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Resort renewing relationship with Japan

A group of 14 travel representatives from Japan visited Kah-Nee-Ta recently, and came away with a great impression of the resort and the region.

They golfed at the resort, attended a salmon bake, and saw a performance by Wasco Dancers. They visited the museum and casino and other attractions around the region.

"It was an amazing experience for them," said Carlos Smith, resort general manager. "Many in the group had never been to Oregon before. It was a huge success."

An important result from the visit is the potential for future business from Japan. For instance, the Japanese representatives who visited recently work with schools in Japan in planning overseas trips for their students.

As a result of their recent visit, two groups of Japanese high school students will be staying at Kah-Nee-Ta in May. This will bring close to 200 students, with teachers and travel chaperons, from Osaka to Kah-Nee-Ta for two nights.

Kah-Nee-Ta worked with Travel Oregon in bringing the travel representatives to the resort. Greg Eckhart of Travel Oregon said the recent visit was part of a renewal of interest by Japanese visitors in Central Oregon.

Several years ago the region was a very popular destination for Japanese tourists, in part because of a



Kristine McConnell/Central Oregon Visitors Assoc.

Fourteen Japanese travel representatives visit Kah-Nee-Ta.

television show, From Oregon With Love, which ran in the 1980s and 1990s. The show was set in Central Oregon, and was popular with Japanese viewers.

There is a good potential again

to grow the Japanese tourism business in Central Oregon, said Eckhart. In other recent news from Kah-Nee-Ta: To further build the relationship with Japan, a group of tribal dancers are hoping to make a



trip to the Asian country later this year, said Carlos Smith. This will help bring more attention to Kah-Nee-Ta, he said. And this:

Sunset magazine is sending a travel writer to Kah-Nee-Ta in May. This will be a great chance to showcase the resort to a large audience, Smith said.

The Sunset magazine project is also being done through Kah-Nee-Ta's partnership with Travel Oregon, said Carlos Smith. And this:

KGW News Channel 8 is looking to put a weather cam at Kah-Nee-Ta. The weather cam site would then link to the resort website.

Remodeling work is under way at the resort, in anticipation of bringing Class II gaming to the Kah-Nee-Ta. The new gaming area, in the old Indian Head space, could be in operation by early May.

— Dave McMechan

Motorsports update

Project planners to visit

A Warm Springs motorsports information day is planned for next Wednesday, March 27. That evening at 6 there will be a town hall-style meeting at the Community Center with members of the team who are working on this project.

From about noon until 5 p.m., representatives will be in the parking lot of the Community Center for meet-and-greet with community members. There will be a racing car on hand for people to check out, as well as a representative from the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA).

"We're trying to get as much information out to the community, and as much feedback as possible," said Jeff Anspach, of Warm Springs Ventures.

The group working with the tribes on the motorsports proposal is Lion's Head. Bruce Brunette is president of the group.

Lionhead, Ventures and Tribal Council members have conducted several public meetings at each of the longhouses, and are planning home-based meetings as well.

"This is an effort to engage the membership, so they are working with the same information that we have, to more efficiently move through the process," Anspach said.

A referendum would be needed to go ahead with the potential development of the project.

The motorsports facility would be a joint venture of the tribes, through a new enterprise, and Lionhead. A proposed site has been identified on Miller Flat. The tribes would likely put up a tract of land into a long-term lease. The joint venture would then raise the sufficient capital to build the facility.

The motorsports park would be located on land south of Mill Creek. Initially, a road course, drag strip and oval would be constructed over a five year timeline. Upon completion, the project could have a value of over \$300 million.

Planners say the reservation makes an ideal location because it is within 400 miles of a major unserved motorsports market. Also, the tribes control zoning and can develop a facility that is tailored to the desires of the target market.

The tribes' Motorsports Raceway Committee has been gathering information on behalf the tribes. One benefit of the project would be jobs. The construction phase would create about 425 jobs. Another 200 jobs would relate to the operation of the facility. And an additional 225 indirect jobs created to support the facility would be permanent in nature. And there would be revenue through the joint venture.

Employee of the Year

Aubrey Boynton is a waitress at the Cottonwood Restaurant at Indian Head Casino. She's worked there since the restaurant opened last year.

"I love my co-workers, my bosses and especially our customers," Aubrey said last week.

She was named the Indian Head Casino Employee of the Year for 2012. "She has a positive and friendly, upbeat attitude, and she's dependable," said Mary Kay Williams, restaurant supervisor.

Mary Kay, Aubrey and casino general manager Ken Many Wounds.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Recreation, IHS hosting Youth Health Fair during break

The week of March 25-29 will be spring break week for students of the 509-J district.

On Tuesday of that week, March 26, Warm Springs Recreation and IHS will host the Spring Break Youth Health Fair. There will be games, fun, door prizes, bike rodeo, and Roc your Mocs Dance Contest.

The Youth Health Fair will be at the Community Wellness Center. The event is free to community youth. There will be a running clinic at 10 a.m.; Salmon Fun Run at 11; lunch at 11:45 (provided); and 1-4 p.m., games and activities including:

Showcase Your Graffiti for the salmon design contest with prizes.

Come meet the Warm Springs Police Department k-9 officers, McGruff, Smokey the Bear and Sparky.

Visit with the Warm Springs Higher Education staff and make sure you are ready for college.

For more information call 541-553-1196; Carolyn ext. 4400, Phyllis

ext. 4193, Joie ext. 4196; or Carol at Recreation, 541-553-3243.

The Spring Break Youth Health Fair is sponsored with a grant from the Community Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

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March Mania!
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See page 16 for details or go to www.indianheadgaming.com

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