

What a grand opening!

By Duran Bobb

About 300 tribal members attended the ceremonies, ribbon-cutting and dedication of the new Indian Head Casino.

At 6 p.m. last Saturday, the doors opened to the general public, and the response was far beyond what most expected.

Spilyay Speaks

"There were challenges with parking," Warm Springs Fire Chief Dan Martinez said. "It pleases me to see so many people at our new casino. I thank our tribal leaders for their vision."

Within minutes, the casino and museum overflow parking lots were full.

Officials began guiding guests to the Community Center parking lot. Shuttles that night were busy.

A line of traffic began forming east on highway 26.

ODOT assisted with readerboards along highway 26, signs that read "Event Ahead" and cones.

At 7 p.m. the Community Center parking was filled to capacity.

Traffic was then directed to the administration parking lot. Thirty-six minutes later, officials had to plan to start using the Longhouse parking lot.

The occupancy limit for the new casino is 1,780 individuals. "But it's hard to keep track as people come and go," Martinez said.

Inside, guests who applied for a Players Club card received a souvenir - a T-shirt, hat or a mug.

Next door, Vesta Johnson's cafe was booming. "We're very blessed and very thankful! We're so proud of our tribe today!"

Nearby, at Kah-Nee-Ta, the rooms quickly filled. Country artist Terri Clark performed.

"Every single ticket was sold," Carlos Smith said. "We ran a buffet for dinner, and the lounge was packed. It was great to work with the casino to make this all happen."

"We wanted to do a lot of things...with limited funds, we did all we could, knowing the potential that exists to add on at a later date," Councilman Scott Moses said. "This was a huge team effort all the way around."

The day after, on Super Bowl Sunday, the parking lot was still full.

Seventy-year-old Rodger Caldwell sat near the entrance. "Gambling is like a hobby for me," he said. "This is one of the nicer casinos I've been to so far. It shows culture and the employees are nice! I'll be back."

Letters to the Editor

Canoe family

The N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family was joined on Jan. 10 by representatives of the regional BIA Office, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Tribal Council Vice-Chairman Ron Suppah for an evening of song, dance and acknowledgement.

After a simple verbal 'ask' directed toward Regional BIA Director Stanley Speaks, a generous donation of new life jackets, marine radios, and satellite locaters was made to the Warm Springs Canoe Project and Family.

All parties involved in the exchange have placed water safety as their highest priority for Warm Springs youth involved in the project.

"The Bureau is glad it had the opportunity to support the safety efforts of the N'chi Wanapum Canoe Family as this program and its ambitious goals grow and evolve," said Keith Hatch, BIA, Portland Office. "Safety on the water doesn't just happen, it takes preparation, investment, and practice. Hope to see you in Bella Bella in 2014."

Chief Davis Washines, of CRITFC, said, "The Warm Springs Canoe Family is setting a great example for all tribal members. Your dedication to boat safety and cold water survival is something that we should all strive for out on the river. Keep up the good work."

N'chi Wanapum is set to participate in Canoe Journey 2012 'Paddle To Squaxin Island' near Shelton, Wash. Landing date this year is July 29, followed by a week of cultural presentations and exchange.

The Canoe Family is set to be go through extensive cold water training and ocean navigation before this year's journey.

Feel free to call 541-553-3331 for questions and participation. Or email:

jgreene@wstribes.org
Sincerely,
Jefferson Greene

Be aware

I'm grateful to still be alive and to live over here in Duck City Eugene, Oregon.

I like to get and read Eugene's Register-Guard newspaper every day if I can.

In today's newspaper, I read a story about a woman who lived in three centuries, and she passed on, on Tuesday, Jan. 24 of this year. She was 113 or 114 years old. No one really knew this woman's age. I know this woman is now in Heaven like

the elders from Warm Springs are.

We should just take it one day at a time. Sincerely,

Evette Patt, 50 Kourt Dr., apt. 3, Eugene OR 97404

Found keys

Keys were found in December at tribal Court-house. They are Suzuki keys, with a Bi-Mart tag and a Rite-Aid tag and a post office key. They can be picked up at the Parole and Probation Office.

