



# ZZ Top ROCKS the Mountain

OCTOBER 15, 2005



# SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

## Tribal Leaders Take Their Case To Nation's Capital

■ Grand Ronde Council members meet with Oregon's elected officials to explain their opposition to a casino in the Columbia River Gorge.

By Brent Merrill

Washington, D.C. — "This is not about Tribe vs. Tribe," said Grand Ronde Tribal Council members to as many of Oregon's elected leaders as they could meet with in a three-day tour of the nation's capitol in late September.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council members Angie Blackwell, Reyn Leno and Jack Giffen, Jr. traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with the State's elected officials to discuss their opposition to a casino in the Columbia River Gorge and to explain their position in clear terms.

"We want to make it clear that this is not about Warm Springs vs. Grand Ronde," they said over and over to each official.

In April of this year, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski approved the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' efforts to establish an off-reservation casino development project in the Columbia River Gorge — specifically Cascade Locks. Warm Springs' officials had said they would build on land their Tribe owns at Hood River if they were not allowed to build at the more industrial Cascade Locks site. Although the



Nation's Capital  
Washington, D.C.

Tribal Council member  
Angie Blackwell

Tribal Council member  
Reyn Leno

Tribal Council member  
Jack Giffen, Jr.

merits of that option were debated strongly by all interested parties, the governor bought the Warm Springs Tribes' argument and approved their casino efforts in Cascade Locks.

The second hurdle the Tribe faced, approval at the federal level, was much tougher than the Warm Springs or even Kulongoski imagined and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton denied the Tribe's request in May say-

ing they would consider the proposal in the future once the Warm Springs had attained trust status for the land they own in Cascade Locks.

The Grand Ronde Tribal Council members made the point in Washington, D.C. that their opposition to a casino in the Columbia River Gorge is based on fairness of policy and fear of proliferation and not trouble between Tribes.

Polls commissioned by the Grand Ronde Tribe have repeatedly made it clear that the people of Oregon do not want casinos on every corner, but they don't mind coming to Indian reservations for their gaming experience. Grand Ronde officials have taken a stance that the Governor's policy to-

See WASHINGTON, D.C.  
on page 3



Photo by Toby McClary

"We Survived" — Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and current Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics Wilma Mankiller was the Guest of Honor at a welcoming ceremony held at the University of Oregon on Thursday, October 6. MORE PHOTOS & STORY ON PAGES 6-7.

### Part 2

## Tribal Hunting & Fishing Rights

*The old ways, the old stories.*

This issue, *Smoke Signals* continues a series of articles investigating the Tribe's hunting and fishing rights.

By Ron Karten

"When I'd kill a deer or two," Tribal Elder Dean Mercier said recently about the old days, "I'd distribute it to the goddam community, the Elders. I thought that was the way life was. I was taught to share."

"We took care of each other," said Tribal Elder Marvin Kimsey. "We'd

See HUNTING & FISHING  
on pages 8-9



Photo by Toby McClary

Tribal Elder Hubert Mercier



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