

D.C. meetings



Eric Connolly/U.S. House of Representatives Office of Photography

Five Grand Ronde Tribal Council members and Tribal staff traveled to Washington, D.C., the week of Feb. 23-27 to meet members of the new Barack Obama administration and Oregon's congressional delegation. Above, from left, Tribal Council members Wink Soderberg and Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr., Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy and Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker stand with newly elected Rep. Kurt Schrader, who succeeded Darlene Hooley in the House of Representatives. Below, from left, Sheker, Bobb, Giffen and Soderberg meet with newly elected Sen. Jeff Merkley, who defeated Gordon Smith to win a seat in the Senate.



Rebecca Hamel/U.S. Senate Photo Studio

Dehydrators wanted

The Grand Ronde Community Resource Center is seeking donations of food dehydrators for its food preservation program.

If you would like to donate, contact Patrice at 503-879-5731. Any and all donations of food, food preservation supplies and money are welcome. ■

College & Career Fair set

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde College & Career Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, in the Tribal gymnasium.

The fair is free and open to the public.

Attendees will meet with employment representatives, college and university representatives, trade and apprenticeship programs, vocational programs, volunteer organizations and community outreach organizations. There also will be break-out sessions on admissions, financial aid, careers, internship opportunities and what employers are looking for in employees.

For more information, call Tribal Academic Adviser Trinity Minahan at 503-879-1478. ■

7th Annual Native Youth Wellness Day

March 20

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tribal Gymnasium

Native American Middle and High School Youth

Contact:
Shannon Simi
Shannon.simi@grandronde.org
503-879-1489



Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde's tribal community and our culture by not displaying gang affiliation or by bringing drugs, alcohol or weapons to this event.

Ad created by George Valdez

Grand Ronde trust applications should be OK

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bling, or whether it would be governed under Tribal and federal law.

State lawyers argued that the Tribe cannot remove its land from Rhode Island control under the Indian Reorganization Act because the Narragansett Tribe was under state jurisdiction when it was passed 75 years ago.

The federal government formally recognized the Narragansett Tribe in 1983.

Thomas wrote that the case turned on whether "now under federal jurisdiction" refers to 1988, when the Secretary of Interior initially accepted the 31 acres of Narragansett land into trust, or 1934, when Congress enacted the Indian Reorganization Act. Thomas' opinion held that "now" applies to Indians under federal jurisdiction in 1934.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston rejected the state's argument, but the Supreme Court reversed that ruling.

Only Justice John Paul Stevens fully dissented from Thomas' opinion, which he called a "cramped reading" of the 1934 law.

What it means for Northwest Tribes is still undetermined and much will depend on the Tribe's status with the federal government in 1934.

"Grand Ronde does not believe the decision will prevent the Secretary of Interior from acting on Grand Ronde's applications to take land into trust for the Tribe as Grand Ronde was recognized by the federal government and under its jurisdiction in 1934," Tribal Attorney Rob Greene said, adding that the Tribe currently has trust applications for more than 145 acres pending.

"On the other hand, Tribes that were not recognized by the federal government in 1934, such as the Cowlitz, may, in light of the Carcieri decision, not be able to have the Secretary take land into trust for them.

"It is clear from discussions Grand Ronde representatives have had with Department of Interior officials that all applications to take land into trust will be processed more slowly while the department evaluates the scope of the Supreme Court's decision."

Greene said that Grand Ronde leaders and staff have been monitor-

ing the Carcieri case for some time and had a representative attend the Nov. 3 Supreme Court session during which the case was heard.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar issued a statement after the ruling was handed down, saying he was disappointed in the opinion.

"The department is committed to supporting the ability of all federally recognized Tribes to have lands

acquired in trust," Salazar said.

And there are indications Congress will look at a so-called "Carcieri fix." U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, chairman of the House Resources Committee, has promised hearings on the issue and U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan, chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, met with Tribal leaders on March 5. A Dorgan spokesperson said a fix will not come quickly. ■

Elder Foster Program



The Tribe's Elder Foster Care lodges are committed to offering quality care to our Elders and helping them remain as independent as possible, while providing the personalized assistance they need. At our lodges, a wide range of services is available in a comfortable setting where privacy is respected and maximum independence is supported. For information, contact the Elder Foster Program director at 503-879-1694.