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PLATEAU



Wildhorse Resort & Casino's Wildfire Cabaret adds Las Vegas nightclub glitter to Eastern Oregon

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For immediate release

Out in rural Eastern Oregon's wheat fields there's the incongruous glitter of Las Vegas, thanks to Wildhorse Resort & Casino. And with the opening of its new cabaret, *Wildfire*, Wildhorse is bringing yet more of the feel of gambling's national capital to what was once the domain of field mice and drifting hawks.

Visitors can still sight the thrilling predator birds that catch the high currents over the fields around Wildhorse, a casino and golf resort located on the Umatilla Indian reservation just east of Pendleton. But with the addition of its new entertainment venues, which adjoin two new restaurants—all four of the facilities will open together in late April—Wildhorse is definitely adding a sparkle to the interior landscape.

First there's *Players*, a new lounge complete with a fiber optic-lit hanging ceiling and a view into the nearby environs of Wildfire. Then there's *Wildfire* itself, conjuring up images of the Sin City night clubs that are powered all night with adrenaline and dance fever. In the case of *Wildfire*, that dancing will take place on a sunken gold and bronze dance floor, definitely not typical of the old West taverns visitors to this part of Oregon might anticipate.

Drenched in black, gold, bronze and various shades of red, the décor of *Wildfire* is a perfect match to the hot tempo sounds the cabaret will feature every Thursday through Saturday night.

The vibrant entertainment schedule, kicking off the first weekend of May, will absolutely complete the image of a lift out of the big city. Kicking off the weekend of May 3 will be *Briefcase Full of Blues*, a Blues Brothers tribute act. The following weekend will bring

Motown to Pendleton, thanks to the Seattle group *Society's Child*. Up next will be *Freddy Pink*, Seattle; *Steel Breeze*, Reno, and *Raeannes Groove*, Longview, with sounds ranging from rock to *Chicago*-like brass.

Next to *Wildfire* cabaret, the new lounge, *Players*, with a stylish finish in which muted green and deep purple complement the woven bronze drop ceiling, backed by natural wood and gold finishing touches, will present the lounge lizards with their choice of game, thanks to a dozen 42-inch LCD displays positioned throughout the bar and seating areas here and in *Traditions*, the buffet restaurant next door.

Back in *Wildfire*, there's plenty of video too. It could be video of the dancers, the band, a comedian or—since the cabaret will also be available for private parties—whatever a party planner's heart desires. Exciting shots of the dancers or entertainers come thanks to two Sony robotic pan-tilt-zoom video cameras mounted above the dance floor.

Where else to look? Well, there will be two 60-inch plasma video displays near the dance floor, as well as a large Da-Lite drop-down screen. Hanging over the stage, a 6,000 lumen (that's bright!) Christie digital projection beams the images at the 12-foot screen. Wildhorse will also use this video equipment to offer Pay Per View sports events and concerts.

Installation of the new technology in the Wildhorse venues comes courtesy of Triamp Group, a Puget Sound area audio installation design and production company that has installed setups at dozens of Northwest clubs, as well as at Las Vegas casinos.

But wait. There's more to the look than décor and video. What about lighting? It's definitely the highest tech system to ever shine on an eastern Oregon interior. First, there's the leading edge Wholehog II PC from High End Systems which will control four Pearl River 575 and six 250 intelligent lights. Pearl River is one of the world's best-known manufacturers of this style of lighting. The lights, mounted in swivels known as yokes that somewhat resemble a gyroscope, are controlled by the Wholehog computer. Lighting programs for individual musical groups can be programmed, saved to disk and recalled exactly every time they play, leaving the lights to pan and tilt and change colors exactly as the computer says and the music demands.

A Leviton controller will govern the mood of the cabaret by taking over the conventional lighting, which includes eight ETC Source Four lekos. The lekos, those long spotlights that attach to brackets above and beyond the stage, will provide more light and color. Rated for up to 750 watts, the energy-conserving Source Four at 575 watts is said to literally outshine 1000-watt ellipsoidals, as these lights are known.

What have we forgotten in all this technology? Oh, yes, the sound!

Well, first, to manipulate the sound, Triamp is installing two state of the art Mackie TT24 digital live consoles, one located beyond the stage and another onstage. The Mackie

soundboards come courtesy of LOUD Technologies of Woodinville, Washington, one of the world's largest manufacturers of professional audio products.

Then there are the speakers. Two EAW 3-way speakers will fly above the stage as a main source of sound. Then encased in a concrete housing under the stage, two EAW dual 18-inch subwoofers provide the deep bass. By putting them in concrete under the stage, audio experts from Triamp Group ensure that most of the low frequency sound reverberates with vigor in the cabaret, but not so vigorously in the nearby restaurants.

Around the stage area are eight EAW 2-way stage monitor speakers with six QSC PowerLight amplifiers powering the monitors.

Of course, for the sound to come out it must go in. Triamp is also installing eight Shure KSM 109 mics overhead, plus four Beta 98 drum mics, a Beta 52 mic for the bass drum and for the vocals, six Shure SM58 handheld vocal mics and four wireless Beta 58 mics.

Will the crowds at Wildfire appreciate all of this technology? "Well great music is art and great art deserves the best materials you can get to convey your artistic vision," points out Kevin Hill, audio systems designer with Triamp Group and designer of the Wildhorse system. "The canvas and the palette are all set. Now I can feel confident the crowds at Wildfire Cabaret will love the music."

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is the Pacific Northwest's highest paying casino, with a record \$9.3 million slot jackpot. The Resort includes a 24-hour casino, hotel, RV Park, 18-hole golf course and Tribal museum. It is located just minutes off I-84 at Exit 216, four miles east of Pendleton. For more information: 1-800-654-9453 or www.wildhorseresort.com . Wildhorse is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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