



Contributed photo

The new Cantonese-style Chinese restaurant, The Happy Dragon, opened at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, June 21. It is the fourth new dining and drinking outlet to recently open at the casino.

Casino opens Happy Dragon Chinese eatery

Spirit Mountain Casino opened the doors to the family owned and operated Happy Dragon Restaurant on Tuesday, June 21.

The new eatery joins several new dining options at the casino, including Italian restaurant Amore, the 10 Barrel Brewing Hop Yard and the Mexican-style restaurant Jalapenos.

Owner and head chef LiNan Feng graduated from Taishan Culinary School in China and completed an internship as a master chef at Nan Hai Yu Cun Restaurant and Hotel in Guangzhou in Canton, China. He also has worked at Saigon Chinese Restaurant and Foshan Restaurant in Canton, as well.

Feng specializes in traditional Cantonese-style dishes such as Peking duck, roasted pigeon, roasted pork belly and clay pot rice. He opened the first Happy Dragon location in 2013 and the Portland location is managed by his daughter, Emily. The second location at Spirit Mountain Casino will be managed by his sons, Chris and Ben.

"We are happy to be at Spirit Mountain Casino," Emily said. "It is exciting for our family."

Happy Dragon's general dining area seats 110 with a private dining area that can accommodate up to 60 people. Hours of operation at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

To-go orders and private dining arrangements can be made by calling 503-879-6189. To view the restaurant's full menu, go to www.spiritmountain.com/dining/happy-dragon.

"We are pleased to have the Feng family here at Spirit Mountain Casino," said Chief Executive Officer Bruce Thomas. "Happy Dragon is a welcomed addition and will further our efforts to provide a wide variety of traditional and authentic dining choices for our guests." ■



File Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez/Smoke Signals

Veterans line up while participating in Grand Entry on the second day of the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at úyxał Powwow Grounds in 2019.

Powwow grounds upgraded

**POWWOW continued
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cussions. In the past, the summit included several guest speakers from various veterans' organizations and government agencies, but due to consistently low attendance, organizers decided to shift to a more casual format.

"They still wanted to participate in some way so we are doing that," Bobb said.

Additionally, meals will not be served, but attendees will have a variety of onsite food vendor selections.

Bobb added that excitement is building for the first large post-COVID event.

"It's exciting that we finally have some sort of normalcy," he said. "We're not sure how it will all go, but we're trying to get things into place to make sure we are covered if lots of people show up."

Bobb said that it is important to honor and recognize veterans.

"Especially in today's world, it's even more important," he said. "The nation is hanging on the edge of something happening and it's always the young people who bear the brunt of those decisions. We need to be there for those who served their country."

This year's host drum will be Indian Hill with master of ceremonies Nick Sixkiller and Grand Ronde Tribal member Anthony Quenelle serving as arena director. His wife, Ramona Quenelle (Pit River), who serves as the Tribe's first Veterans Service Officer, will have a booth at the powwow dedicated to veterans.

The Navy veteran usually dances at the powwow, but she will be dedicating her time at this year's event to helping veterans with whatever assistance they may need. This includes filling out benefits claims, making appointments, clothing allowance applications or interviews to determine what an individual veteran should receive in compensation for service.

"During the past two years, face-to-face interactions with veterans was extremely limited," Quenelle said. "In 2021, I did a lot of outreach to Tribal veterans via mail, phone and e-mail, but I am very excited about this in-person event because

this will give me the opportunity to see and visit with many veterans who I've only gotten to meet with distantly prior to now."

She added that every veteran who visits her booth will be entered into a drawing for various prizes including T-shirts, lap saddle blankets and gift cards.

"I am hoping it will be a lot of fun for veterans, but one of my main goals this year is to identify veterans in our local area, identify which (ones) are already service connected and assist those veterans who are not service connected with filing claims for compensation," Quenelle said. "One thing I would like veterans to know is that I can assist them with filing their claim and I will walk with them through the entire process."

Quenelle adds that Veterans Affairs systems can be overwhelming, confusing and frustrating to navigate.

"My job is to cut through all that and focus on assisting the veteran with their claim because if service connection is granted, it benefits the veteran and his/her family directly," Quenelle said. "That is the most important thing: Veterans who have served our country get connected to the benefits they have earned. But to get there, they must apply for those benefits, which is what I will assist them with doing."

Powwow attendees may also notice some improvements to the physical location itself.

"The powwow grounds have gone through an array of upgrades over the past two years," Tribal Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb said. "Some are very visible while others are not."

Upgrades include:

- An expansion of the powwow arbor, which added an additional 14 feet of covered area to the perimeter and a new concrete sidewalk installation. The roof also was upgraded with new water-proofing and a cedar roof.
- Additional bleachers around the perimeter for Elder seating.
- Upgrades to the Wi-Fi service to provide better connectivity.
- Reseeding and leveling the powwow grounds, which make them easier to navigate. ■

Merkley accepting Page applications

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley is accepting applications for the U.S. Senate Page Program for spring 2023 through Sept. 5.

Oregon students entering their junior year of high school during the upcoming school year are eligible to apply. Only 30 Page positions are available and Pages play a critical role in the daily work of the Senate by delivering correspondence, legislative materials, amendments and bills around the congressional complex and during proceedings.

Unlike interns, Pages work for the Senate as a whole and spend much of their day on the Senate floor. Pages receive a stipend, live in a dorm near the Capitol and attend classes in addition to their Page duties.

To be eligible, you must be a high school junior between 16 and 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

To apply online at <https://oampublic.senate.gov/constituent/login/96fb2592-442a-42f4-9308-29f266599a62/>, applicants must upload an official high school transcript, current resume, cover letter, letter of recommendation from a teacher and a supervisor familiar with your work on a job or in volunteer service, and a 250- to 500-word essay responding to the question, "Describe one major problem that the United States is currently facing and how you would try to fix that problem if you were a U.S. senator from Oregon."

Call Merkley's office at 202-224-3753 for more information or assistance. ■