

## Casino goers eager for re-opening

by Yvonne Iverson

As the Indian Head Casino packs up at the Kah-Nee-Ta location and prepares for the February opening on Highway 26, some regular casino goers have a hole to fill during the month of January.

As the week-end approached, the comments started. "I would go to the bar, but I don't have a car," while some joked about having "casino withdrawals."

"I wanted to go on Friday, but didn't feel like driving to Madras to the Bowling Alley or Abby's Pizza," says someone who "sometimes" goes to the casino.

"There has been an influx of new faces that we haven't seen before," says Christi Young, Madras Bowl owner.

They are open normal business hours and haven't made any changes regarding machine use. "The bowling alley has six machines and there are only a few other businesses in town that have poker," states Young.

Brutis Baez says he "will find others things to do, like taking my family to dinner. One thing that helps me is friendly betting on basketball games and going to the pub or others restaurants in Madras that have poker machines, but it doesn't replace the atmosphere at the casino. Overall I am saving money by the casino being closed, so could you please hurry up with the new casino."

Some miss the entertainment or social factor, while others are craving the snack bar cuisine. "I am starving for a hot dog!"

Charlotte Pitt chuckled and said "I am having Casino withdrawals" she has been staying home so far this month, "but I have money in my pocket."

Lucinda Torres, Kah-Nee-Ta Gift Shop employee, says that the casino closure has affected the level of foot traffic the shop receives. "We used to have about 30 visitors a day, but this last Friday we had about five."

Indian Head Casino will re-open their doors at the Highway 26 location on Saturday, Feb. 4 with a ceremony open to tribal members at 1 p.m.

### Toe Ness

The best bet for a player to make is what is called a "Mind Bet."

You stand behind the game watch the action and attempt to predict the winner. You never bet any real money, you only bet in your mind. Last week a friend of mine lost his mind three times.

Spilyay Speaks

## Letters to the Editor

### Appreciation

Good day. Thank you for 36 years of our Annual Christmas Bazaars.

With this year's fees we were able to replace two game components, some toys for Carol's Room, paper products, games and craft supplies.

In years past the fees have been used to buy chairs and the lighter weight tables used for the bazaar and Health Fair.

Thank you all who helped set up and clean up. It's a big job and the help is greatly appreciated. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthful New Year.

Carol Sahme, arts and crafts coordinator, Recreation Department.

### Club hours

There will be changes in the amount of service we can provide our Warm Springs Boys and Girls Club members for this coming year.

The recent budget reductions for 2012 have affected our staffing level and program hours for youth. The club will close daily at 5:30 p.m. The new hours began this week.

The individual membership fee will remain \$30 for the school year. We will also be closed on most non-school days (and inclement weather days) throughout the year. Our first closure day will be on Monday, Jan. 16.

We will, however be open for kids during Spring break from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sincerely, June A. Smith, club manager.

### A thank you

I want to take this time to wish everyone a good year from my family, the Davids, to yours. Let us pray for safe keeping for our people.

Now, I want to thank all the people who offered their help towards the Christmas program that was held on Dec. 1 at the community center. There were so many people I don't even know who there was. But we appreciate all the animal props, and the forest. Thanks to all of you and many good blessings.

Thanks to Wilson for narrating, and to Aurolyn. It was very

### Correction

Joint Health Commission member Heather Crow-Martinez's name was misspelled in the previous edition. The Spilyay apologizes for the error.

difficult without a loud speaker. Also to my sister Reina, my son Casey and daughter "Charle," for all the running and trying to keep the cast in their right spots. That was a lot of work.

And now for the special young people who were the actors. They all did a wonderful job for only having one practice the night before.

The young people came forward immediately when the notice was put out. Thanks to Deanie Johnson for getting the information to all the youth who attend the Warm Springs Longhouse on Sunday to offer services.

Again, many blessings to all of you. I was overwhelmed with the people that filled the gym. The message was meant for all of us. So hopefully people were touched by what they saw, and what they might have heard.

Thanks to the community center staff, Carol and Cena for their help.

Bless you.

On December 21<sup>st</sup> I held a Christmas party at my home. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> year. Supper was served. There were many donations of gifts as well as food.

Thanks to my son Casey, and grandchildren Ty, Riata, Gus,

Mel and TO, Jeb, Preston and sister Roma for putting up the stables and the decorating.

Santa has been with us for 15 years and always looks forward to next year.

Utilities has provided us with a long flat trailer for our stage and portable toilets, tables, benches.

Many, many thanks again and God Bless you all.

Lucinda.

### Family, friends

To all my family and friends, I hope this finds everyone in the best of health. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I am well, but back in jail. I would like to hear from you if you can make the time to send me a card or letter. I miss everyone but have three boys here in Nisqually that keep me here.

When I get out I would like to take the time to come visit and see how you all are doing. Just a short letter to let you know where I am.

