

## Summit View Opens



Photos by Peta Tinda

**Summit View** — Grand Ronde Tribal member Tammy Cook (center) is joined by Paul Parise and Cathy Barnett in their new executive host office with a view of the new Summit. Cook, Barnett and Parise will give premium treatment to the casino's "high rollers." The Summit features \$1, \$5, \$25 and \$100 slot machines.



**Opening Ceremony** — Grand Ronde Tribal Council members June Sell-Sherer and Bob Haller joined Tribal members and Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board members Barbara Feehan and Mike Larsen on Thursday, October 18 to cut the ribbon opening Spirit Mountain Casino's new high stakes gaming room — The Summit.



## Ron Hudson Honored

Photos by Justin Phillips



**Honor Dance** — The 2001 Indian Child Welfare Conference was hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in October. A pow-wow was held on Wednesday, October 10 at the Tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino. Nearly 200 people were in attendance at the event along with the Grand Ronde Royalty, Master of Ceremonies Bob Tom, Whipman and Siletz Tribal member Craig Whitehead and local drum group Eagle Beak. Tribal member and Acting Social Services Director Ron Hudson was honored at the pow-wow for his years of dedication and service to Indian people.

## Purchasing a Used Car? Ask Questions, Know Your Rights

■ Buyer's guides are required by law and provide valuable information.

By Sarah Brown, Grand Ronde Legal Services Summer Law Clerk

We have all heard horror stories of someone purchasing a used car and having it break down on the way home.

What most do not know is that the average purchaser will be stuck with this broken down car and will have to pay for all needed repairs out of pocket.

If this has happened to you or someone you know it is probably because the car was purchased "as is." A car that is sold "as is" frees the dealer from all responsibility for any repairs regardless of any oral statements made about the vehicle.

To make sure that this does not happen to you unknowingly, it is important to know what to look for and what to ask when purchasing a used car.

The first thing a purchaser of a used car should look for is a "Buyer's Guide." As required by federal law, every car dealer must post a Buyer's Guide in every used car they offer to sell: this is known as the "Used Car Rule."

### A Buyer's Guide must offer the following information:

- Whether the vehicle is being sold "as is" or with a warranty.
- What percentage of the costs a dealer will pay under the warranty.
- That spoken promises are difficult to enforce.
- To get all promises in writing.
- To keep the Buyer's Guide for reference after sale.
- The major mechanical and electrical systems on the car, including some of the major problems you should look out for.
- To ask to have the car inspected by an independent mechanic before you buy.
- Who at the dealership to contact if there is a problem with the car after purchase.

A Buyer's Guide does not have to be posted on motorcycles and most recreational vehicles. Also, anyone who sells fewer than six used cars a year is not required to post a Buyer's Guide.

The Buyer's Guide is a useful tool in determining what you are getting and what you are not getting out of the deal. When a dealer offers a vehicle "as is," the box next to the bolded "As Is — No Warranty" on the Buyer's Guide must be checked. If the car dealer is offering a warranty, the box next to the bolded "Warranty" must be checked. Also the dealer must indicate whether the warranty is full or limited.

*A car that is sold "as is" frees the dealer from all responsibility for any repairs regardless of any oral statements made about the vehicle.*

When you buy a used car from a dealer, get the original Buyer's Guide or a copy. It is important to have the Buyer's Guide reflect any changes you have negotiated with the dealer regarding warranty coverage.

Be sure that all changes are noted because these terms will become part of your sales contract and will override any contrary terms.

For example, if the Buyer's Guide says the car has a limited warranty but the dealer orally agrees to extend you a full warranty, the warranty described in the Guide controls and you will have a limited warranty.

Do not be misled into believing there is a three-day "cooling off period." For a used car purchase, that is a myth. The right to return a vehicle following purchase exists only if the dealer grants this right. If the dealer does grant this privilege, have this change reflected on your Buyer's Guide. Remember that the Buyer's Guide controls the dealer's contractual obligations.

The Buyer's Guide suggests having the car inspected by an independent mechanic. An independent inspection is a good idea even if the dealer has inspected the car. While the dealer's inspection will check the overall safety of the auto, the mechanic's inspection will determine how the car will perform on the road.

Pre-purchase inspection procedures vary from mechanic so it is important to find out what the inspection consists of, how long it will take, and how much it will cost. If the dealership does not permit you to take the vehicle off the lot for an inspection, there are inspectors who will come to the dealership.

The Used Car Rule does not apply to private sellers. If you decide to purchase your car from an individual, it is still a good idea to take along a Buyer's Guide so you can use its list of an auto's major systems when looking over the car. Usually private sales are conducted on an "as is" basis, unless your written agreement specifically states otherwise. Having a mechanic look over the car is also in your best interest.

Remember, when purchasing a used car from a dealer it is important to carefully look over the Buyer's Guide contained within the vehicle. If purchasing from an individual, take along the Buyer's Guide as a shopping tool. If you do not want to purchase the car "as is," attempt to negotiate with the seller to obtain a warranty. Also, it is important to have a mechanic inspect the car before it is purchased to insure its overall reliability. Armed with this knowledge I guarantee your next used car purchase can be a positive one.