



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Governor Changes The Face Of Indian Gaming In Oregon

■ Ted Kulongoski approves Warm Springs' off-reservation casino in Columbia Gorge's Cascade Locks.

By Ron Karten

"I think because our need is so great, we have to be optimistic," said Rudy Clements, Board Chair of Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino and Tribal Relations Director for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

He was describing the Tribe's chances of getting federal approval for the amended compact between the State of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. The amended compact opens up Tribal gaming off Reservation to the Warm Springs Tribes but raises questions of sovereignty and fairness to the state's other eight federally recognized Tribes.

"What we're reading in the newspaper," said one Tribal leader, not from the Grand Ronde, who declined to speak for attribution, "the concessions that were made are an absolute attack on Tribal sovereignty."

"I think what we're doing here is employing our sovereignty," said Clements, "using it in a good way for our people. We're using our sovereignty in a very positive way to benefit our people."

The amended compact allows the Warm Springs the state's first off-

reservation Tribal casino. Though the deal must still be approved by the Department of the Interior, the proposed site is on industrial lands in Cascade Locks, a town of downwardly spiraling economic fortunes that has welcomed this facility. It is expected to provide more around 1,200 jobs and annual sales possibly as high as \$200 million for the area.

In exchange for the right to build the new facility, according to a press release from the Governor's office, the Warm Springs have agreed to:

■ Pay 17 percent of gross revenues to an entity created to collect the money, the Oregon Benefit Fund (OBF), managed by an independent board. Up to 10 percent of the money will be used for environmental purposes in the Columbia River Gorge. Five percent may be used for economic development. The remainder, 85-90 percent, will go to direct student assistance for post secondary education in the state.

■ Pay six percent of net income from the casino into a newly created Tribal Community Benefit Fund to be used primarily for general charitable purposes, similar to



Photo by Peta Tinda

Promise Keeper? — Governor Ted Kulongoski, shown during his inauguration when he promised to keep a level playing field for Tribal gaming among the nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes. Many are now wondering whether that level playing field has been tipped, and how they will provide for their members.

the Grand Ronde Tribe's Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

■ Allow employees union representation.

■ Transfer to the state four parcels of Tribal land just outside of the City of Hood River.

■ Forever restrict use of a fifth

parcel of land.

■ Relinquish forever any legal claim to a portion of the Historic Columbia River Highway that runs through the Tribe's Hood River

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New Season, New Moon



Lunar Activity — There was no sign of this year's crazy spring weather when *Smoke Signals*' photographer Toby McClary caught this image of a calm night sky. The moon appears to be partly illuminated by direct sunlight. It can be seen after the new moon, but before the First Quarter Moon. This stage, as seen in the picture, is called the waxing crescent moon.

Elder Care Homes Set for Summer Completion

■ Master plan tackles many potential flashpoints.

By Ron Karten

Currently a full month ahead of schedule, the latest Tribal construction project is on the way to fulfilling its promise to provide Grand Ronde's Tribal Elders with the most accommodating digs that the industry knows how to build.

Groundbreaking last November opened the door to assisted living facilities that include three buildings, each designed to serve five Elders and possibly their spouses or other caregivers where appropriate (Tribal Council will make this deci-

sion).

In late spring or early summer, the Tribe will begin construction for a separate project, a community center that when completed, will bring the Tribe to the Elders, as Duane Hussey said. Hussey is Tribal Housing Authority Development and Construction Coordinator.

The cost for the complete construc-

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