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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Schrader submits Gorge Act amendment

Bill would add Grand Ronde to list of Tribes that must be consulted about management of scenic area

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Tribe's long-standing effort to be recognized by the federal government as a Columbia River Tribe received a significant boost on July 31 when U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore., 5th District) introduced House Resolution 3514, which would amend the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act to include the Grand Ronde.

Currently, the act lists the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama

Indian Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Schrader's legislation would amend the Scenic Area Act to include the Grand Ronde Tribe as the fifth Indian Tribe that must be consulted regarding planning and management of the scenic area.

Earlier this year, Grand Ronde Tribal Council members traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met with first-term Rep. Schrader and enlisted his commitment to pursue the Scenic Area Act amendment.

"I was approached by Tribal Chair Cheryle Kennedy and other members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, who asked for my support of their effort to be recognized as a Tribe with historic ties to the Columbia River," Schrader said in an e-mail to *Smoke Signals*.

"I listened to Tribal members and felt it was important to open a dialogue, so I drafted the bill. ... I look forward to working with all Tribes as we move forward."

"Grand Ronde is seeking to be consulted and involved in the protection and management of the Gorge in the same manner as the other Columbia River Tribes," Tribal Attorney Rob Greene said.

"Grand Ronde is a Columbia River Tribe and



File photo

Kurt Schrader

See GORGE ACT
continued on page 11

Tribal plankhouse



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members Devere Eastman, left, and John Yarbrough screw together two boards as they set forms for a fire pit at the plankhouse on Thursday, July 23. Story on page 5.

Candidate Forum draws moderate crowd

18 candidates answer two questions each in Tribal gym

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Some 65 people from the Tribal community turned out to hear 18 candidates each answer two questions submitted by the audience and drawn randomly at the 2009 Tribal Council Candidate Forum held Aug. 22 in the Tribal gymnasium.

One candidate had a shot at a third question, by consent of the other candidates and audience, because one of his questions was deemed unfairly difficult. In total, the audience heard responses to 37 questions.

Tribal member and Tribal Director of Operations John Mercier served as master of ceremonies and advised the audience about the importance of Tribal Council to the Tribe's future.

For the second round of questions,

See FORUM
continued on page 9

Salem-Grand Ronde bus service expands

New schedule brings service to Tribal Governance Center twice daily on Sept. 8

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 8, Tribal employees and Grand Ronde residents will be able to hop on a Salem-Keizer Transit

District bus twice a day at the Tribal Governance Center as the district expands its seven-month-old service to the area.

Beginning on Jan. 26, the district started providing nine round trips daily Monday through Friday between the Salem-Keizer Transit Mall and Spirit Mountain Casino. However, Tribal Governance

employees and Grand Ronde residents still had to take a shuttle from the casino to the Governance Center and nearby Tribal and Elder housing.

With the new schedule, there will be 10 round trips between Salem and Grand Ronde with a bus arriving at the Tribal Governance Center at 7:45 a.m. and 5:10 p.m. daily.

Salem-Keizer busses will begin leaving Salem for Grand Ronde at 5:10 a.m. Monday through Friday and the last bus will start for the casino at 10:20 p.m.

Leaving Spirit Mountain Casino for Salem, the first bus is scheduled

See BUS
continued on page 8