

Senator listens, advises tribal members

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Sen. Ted Ferrioli said he'd come to Warm Springs on his way from Salem to his home in John Day just to listen Nov. 23.

The third-term Republican, who represents the expansive District 30, in meeting the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in the afternoon and dining with about 30 tribal members at Kah Nee Ta High Desert Resort and Casino that evening, did just that.

In an informal session with tribal members following dinner, he answered questions on local issues such as recognition of Warm Springs Police by neighboring law enforcement agencies, the rights of tribal members to gather cultural foods on lands ceded to the tribes, and tribal members feelings on the Madras-based Jefferson County 509-J School District.

He told members he would favor issuing a "report card" to District 509-J to let school officials know expectations are not being met. The report card could be used to improve communication between tribal members and the school district, which becomes increasing important in light of expected growth in Madras due to the construction of a Central Oregon Community College campus and the growth of Central Oregon in general.

The timber executive who ran unopposed for his seat and was recently named Minority Leader of the Oregon State Senate by virtue of Democrats' new 18-

12 advantage as of the Nov. 2 election, met with the Warm Springs Tribal Council for the first time that afternoon.

Ferrioli, whose district encompasses the whole of nine eastern Oregon counties and parts of three others, described the Confederated Tribes as an integral part of his district, one he takes heed of both when he's in the district and in Salem. In turn, he said he's encouraged by the tribes' drive to work within the system.

"Part of my encouragement to the tribe is to become more, not less, involved. When I first came to the legislature (in 1997), the focal point for the tribal involvement with state government was in the governor's office," he said in an interview prior to the catered dinner. "Since then, they've become well acquainted with legislators, the legislative process, the hearing process, bills, and they're becoming quite adept at lobbying."

Additionally, he said the Confederated Tribes have the opportunity to be "one of the largest economic engines in the state of Oregon."

"(The tribes') efforts for developing a gaming center in Cascade Locks would make a big difference, not only for the Tribes but for the region," he said. "Their land base, the largest and oldest continuously managed and occupied Indian lands in America are significant."

Coming into the 2005 Legislative Session, which begins Jan. 10, Ferrioli said the state bud-



Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day) greets (from left) Harry Hintsala, Lauraina Hintsala and Alberta Comedown at Kah Nee Ta High Desert Resort and Casino Nov. 23.

get is the No. 1 topic state lawmakers will have to deal with.

"I think budget is just a driver, overshadowing everything," he said. "I can take you over to Ontario. We can take a 10-minute circuit, and on one side of the (Snake) river, we've got six, seven, eight, nine-percent unemployment depending on the time of year, and then ride right across the river and you'll find two-and-a-half-percent lower unemployment."

"There's a lot of different attitudes between our communities, an aggressive attitude towards growth (in Idaho), certainly a different taxation structure. (Idaho) has a \$5.35 minimum wage; ours is \$7.15 and going up - one of the highest in the nation."

But the problem with the budget isn't the numbers - it's policy, he said.

He pointed to Vancouver, the seat of the fastest-growing

county in Washington, Clark County. He described many of the citizens of Vancouver as "refugees from Oregon, tax refugees, or land-use system refugees, or business-climate refugees."

He described the problem as a failure to reach a balance between the desire for growth and the pressure to sustain Oregon's resources.

"I think one has to (find such a balance) or one's going to have a bankrupt community," he said. "And once you get a critical mass tipped over into unsustainability, you're in a death spiral and it's real hard to reverse it."

He said the Democrats' recently stated resolve to prioritize and reform the state's budget based on programs' effectiveness sounds familiar - much like the aims of his own party. "Live within your means, prioritize, set reasonable goals, reduce wasteful spending," he said.

Chinooks boycott explorers' bicentennial celebration

(AP) - Their ancestors helped the struggling Lewis and Clark expedition stay alive, but today's Chinook Indian Nation says the tribe will not participate in the official bicentennial celebration for the explorers.

The tribe says it will boycott events sanctioned by the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, saying the council's decision to include

another tribe in the region threatens the integrity of the Chinook Nation's identity.

Tony Johnson, Chinook culture committee chairman, said it became clear that the national and local bicentennial organizations are "not interested in a historically accurate story."

The Chinook Indian Nation includes 2,300 members, including five tribes.

East Europeans observe Warm Springs

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

The last time a group from Eastern Europe visited Warm Springs through the American Jewish Committee, they were treated to a powwow.

This so enthralled the visitors in 2002, another group from Eastern Europe came to Warm Springs during a recent 10-day tour of the United States.

Representatives of three Eastern European nations, along with one American, toured several sites within the Warm Springs community during a four-hour visit last Saturday afternoon.

The visitors, Natalia Kopelynskaya from Russia, Tarik Potogija from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Andrius Romanvskis of Lithuania, along with Katrin Eloseily from Washington, D.C., met with officials from Warm Springs over dinner at Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino.

Kopelynskaya, Potogija, and Romanvskis are part of a larger group of visitors from Eastern Europe who were chosen by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, a political foundation based in Germany. The larger group

spent time in Washington, D.C. and New York City before splitting into four smaller groups that each visited a U.S. city where the American Jewish Committee has a branch office.

The other groups visited Phoenix, San Diego and San Francisco. The larger group then reconvened in Los Angeles Sunday, and each participant returned to their homeland Wednesday.

Kopelynskaya, a postgraduate student at the Russian Institute of Cultural Studies, is the program director of Project "Tolerance Institute." Potogija, a law student at the University of Sarajevo, is president of the board of the Liberal Student Association of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Romanvskis. He holds a Master's degree in political science from Vilnius University in Lithuania, is the director of the Kuminkacija, a public relations organization and a former deputy secretary-general of the Lithuanian Center Union Party.

Eloseily works in the Washington office of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Each participant in the tour of U.S. cities was nominated to and ultimately chosen by the

Naumann Foundation, which is active in several Eastern and Central European nations, including nations of the former Soviet Union.

The group met with Rudy Clements, Director of the Tribal Relations Branch and chairman of the board of directors of

Kah-Nee-Ta, native language teachers Valerie Switzler and Radine Johnson, Kah-Nee-Ta General Manager Garland Brunoe, and Tribal Relations officer Nat Shaw, in addition to touring The Museum At Warm Springs and having lunch at Kah-Nee-Ta.

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