

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO & HOTEL CELEBRATES "TOPPING OFF"**

**CHEROKEE, NC** – Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel celebrated the close of the year with a "Topping Off" party for a new parking garage. The garage is the first building scheduled for completion in the casino's expansion plan. Topping off is a symbolic gesture and consists of placing an evergreen tree on the summit of a new construction project when the last beam is placed. The evergreen tree is an announcement that the construction has reached its pinnacle without injuries on the job and is supposed to ensure that the building will last as long as needed.

Occurring after the groundbreaking and long before the grand opening, the event is for the workers on the job as well as management and VIPs. Project executive Jack Owen said that the event "represented a milestone and served as recognition of the achievement of all those involved in the construction." Owen also drew attention to the pride that local workers have shown in the quality of their work. The construction firm of Yates-Rentenbach treated the workers to a barbeque dinner and gave numerous awards acknowledging the safety record of all involved.

In addition to the representatives of the construction firm, the event was attended by senior leadership figures of the casino including General Manager Darold Londo, Council Member Perry Shell, and Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise board members Norma Moss, John Houser and Richard Sneed.

Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel is an enterprise of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, located 50 miles west of Asheville at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Harrah's Cherokee Casino is open 24-hours-a-day to guests 21-years-of-age or older. For more information about Harrah's Cherokee, please call 1-800-HARRAHS or visit our website at [www.harrahs.com](http://www.harrahs.com).