

Letter: seen as unwise

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The charge that we would "trash" the very place that we are from and where we have for a millennium gathered the traditional roads that form the basis of our Indian way of life is deeply offensive. We are sure that the non-Indian residents of Cascade Locks and Hood River

County feel the same.

We do not challenge your right to object on legitimate grounds to our Cascade Locks casino project, although our policy on such inter-tribal disputes is different from yours. We did not object when the Grand Ronde Tribe made several proposals in recent years for a casino in Portland, once in exchange for a baseball stadium, once in exchange for a conven-

tion center hotel and most recently in connection with the Portland Meadows Race Track. Our view is that it is inappropriate for one tribe to criticize another tribe's efforts at achieving economic self-sufficiency and addressing the pressing social needs of its people. We believe that all tribes are inevitably hurt by such public criticisms that we find most disturbing. Moreover, we think it is un-

wise for the Grand Ronde Tribe to align itself with organizations that may not support tribal rights and sovereignty in an effort to block the Cascade Locks casino. While such organizations may oppose the Cascade Locks casino today, in the future they may oppose all tribal gaming in Oregon.

We also note with some sadness that your action in associating the Grand Ronde Tribe with these inaccurate and offensive ads is likely to have a lasting effect on what has been a special relationship between our two tribes. Warm Springs

worked hard to help your tribe regain its federally recognized status in 1983, an effort the Grand Ronde Tribal Council acknowledged by presenting us with a plaque thanking us for our efforts on your behalf. Perhaps the best way to help restore our relationship is to disassociate the Grand Ronde Tribe from such ads in the future.

Finally, as you know, there is an established and thorough federal review process for taking the Cascade Locks Industrial Park property into trust, which will include an Environmental Impact Statement prepared un-

der the National Environmental Policy Act that will examine all of the environmental issues presented by the project. The Grand Ronde Tribe will have every opportunity to make its views and concerns known in the course of the Federal review process.

Accordingly, Grand Ronde should disassociate itself from, and cease support for, the "coalition's" misleading media campaign. Its ads are a disservice to all of Oregon's tribal community. Sincerely, Ron Suppah, Chairman, Warm Springs Tribal Council.

Work crew: experience and motivation

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Soliz had managed crews like the Community Work Crew as part of the Workforce Education Development Department (WEDD) program, and continued until she was promoted to her current position as manager of the Community Employment office.

There are 10 members of the crew at any one time, with new members joining as others graduate.

The crew has a foreman who stays on for two years and learns valuable managerial skills, like supervision, maintaining a budget, and staying on top of reports. People in the crew with a driver's license can earn an additional \$1 an hour because of the added responsibility of driving the crew van to each of its locations.

Anyone interested in joining the crew can visit Soliz in her office at the Administration Building between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., or call her at 553-3298.

Soliz said she sees her mission as being able to provide jobs, and help people to get their own jobs in today's market, rather than waiting for the next big tribally created construction project.

She said she also sees a need to make employment "simple" again.

"Over decades and decades, we've become more policy and process driven than we have become effective at quality service," she said. "No matter where we turn, we've got to get X number of signatures, fill out X number of papers, go through this humongous chain of command to accomplish what needs to be done.



Missy Wolfe, left, and Tia Wheeler gather grass clippings during the Community Work Force's project at the Warm Springs Rodeo Grounds last week.

"So we need to make it simple again," she said, "for the person on the street who doesn't have a car, who doesn't have a license, doesn't have a job or a home."

She said it takes a long time to set up the big projects that employ a lot of tribal members. And once these projects are set up, the people are employed for a limited time. "We need a buffer for our people, one that responds to our immediate need for jobs," she said. "We can't afford to keep waiting and waiting. We need jobs right now."

Soliz has presented her concept of a day labor program, an interim work force, to the Warm Springs Tribal Council in April. The day labor program would include 20 male workers and 20 female workers, overseen by one administrator. Soliz said she already has a list of 58 projects lined out. Each prospective worker would undergo an interview to determine his or her aptitude, skills and training. "This is going to be a job bank where we can match people and jobs," she said. "And it will be a situation where an employer can call me up and say, 'Marcia, send me 10 workers today.'"

Those workers would stay in the program for a maximum of 346 hours, or 43.25 eight-hour days.

A project like the day labor program, or an active group like the Community Work Crew is about motivation. "You can take anybody, and all they really need is motivation - motivation in life to get sober, to want to come to work, to get training," said Soliz.

Angela Martinez is part of the Community Work Crew. Last week, the group was cutting and raking tall grass by the Warm Springs Rodeo Grounds in preparation for Pi-Ume-Sha. While she raked the cut grass, Martinez joked with foreman Michelle Thompson in the warm morning sun. She said being part of a group that works everyday has been a motivating experience, because it provides her a pay check, and because it helps her focus on a more personal need: taking care of her young family.

"I have kids and I have to get them to the baby sitter early," she said, putting emphasis on the "early." Six or seven o'clock in the morning "is an early start for me, but it's a challenge, too. It's something I want to be able to do every day - take my kids to the babysitter, make it to work on time, and be there every day," said Martinez.

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August A. Busch III

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