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Sunday, 27 February 2011 20:17 -

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PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) -- An enormous tower crane rising above the Wildhorse Resort & Casino has become an unlikely emblem for the Umatilla Indian Reservation in eastern Oregon.

It's part of a \$45 million, 10-story upgrade of the casino and hotel east of town slated for a September completion.

The growing complex and other tribal enterprises mark the reservation's increasing role as a regional economic engine. It's a complete turnaround from what locals call "B.C." -- Before Casino.

Oregon casino fuels reservation resurgence - The Columbian

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The Oregonian says the Confederated Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes have taken a dramatic leap forward with 1,460 workers, a \$35 million payroll and a \$190 million operating budget.

In B.C., the reservation's work force was 159 with a \$2.5 million payroll and \$7.5 million operating budget.

Information from: The Oregonian, <http://www.oregonlive.com>

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