

Eagle Tech hosts opening of technology center at Plaza

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymoo

With the snip of a ribbon, the new technology center officially opened on Feb. 24.

Eagle Tech Systems hosted a grand opening for the center that is located in the Warm Springs Plaza.

The center features computers for public use with high-speed internet access, a training room for computer classes, and a space that will soon become a café.

In addition, the Warm

Springs Chamber of Commerce will be located at a desk inside in the center, and Eagle Tech Systems will move some of its operations to the building.

According to Daniel Berumen, the center has seen a steady flow of business since it opened its doors on Jan. 17.

Within the next month, Eagle Tech employees plan to begin offering business related and computer services trainings for community members.

"There's both short-term and long-term goals," Berumen said. Eventually, he added, "We

hope that this can become a vital resource that people can come to."

The center has also provided three new employment positions.

According to Lloyd Phillips, they aim to open the café in four to six months.

Eagle Tech Systems is working with C.O.R.E. (Connecting Oregon for Rural Entrepreneurship) to develop business locally.

The center is being funded through a grant with the USDA.

Spokane Tribe's gambling compact ends years of conflict

CHEWELAH, Wash. (AP) — The sound is unmistakable as one enters the Spokane Tribe's modest casino in Chewelah: Silver coins striking silver trays, a metallic river of cash.

In Washington, this sound is illegal, and it's one reason there is so much controversy surrounding a new deal between the state and the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

The agreement, in the works for nearly 20 years, finally brings the Spokanes under the same regulatory umbrella as the rest of the tribes in Washington. But critics say it was at the cost of a dramatic expansion in casino operations that seems to reward the Spokanes for operating outside the system.

The Spokanes dispute that suggestion.

"This compact promises

to benefit our tribe and the entire region," said Gerald Nicodemus, secretary of the Spokane Tribal Council, after Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the agreement in mid-February.

The Spokanes have been the only tribe in the state that operated casinos without a compact. They also had popular Las Vegas-style slot machines, which are banned in the state, at their casinos here and near the Columbia River. The machines accept cash and spit out quarters at winners, instead of the tickets that other slot machines print out.

Anxious to undertake a dramatic expansion after years of court fights, the Spokanes struck a deal with the state that allows them to open several new casinos, operate thousands of additional slot machines, and offer much higher wagering than other tribes are currently allowed.

The tribe is also expected to pursue federal approval to build a lavish new casino near the city limits of Spokane, miles from its reservation.

Critics say that with other tribes certain to get the same deal as the Spokanes, this will lead to a major increase in Indian gaming.

"This compact adds more gambling machines to this state, encourages gambling expansion by other tribes and rewards illegal operations," said state Sen. Jim Honeyford, R-Sunnyside, an opponent of the deal. "This is not the direction this state wants to go." The pact, which still needs federal approval, will allow the Spokanes to operate as many as five casinos, with as many as 4,700 video gambling machines and higher wagers allowed at some tables.

Celilo Falls commemoration events schedule

Saturday, March 10

9:30 a.m.: Canoe ceremony (Celilo Village chief greets Puyallup canoe on the banks of the Columbia River).

10 a.m.: Opening ceremony at Celilo Longhouse.

11 a.m.: Honoring ceremony at Celilo Longhouse.

3 p.m.: Traditional salmon dinner.

6 p.m.: Celilo Legacy Powwow and stick games.

All day: Celilo Falls history exhibit and tribal, salmon, and river displays (Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Village in Celilo Park).

Sunday, March 11

10 a.m.: Traditional Washat service (invitation only).

Noon: Traditional salmon

dinner.

3 p.m.: Remembering Celilo: Elders share their memories and recollections of Celilo Falls and Celilo Village.

All day: Celilo Falls history exhibit and tribal, salmon, and river displays (Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Village in Celilo Park).

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Invitation to veterans, service members

Central Oregon military veterans, Oregon National Guard, reserve and active duty service members are invited to Veterans Appreciation Day at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center in Redmond.

Veterans are eligible to receive the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal. Gov. Kulongoski will present the medals to veterans.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 23 at the Fair and Expo Center. Seating is limited for the reserved luncheon at noon, so please RSVP. For reservations call 385-3214 or 330-4677 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To be eligible for the award, veterans must have a military ID or DD-214 discharge paper. Send verification papers by Feb. 25 to:

Attn: Rabbine T. Harpell, Deschutes County Veterans Services, 1128 NW Harriman St., Bend, OR 97701.

Warm Springs veterans can contact Kirby Heath, Commander, Elliot Palmer Post No. 4217 VFW; Harvey Jim, Q-M Elliot Palmer Post, 4217 VFW; or Tom Wise, Jefferson County service officer, for more information.

Heath can be contacted at

553-0436. Wise can be contacted at 475-5228.

These individuals can be contacted to submit names for eligibility of service medal, and reservations for luncheon table for the veteran and family.

Heath encouraged veterans to send in their discharge paper (DD-214) as soon as possible.

The keynote speaker for the event will be CWO Ron Young, prisoner of war during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There will be a full day of activities for this event, beginning with the opening ceremony at 9 a.m.

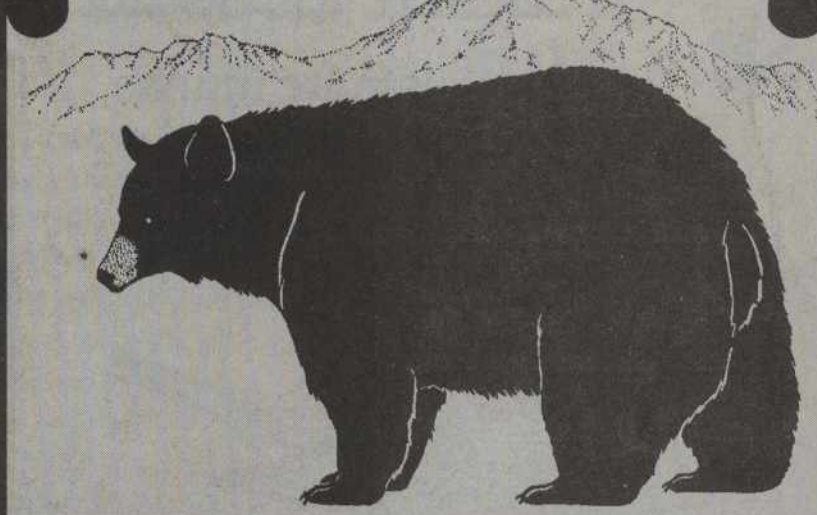
Workshops will be offered throughout the day on topics of sports, health, fishing, state and federal veterans benefits, among other topics.

At noon is the reserved luncheon. At 1:15 p.m. will be the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medals presentation.

At 1:30 p.m. will be the Jubilee Productions musical "Farewell Bend Radio Show."

Any veteran or service member currently serving, Reserve or Active duty is eligible to receive the Honorable Service Medal.

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