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NORTHERN QUEST CASINO TO OFFER ALCOHOL ON GAMING FLOOR

Casino also supports the Hero Campaign for Designated Drivers

SPOKANE, Wa. (Aug 1) – Northern Quest Casino will begin serving alcoholic beverages on its casino floor beginning Aug. 4, casino officials announced today.

“As Northern Quest Casino expands its property and achieves a higher profile as a regional gaming and entertainment destination, we feel it’s important that our policies be more in line with those nationally,” said Phil Haugen, assistant general manager of Northern Quest Casino.

To prepare for the change, Northern Quest Casino is requiring every team member who serves alcohol to undergo a comprehensive training program so they can spot potential alcohol-related problems. The Mandatory Alcohol Server Training, or MAST, program includes all bartenders, food and beverage servers, supervisors, and management team.

All employees who work on the casino floor will also be trained how to identify and deal with potential problems related to alcohol. Nearly 500 Northern Quest employees, or roughly half the casino's work force, will undergo some form of training, Haugen added.

In addition to the training programs, Northern Quest Casino has become a supporter of the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers. The national non-profit organization encourages designating one driver in a group who will not drink.

"The Kalispel Tribe has always had the option of serving alcohol on the casino floor," Haugen said. "We've been serving adult beverages at our property since the day we opened nearly eight years ago, just not in the gaming area. But the opportunities presented by the current expansion of our casino make this the right time to institute this important policy change."

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Owned and operated by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Northern Quest Casino contributes to the economic self-sufficiency of the Tribe, its members, and surrounding communities. Northern Quest Casino employs over 1,000 people, has donated nearly \$2.7 million dollars to local charities and purchases approximately \$1.7 million in goods and services where 80% are local or locally-affiliated.