



SMOKE SIGNALS

JUNE 15, 2005

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

Gorge Casino Idea Falters

■ With the Interior Department disapproving the Warm Springs proposal, Grand Ronde takes a nuanced position.

By Rob Greene, Tribal Attorney

On Friday, May 20, the U.S. Department of Interior disapproved a gaming compact between the State of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Had the Compact been approved, it would have been a big step towards allowing Warm Springs to operate an off-reservation casino in Cascade Locks.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have taken a clear stand: Grand Ronde opposes off-reservation casinos, including a Warm Springs Casino in Cascade Locks.

The Tribe has opposed off-reservation gaming since as early as 1996. Oregon's Tribal gaming policy has always been one on-reservation casino per Tribe. However, if the playing field changes and off-reservations casinos are allowed, the Tribe will likely re-evaluate its position to stay competitive. Cheryle Kennedy, Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman stated that "If an off-reservation casino in Cascade Locks is approved, Grand Ronde would be forced to consider building an off-reservation casino to

counteract the devastating effect a Cascade Locks casino would have on our economy."

"It's not an issue between Grand Ronde and Warm Springs," according to Reyn Leno, Grand Ronde Tribal

he added, "That's their responsibility to their membership. We respect that. We just don't think it's good for Oregon Tribes."

The question comes up, though, said Leno, why Warm Springs would be allowed to build off-reservation while the Burns-Paiute Tribe, for example, is limited to a casino in rural Burns, Oregon. This same question applies to all of Oregon's eight other federally recognized Tribes. Why is Warm Springs alone in receiving the privilege of off-reservation gaming?

Grand Ronde and others worry that allowing off-reservation gaming will result in a backlash against Indian gaming and set the stage for an expansion of non-Indian gaming.

On April 6, Warm Springs and the State signed a compact allowing a casino on off-reservation land in Cascade Locks. The compact required approval from the Department of Interior. On May 20, the Interior disapproved the



Reyn Leno
Vice Chair



Jack Giffen, Jr.
Tribal Council



Angie Blackwell
Tribal Council

Leaders — In recent weeks, Tribal Council Vice Chair, Reyn Leno and Tribal Council member Jack Giffen, Jr. traveled twice to the nation's capitol, and Tribal Council member Angie Blackwell traveled once with them where they made sure that the Grand Ronde position on an off-reservation Tribal casino in the Gorge was heard both in Congress and at the Department of the Interior.

The Tribe, however, supports the aspirations of the Warm Springs people.

Council Vice-Chairman. "We respect what Warm Springs is trying to do,"

See CASINO on page 3



Photo by Toby McClary

Country Superstar — Singer/Actor Dwight Yoakam performed at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, May 26. Yoakam got his big break in 1986 with his debut "Guitars, Cadillacs" which scored double-platinum status. In 2000, Yoakam was honored with "Country Artist of the Year" from online retailer Amazon.com. Yoakam is scheduled to perform 36 shows this year at venues across the United States.

Tribal Members Receive Gates Millennium Scholarships

■ Grand Rondes win two of only five scholarships awarded to Northwest Native American high school students.

By Angie Sears

Most teenagers come out of high school uncertain of what lies ahead for them. Many enter college as an "undeclared" major.

But that's not the case for Tribal members Amanda Thomas, 17, and Ashlee Merrill, 18. These two girls know just what they want to do with their lives and they each have a plan for exactly how they're going to do it.

Both girls are recipients of the 2005 Gates Millennium Scholarship. They will be attending Oregon State University in the fall, and they will both be pursuing an education and career in Health Care.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship is a diversity scholarship that is meant to promote academic excellence among students of African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Is-



Photo by Brent Merrill

Tribal Member Amanda Thomas

lander American and Hispanic American descent. The scholarship will provide these students

See SCHOLARSHIPS on page 9



Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Community of Oregon
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALEM, OR
PERMIT NO. 178

OR NEWSPAPER PROJ. UO LIBRARY SYSTEM PRE
1299 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE OR 97403-1205