Seeking donations

We are asking parents and other community members for donations to assist with our upcoming fundraiser and club snacks.

In February, we are having a Valentine's Day Fundraiser.

We will gladly accept a variety of small candies, chocolate kisses, suckers, gum, etc. to help fill necklaces and cups.

Items this year include: candy necklaces for sale (or a cup filled with candy), balloon, and valentine card for \$5.

To place an order, you can call the club 553-2323 or email: jtwinsmith@hotmail.com

We will also deliver on Valentine's Day.

Other donations

Also, we often prepare homemade snacks for the youth and would appreciate your donation of these items:

Dried goods (flour, salt, sugar, brown sugar, rice, noodles, baking soda, etc.); canned items (fruits and vegetables); boxed items (cookies, crackers, Jello, pudding, cake mixes etc.); bottled water, juices

or kool-aid; other items: peanut butter, jelly, cookies, popcorn, marshmallows, bread, potatoes, tortillas, etc.

If there are items you would like to donate that are not listed, please feel free to do that.

Thank you for your assistance. Sincerely,

June Smith, club manager, and staff.

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay Tymoo. The next deadline to submit letters is Friday, February 17.



To all who are twitterpated - Happy Valentine's Day! From award-winning tribal artist, Travis Bobb.

Wishes...

To Hilbert Williams, Happy 21st Birthday! We all miss you. May God bless you on your birthday. Love, Mom and Dad, your lil sisters Harriet and Delberta, your girlfriend Kayla G.

Happy Birthday and Happy Valentine's Day, Lisa Marie Valentine Birthday Girl!
All our love, your family.



Happy 30th to Hodzy. Much love, the C.D.F.

More Valentines

Happy Valentine's Day to Mom. We love you, and we know we're going to make it through this together, as you've taught us, as a family. Jessie, Selena, Freddie, Travis, Amy, Michael, Kendall, the babies, Ron, Ray, and Kevin.

Happy Valentine's Day to my sweetie, Leonard H. Goveia. I love you more today than I did yesterday. Thanks for being my best friend in the whole world - I can't wait to grow old with you! The last 15-16 years have been the best, you are my soul mate. Love, your wife Roni Goveia and your brat, Harley.

Happy Valentine's Day Ron "Ducky" Green. Love, Cookie.

Happy Valentine's Day, Kevin Bennett. I know there's a good person in your heart. We'll discover more on our journey together. Love, Freddie.

Happy Valentine's Day to our dad and papi, Len Goveia. Thanks for all that you do to make our lives better. I wish everyone could have a papa like you. Love, your six children and sixteen grand-children: Angelina (M a t t h e w) Goveia-Dahlgren, Mattie, Stacia, McKenzie, Hannab, Megan (Tom) Goveia-

Smith, Caleb, Silas, Ryan (Alicia) Benson Goveia, Mitchell (Laneda) Delmar J., Walt J., Mitchell Jr, Laina, Romeo, Princess Daylin, Norma (Rob), The Queen Lil Roni, Clinton (Sadie), Clinton Jr., and Maria Jane. We love you very much.

Happy Valentine's Day to my Ride or Die, my husband, Solo! Thank you for all that you do and know that I love you. Martha J Stewart.

Happy Valentine's Day to my kids: Whitley, Kevin, Louis, Clarence, Sha'Rita and Jyden. I love you with all my heart, to the stars and back. Love, Martha J Stewart.

(More Valentines on page 7)

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Publisher Emeritus: Sid Miller

Editor: Dave McMechan
Reporter: Duran Bobb
Advertising Director: Yvonne Iverson
Media Advisor: Bill Rhoades

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Any written materials submitted to Spilyay Tymoo should be addressed to:
Spilyay Tymoo, P.O. Box 870, Warm Springs, OR 97761.

Phone: 541-553-2210
Advertising: 541-553-2307 or 541-325-1089

E-Mail: dave.mcmecan@wstribes.org.
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