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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Court ruling affects Indian land

U.S. Supreme Court limits ability of federal government to take land into trust for Tribes

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A late February ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court may have placed a significant hurdle in the way of Native American Tribes recognized by the federal government after 1934 to get land taken into trust.

On Feb. 24, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Carcieri v. Salazar* that the Secretary of Interior does not

have the authority to take land into trust for Tribes that came under federal jurisdiction after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act was adopted.

The U.S. government argued that the 75-year-old act allows it to take land into trust for Tribes regardless of when they came under federal jurisdiction.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his majority opinion that the

act "unambiguously refers to those Tribes that were under federal jurisdiction" when it was enacted in 1934. The act states that it applies to persons of Indian descent "who are members of any recognized Indian Tribe now under federal jurisdiction."

The ruling came in a case involving the Rhode Island-based Narragansett Tribe that sought to bring a 31-acre tract about 40 miles south

of Providence into trust. Tribes, including Grand Ronde, request the Secretary of Interior take land into trust so they can apply their own laws on the land and hold the land free of state and local taxes.

At issue was whether the land should be subject to Rhode Island law, which prohibits casino gam-

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Man vs. food

Chuck Daugherty doesn't cut the mustard during Skookum burger challenge



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Chuck Daugherty (Siletz) takes a bite out of a Skookum burger as he attempts to eat the whole thing at the Mok Mok Haws restaurant in Grand Ronde Station. He did not succeed, eating about half of mammoth meal.

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

At the Mok Mok Haws restaurant at the Grand Ronde convenience store, "skookum" refers to a six-pound lesson in humility. The made-to-order Skookum burger, an affront to all proportion, is the first major promotion for the new restaurant, which held its official grand opening on Friday, March 6. The promotion challenges

anybody to eat the whole thing in one hour.

The whole "thing" includes four burgers, five fried eggs, cheese of your choice, lettuce, tomatoes and onions all covered above and below with pieces of fry bread smaller, at least, than crop circles. The plate also comes with a portion of

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Membership briefed about Tribal sign project

By Siobhan Taylor

Special to Smoke Signals

Historical signs will be going up in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's ceded homelands, said Tribal member and Cultural Resource

Manager David Lewis at the March 1 General Council meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Eugene-Springfield.

Lewis presented a program on the Interpretive Sign Project, which will erect signs throughout the Tribe's ceded lands to educate people, including other Oregon Tribes, about the Grand Ronde Tribes that have been in Oregon since time immemorial.

Eighty-three people attended the General Council meeting, which was opened with an invocation from Tribal Elder Gloria Sundahl.

Funding for the Interpretive Sign Project came from a \$50,000 Spirit Mountain Community Fund Tribal grants program with matching funds from Tribal Council.

The project is directed by Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh and Lewis. Other Tribal staff assisting with the project include Tribal member and Natural Resources Division Manager Mike Wilson, GIS mapping coordinator Volker Mell and Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor.

Lewis answered questions about the project from Tribal membership. Members stressed the importance of emphasizing the Tribe's ceded lands and asked that Tribal members be allowed to compete for work on installing the signs.

A request was made for *Smoke Signals* to print a list of Tribal members with specific skills who

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