. She will oversee all operations on a day-to-day basis for the hotel scheduled to open in summer of 2020. The second and third phases

will add 200 more rooms plus large conference space and operational support facilities.

Wardrop has previously worked with luxury properties, including the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix and The Boulders Resort in Carefree, AZ. She worked for the National Football League for nearly ten years as well. Her most recent position was at The Resort at Port Ludlow as General Manager overseeing the operations of an independent, boutique property with 37 guest rooms, and a full-service dining room featuring farm-to-table cuisine and a nationally recognized wine list.

"This next step in my career is a very exciting one. The Olympic Peninsula will welcome a hotel of this caliber and it will be a joy to work with the 7 Cedars Resort Properties team. We look forward to welcoming visitors and sharing the distinctive experiences of this special place."

In her role prior to joining 7 Cedars Resort, Wardrop's focus on the industry has included: Washington Hospitality Association, Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission, Tourism Coordinating Council, and the Jefferson County Lodging Tax Advisory Council. She is also an active Board Member with the Jefferson Land Trust.

"7 Cedars is very proud of our Leadership Team, as we are now entering into the hotel industry, we appreciate the opportunity to have Debbie Wardrop join us with her experience," said Jerry Allen, CEO of 7 Cedars Resort Properties. "We welcome her and appreciate her talents. Debbie's contributions during the design phase and pre-opening work with 7 Cedars Resort, Rice Fergus Miller Architects, and Swinerton Construction has been a great experience."

## Spotlight 29 Casino and Tortoise Rock Casino Name Robert Earle Director of Entertainment

Spotlight 29 Casino and Tortoise Rock Casino recently announced the hiring of Robert Earle as Director of Entertainment. In his position, Earle is responsible for the booking and production of all live entertainment for both



Robert Earle

properties' venues, which include the Spotlight Showroom, Hot Spot and En Vivo at Spotlight 29 Casino, and Live At The Rock at Tortoise Rock Casino.

Earle began his career working for the Pac-12 Network as a producer of college football, baseball, and softball broadcasts. Afterward, Earle assisted in the opening of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Lake Tahoe, where he spearheaded the entertainment & audio/visual departments while overseeing the property's 5,000-seat amphitheater.

"Robert brings with him valuable experience in both gaming and entertainment, as well as a genuine passion for live music," said Michael Frawley, Spotlight 29's Chief Operating Officer. "We're extremely excited to have him elevate the entertainment experience for our guests at both Spotlight 29 Casino and Tortoise Rock Casino."

## Pechanga Welcomes Wine Expert Mark Amodeo



Mark Amodeo

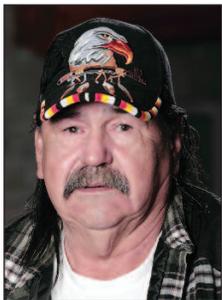
Pechanga welcomes Mark Amodeo to the position of sommelier, the property's wine expert responsible for creating well-crafted and well-rounded wine lists that partner perfectly with the resort's dining outlet offerings. Amodeo is the first person to ever fill this role for the west coast's largest resort-casino.

A native of Wales, Amodeo's first foray into wine began with him tending bar as an 18-year old in his hometown of Cardiff. "There you only had three choices – white (sweet or dry) and red," he recounts. It would be his love affair with the United States that would eventually set him on a true path to wine expertise years later

Amodeo held steady work in Chicago's restaurant scene. Hired at Salpicon, a fine-dining Mexican restaurant, he later moved to Bin 36, a popular restaurant, wine bar, wine education and shopping concept that eventually opened three locations in Chicago. Under the establishment's wine director, Amodeo was promoted to the position of wine educator supervisor. He conducted classes for guests and helped staff understand nuances of varietals and differences of viticultural regions. Amodeo continued to increase his own knowledge by studying for examinations with the Wine and Spirit Education Trust and the Court of Master Sommeliers.

