

Holiday food drive benefits West Valley families

■ *Casino's visitors asked to donate canned food items for local food banks and holiday baskets*

Spirit Mountain is asking all of its visitors during the holiday season to donate a can of food to help disadvantaged families as part of the **Casino's Holiday Food Drive from November 25 to December 22.**

"We expect thousands of visitors this month," notes Public Relations Manager Beth Sorensen. "If each one brought one can of food, the benefit for the local food banks will be tremendous."

The Willamina VFW Holiday Food Baskets, the Grand Sherimina Food Bank, and the Grand Ronde Tribe's Family Action Program (TFAP) will all distribute proceeds from the Casino's food drive to disadvan-

tagged local families during the holidays. As an incentive to donate, customers will be given a ticket for each can of food they bring to the Casino. The tickets will be entered into drawings for a \$100 cash drawing every evening at 9 p.m. All tickets collected throughout the length of the food drive will be entered in the Grand Prize Drawing for \$1,000 --- which will be held a 9 p.m. on December 22. Winners for the drawings need not be present to win. For more information on the Holiday Canned Food Drive, call the Player Services Department at Spirit Mountain Casino, 879-2350, ext. 3402 or 1-800-760-7977, ext. 3402.



A donation check was presented to the Willamina VFW.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Guest Services provides fulfilling work for Candy Robertson

Tribal member Candy Robertson just reached her one year anniversary of employment with Spirit Mountain Casino, and things are going better than ever. She just received a new position within the Guest Services department — she's the Bus Coordinator. If you have passed by the Casino lately, there always seems to be shuttle busses all lined up in the parking lot. Well, those busses carry visitors from Portland, Salem, Vancouver, and Woodburn to Spirit Mountain Casino every day, and Candy is responsible for making sure everything runs smoothly.

In addition to the daily shuttles, Candy coordinates the special charter bus group gatherings for organizational meetings, parties, or celebrations. Many Christmas parties are currently being arranged through charter bus services, so this is a busy time of year for Candy.

"Basically, I monitor the bus arrivals and departures, make sure the groups who receive fun books have them, make sure they are welcomed when they arrive, and other customer service duties," said Candy.

She said that when she first began work at the Casino in October of 1995, she thought "Guest Services" meant greeting people, making sure people are enjoying themselves and have all their needs met. But what she's found is that there is a lot more involved with Guest Services besides all those things.

"I took the Guest Services and Cash Handling classes offered through the Education Department," said Candy. "They gave me the skills I needed to have in order to serve our guests here at the Casino."



Candy says she really enjoys working with the Marketing and Guest Services employees, they are all a friendly, funny group to be around. She is also enhancing her skills by learning more about computer technology and how it can be used to better serve guests.

Also, because she has been with the Casino since it's opening, and has seen many tribal members try to gain employment with the Casino, she has some words of encouragement for prospective employees. "There are still a lot of positions for people who may have gotten discouraged early on, when the hiring process was still new," she said. "I encourage tribal members to continue to seek opportunities with the Casino. There are many avenues for employment training and advancement that exist now, which were not available earlier."

More donations to local Head Start programs

■ *\$6,000 donated to help Keizer and Independence/Monmouth area children*

As part of their on-going contributions to area Head Start programs, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and Spirit Mountain Casino recently donated the financial offerings left at the statue of Martha Jane Sands to the Keizer Head Start program and the Independence/Monmouth Head Start program to assist in the education and development of economically disadvantaged children. In addition, the Casino will match the statue offerings, for a total donation of \$3,000 to each program.

Offerings to Martha Jane, which have varied from bouquets of flowers to cash donations, usually in the forms of coins, began appearing at the base of the bronze statue shortly after the Casino opened. "In many cultures, including our Tribe's, people make offerings to the departed to honor their spirits or for personal good fortune," explains Bruce Thomas, President of Spirit Mountain Gaming, the parent company of the Casino.

Although the offerings are spontaneous and have not been encouraged by the Casino, the cash donations have continued to accumulate. "We agreed, given the symbolism of the statue, that the offerings should be donated to a charity that benefits disadvantaged children in our area," Thomas says. This year "Martha Jane" donations have gone to Head Start programs in Grand Ronde, Willamina, McMinnville, Dallas, Lincoln City, Dayton, Salem, Keizer, and Independence/Monmouth. Newberg's Head Start program will receive the next donation. Future donations will rotate monthly between Head Start programs in these ten communities.

Legends and Buffet open on Christmas

Spirit Mountain Casino's highly-popular restaurants will be open on **Christmas Day** for your enjoyment. At the *Coyote's* Buffet, breakfast is served from 7-11 a.m. and the price is \$4.50 for the all-you-can-eat meal. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and costs \$7.50. Lunch on Christmas Day will feature turkey, roast top round, pork loin, fried chicken, salmon, prawn saute, roasted red potatoes, mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, vegetables, and an assortment of fruits and dessert items and well as the salad bar. Dinner, beginning at 5 p.m., will feature prime rib and turkey with all the trimmings. The cost is \$8.75.

New Year's Eve at *Coyote's* will serve breakfast from midnight until 3 a.m. for those celebrating the new year until the wee hours. Please take advantage of the great food and low prices! Kids 12 and under can receive lunch for \$5.95 and dinner for \$6.95.

Legends restaurant is also open on **Christmas Day** and will serve a traditional Christmas feast. Seating is available for large groups in the banquet room (12-25 people or more), and will feature a special holiday menu of prime rib, turkey, ham, halibut, and more! *Legends* will be open from noon until 10 p.m.

Outfitters has last minute gift ideas

Looking for a Christmas gift for someone special? Stop by *Spirit Mountain Outfitters* near the main entrance of the Casino for lots of gift choices. New jewelry items featuring silver bracelets, necklaces, earrings, charms, and lapel pins with the Casino's logo are all available. Come in and take a look! There are also plenty of attractive clothing items and stemware, as well as ornaments and little stocking stuffers.