

Par for the course



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Kailiyah Krehbiel practices hitting golf balls during a golf camp on the Tribal campus that was part of the Youth Education Summer Program on Tuesday, June 8. The Youth Education Summer Program started on Monday, June 7, and the first week's activities had a sports and recreation theme.



Tribal descendant Connor McCallister watches as Cathy Porter, outreach director and certified coach for The First Tee of The Children's Course, shows him how to correctly line the club with the ball.

Map features Northwest casinos

There are more than 50 Tribal casinos in the Pacific Northwest and now people can find them all on one map — the Northwest Casino Travel Map published by Washington-based Eagle Publishing.

Eagle Publishing decided to put Pacific Northwest casinos on the map, including those in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, to make finding them easier.

Each casino has a map marker. Red markers denote on-site lodging and symbols show which casinos offer recreational vehicle parking, spas and golf courses.

The maps can be purchased online at www.iluvcasinos.com for \$6.95 or by calling 1-866-638-1115. The Web site and company's Facebook page offer easy access to casino sites, special offers and articles, and tips to help gaming enthusiasts walk away with more money.

"The casinos have made a difference in our local economy," said Publisher Vicki Dar. "It's important that we encourage people to take advantage of these regional entertainment gems." ■

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Tribal member picked as Ford Scholar

Tribal member Carley Trammell, 18, was one of 100 Oregon students selected by the Ford Family Foundation as a Ford Scholar.

This year's Oregon Ford Scholars were chosen from 4,253 applicants.

Kenneth Ford, founder of Roseburg Forest Products Co., established the scholarship program to help students who would find it difficult to obtain a college degree without financial assistance.

The renewable scholarship covers 90 percent (\$1,000 minimum and \$25,000 maximum) of each student's unmet financial need for college, with first-year students averaging about \$7,000 per year.

Trammell graduated from Willamina High School and plans on attending Oregon State University in the fall to study animal science. ■

'This is a good thing to do'

LAND continued
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land.

Proper pointed to the recent Tribally funded improvements in western Polk County that amounted to more than \$5 million.

"If you take \$7,000 off the tax rolls, but put that kind of money back into the community, I don't have a problem with this," Proper said.

Commissioner Tom Ritchey concurred, saying that Polk County has always had a good relationship with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Commissioner Ron Dodge also supported the resolution, adding that in his 20 years on the Board of Commissioners, the county and Tribe have always worked together cooperatively.

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners also unanimously approved a similarly supportive resolution on June 7.

Yamhill County Commissioner Mary Stern said that she had received calls from residents, concerned about the loss of revenue to

the county as land is potentially taken off the tax rolls.

"It would be a miniscule loss," Stern said. "It doesn't matter which process is used by the Tribe to take in land, the complicated or more complicated process. There is no downside to us. I'm supportive of what you're doing."

Commissioner Kathy George said the amount of taxes Grand Ronde area residents might pay on bond issues could increase, but Stern countered that the amount of money the Tribe is putting back into the community would offset that small increase.

Commissioner Leslie Lewis agreed, saying any land the Tribe purchases from willing sellers to take back into reservation land would have a small effect on bond taxes.

"This is a good thing to do," George said.

"I'm very supportive of it," Lewis added. "I'm certainly satisfied there will be no significant tax implications."

"It helps us a lot and recognizes what the Tribe has been through

historically," Tribal Council member Chris Mercier said. "We believe in being a good community partner because the community helped the Tribe during Restoration."

Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno, Tribal Council members Steve Bobb Sr. and Toby McClary and Tribal Attorney Rob Greene flew to Washington, D.C., on June 7, seeking congressional sponsors.

Greene told the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners in May that the Tribe has been slowly buying pieces of the original reservation on the open market. However, the process to reintegrate that land into the Reservation is very slow and cumbersome.

When the Tribe buys land outright, it is considered "fee land," which is treated like any other private property by the county.

In stages, the land can eventually become "trust land" and "reservation land."

In both cases, actual ownership is transferred to the federal government and goes off the local tax rolls. Trust status can be revoked by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs'

regional office in Portland while only Congress can revoke reservation status.

The legislation would establish a simpler, quicker, more streamlined system of advancing land in the Department of Interior's process of taking land into trust for Indian Tribes.

The Tribe's original reservation, which straddled both Yamhill and Polk counties, was granted in the 1850s and totaled more than 60,000 acres.

After Termination in 1954 and then Restoration in 1983, the Tribe was given back approximately 10,000 acres, all of it located in Yamhill County.

"I believe that any support we get on this issue symbolizes the strength of the relationship we have with both Polk and Yamhill counties," McClary said.

"We have been good partners with our surrounding counties and they have been good partners with us. The long-standing friendships built over the years have once again prevailed and we are very grateful." ■