After Chicago, Amodeo moved to Ohio where he helped open a Chicago-style fine dining restaurant, lending his Certified Sommelier and restaurant management expertise

## Squaxin Island Tribe Announces Passing of Longtime Tribal Chairman David E. Lopeman



David E. Lopeman

David E. Lopeman, longtime Chairman of the Squaxin Island Tribe, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2019 at his residence in Kamilche, WA. He was 75.

Lopeman served on the Squaxin Island Tribal Council for 30 years, 24 of those years as the Tribal Chairman. He fought for tribal fishing rights as far back as the late 1960s and was first elected to Tribal Council in 1981. He led the Squaxin Island Tribe through turbulent times working with federal, state, and local

governments to uphold federal treaty rights and responsibilities.

During his tenure on the Tribal Council, the tribe saw an enormous amount of growth in enterprises and services to the people. This success spilled over onto the local communities of Mason and Thurston Counties as well. Squaxin Island Tribe became the largest employer in Mason County, Fire Station #4 was constructed, all Mason County police cars were fitted with defibrillators, and Arcadia boat launch was reconstructed with additional parking open to the public.

Lopeman was at the helm during planning and construction of the Squaxin Island Tribal Center and elders building, Little Creek Casino Resort, the Sally Selvidge Health Center, the Squaxin Island Museum Library and Research Center, the

Squaxin Island Child Development Center and Veterans Memorial, and Skookum Creek Tobacco Factory.

He was also Chairman during the implementation of the shellfish ruling, and repatriation laws, the transition into tribal self-governance, tribal/state tax agreements, resurgence of Canoe Journeys, development of Northwest Indian Treatment Center, and expansion of Island Enterprises and its many branches of business.

One of Lopeman's main priorities was increasing the tribal land base. Hundreds of acres have been added since 1981, including Church Point, where the Indian Shaker Church originated. As Lopeman went about his council work, he would often mention that he hoped future generations would look back and say, "I'm sure glad they did that."

Lopeman was instrumental in forging the only agreement in the country between a Native American tribe and a state government that allows Native American inmates to pay last visits to family members who are passing away and attend their funerals under tribal jurisdiction.

Lopeman was born in Shelton on September 27, 1943 to Ernest (Osage) and Mary Whitener Lopeman (Squaxin Island). He was raised and lived most of his life in Kamilche. He married the love of his life, Shirley Ann Rogers, in 1967.

Lopeman was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Shirley; and granddaughter, Cynthia. He was laid to rest at the Squaxin Island Tribe Sacred Grounds, next to his wife and granddaughter. ♣

to the project. He also enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard an Infantry paratrooper. After a decade in Ohio, he moved to Southern California and landed the newly initiated sommelier job at Pechanga.

"I am so grateful and appreciative," said Amodeo. "It's my goal to work in concert with the robust food and beverage team, and bring real value to them and to the myriad of guests looking to increase their familiarity with wines." He looks forward to working with wineries in the Temecula Valley Wine Country to help elevate their profile, and is excited to be a part of this burgeoning wine and tourism region.

## Scott Brewer Appointed Chair of Indiana's Native American Indian Affairs Commission

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians recently announced that Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb has appointed Scott Brewer as Chair of the state's Native American Indian Affairs Commission. His term on the commission will last through December 31, 2022.

Brewer, a Pokagon citizen who lives in Granger, Indiana, is Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Community Relations, and Security with the Pokagon Band and

Four Winds Casinos. He served in the United States Air Force for more than 27 years, attaining the rank of Chief Master Sergeant prior to his retirement. Brewer has served the tribe as chairman of both the Ogitchedaw Veterans Board and of the Health Board.

The Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission studies and makes recommendations to appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies in areas of concern to the state's native and non-native people. The objectives are to bring the native community together, help identify and provide opportunities to Native American people, and enhance social, cultural, community and economic development in Indiana. The areas of focus identified by Indiana State Statute include employment, education, civil rights, health and housing.

"The commission's objectives align very well with the Band's seven grandfather teachings and with Governor Holcomb's five legislative pillars," said Brewer. "I look forward to working with state officials to improve the lives of native people in Indiana."



