

# Casino prospects are good, contrary to recent article

By Ron Suppah  
Tribal Council Chairman

Despite what was reported in *The Oregonian* on May 4, 2007, the Warm Springs proposal for a casino in Cascade Locks is steadily moving forward.

The Secretary of the Interior has not made any determination about the project, and the prospect of success remains encouraging, contrary to what *Oregonian* reporter Harry Esteve's May 4, 2007 "Inside the Capitol" article might lead people to believe.

Esteve based his article on a February 13, 2007 letter (not February 18, as reported) to Warm Springs, now nearly three

months old, that was one of 27 such letters sent by the Interior Department to tribes throughout the United States with applications pending for gaming on off-reservation land.

The letter, signed by Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason, who at that time was also the Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, was essentially to notify those tribes with pending applications that, under new Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, the Department is going to be rigorous in its examination and approval of off-reservation gaming applications. But, as the letter itself acknowledges "the Department has not considered the relative merits of

your [Indian Gaming Regulatory Act] Section 20 application yet".

Kempthorne is not an avid supporter of off-reservation casinos, and when he came to the Interior Department, among the pending off-reservation gaming land applications were a number of proposals to place casinos several hundred miles from the applicant tribes' reservations, and even cross state lines.

Cason's February, 2007 letter to Warm Springs and more than two dozen other tribes was based on a December, 2006 letter to a New York tribe that proposes a casino more than four hundred miles from the tribe's reservation. In the face of such

aggravated circumstances, the Interior Department chose to notify all tribes with off-reservation gaming land applications that the Department is going to be strict in applying the standards of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to these applications.

But when considering applications for gaming on off-reservation land taken into trust after 1988, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act still requires the Secretary to base his decision on a determination "that a gaming establishment on newly acquired lands would be in the best interest of the Indian tribe and its members, and would not be detrimental to the surrounding

community."

Warm Springs tribal leaders firmly believe that this "two part determination" by the Secretary of Interior will be made in the Tribe's favor.

Warm Springs continues to enjoy the partnership and strong support of Cascade Locks, Hood River County, other nearby jurisdictions, and, most importantly, Governor Kulongoski.

The proposed site is in an industrial park only thirty seven miles from the Reservation, and is firmly within the Tribe's Treaty ceded territory, in an area still actively used by many Warm Springs tribal members.

The draft environmental im-

pact statement is nearing completion, with public hearings expected to be held this summer, and after comments from those hearings are incorporated into a final EIS, the final application package should be sent to the BIA Central Office later this year for the Secretary's determination.

The Warm Springs proposal's prospects are encouraging, even though Grand Ronde lobbyist Justin Martin would prefer Warm Springs not to believe that, and is doing all he can to block progress, including talking with gullible reporters. Don't believe them, and don't fall into their trap of impatience.



Tom Hurt, lead pastor from the Oregon City Evangelical Church, presented Tribal Council with a gift last month as part of an ongoing effort to reach out to the Warm Springs Community. Accompanying him was Tom Wattenbarger (far left). According to Hurt, "It's our desire to serve and just be of help to you in any way that we can." Accepting the gift on behalf the tribes are Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath (second from left), Council Buck Smith, secretary-treasurer Jody Calica, and BIA Superintendent Paul Young (from left).

## Family night for Kah-Nee-Ta employees

Faith Trails will be hosting a community and family night for Kah-Nee-Ta employees and their families on May 23.

The event will take place at the stables at Kah-Nee-Ta from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.

There will be free pony rides and trail rides will be half price (\$15) for tribal members and Kah-Nee-Ta employees.

Rides will be free for veterans, as the event will be in honor of Memorial Day weekend.

Faith Trails will also host a barbeque from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

In order to guarantee a space on the trail rides, those wishing to attend should call ahead to the stables.

Faith Trails is a non-profit Christian organization that aims to help people develop and build a relationship with God through ranch life and outdoor experiences.

## Salmon seasons set for John Day, Hood rivers

Tribal Council approved recent resolutions setting salmon seasons in the John Day River and the Hood River.

Larry Holliday, fisheries harvest manager, said the fisheries opened May 1 and will remain open until July 31.

