

## Casino donates speed lasers to Grand Ronde police

Valley residents in a hurry to hit the beach have a high-tech reason to keep an eye on the speedometer, as Spirit Mountain Casino has donated two Marksman LTI 20/20 Lasers to police responsible for Highway 18 traffic.

The lasers were presented by the Casino to the Oregon State Police (OSP) during a special demonstration of the equipment held at milepost 29 near Sheridan on October 17.

Capable of precisely measuring a vehicle's speed at up to three-quarters of a mile away, the laser guns put new teeth into measures to increase safety on the busy Highway 18 corridor.

The equipment will be maintained by the OSP and kept at their substation in Willamina.

The lasers, which will be used specifically on the popular routes to the coast — Highways 18 and 22 — will also be available for traffic enforcement by the Polk and Yamhill County Sheriff's Departments.

The hardware is the latest Spirit Mountain contribution to traffic safety, initiated with the voluntary construction of a \$2.5



Tribal Council Vice Chair Ed Larsen enjoyed trying out the new lasers.

million interchange at the entrance of the gaming facility, the cooperative funding with the Tribe of two full-time Polk County Sheriff's deputies, and the Casino's free transportation service which takes over 700 vehicles off the highway each week.

For more information on Spirit Mountain Casino's donation of the lasers for traffic enforcement, call Beth Sorenson, Public Relations Manager at 1-800-760-7977.

## Song Basket shoplifters apprehended

On Sunday, October 19, after a shoplifting incident occurred at the Song Basket Marketplace, two suspects, one male and one female, were arrested in Dallas after police found the stolen items in their vehicle. Ruth Weathers and Laverne Hosford, who work and have art items in the co-op were instrumental in the apprehension of the suspects.

Jeff VanLaanen, Polk County Deputy in Grand Ronde, was the first one Ruth and Laverne notified, and he in turn contacted other Polk County deputies and Oregon State Police. Deputy VanLaanen recently gave a two-hour long workshop to the members of the Song Basket co-op, in which he explained the common methods of operation shoplifters use in places that don't have full-time security guards.

"If it weren't for Ruth and Laverne's quick reaction to the incident, I don't know if we would have gotten their stuff back," said Deputy VanLaanen. He wants to give Ruth and Laverne a lot of credit for providing the police with a description of the suspects, their car, license plate, and items that were stolen. Deputy VanLaanen was able to call officers in the area and launch a search for the car and suspects.

As it turned out, the vehicle was spotted parked at a bar in Dallas (about 25 miles east of Grand Ronde). Two Polk County Deputies, a Dallas sergeant, and an Oregon State Police trooper all played a part in the arrest of these two people. A couple of the art pieces missing from the Song Basket were subsequently found in the vehicle after they were approached in the bar and consented to a search of the car.

"Officer VanLaanen really opened our eyes, and showed us what we should look for," said Ruth Weathers, manager of Song Basket Marketplace. "Because of that training, we knew that these two people were displaying peculiar behavior."

Evidently, the two suspects used a common tactic among shoplifters: one attempted to distract the staff, while the other one went around to various booths and took art items. Because of the training, Ruth and Laverne knew something wasn't right.

Ruth said, "The police deserve a lot of praise for the way all of this turned out. We called them immediately after the incident, and they were right on it."

Besides Deputy VanLaanen, other police officers involved in this arrest were Deputy Bojorquez and Deputy Jenkins (Polk County), Sergeant Tiernan (City of Dallas Police), and Trooper Keith Miller (Oregon State Police).

## Choose to live a healthy, drug-free life



Red Ribbon Week was celebrated from October 23 to October 31. The Native American Club (pictured above) at Willamina Middle School proudly walked Main Street in Willamina, supporting a drug-free lifestyle. This club meets weekly and is open to all Native students. For more information, call Lisa Leno at 879-2224. Additionally, the After School Club also had a drug walk in Grand Ronde. Help make a difference by showing young people your support for drug prevention.

## Basket making classes with Sophie George

November 9 and 16  
11:30 - 4:30

Grand Ronde Room  
28840 Salmon River Hwy.  
Grand Ronde

The Education Division is excited about working with the Culture and Heritage Society to bring you a basket making class with Sophie George as the instructor.

Class size is limited to 30 — call 879-2275 to reserve your space now. Parents may bring their children who are 10 and older if space is available. We encourage you to use your discretion as the classes are lengthy and parents need to be comfortable with their children handling a sharp object.