God bless Always, Aaron Squally, 4820 She-Nah-Num Drive SE

c/o Nisqually Corrections Olympia, WA 98513

### From the Road Warriors



Courtesy photo.

The 2011 Road Warriors are (back row from left) Dan O'Brien, Rich Botto, Michael Leecy, Rich Lohman, Brett Whipple, Andy Conklin, Ryan Singleton; (front row from left) Jason Smartlowit, Karlen Yallup, Yvette Leecy (captain), Sheila Danzuka (driver), Orvie Danzuka, and Louie Smith.

We would like to thank everybody who supported us throughout the year.

It was a fun time, and we are looking forward to 2012.

We wish everybody a Happy New Year!

Road Warriors.

(Results: 2011 Road Warriors: Cascade Lakes Relay, 216.4 miles. Overall, placed 32nd out of 153 teams. Result time: 30:48:10. Pace: 8:32 minutes. Co-Ed: Placed 19th out of 107 teams. Result time: 30:48:10. Pace: 8:32 minutes.)

### Happy 61st Wedding Anniversary



Courtesy photo.

Happy Anniversary, Earl and Rita Squiemphen, pictured here surrounded by kids, grandkids and great grandkids.

With Earl and Rita are (back row) Teri Jo Squiemphen-Yazzie, Gary Sampson III, Amanda Jo Squiemphen-Yazzie, Shawna Jackson, Gary Sampson Jr. And (sitting), Jeston Leonard, Monica Sampson, holding Brody and Kalyn Leonard, Jordan Leonard, Val, Rita and Earl; and Arrita Sampson sitting in the very front.

### 48th Annual Holiday Tourney



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Swantown (at top) beat Warm Springs 82-81 in the Championship. Video highlights can be seen on Spilyay Facebook page. Joel Yellowowl of Swantown was the Tournament MVP; Hazen Davis was named Mr. Hustle.

### Native artists

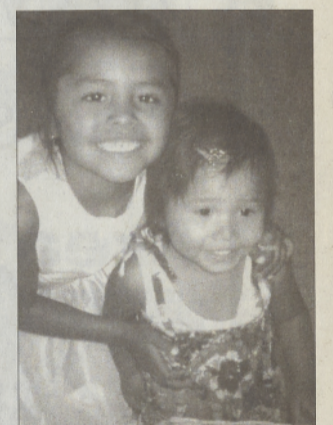
I am the director of the Whitefish Arts Festival, which is held in Whitefish, Montana.

I am hoping to see more Native American art at our festival. We are surrounded by a rich culture of Native American tribes, but have only a small representative of Native Ameri-

can art. We are encouraging artists from all Native communities to submit artwork for our show. You can contact me at: wafdirector@gmail.com

Blessings to you, Shannon Fremont-Smith

### Wishes...



Happy 7th birthday to Mersayns "Bug-Bug" aka "Mish Tymoo" Hart! You have brought us many many joys since being born on January 9th, 2005. May you have a very happy birthday for you are a very special girl!

You do well at everything you try, so never give up trying! We know you'll go far! You are the best sister any sister could ever ask for!

We're all happy to have you in our lives! Love Always, Grandma Mel, Grandma Lela, Auntie Dee, and sisters, Adilia, Kadence and LeAndra Hart. Oh, and Lilo says happy birthday too!

By Jody Calica, S-T

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### Biomass

(Continued from page 1)

Jobs for tribal members, annual payments and fuel procurement were among central issues. Other concerns expressed included traffic safety, ash disposal, water use, and air quality.

Other members of the Council cited the need for phased economic development over the next several decades beyond gaming. The Biomass plant ownership was planned and scheduled to be transferred to the tribes within a 7- to 22-year time frame based upon financial performance of the plant. The plant was projected to create an estimated 520 jobs in plant construction, plant operations, fuels collection and additional support functions.

The Biomass project was being advanced to provide

the anticipated transmission infrastructure needs for future energy projects on adjacent lands suitable for solar energy collection and other potential energy and economic opportunity.

From a national tribal energy policy perspective the tribes' Biomass Energy Project was an example of the current Administration's emphasis on energy security and independence, environmental stewardship, economic stimulus, and creating much needed jobs and employment.

The Warm Springs Biomass Project received policy support and interest from several key federal and state government partners, including from the U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu and director Tracey LeBeau of the Office of Indian Energy and the Policy.

Director LeBeau has traveled out to Warm Springs and the Northwest four times in the past year and has affirmed her offices support of tribal renewable energy because of the purported success of the Warm Springs Biomass project.

From an economic perspective, an internal assessment is underway to evaluate the potential effect and mitigation this decision may have on other energy and economic development opportunities and business relationships.

From an environmental and resource protection point of view, the tribes' ability to use the federal Tribal Forest Protection Act to reduce fire threats on our borders may have been reduced significantly.