



Casino furniture being given away starting June 9— pg. 3

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe hosts ATNI

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

About 200 attended the four-day winter conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians held at Spirit Mountain Casino Monday through Thursday, May 17-20, and sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

For observers, like Tribal Elders Cherie Butler and Louise Coulson, it was a chance to see how policies are made, and how ideas move back and forth from Tribes to the White House and back with ATNI and the National Congress of American Indians among major intermediaries.

For Tribal leaders and other participants, these conferences are the galleries where ideas find their way into the big tent, or not.

Successful Northwest ideas will move forward to the June 20-23 NCAI conference in Rapid City, S.D., where the persuasiveness of the ATNI representatives pitching them will be key.

Smaller than usual attendance nevertheless brought out Native leaders from the Obama administration, and Native attorneys following federal legislation and judiciary activity, as well as leaders represent-

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy gives the welcome speech for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Mid-Year Conference at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center on Monday, May 17. The conference ran May 17-20.

Government Day for Tribes serves dual purpose

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Government Day on May 14 celebrated two things at once — the 35th anniversary of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services and the sovereignty of the state's nine federally recognized Tribes.

The annual event, held this year inside in the cacophonous State Capitol Rotunda, started at 9 a.m. on the Capitol's second floor with a breakfast buffet hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Casino.

Spirit Mountain Executive Chef Richard Burr supervised casino staff in keeping two tables well-stocked with fruit, muffins, pastries, mini-bagels and miniature breakfast burritos. Another table offered various refreshments, from water to myriad fruit juices.

While attendees noshed, others milled around nine informational tables set up by Tribal representatives from the nine Tribes.

At the Grand Ronde table, Tribal member and Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Kristen Ravia and Tribal member and Cultural Resources Secretary Stephanie Wood distributed ceded lands maps, copies of *Smoke Signals* and Tribal informational fliers and pamphlets, as well as complimentary Spirit

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29 employees honored for years of service to Tribe



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Jill Hafiger, Health & Wellness senior administrative assistant, listens to Steve O'Harra, human resources generalist, talk as she is honored for her exemplary work during the 2010 First Quarter Employee Recognition Luncheon in the Tribal Community Center on Wednesday, May 26.

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Twenty-nine Tribal employees were honored for their years of service to the Tribe on May 26 during a taco salad luncheon put on by the Human Resources Department in the Tribal Community Center.

Also, several employees were honored for going above and beyond the call of duty and providing exceptional service.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno welcomed about 70 employees, commenting on that the fact that with more than 5,000 Tribal members, "We hear a lot of comments about what you are doing and not what you are not doing. ... I think you guys are doing a great job."

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. sincerely thanked Tribal employees. "You people keep this ship afloat ... you guys keep on truckin'."

You're my inspiration and we, as leaders, need to follow your example."

Tribal Council member Toby McClary thanked the seven Tribal employees who report directly to Tribal Council — Tribal member and Executive Officer Chris Leno, Tribal Attorney Rob Greene, Finance Officer Stanley Arend, Audit Director Trudi Yoshikawa, Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor, Tribal Council Senior Administrative Assistant Lauri Smith and Tribal member and Tribal Council Relations Coordinator Dakota Whitecloud.

Tribal Council member Chris Mercier thanked employees for following through on the directives issued by Tribal Council. "You do the dirty work," he said, "and I appreciate everything you do."

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