



Photo contributed by Wildhorse Resort & Casino

The new bowling center at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, will feature 16 lanes on one side for open and league play, and eight reservable boutique lanes on the other side for private parties and events.

Wildhorse prepares to open expansion

HERMISTON HERALD

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is preparing to open an expansion with a bowling center, food court and arcade. It’s expected to be open by the end of September.

According to a news release, the celebration of the yearlong construction project’s completion will be “lower-key” than it would be in normal years, due to the pandemic.

At the heart of the Wildhorse expansion is Quaking Aspens Lanes, a 24-lane bowling center. “In the future, competitive bowlers may see leagues and tournaments in the lineup,” the news release stated.

Owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the bowling center’s name is inspired by Tribal history. “Nixyáawii” was what the Cayuse named the area where the Tribe’s winter encampment was located.

Translated, the word refers to the groves of quaking aspen trees that grew around the springs. Tthe encampment was the base for celebrations, games, root digging and horse racing.

The bowling center will have 16 lanes on one side of a concourse and eight “boutique” lanes on the other. The boutique lanes will be for private parties and events, as will the two party rooms adjacent to those lanes.

Bowlers will be able to order meals and snacks, and the food court at Wildhorse will include a second location for Moe Phở, a downtown Pendleton restaurant owned by Whitney Minthorn and Moe Soeum with cuisine from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Also opening a second location is Brigham Fish Market. In 2014, Kim Brigham-Campbell opened a full-service restaurant in Cascade Locks selling both fresh fish and prepared meals such as fish and chips.

Minthorn and Brigham-Campbell are both CTUIR members.

One Wildhorse-run restaurant will serve meals such as pizza and burgers, while the fourth vendor in the food court will be an ice cream and pastry shop.

The expansion also includes a brand new 2,500 square foot arcade with more than 30 high-tech games, according to the news release.

“The Tribe is very pleased to see our planning for the FunPlex move forward. We are very pleased to offer bowling as a sporting activity for the entire community,” CTUIR Board of Trustees Chairman Kat Brigham said in a statement. “So many families love this sport and we all look forward to seeing everyone enjoy this entertainment venue.”

Updates and information on the grand opening can be found at <https://www.wildhorseresort.com/family-funplex/>, or call 800-654-9453.

BottleDrop customers can donate to firefighting efforts

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

BottleDrop customers can donate their can and bottle deposits to firefighting efforts in Oregon.

The Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative announced customers can drop off their containers and ask that the deposits on the containers be donated, or if they have money on their BottleDrop card from past deposits they can log in to their account and donate money from there.

Last week, OBRC, the beverage recycling cooperative that owns the Hermiston BottleDrop, stated it had already donated \$40,000 to eight different organizations that support firefighting efforts and communities around the state. They include: Umatilla Volunteer Firefighters Association, Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund, Ashland Firefighters Charitable Fund, Hoodland Volunteer Firefighters Association, Rocky Point Fire and EMS, Salem Fire Foundation and Sheridan Volunteer Firefighters Association.

“Right now, we all need to pull together and do whatever we can to help the



HH file photo

Cubes of crushed cans stand on a pallet in the back of the BottleDrop facility in Hermiston in 2018.

brave men and women out there working around the clock to keep us all safe,” Jules Bailey, chief stewardship officer and director of external relations for OBRC, said in a statement. “As an organization with a presence in communities across Oregon, OBRC is committed to doing our part.”

In addition to OBRC’s donation, the cooperative has made it easy for Oregonians to support the above organizations by donating their can and bottle deposits to them. Customers can do so by bringing in loose containers to any BottleDrop Redemption Center or by donating directly from their BottleDrop accounts.

OBRC already had an emergency fund set up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and donated \$25,000 to the Oregon Food Bank in May directly, accompanied by \$75,000 in container deposits donated by OBRC customers.

According to the news release, some OBRC employees in Southern Oregon have been evacuated and the cooperative’s facility in White City has closed temporarily.

OBRC recycles more than 1.8 billion bottles and cans each year, according to the news release, through BottleDrop centers and pickups from more than 2,500 retail locations throughout the state.

Hermiston sends aid to wildfire efforts

By ANTONIO SIERRA
STAFF WRITER

The smoke that has inundated Eastern Oregon is a daily reminder of the massive wildfires that are threatening lives and property west of the Cascade Mountains, and Umatilla County fire departments are lending firefighters and vehicles to try to contain the blazes.

Umatilla County Fire District Chief Scott Stanton said he’s sending resources from Hermiston to the other side of the state because fire departments support each other across the state.

“If we really needed help, they would come out here,” he said.

Stanton sent seven firefighters and three vehicles, which will be split between

Clackamas County in the Portland metro area and Josephine County in Southern Oregon.

In his 34 years of firefighting experience, Stanton said he’s never seen a fire situation like he’s seen across the state right now.

Pendleton Fire Department also sent three personnel and two vehicles to help battle the blazes.

BRIEFS

Aspen Springs taking clients

Aspen Springs Psychiatric Hospital in Hermiston is officially taking patients.

The 16-bed facility offers in-patient, acute psychiatric care for people in crisis and is run by community mental health provider Lifeways.

Lifeways held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the building with county officials and health care leaders at the end of June, but had not been able to start taking patients until it was fully staffed.

For more information about Aspen Springs, visit www.lifeways.org/aspen-springs-psychiatric-hospital.

New bakery announces opening

Rae’s Dayz diner in Umatilla is opening a bakery in the building next door, and the community is invited to a ribbon-cutting celebration on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9-10 a.m.

Each customer in attendance will receive a free doughnut and free raffle ticket.

The bakery is located at

1290 Sixth St. in Umatilla, in the original location of Rae’s Dayz Diner. The diner has since moved to 1226 Sixth St.

The Spot pays it forward with doughnuts

The Spot, a new doughnut delivery service in Hermiston, got a chance to deliver some sweetness to employees of Good Shepherd Health Care System on Sept. 11.

The business was chosen as part of Columbia Bank’s Pass It On Project, which donates money to local businesses

so that they can “pay it forward” to someone else in town. Ray Diaz, a co-owner of The Spot with his wife McKenzie Diaz, said in a post on The Spot’s Facebook page that they decided delivering free doughnuts to the hospital was a good way to thank health care workers for their sacrifices during the pandemic.

“Thank you guys for helping our community maintain good physical and mental health during this nationwide crisis,” he wrote to Good Shepherd. “Your long hours and choice to give your very best serving this community is appreciated!”



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(next to transfer station)
- Umatilla County** - 81144 N. Hwy 395
- Irrigon** - 198 W. Columbia Lane
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