

# Casino: Council chairman comments on Grand Ronde article

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They showed this by means of a slide presentation and would not provide our representatives with a copy of their proposal. They would, however, permit us to copy it by hand from what was displayed on the screen.

Mr. Whelan copied their information for purposes of doing an analysis of their proposal, which assumed financing by the Grand Ronde and projections for six years of operations. We asked Mr. Whelan to do an objective report on their proposal to determine if it was something we should pursue. He prepared a report for us on the Grand Ronde proposal.

Mr. Whelan concluded that, for the period of their study, Warm Springs would have a net

outflow of \$2.14 million. For that same time period, Grand Ronde would enjoy a positive cash flow of \$22.93 million.

In other words, Warm Springs would go in the hole over \$2 million, while Grand Ronde would make almost \$23 million.

This proposal from Grand Ronde did not even take into account that our present casino at Kah-Nee-Ta would have to close if a new casino were built along Highway 26, and that the loss of five years of cash flow from the Kah-Nee-Ta casino would be in the range of \$15 million to \$20 million.

Beyond that, Mr. Whelan stated: "In addition, the new casino would compete for tourism and food service revenues from Kah-Nee-Ta and, thus,

penalize cash flows from the resort itself. When taken as a whole, a decision to open a new casino would have an estimated net negative impact on the Warm Springs tribes of at least \$17.2 million and possibly as much as \$25 million during the 2008 to 2013 period."

Finally, Mr. Whelan concluded that if the Grand Ronde forecast proved to be too optimistic, the negative cash flows would be even greater.

Faced with this analysis of the proposal made by Grand Ronde, we declined to participate.

The article is a misleading attempt to portray the Grand Ronde as a helpful, generous ally seeking to "help" a fellow tribe. Instead, it must be recognized for what it is—a blatant, self-

serving attempt to prevent us from exercising our sovereign rights, in a way that will most benefit our members, our reservation, and our partners at Cascade Locks.

It saddens me that the Grand Ronde tribe continues to act in this manner towards our people, who have always supported and befriended the Grand Ronde and who were instrumental in their regaining federal recognition after the tragedy of termination.

I can only hope that Grand Ronde will soon realize that we all will benefit when Grand Ronde finally ceases its attacks on the sovereign choice of our people to pursue the Cascade Locks projects.

— **By Ron Suppah,**  
Council chairman

# Museum: Clements for Lifetime Achievement

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Mr. Clements was a great diplomat of the tribes, said Smith. He worked well with the state, the federal government, adjacent jurisdictions, and with other tribes. He was a spiritual leader as well, she said.

Clements loved his people, and left a legacy that will be felt for generations to come. Mrs. Annabelle Clements and family will be present at the museum Honor Dinner to accept this award.

The following are the past Twanat Award recipients: Former Governor Victor Atiyeh, 2003 TWANAT honoree; U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, 2004 Twanat honoree; the Honorable Judge Owen Panner, 2005 Twanat honoree; former assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, Kenneth L. Smith, 2006 Twanat honoree.

Richard L. Kohnstamm is a past recipient of the Museum At Warm Springs Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Honor Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 24 at the Portland Hilton, in the Pavilion Ballroom, 921 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Portland.

The event is open to the general public. There are sponsorship opportunities for tables of ten; or individual tickets are available for purchase.

There will be a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and the program to follow at 7 p.m. Former Gov. Vic Atiyeh and Ken Smith are the Honorary co-chairs.

For more information, invitation, sponsorship opportunities, tickets, or to donate an item for the silent auction, call Dora Smith at 541.553.3331.

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