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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Dental clinic receives \$500K grant

Addition will increase chairs, cut down on appointment waits

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde received notification in early January that a \$500,000 federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Block Grant will help expand its current dental

clinic in the Health & Wellness Center.

If all goes according to plan, the dental clinic expansion will open in late 2010 or early 2011 and substantially reduce appointment wait times for Tribal members and other dental clinic patients, said Tribal Health Executive Director Mark Johnston.

The dental clinic expansion will add almost

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"Patients will see shorter waits for appointments and easier access."

~ Tribal Health Executive
Director Mark Johnston

Film featuring Tribal members released on DVD, cable TV

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Legend of Tillamook's Gold," a family movie shot in Oregon in 2005 and featuring several Grand Ronde Tribal members, is now available on DVD and showing on the Starz Kids & Family cable channel.

"Legend" tells the story of Julie, a teenage girl transplanted from California to a sleepy Oregon coastal town with her family. She hears an ancient Native legend about Spanish pirates who buried gold coins on a nearby mountain and then killed a black slave and placed his body over the treasure to frighten away Indians.

Her search for the gold, rediscovery of her Native roots and family's adjustment to Oregon life form the threads of the story.

"The Legend of Tillamook's Gold" received considerable assistance

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Rosemary Lankins of Salem gets off of the bus at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Salem Area Mass Transit District bus service from Salem to Grand Ronde began on Monday, Jan. 26, and makes nine round trips Monday through Friday.

Bus service begins

Mass transit now operating between Grand Ronde and Salem

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Getting to and from Salem became easier on Monday, Jan. 26, for Grand Ronde residents, gamers and Tribal employees at the Governance Center and Spirit Mountain Casino.

The Salem Area Mass Transit District and Tribal Council entered into an agreement that started nine round trips daily Monday through Friday between the Salem-Keizer Transit Mall and Spirit Mountain Casino. Because the

Transit District's bond levy failed in the November general election, service on Saturday, Sunday and holidays did not materialize.

"After the defeat of our operating levy in November, Salem Transit has felt a severe economic impact," said Tribal member Shelley Hanson, who is secretary of the Salem Area Mass Transit District board of directors, as well as director of Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

"This new agreement with the Tribe allows us to lower our layoff rate by using Salem drivers to staff these new Grand Ronde routes. This is an excellent opportunity for Tribal

members, casino employees, Tribal employees and casino guests to use mass transit to lower their commuting costs as well as their carbon footprint."

Bus fares are \$3 per one-way trip, payable upon boarding the bus at the casino's east side entrance, or \$75 for a monthly pass that can be purchased at the Salem-Keizer Transit Mall or at the front desk of the Tribal Governance Center. Monthly passes decline in cost by 50.

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