

# Casino expansion opens to public

Tribal member event slated for Monday, May 12, with tours, opening of Cedar Plank Buffet

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The southern expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino will open exclusively to Tribal members on Monday, May 12, with an open house set from 5 to 7 p.m.

Four days later, the expansion's new Events and Entertainment Center will open to the public with performances by comedian Dana Carvey on Friday, May 16, and rock band Blues Traveler on Saturday, May 17.

On Monday, May 12, tours will be conducted of the Events and Entertainment Center for Tribal members and light appetizers will be served.

In addition, the traditional Tribal Elders Monday night dinner will be served at the new Cedar Plank Buffet in the southern expansion starting on May 12. The new buffet also will be open to the general public starting at 4 p.m. May 12. It will feature seven menu stations: international, pizza, carving, seafood, American, Asian and bakery items.

The current Coyote Buffet inside Spirit Mountain Casino's main building will close at the end of the day on Sunday, May 11. Therefore, breakfast and lunch buffet will not be available on Monday, May 12.

The southern expansion is Spirit Mountain Casino's fourth major expansion since opening in Octo-

ber 1995. The two-story expansion will add 135,396 square feet to the casino, including the 1,800-seat Events and Entertainment Center, new buffet and conference rooms.

The casino's Human Resources Department and Gaming Commission offices moved into the second floor of the southern expansion in February.

The southern expansion also will increase casino parking by 700 spaces to 3,600.

The new Events and Entertainment Center also will double as the new bingo hall, with afternoon and early evening games Sunday through Wednesday.

In February, Interim Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Roy Rhode said the southern expansion supports the vision of turning the casino into a "premiere entertainment destination."



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Russ Ellis, left, and Keith Lay measure a piece of wood that will be used on the stage of new Events and Entertainment Center that is part of the southern expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino. The two work for S.D. Deacon General Contractor.

"The latest expansion project takes us to an ever higher level of guest service with state-of-the-art facilities that create a relaxing and comfortable environment," Rhode said.

"As the premiere entertainment and dining destination in the region, we will continue to improve and upgrade this property. It's a

very exciting time to be part of Spirit Mountain Casino and we welcome everyone to come see our new buffet and conference space."

Other concerts scheduled for this summer include country singers Clint Black on July 25 and Wynonna Judd on Aug. 15, and comedian Dennis Miller on Sept. 12-13. ■

## Still time to comment on Cascade Locks proposal

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Although the five public hearings on the Cascade Locks Resort and Casino Draft Environmental Impact Statement are over, Grand Ronde Tribal members can still submit comments.

The Warm Springs Tribe is requesting that the U.S. Department of Interior take 25 acres into trust within the city of Cascade Locks so that the Tribe can build a proposed \$389 million, 603,000-square-foot riverfront destination and casino.

The Grand Ronde Tribe opposes the request because it abrogates a long-standing principle of one casino per Tribe on reservation land in Oregon.

The Warm Springs Tribe, with the largest reservation in Oregon, already operates a casino in central Oregon and is seeking to build a new casino off reservation in the Columbia River Gorge.

Deadline to comment on the draft environmental impact statement is May 15.

### Ways to comment include:

- ◆ Submit comments using the project Web site at [www.gorge-casinoeis.com/co/comment\\_form.html](http://www.gorge-casinoeis.com/co/comment_form.html).
- ◆ Mail or hand deliver written comments to Stanley Speaks, Northwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 911 N.E. 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97232, or send a fax to 503-231-2275.
- ◆ Mail in response postcards available at the front desk in the Gov-

ernance Center in Grand Ronde and at the Portland and Eugene satellite offices.

After May 15, the Bureau of Indian Affairs will review public comments and begin working on the final environmental impact statement, which may be released later this year and have a 30-day comment period.

After that, the final statement will be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs for a record of decision.

Tribal members who would like to contact members of the Oregon congressional delegation regarding the Warm Springs Tribe's efforts to build a casino in the Columbia River Gorge can contact them by using the following information:

### Sen. Ron Wyden

223 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5244  
Fax: 202-228-2717  
Web: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

Portland: 503-326-7525  
Salem: 503-589-4555

### Sen. Gordon Smith

404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3753  
Fax: 202-228-3997  
Web: [www.senate.gov/~gsmith/webform.html](http://www.senate.gov/~gsmith/webform.html)

### Portland Office:

One World Trade Center  
121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250

Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: 503-326-3386  
Fax: 503-326-2900

### Eugene Office:

Wayne Morse  
Federal Courthouse  
405 E. 8th Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Phone: 541-465-6750  
Fax: 541-465-6808

### Rep. David Wu, 1st District

2338 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: 202-225-9497  
Phone: 202-225-0855  
Web: [www.house.gov/wu/email.shtml](http://www.house.gov/wu/email.shtml)

**Portland office:**  
620 S.W. Main, Suite 606  
Portland, OR 97205  
Phone: 503-326-2901  
Toll Free: 800-422-4003  
Fax: 503-326-5066

### Darlene Hooley, 5th District

2430 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-5711  
Fax: 202-225-5699  
Web: <http://hooley.house.gov/>  
**Salem office:**  
315 Mission St. S.E. No. 101  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
Phone: 503-588-9100  
Fax: 503-588-5517  
**West Linn office:**  
21570 Willamette Drive

West Linn, OR 97068  
Phone: 503-557-1324  
Fax: 503-557-1981

### Rep. Earl Blumenauber, 3rd District

2267 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202-225-4811  
Fax: 202-225-8941  
Web: <http://blumenauber.house.gov/about/Contact.shtml>  
**Portland office:**  
729 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 115  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: 503-231-2300  
Fax: 503-230-5413

### Rep. Peter DeFazio, 4th District

2134 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20515  
Phone: 202-225-6416  
Fax: 202-225-0032  
Web: [www.house.gov/formdefazio/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/formdefazio/contact.html)  
**Eugene office:**  
405 E. 8th Ave. No. 2030  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Phone: 541-465-6732  
**Coos Bay:**  
125 Central, Suite 350  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Phone: 541-269-2609  
**Roseburg:**  
612 S.E. Jackson St., Room 9  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
Phone: 541-440-3523  
Or call toll-free at 1-800-944-9603 ■