



Spilyay Tymoo

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Welcome adventure at Kah-Nee-Ta

The tribes are taking a step toward a new beginning at Kah-Nee-Ta. Along the way the resort will receive attention that is overdue.

A major investment in Kah-Nee-Ta requires a partner. Tribal Council and the resort board met last week with Tom Hansen and Michael Gaskin, senior partners with AV Northwest.

Over the past several weeks the parties have worked on an agreement that will lead to a long-term lease of Kah-Nee-Ta to AV Northwest. For its part the company will invest about \$17 million in the resort.

"We see Kah-Nee-Ta regaining its premier status as a family destination resort," Mr. Hansen said.

Central Oregon is one of the three top visitor areas in the U.S., he said. There are eight resorts in the region with only Kah-Nee-Ta not



Spilyay Courtyard and entrance to the convention rooms at the Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge.

Courtesy KNT

doing well financially. Major improvements at the resort, and a new marketing strategy will correct the situation, Mr. Hansen said.

Kah-Nee-Ta has stayed open over the past few years through tribal loans, not a viable approach. Tribal Council and the board have known that 2017 would be a turn-

ing point for the resort.

They agreed early in the year that closure of Kah-Nee-Ta at the end of this season would be necessary if they could find no alternative. The resort employs many tribal members, and closure would be another fairly devastating blow to the reservation economy.

Some months ago the Kah-Nee-Ta Board of Directors reached out to AV Northwest, and the parties began researching and negotiating a possible agreement.

They have now reached terms calling for a lease of 25 years, during which time the management of the resort would be un-

der AV Northwest.

The hope is to have the lease finalized by the end of this year. With the lease in place, AV Northwest will make substantial infrastructure and other improvements at the resort, including at the Village.

The list of projects is extensive—a new heating and cooling system, new paint, improvements to the rooms, pools, restaurant and café, to name just a few. An interesting part of the plan is a new hydro- and physical therapy center at the Village. The hot springs would be put to use in the treatment of young people who are recovering from muscular and other conditions.

Marketing and customer relations are areas of expertise for Mr. Hansen.

(Please see KNT on 6)

Harrowing account of Las Vegas tragedy

Felicia Lopez drove down to Warm Springs from Spokane, where she lives with her family. As a graduation gift she was going to the Route 91 Harvest Festival, the big three-day Country music show in Las Vegas.

She stopped in Warm Springs to meet up with her sister Alexis Salazar, friend Reina Estimo and Alfred Estimo. Then the four of them drove down together to Las Vegas.

They stayed at the Hooters Casino Hotel, a couple of blocks from the concert venue. During the concerts, Reina, Alexis and Felicia liked to get close to stage, maybe just ten people back from the front. Rather than deal with the crowd Alfred would stay more



Felicia Lopez, Reina Estimo, Alfred Estimo and Alexis Salazar at the music festival, Saturday before the mass shooting.

toward the back. Of course everyone had cell phones, so they always knew where each other were.

The show on Sunday evening was the main attraction, starring the headliner Jason Aldean. It was

a little after 10 p.m., and Aldean was just going into his fourth song. "I heard a popping noise," Alexis says.

As they were close to the stage, they saw smoke from one of the

speakers. Maybe it was a smoke bomb, "Then we heard the screams," she says.

The woman standing directly behind Reina was shot in the chest. She was wearing a white shirt, now red with blood.

In the panic of the crowd they got on the ground. Reina and Alexis lay on top of Felicia. "You could feel the bullets all around," Alexis says.

Reina braced herself on the ground. She didn't think about dying, "but I thought I was going to get shot. I was bracing myself to get shot."

The firing stopped for a moment and Felicia got up and jumped a fence.

(See LAS VEGAS on 7)

District meetings in Oct.

The district meetings on the 2018 budget are scheduled to begin next week. The first meeting is currently set for Monday, October 16. This is the Simnasho District meeting at the Simnasho Longhouse. Dinner at 6 and the meeting at 7.

The next meeting is scheduled for the following Monday, October 23. This is the Agency District meeting at the Agency Longhouse. Dinner at 6 and meeting at 7.

The Seekseequa District meeting, at the Seekseequa Fire Hall is scheduled for the following evening, Tuesday, October 24. Dinner and meeting same times as above.

Tribal Council posted a proposed 2018 budget at the end of last month. The document is posted around the community, and members are receiving a budget summary by mail. The Council proposal, as recommended by management and Finance, is a balanced budget.

Further details will be provided at the district meetings, to be followed by a General Council meeting.

Another upcoming meeting is in regard to the Minor's Trust. This is scheduled for the Agency Longhouse on Friday, November 3. There are two sessions: from 9 to 11 a.m., or from 6 to 8 p.m. On the agenda:

Minor's Trust account review, management of funds, update; and Minor's Trust account access online.

A meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, November 15, on the Will and Funeral Agreement, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Agency Longhouse. On the agenda: Will process and update; and Funeral Agreement review for the tribal membership.

Western Regional Finals

The Western States Regional Indian Finals Rodeo brought high level rodeo action to Central Oregon. Sponsored by DMJ Cattle, the 2017 Western States Regional

Finals brought riders from around the Northwest to Central Oregon. Here are the results (in order of finishing) as tallied by Cheryl Tom:

Saturday, September 30

Sheep riding: Mackenzie Jones, White Swan, Wash. Audacious Speedis Blueback, Warm Springs. Boots Racoon, Mykael Sam, Jason Jim (tie).

Wild cow milking: Tie for first: Justin Tom and Daniel Gilbert; Mike Holyan and Koedy Florendo; Clay Ramone, Hoopa, Calif.

Bull riding: Joe Escalera, Tule River, Calif.

Calf roping: Jade Smith, Centerville, Wash. Jordan Dove, Pendleton. Chance Guerrero, Wadsworth, Nevada.

Miss Warm Springs Katrina Blackwolf, at the opening of the Western Regional Finals.



Ladies barrel racing: Ashley Picard, Pendleton. Maryanne Frazier, Touchet, Wash. Jana Isaac, Whiteswan. Duana Wheeler, White Swan.

Ladies breakaway: Jenna Johnson, Warm Springs. Courtney Small, Pryor, Mont. Cheyenne Dove, Centerville. Ana Howard, Bishop, Calif.

Team roping: Dustin Suppah, Warm Springs, and Jesse Reese,

Warm Springs. Cody Barney, Klamath Falls, and Cort Herrera, Pendleton. Mike Holayan, Warm Springs, and Casey Glazier, Carson City, Nevada. Travis Thom, Schurz, Nevada, and Tad Williams, Reno. Clint Bruisedhead, Warm Springs, and Chance Guerrero, Wadsworth, Nevada.

(Results continue on 5)



Photos by Linda Larson

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\$112,000*

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IN CASH AND BONUS SLOT PLAY

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CASH & BONUS SLOT PLAY PRIZES ON ALTERNATING DAYS. SEE CALENDAR FOR DETAILS.

FINAL 2017

JEEP**

GIVEAWAY

ON NOVEMBER 19TH, 5PM

IndianHeadCasino.com | 541-460-7777 | US-26, Warm Springs, Oregon 97761

*Total cash & prizes in October and November. **Cash option available. All promotions require Players' Club membership to participate. Management reserves all rights. Must be present to win. See Players' Club for complete details.