The fishery includes areas from the mouth of the Hood River to the deadline below Powerdale Dam.

No fishing will be allowed for a distance of 200 feet downstream from the

Powerdale Dam fish ladder entrance, and well as 25 feet from the Punchbowl Falls fish ladder entrance.

The fishery will occur for only hatchery spring Chinook. All wild, non fin-clipped spring Chinook salmon and steelhead must be released back to the river unharmed.

The fishery will be open seven days per week for traditional methods including scaffolds, hoopnets, dipnets and set nets.

Only one pole is allowed per person for hook and line fish-

ing. The John Day fishery includes the Tumwater Falls area on the John Day River.

Harvest for the John Day fishery will be limited to 10 percent of the predicted return for spring Chinook salmon.

No treble hooks will be permitted, and intentional snagging of fish is prohibited.

Any snagged incidentally and in viable condition must be returned to the river unharmed.

The fishery will be open seven days per week for tradi-

tional methods including scaffolds, hoopnets, dipnets and set nets.

Only one pole is allowed per person for hook and line fishing.

In addition, the 2007 spring fishery at Sherars Falls is open for the Warm Springs Tribal members.

For more information contact the Warm Springs Natural Resources Department or call the Fishing Information Hotline at 553-2000.

Next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, May 18. Thank you.

## Congratulations, graduate

Lisa Marie Johnson, from community College in Olympia, Wash., earning an Associate of Arts degree.

## UISHE Naimuma Powwow at Portland State University

Peter Stott Center  
930 SW Hall in Portland

Friday, May 11 from 7 a.m. to noon  
Saturday, May 12 from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m.

MC, Arnold Littlehead – Arena Director, Ed Goodell  
Head Woman, Shawnetta Yahtin – Head Man, Reynolds Allen  
Host Drum: Indian Nation

## Drum Contest

(Limited Space): 1st Place \$1000  
2nd Place \$600 – 3rd Place \$500 – 4th Place \$400.

## Dance Contest

(14 Separate Categories)

**Golden Age Men & Women**  
1st \$200 – 2nd \$150 – 3rd \$100  
**Mens: Traditional, Fancy, & Grass**  
1st \$200 – 2nd \$150 – 3rd \$100  
**Womens: Traditional, Fancy, & Jingle**  
1st \$200 – 2nd \$150 – 3rd \$100  
**Teen Boys & Girls**  
1st \$100 – 2nd \$75 – 3rd \$50  
*Gift for Junior Girls & Boys*  
*Treats and Gifts to Tiny Tots*

For Info Contact: (503) 725-5671 – Sky Hopinka  
Vendors: (503) 285-4474 – Valerie Nelson  
naimuma@gmail.com

## Jefferson Dancers entertain at Warm Springs elementary

By Leslie Mitts  
Spilyay Tymoo

The sounds of music and enthusiastic cheers poured out from the Warm Springs Elementary School gym recently as the Jefferson Dancers performed for community members.

The crowd-pleasing group featured 23 dancers—the "elite dancers" out of the 100-member dance company from Jefferson High School in Portland.

According to Steve Gonzales, artistic director and dance chair, the group was prompted to come to Warm Springs after Anita Davis attended several performances and encouraged them to travel here.

"It was an awesome experience for us," Gonzales said. "It's such a great cultural exchange."

The company teaches styles of dance including



The Jefferson Dancers, pictured with Miss Warm Springs performed for community members recently.

jazz, tap, ballet, modern, hip hop, and more.

"That's the unique thing about the company," Gonzales said.

Maddi Evans, a high school

senior who has been dancing for about 14 years, said that's part of the appeal of the Jefferson Dancers.

"It's really nice cause you get to experience a lot of different

varieties," Evans said.

Melissa Araujo has been dancing for 12 years and said part of the appeal of dancing is seeing the reaction of the audience.

"Having them enjoy the performance is really great," she said.

According to their website, "The Jefferson Dancers are the elite dancers of the nationally known dance department at Jefferson High School.

For over 30 years the company has comprised the school's most advanced dance students who come to Jefferson High School for dance training.

It is a multi-ethnic company of dancers, ages 14-18."

The company has also performed internationally in Russia, Canada and France.