

Comments from Grand Ronde undermine tribal sovereignty

By Ron Suppah
Warm Springs
Tribal Council Chairman

As expected, most of The Oregonian's readers responded to Cheryle Kennedy's overstated defense of her tribe's gambling monopoly with anger. Anger at the Grand Ronde tribe's transparent greed. Anger at the Grand Ronde's misrepresentation of the facts. And anger at the Grand Ronde's manipulative political tactics — spending outrageous sums of money to divide one group of Oregonians against another.

As Chairman of the Warm Springs Tribal Council, my reaction was more one of sadness and disappointment that the head of one tribe would go out of her way to undermine the sacred concept of tribal sovereignty — by attempting to substitute her opinion about what is best for my people for the reasoned judgment of our Tribal Council.

Let me be clear about this: the Warm Springs people don't need a public lecture from Cheryle Kennedy about what is the best strategy for our economic self-sufficiency — what's more, we don't appreciate having the serious human service needs of our tribal families used as leverage against us, as a ploy to protect the prosperity of Oregon's wealthiest gaming tribe.

Our people are impoverished and rely on their Tribal Council to develop an informed way to raise our standard of living now and create economic opportunities for the future. That is exactly what we have done with our current proposal — and furthermore, we have offered to share our success with all Oregonians in the form of jobs, economic benefit funds and college scholarships for all Oregon students.

We have asked the Grand Ronde to show us if they have any economic information which would help us reach those

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goals — and if not, to stop making offers that are embarrassingly hollow.

We realize our proposal for a resort and casino at Cascade Locks raises many significant issues that are worthy of public debate — from our perspective, this is a matter of survival. So we urge others to engage in this debate on the basis of facts and put an end to manipulative tactics aimed at dividing Oregonians and eroding public confidence in Tribal self-sufficiency.

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Birthday and other wishes...

Best birthday wishes on July 7 to Jesse Felix Wallulatam. We miss and love you, cousins Jeanette and Mickey Thompson.

Happy birthday to our nephew Jesse Wallulatam. Love, auntie Ginni and uncle Lance.

Happy 9th birthday Voshaun Bryant on July 8, you are the best son we have! Love, Mom and Dad.



Happy 8th birthday Brennon "Fat Boy" Smith on July 15. We love you. Auntie Bec, Gordo, Voshaun and Vijay.

Happy birthday Shaylene, Voshaun and Brennon. Love, Cheech.

Shaylene "Roberta" Craig, just wanted to wish you a happy 16th birthday on July 18. Just look at how fat you have gotten since you were a baby.



Happy Anniversary Ricky Walker. Thank you for everything we've been through and anything we'll encounter. You're my heart and I want to be "the reason." I love you, Su-Yenn. 7-13.

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Please join the staff and kids of the Boys & Girls Club of Warm Springs to celebrate the opening of their new club. There will be games, prizes and a tour of the new club from 3 to 5 p.m. this Thursday, July 20. The club is located in the Vern Jackson Home, 1107 Wasco St.

Thank You

for remembering our son, Tom Tucker.



A fun-loving, loyal kid, Tom loved hiking trips, mountain biking and motorcycling. He gave us music, he made us laugh, he made us cry. He brought joy to everyone he met.

Thank you for the cards, letters, food, reader boards, the memorial fence, and all the other ways you showed that you care.

A special thanks to Jack Jones, who coordinated law enforcement for both counties, and friends Andee Simmons, Kristy Miller and Erin Whitaker, as well as our employers Bright Wood and School District 509-J.

We'd also like to thank the VFW and VFW Auxiliary, the Deschutes County Fairgrounds and the many businesses and individuals who contributed in countless other ways following the death of our son.

We're going to miss him.

Wes and Meg Tucker

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