



Yamhill County files eminent domain action in Grand Ronde — pg. 3

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe preparing for flu season

Government, casino representatives meeting discusses measured response to possible pandemic

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

In May, when a Tribal toddler was suspected of possibly having the H1N1 strain of influenza, the Tribal campus in Grand Ronde closed for two days and Tribal facilities staff deep-cleaned every building.

In addition, staff at the Tribal Health & Wellness Center created a separate entrance for people experiencing flu-like symptoms.

And the General Council meeting scheduled for that month was postponed so as to not in-

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Ways to stay healthy during flu season

- Maintain a healthy lifestyle through rest, diet, exercise and relaxation.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based (60 percent or more) hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes. Germs spread this way.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean, such as telephones, computer keyboards, doorknobs, etc.
- Do not use a co-worker's phone, desk, office or other work tools and equipment.
- Don't spread the flu. If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home.
- Get vaccinated against seasonal flu.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker, left, is sworn in by Tribal Chief Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend, as Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, middle, waits for her turn and Tribal Council member Toby McClary just finished his during the swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council chambers on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Tribal Council elects officers

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy was re-elected 6-3 by Tribal Council to the Tribal chair position for the eighth time during the Sept. 16 Tribal Council meeting.

Kennedy first served as Tribal chairwoman starting in September 2001 and has continued in that role continuously except for a one-year break between September 2006 and September 2007 when Tribal Council member Chris Mercier was elected to

Newly elected Tribal Council member Toby McClary, left, receives a hug from Tribal member Pearl Rife after the newly elected Council member was sworn in.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



the office.

Kennedy is the second-longest serving Tribal chair in Grand Ronde history. Tribal Elder Mark Mercier served as Tribal chair for

11 years, from October 1985 to September 1996. Tribal Elder

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Effort seeks to stop smoking in Oregon's Tribal casinos

Tribal representatives cite mostly non-smoking areas already in Spirit Mountain

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A smoldering effort by the American Lung Association to expand Oregon's smoking ban in restaurants and bars to Native American casinos would affect less than 40 percent of Spirit Mountain Casino, Grand Ronde Tribal representatives say.

"We're trending that way anyway," Tribal member and Tribal lobbyist Justin Martin said. "Other than the gaming floor and a little bit of hotel space, Spirit Mountain is practically smoke-free."

Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Rodney Ferguson said 61 percent of the 532,000 square feet in the casino and Spirit Mountain Lodge is already designated non-smoking.

Eighty percent of the Lodge's 254 guest rooms are non-smoking, Ferguson added.

"What we're trying to do is accommodate guests, both smokers and non-smokers," Martin said. "We've increased our non-smoking areas over the years and probably will continue to do so as our patrons want to move that way in the future."

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