

Another step in casino approval process

Legal victory in Coos case may be helpful to Warm Springs

By Dave McMechan
Spilyay Tymoo

There was good news recently in two areas regarding the Cascade Locks casino proposal.

First, the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the completion of the scoping portion of the environmental impact report that is required as part of the fee-to-trust process.

Second, the state and Coos Tribes won an important legal victory that could serve as a good precedent for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

In the lawsuit of Dewberry vs. Kulongoski, the judge ruled that the state has authority to negotiate gaming compacts with tribes, and that a lawsuit regarding an Indian tribe casino compact must also include the tribe as a defendant.

The tribe could not be sued, however, because of its sovereign immunity, and the lawsuit was dismissed.

The lawsuit was brought by a "no casino" group in Florence in regard to the Coos Tribe's Three Rivers Casino.

"The judge's decision in the case is likely to prevent any simi-

lar legal challenge to the governor's compact with Warm Springs for the Cascade Locks casino, once our compact is approved by the Secretary of the Interior," tribal attorney Howard Arnett said in a letter to Tribal Council.

Scoping is complete

In developing the Cascade Locks casino, the tribes first need to transfer 25 acres of land at the Cascade Locks Industrial Park from fee ownership into trust.

The fee-to-trust process requires the development of an environmental impact state (EIS) that looks at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

An initial part of the EIS process is to determine what issues need to be studied. This sets the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIS report.

The public has had many opportunities to comment on the project, both verbally at hearings and in writing. Close to 700 people attended the hearings, held at the Gorge and in Portland.

In all, the BIA received 1,808 comments on the casino plan.

Slightly over half of the comments were sent by mail or fax. Another 40 percent were received through the project

website, and the rest of the comments were made at the hearings.

Over one-third of the letters are form letters, including form e-mails and postcards, that are in opposition to the casino.

Comments from residents of Cascade Locks and nearby communities are generally in favor of the casino.

The project has the support of the governor, and the local government of Cascade Locks.

Through the comments, the EIS scoping process has identified a variety of issues that are to be addressed in the EIS. The issues include:

The precedent of authorizing off-reservation gaming. Effects on the integrity of the Gorge National Scenic Area and compliance with the National Scenic Area Act and management plan. Effects on I-84 and local streets. Air quality and visibility effects. Effects on the local infrastructure and public services, including utilities, schools, housing and emergency services, among other issues. The scoping report is available for viewing at the project website: www.gorgecasino.com. The comments that have been received will be considered during the preparation of the draft EIS.



Avoid replacing your windshield

Chip Repairs \$59.95

\$10 for each additional one

Madras Paint & Glass

1076 SW Hwy 97 in Madras, ph. 475-2166

Open 7:30-5:30 M-F; 9-4 Sat

People with asthma face albuterol inhaler shortage

Jim Gemelas

Chief Pharmacist
Health & Wellness Center

Asthma inhalers can be literal lifesavers for the estimated 350,000 people in Oregon with asthma. But albuterol inhalers have become less available as manufacturers make the transition from an old kind that hurts the ozone layer to a new, more expensive one that doesn't.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration last year ordered manufacturers to use HFA or hydrofluoroalkane as the propellant for inhalers by Dec. 31, 2008.

So companies are reducing production of inhalers that contain ozone-harming chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, as a propellant.

Since 1978 CFCs have been

banned in most consumer products except for essential medical uses. They haven't geared up production of the new inhalers fast enough to replace the dwindling supply of old ones.

The Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center Pharmacy has been informing customers about the shortage, which is a national problem. We have a very limited supply and we are also obtaining alternatives to use in emergency situations.

Albuterol is intended to quickly reverse airway narrowing caused by allergens or irritants in the air. It is called a "rescue medicine" for asthma. The best management of asthma depends on using other medications called "maintenance medications" to keep airways

open properly and to reduce the inflammation that causes narrowing. This helps reduce dependence on albuterol.

If you are going through more than one inhaler a month, your asthma is not in good control. Ideally, you should not need your albuterol more than once or twice a week.

Please see your provider to determine how to better use your maintenance medications to get control of your asthma. Using too much albuterol can actually make the bronchial passages more sensitive to irritants or allergens and worsen bouts of asthma. Talk to your pharmacist and your doctor to see what you can do to best manage asthma for you and the ones you love.

Bucks baseball team looking for players

The Warm Springs Bucks traveling baseball teams are looking for players for the upcoming season.

The Bucks have two teams, one 14-and-under, and the other, 12-and-under. It travels to tournaments in various locations throughout Central Oregon on weekends during the

season.

The competitive games are played under Junior Baseball Oregon rules, modified high school rules geared toward increasing each player's ability.

Any players interested in joining this year's traveling Bucks squads are encouraged to

call Roy Spino at (541) 553-2324 (w) or (541) 553-9330 after 6 p.m.

New Beginning Youth Conference

A youth conference is set for the Tuesday and Wednesday, March 28-29 at the Agency Longhouse. Guests include successful recording artist Jana, colleges from throughout the Pacific Northwest, community colleges, Armed Forces representatives, youth program workers, and others. The conference begins at 9 a.m. on both days, and lasts till 4:30 p.m. Lunch is provided. The theme of the conference is, "A new generation of voices."

Parents, grandparents, family members and elders are invited to help with the youth activities. For more information contact Verleen Kalama or Wayne Miller at 553-3324.

Class teaches dip net making

The Museum at Warm Springs Education Program is sponsoring a class for men or boys to learn traditional net making for dip nets. The dip net making class is on March 18 (pole gathering), and 20, 21, 22 and 23. Instruction will be by tribal member Russell Charley.

A field trip on March 18 will

get the dip net "pole." For this trip, meet at the museum's loading dock area at noon.

The class is March 20-23 at the museum Education Room from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Reserve your space now by calling 553-3331, or you may visit the museum Education Room.

Author George Aguilar will host a book-signing from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 17 at Willow Creek Books in Madras.

*Need a tow?
Call on Joe!*

• Fast, courteous 24-hour service • Accident recovery
• Roll back, for damage-free towing • Statewide coverage • Insurance Approved

FENDERS by ENDRES 475-6491 Office
480-9685 In-truck cellular phone

Lifelong resident of Madras, Joe Endres

Sonny's Dinner Lounge

**Friday & Saturday
LIVE MUSIC**

Karaoke

DJ Curtis Christman

Thursday Evenings

Free Roses Ladies

Breakfast Buffet \$5.00

In Lounge Only

Rex Phipps – Chef

**Weekends –
Prime Rib and Crab**

**Check Out
Our Specials!**

*All you can eat Prime Rib
Tuesdays*

*All you can eat Pork Ribs
Thursdays*

475-3262