



SMOKE SIGNALS

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photo by Toby McClary

Members of the Tribal Council, Executive Team, Gaming Commission and team of architects participate in the ground breaking ceremony for Spirit Mountain Casino's newest expansion project. The ground breaking event took place on Monday, February 5, 2007. MORE PHOTOS AND PRESS RELEASE ON PAGE 7.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Holds First Ever Pre-Application Meeting



Tribal Elder Leon "Chips" Tom gave the opening statements during the Spirit Mountain Community Fund's pre-application meeting.

By Toby McClary

On Thursday, February 8, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund hosted a pre-application meeting at Spirit Mountain Casino.

The focus was on the fund's grant application and introduced the new on-line application process. Members of the fund, including Tribal member and Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson, were on hand to explain and answer questions for the two hour session.

Thursday's pre-application meeting was the first of several. The next meeting will be held on April 5, 2007 at the Red Lion Hotel in Eugene. Then on July 12, the Oregon Zoo in Portland will play host to the fund's next meeting and finally on October 4, they will have their last meeting of the year

at the Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

Over 180 hopeful grantees were in attendance for the meeting to ask questions and to find out what the fund looks for in an application.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund donates six percent (about \$5 million per year) of Spirit Mountain Casino's profits to non-profit organizations in western Oregon. It covers an 11-county area including Clackamas, Multnomah, Wash-

ington, Tillamook, Lincoln, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Benton, Linn and Lane.

On the fund's website it states: "We see these counties as our neighbors and friends. Some of you helped us with restoration and we want to give back."

The fund is administered by an eight-person board of trustees made up of governmental leaders, civic leaders and Tribal representatives. Today, the fund has given out \$37.9 million and shows no sign of slowing down anytime soon. ■



Photos by Toby McClary

Tribal member and Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson explains the community fund's application process to the 186 hopefuls who were in attendance on Thursday, February 8 at Spirit Mountain Casino.



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