



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 7, 2008

Balloons Gather to Say Thanks at Wildhorse Resort & Casino

Wildhorse Resort & Casino will welcome over 26 hot-air balloon crews on October 10-12 who are arriving to promote a very special regional balloon club "Thank You" event in honor of Wildhorse Resort & Casino. The colorful balloons will launch at 7 a.m. on Friday - Sunday, from fields next to the casino.

Balloonist from all across the region are coming to Pendleton to participate in the colorful spectacle and to pay tribute to Wildhorse.

"This is an emotional day for us", comments Scott Spencer, the one-time director of the annual event known as The Wildhorse Balloon Bash.

"For the past eleven years Wildhorse has sponsored an annual ballooning event for us at great expense," He noted.

"This year the pilots decided to put together this event on our own as our way of saying

'thank you' to Wildhorse for their many years of support."



Over the past eleven years Wildhorse has enthusiastically supported ballooning activities in the Northwest U.S., fully sponsoring several ballooning events each year at the Resort and in near by Boise, Idaho at the award winning Boise River Festival each June.

Nearly all of the pilots who are attending this weekend's event have participated in the once annual airborne festival for several years and some have taken off at Wildhorse for the entire decade.

“Wherever we go, people and the press ask where's our favorite place to fly,” said Scott Spencer, “and we always tell them, Pendleton, Oregon.”

Why?

“It's stable, with a little wind but not too much, beautiful rolling terrain, wide open, the people are friendly—we're always welcome wherever we land. Every flight there is fun. We'll fly over the river and have deer running under us. The rest are work but our trip to Pendleton every year for the Wildhorse event is the fun one. I can hardly wait to get there.”

His wife Laurie echoed his sentiment.

“I love touching on the water, or flying over the river and there are blue heron flying with you. It's just beautiful.”

One thing that was special for Mrs. Spencer, she said, was that she was the first to fly from McKay Park in Pendleton on a trip that brought her right over the resort.

“It was like I was bringing Wind Warrior home,” she said. “Right back to Wildhorse.”

The Spencers and their staff will be back at Wildhorse in October and are looking forward to seeing the many friends they've made over 11 years of launching hot-air balloons here.

“We consider it an honor to have produced the Wildhorse Balloon Bash for the past ten years,” said Scott Spencer. “Our friends at Wildhorse and Pendleton have become part of our ballooning family. Wildhorse's generosity and support of ballooning in the Pacific Northwest is truly unmatched by any other corporation in the past ten years.”

This event will mark the last large gathering of balloons in the Northwest in 2008.

Wildhorse again invites the public anyone who enjoys the spectacle of ballooning to view the launches from up close and even join a launch crew.

Media Advisory: Limited passenger space is available for members of the press on Saturday morning. Contact Sean McGrath for more information: 541-966-1628, sean.mcgrath@wildhorsesort.com

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, five restaurants including the new buffet restaurant, Traditions, and new fine dining restaurant, Plateau, the Players lounge, weekly live entertainment in the Wildfire Cabaret, 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.

###

Note: If you would like not to receive emailed news releases on Wildhorse Resort & Casino events and activities please reply to this email and put UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject area.