



Spirit Mountain Community Fund
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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

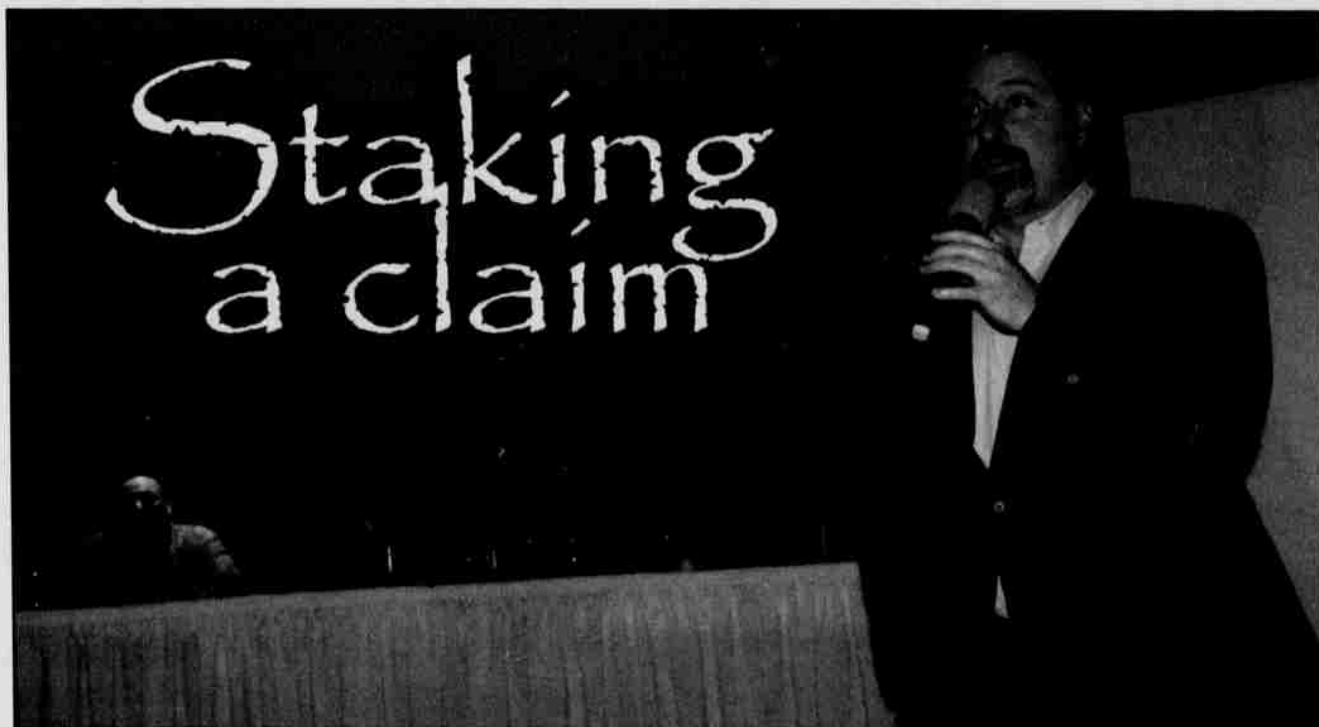


Photo by Dean Rhodes

Tribal member and lobbyist Justin Martin discusses the Tribe's opposition to expansion of gambling — both Native off-reservation and private — in Oregon and Washington during the Feb. 10 General Council meeting held in Clackamas. Listening in the background are Tribal Council members, from left, Reyn Leno, Steve Bobb Sr., June Sell-Sherer and Valorie Sheker.

Presentation explains Tribe's opposition to expansion of Indian, non-Indian gambling options in Northwest

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

"Devastating ... absolutely catastrophic."

Those were the alarming words Tribal lobbyist and member Justin Martin of Perseverance Strategies Inc. in Salem used to describe the effects on Spirit Mountain Casino revenue if three gambling proposals in Washington and Oregon all

reach fruition.

Currently, the Cowlitz Tribe in Washington state is proposing to build a 134,150-square-foot casino and 250-room hotel in La Center, only 16 miles north of the Portland metropolitan area; the Warm Springs Tribe wants to build a 603,000-square-foot riverfront destination resort, including a casino and hotel, off-reservation in Cascade Locks, only 42 interstate

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miles from Portland; and two private individuals want to turn the former Multnomah Greyhound Park in Wood Village into a 175,000-square-foot resort with a \$500 million casino and entertainment complex.

Alone, each project, if success-

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Enrollment vote leaves the status mostly quo

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Only one of three proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution regarding enrollment requirements garnered the necessary two-thirds approval rate to qualify for adoption in the Feb. 8 special election.

The net result of the three proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution is that Native Americans currently enrolled in another Tribe will have to wait five years after relinquishing their rights to membership in the other Tribe before they will be considered for enrollment in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The vote results were announced at the General Council meeting held at the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center in Clackamas on Feb. 10 and were the focus of discussion during the "other business" portion of the meeting.

Amendment A — the relinquishment proposal — was approved by Tribal voters in a 76 percent to 24 percent vote (880 yes, 277 no).

According to the Tribal Constitution, amendments must receive a 66.7 percent approval rate to qualify for adoption.

Before passage, the relinquishment period was one year.

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The return of the ceremonial hunt

Interest high in Tribe obtaining out-of-season hunting rights at April ODFW meeting

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Dozens of Tribal hunters convened at the Community Center on Jan. 30 to pave the way for the return of Tribal ceremonial hunts.

The Tribe is awaiting a mid-April decision by the state Fish and Wildlife Commission that is expected to return its sovereign right to hunt for ceremonial game outside of state-sanctioned hunting seasons.

While the commission, of course, could turn down the Tribal proposal, it already has the

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Tribal Council Vice Chairman Reyn Leno, left, listens to Tribal Attorney Rob Greene discuss the Tribe's effort to regain ceremonial hunting rights from the state during a Jan. 30 meeting in the Tribal Community Center.

Photo by Ron Karten