Scott Brewer

## Snoqualmie Casino appoints James T. Manning as Director of Slot Operations



James T. Manning

Snoqualmie Casino recently announced the appointment of James T. Manning to the role of Director of Slot Operations, after previously serving as Interim Director and Slot Manager.

“I am honored to be part of this great team and feel very excited to lead the future of slot operations at Snoqualmie Casino,” said Manning. “I look forward to growing our slot revenue with new ideas and approaches.”

With over 16 years of gaming experience, Manning has served in various capacities on both the vendor and operations side. Beginning as a Field Service Lead Technician with International Game Technology (IGT), Manning grew in responsibility to Field Service Market Manager before moving to casino operations with Snoqualmie Casino. During his tenure with Snoqualmie Casino, Manning oversaw the multi-million dollar floor conversion to the Bally Slot Management System, planned and opened the Snoqualmie Casino High Limit room, and created growth and mentoring opportunities for both tribal and non-tribal team members.

“We are pleased to promote JT to this executive position, overseeing our slot operations. He brings a creative and strategic mindset, with an inherent knowledge of slot contract negotiations,” said Brian Decorah, President and CEO of Snoqualmie Casino. “JT recently proposed an MOU with the state regulators, which has been universally applauded for its ingenuity. We anticipate this will be adopted across the unique regulatory structure within Washington.”

## Snoqualmie Casino Appoints Casino Veteran Roy Hillis as Director of Food and Beverage

Snoqualmie Casino recently announced the appointment of industry veteran Roy Hillis as its new Director of Food and Beverage.

“I am honored to take the reins of an already impressive food and beverage program,” said Hillis. “I look forward to discovering new opportunities to improve our offerings and to developing the talented chefs and service staff.”

The 28 year casino executive joins the company after a longtime senior leadership role at Pala Casino Spa & Resort in Southern California. Prior to his role in California, Hillis’ experience included the opening of several premier dining establishments in Las Vegas within the Bellagio, Mirage, and Treasure Island resorts. In his last role before joining Snoqualmie Casino, he oversaw the remodeling and rebranding of eight restaurants and four bars generating annual revenues in excess of \$40 million. Specific to knowledge and



Roy Hillis

experience with formal dining, he grew the property wine program from 100 labels to 480 labels, meanwhile building an underground wine cave with 105 seats and a full-service bar.

“At Snoqualmie Casino, we are committed to providing our guests with a signature dining experience, at any of our five distinct and recently-renovated venues,” said Brian Decorah, President and CEO. “Roy’s wealth of knowledge and experience will make a significant impact on our existing operations, as well as future renovations and expansions.”

## GLI Names Chris Kwon iGaming Client Services Representative

Gaming Laboratories International (GLI) has named Chris Kwon as iGaming Client Services Representative. In his role, Kwon is responsible for helping GLI’s valued clients obtain maximum benefit from its world-class iGaming and sports wagering testing, certification, and professional consultancy services. He will also support various clients’ professional services and security auditing needs. Kwon is based out of GLI’s Las Vegas laboratory.



Chris Kwon

“We are pleased to welcome Chris Kwon to our experienced global iGaming and sports wagering team,” said Salim Adatia, GLI’s Vice President of iGaming and Canadian Services. “Chris brings a solid background in iGaming, sports wagering, customer retention, and affiliate development. His understanding of the domestic and international land-based and online sports wagering markets and his proven track record of outstanding customer service will help us better serve our rapidly growing list of iGaming and event wagering clients across the country and around the world.”

Prior to joining GLI, Kwon was the Sales Manager/Customer Retention and Affiliate Director for SportsOptions, LLC, a sports wagering data feed supplier in Las Vegas. During his eight-year tenure with SportsOptions, Kwon exceeded multi-platform sales targets, cultivating new sales accounts and managing an affiliate program with more than 700 revenue-streaming accounts. While at SportsOptions, Kwon developed detailed sales strategies and created promotional platforms focused on customer retention and development. He was also responsible for creating new domestic and international sports wagering clients, as well as maintaining a high level of customer service with Las Vegas sportsbooks and casinos. Additionally, Kwon managed promotional projects, customer outreach, and affiliate programs with sports information websites and sportsbooks. ♣