

## Grand Ronde Tribe Moves Toward Portland Casino With Discussions

**MAGNA continued from front page**

Council Chair Cheryle Kennedy. "If the governor is going to allow off-reservation gaming, as he repeatedly said in recent months that he is about to for the Warm Springs, we have a responsibility to our 5,000 members to continue to sustain our economic self sufficiency."

In recent state-wide news stories, some of the key elected officials that would be involved in any off-reservation casino in the Portland market weighed in. While newly elected Portland mayor Tom Potter's spokesman said he has repeatedly spoken out against a casino in Portland, City Commissioner Sam Adams said it's something the city might have to consider.

"The only thing worse than a casino in Portland is a casino in Vancouver," said Adams, in refer-

ence to the Cowlitz Tribes plans to build a casino in nearby La Center. He went on to talk about the siphoning of dollars out of Portland and Oregon. "This is an unfortunate conversation we as a community have to have."



Photo by Toby McClary

Grand

*"We have to pursue all viable options if the rules of gaming in Oregon are about to change."*

**~ Cheryle Kennedy  
Tribal Council Chairwoman**

Ronde leaders

are in the process of scheduling immediate face to face meetings with Portland and Multnomah County officials. The Tribe has already had several courtesy discussions with various staff members in the governor's office, beginning in mid-February informing them of the horse track

negotiations.

If the Grande Ronde were to purchase the horse track and the surrounding land, it would then need the governor's concurrence and federal approval to take the land into trust.

The state's horse racing community told the Oregon media that they

have to look at very closely," Cartney said. "If it's done right, where the track and the horsemen get a share of the revenue, I think we'd look favorably at it."

Bob Whelan, senior economist with ECONorthwest an economic consulting firm in Portland explains, "what happens is a share of

the profit from slot machines goes to purse money, which is then given to the winning horses."

"We are still early in the game," cautioned Tribal

chair Cheryle Kennedy. "It's fine that the media wants to know if the horse racing industry can be saved, but we plan to worry first about our members and the appropriate elected leaders at the state and local level. If we reach an agreement, we'll go through the proper channel of communication and then sit down with the governor and see what the new rules are going to be."

are quite interested in partnering with the Grand Ronde and racing in tandem with a casino. "They have worked well in other places," said Dick Cartney, executive director of the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association. The group represents about 1,100 owners and trainers, plus Portland Meadows employees.

"I think that's something we'd

## Winter Hawks Set To Host Grand Ronde Tribal Members At Game

■ Sunday, March 20 is "Grand Ronde Night" at the Rose Garden in Portland.

By Ron Karten

March 20 at the Rose Garden, plan on being there.

Tribal Council members will. Tribal Elders will. Hundreds of Tribal members and their families will.

"I'm not like a huge hockey fan," said Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker-Robertson, "but my son is. I'll be going because my family is."

It will be the Portland Winter Hawks vs. the Tri-City Americans, but the real match-up will be the Winter Hawks and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. The Tribe has sponsored the Winter Hawks all season, but this is the night that the Winter Hawks sponsor the Tribe.

"The Winter Hawks and the Confederated Tribes entered into a partnership this season with numerous events leading the two organizations to discover they have

much in common," said Dean Vrooman, Voice of the Winter Hawks, in a press release.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy will welcome the crowd. Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison will offer the invocation. Eagle Beak will do the drums. Grand Ronde and Veterans Royalty and Grand Ronde Traditional dancers will

perform. And the Grand Ronde Honor Guard will post the colors.

"We had several players visit the reservation before our hockey season started," said Portland Coach Mike Williamson. "They came back with an understanding of the Tribe's history and how difficult it was to travel the road to their restoration. Our players saw their

17 former Portland Winter Hawks' players continued their education under the Western Hockey League scholarship program. In all, the Winter Hawks provided more than \$50,000 during this school year alone for the players to continue their educations with the assistance of the Major Junior Hockey Education Fund of Oregon. That fund

Hurricanes) and Wacey Rabbit (Saskatoon Blades) both among the leaders in league scoring. These players are among many Natives that have demonstrated they can play, and excel, in the highest league for hockey players this age in the world. So, part of our partnership with the Confederated Tribes provides a chance for their young people to see these players working hard and succeeding."

All season, the Winter Hawks have invited Tribal members and their families to attend hockey games and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde are also inviting Winter Hawks' fans to the reservation for the annual pow-wow in August.

An official invitation will be extended to fans as part of Sunday's game ceremonies. The pow-wow, the biggest in the Pacific Northwest, is held the third weekend in

August and features some of the finest Native dancers and drum groups from all across the United States and Canada. More than 15,000 people attend the event every year.

It's a partnership built on winter ice and summer sun, on hot dogs and frybread. Be there. And bring the family. ■



**Puck Appeal** — Dan DaSilva (26) is just one of the reasons to go see the Winter Hawks. With 45 lifetime Western Hockey League goals, Portland's right wing is part of a tough, fast-skating team that scores like lightning; and is not afraid to throw down the gloves. The Winter Hawks will host "Grand Ronde Night" on Saturday, March 20.

Photo by Peta Tinda

government building, medical facility, and the work the Tribe has done to establish a community designed to assist its members in becoming self-sufficient. They also met several students from the Tribe that are using scholarships to further their education and that is also a big part of our program."

During the 2003-04 school year,

also benefits Portland/Vancouver area hockey players that are eligible for local midget representative scholarship awards.

"It has been terrific to see the increased hockey talent coming from the Native population in recent years," said Winter Hawks' General Manager Ken Hodge. "We have Colton Yellow Horn (Lethbridge