

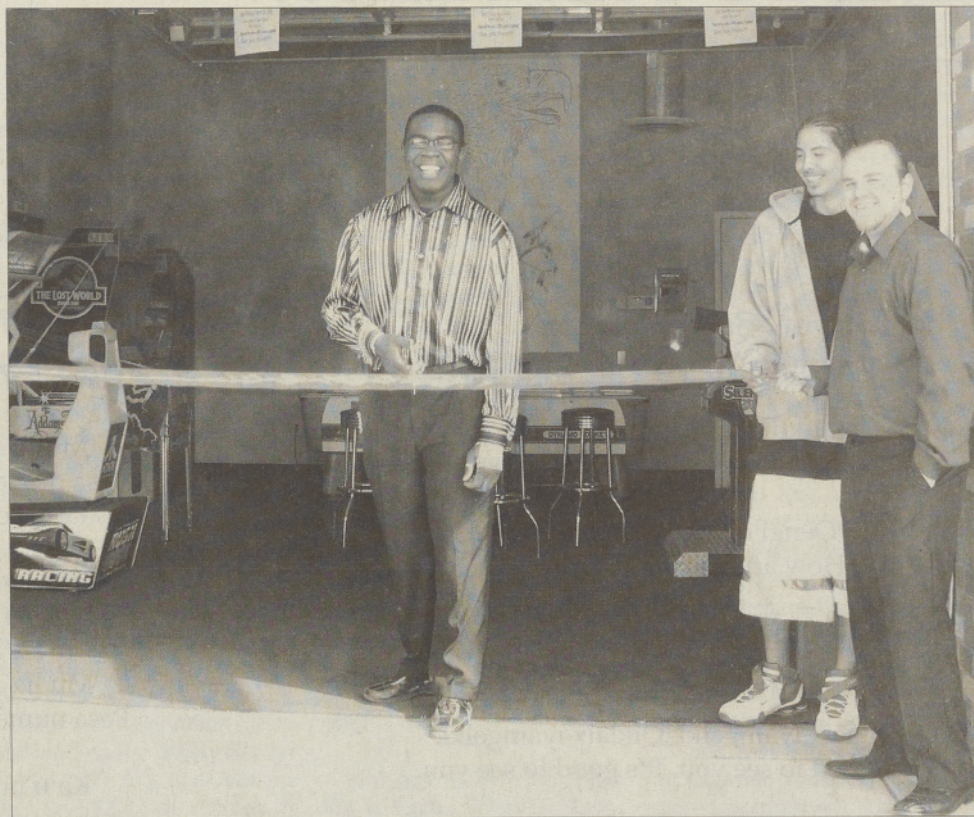
Grand opening for arcade at Plaza

The Playstation @ Express Shop kicked off their business by hosting a grand opening earlier this week.

Quantae Cole will be overseeing the business, which will be run by local youth in partnership with WED. Sallie Polk-Adams and Armando Ribeiro have been hired as youth managers, Cole said.

The new business will provide games, food, movie rentals, game rentals, meeting space, and private parties for the people of this community, Cole explained.

He expressed gratefulness to his silent business partners as well as Corey Clements of WED, Daniel Berumen of Eagle-Tech Systems and other community members who have helped to get the new business running. The Playstation @ Express Shop is located in the Warm Springs Plaza. Current business hours will be from 1 p.m. until 9 p.m.



Quantae Cole cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of The Playstation @ Express Shop.

Commerce Department to consider salmon disaster

(AP) – The Bush administration said it recognizes the seriousness of the potential shutdown of ocean salmon fishing off Oregon and California this year and will consider as soon as possible whether to declare a federal fisheries failure.

"We will work with the governors of California and Oregon to gather the necessary information and make a determination regarding a commercial fishery failure declaration," Ann Marie Hauser, press secretary to Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, said in an e-mail.

"We are committed to doing this as soon as possible."

Federal fisheries managers are considering closing ocean salmon fishing off Oregon and California this year to protect struggling chinook salmon stocks from California's Sacramento River Basin. Lawmakers from Oregon and California sent Gutierrez a letter earlier this month asking him to quickly declare a federal fisheries failure.

The declaration is necessary before Congress can provide assistance for struggling salmon fishermen and related businesses.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said he talked to Gutierrez on the

phone Thursday and was told that NOAA Fisheries Service, the federal agency that oversees salmon restoration, was looking into whether it had the authority to make a fishery disaster declaration before the season has started.

"I wanted to convey the urgency I've heard from town meetings around the state," Wyden said. "I want to see if we get a jump start and get the heavy lifting in terms of data and information they need off earlier – get it done earlier. I think it's clear what we're looking at."

The Pacific Fishery Manage-

ment Council will decide what to do with the season in April. It is considering three options, from a bare bones season to no fishing at all off Oregon and California.

Cockfighting crackdown leads to several arrests

(AP) – A federal crackdown on illegal cockfighting in the Northwest resulted in more than 50 arrests, including two people from Warm Springs and two from Madras.

The indictment indicates that cockfighting derbies happened in Grand Ronde, Molalla, Sunny Valley, Warm Springs and Woodburn in Oregon, and Wapato, Sunnyside and Prosser in Washington.

Cockfighting pits fighting roosters against each other in battles to the death, typically involves gambling and often is the site of drug deals.

Federal law prohibiting the blood sport has been beefed up to make it a felony under the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act that went into effect last May.

Those indicted face up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines on individual charges related to the cockfighting.

About half the people indicted were scheduled to appear in U.S. District Court in Portland while the others were set for appearances in federal court in Medford and Eugene, and in Seattle and Yakima, Wash.

The charges include conspiracy, operating an illegal gambling business, multiple

violations of the Animal Welfare Act, interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise, and various drug-trafficking crimes.

U.S. Attorney Karin Immergut called it "a very brutal sport" that carries a serious public health risk. The arrests also show "the close relationship between cockfighting and drug-trafficking in the Pacific Northwest."

She said about 50 guns, more than \$100,000 in cash and at least 700 roosters were seized during the arrests.

A federal grand jury issued 17 separate indictments that list 63 people in documents unsealed last week. The two-year investigation, involving more than 500 federal agents and police, was dubbed "Operation Red Rooster" in Oregon and "Operation Tattered Wing" in Washington state.

"To my knowledge, this is the biggest in the Northwest," said Jim Mendhenhall, special agent in charge of the U.S. Agriculture Department's Office of Inspector General.

Arrested in Warm Springs were Chris Requa, 51, charged with illegal gambling and cockfighting; and Dorothy Howtopat, 19, charged with cockfighting, according to federal authorities.

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