



STAHS joins Lincoln City’s Community Days celebration with successful new event

By Teresa Simmons on behalf of STAHS

Lincoln City Community Days, historically an annual week-long celebration that includes several events, was reinvented for its return after a three-year break brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The time line was shortened to three days (April 20-22) and “A Celebration of Us” was chosen as the theme in recognition of the way the community pulled together following the Echo Mountain Complex Fires and the COVID-19 shutdown.

For the first time, the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society joined in the slate of activities with a new event of its own on April 22.

Dave Price, small business administrator of the Oregon Coast Community College North Campus, was most gracious in offering the downstairs meeting area to STAHS. His assistance before, during and after was much-appreciated.

The time line from planning to implementation was short. With another bout of the flu circulating, parts of the STAHS event were ever-changing until the final week. Because of this, all advertising was done at the last minute on social media.

For all of the events planned throughout the city, the amount of participation to be expected was unknown. The question pondered by the Community Days Committee and STAHS was whether people were ready to become part of the social mix again. But, in the true spirit of



Courtesy photo by Teresa Simmons, STAHS

Doug Babcock with the net weight he donated to STAHS

community and Tribal perseverance, the STAHS event, like all the others, came together at the last minute with planned components and some surprises as well.

On that Saturday morning, the STAHS board gathered for set up at 11:30 prior to opening the doors at 2 p.m. We didn’t know what to expect as far as turnout and it was a nerve-wracking wait, but we didn’t have to wait long. People began showing up before we finished putting up the displays.

A virtual tour of the planned museum A Place for the People played throughout the event. Tribal Royalty greeted the public and handed out seed packets courtesy of the Healthy Traditions program as well as western red cedar, Douglas fir and big leaf maple seedlings.

Angela Ramirez created a beautiful display of her personal collection of baskets and cultural items. Items used in cedar bark weaving covered a table manned by Kent Rilatos, who shared his knowledge with interested visitors while he demonstrated the art of weaving.

Free Tribal literature was available to the public as well as culturally related merchandise for sale, including Pendleton blankets and *The People Are Dancing Again* history book of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz.

The questions asked and the curiosity of the people passing through was gratifying.

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Siletz Tribal offices will be closed Monday, June 19, for the Juneteenth holiday and on Tuesday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday.

Another legal challenge to Indian gaming

By Pauly Denetclaw, ICT; originally posted April 4, 2023

SAN DIEGO — Owner of Maverick Gaming, Eric Persson, was in an interview with Fox News at one of the 31 casinos he owns across the West called Great American Casino in Tukwila, Wash. Persson was wearing a baseball cap with his company’s logo on it.

“There’s zero circumstances in which I’d settle,” Persson said resolutely. “There’s zero circumstances in which I’d quit. I have the resources to go all the way and so do they. So there’s going to be a battle. We’re going to have a lot of fun and I’m going to win.”

In Washington, card rooms attached to bars and restaurants are legal. At one point there were over 200 card rooms but that number has dropped significantly.

“We’ve seen as it’s been reducing, it’s been consolidating and turning more into a casino business than a mom-and-pop restaurant with a game to play to help

increase the sale of cheeseburgers and beer,” said Christine Masse, an attorney at Miller Nash LLC during a panel at the 2023 Indian Gaming Association Convention and Tradeshow in San Diego, Calif.

Persson, a competitive poker player, now owns 23 of the 40 or so card rooms in the state. Shockingly, the Shoalwater Bay citizen is the lead plaintiff in *Maverick Gaming LLC v. United States*, a case challenging the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act on the grounds of equal protection, stating that tribal status is based on race. Tribal status as a political classification is affirmed by treaties, the United States Constitution and several case laws, including *Morton v. Mancari*.

The plaintiffs are also challenging the ruling in *Morton v. Mancari*, a case that gave hiring preference to American Indians and Alaska Natives in the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the Fifth Amendment.

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Courtesy photo by Pauly Denetclaw, ICT

Electronic bingo machines offer users a slot machine experience