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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Spirit Mountain takes over as parade sponsor



Smoke Signals file photo

Spirit Mountain Casino's float, "First Have Compassion," makes its way down the Grand Floral Parade route in Portland in 2010.

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

KeyBank is out and Spirit Mountain Casino is in. The casino, the primary business enterprise of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, is the new official sponsor of the iconic Portland Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.

The centerpiece of the Rose Festival was officially renamed on Wednesday, Jan. 19, during an event held at the casino.

The Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade will be held Saturday, June 11, and be seen by tens of thousands in person and on television

worldwide since it is one of the longest-running floral parades in the world.

The casino and Portland Rose Festival Foundation signed a three-year deal, said Rich Jarvis, foundation public relations manager.

Casino spokesman Greg Fritz said that the casino committed to a six-figure, three-year deal as parade sponsor.

"The Tribe has ancestral ties to Portland," Fritz said. "The Tribal board felt this was an important event that deserved support."

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Clark County challenging Cowlitz decision

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Clark County, Wash., commissioners have become the first entity to announce that it will appeal the U.S. Department of Interior's Dec. 23 decision to take 152 acres into trust as reservation land for the Cowlitz Tribe.

The Cowlitz plan to build a casino on land 15 miles north of the Portland-Vancouver metro area near La Center.

After meeting in executive session on Wednesday, Jan. 11, Clark County commissioners directed county legal staff to file an appeal in U.S. District Court.

"This should come as no surprise," Commissioner Tom Mielke said. "For years, the county has raised concerns about this project and its effects on our community. Those concerns have not been adequately addressed."

Clark County representatives said their lawsuit will be based in part on the 2009 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Carcieri v. Salazar*, which prohibits the federal government from taking land into trust for Tribes that were recognized after 1934, the year the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted.

The Cowlitz Tribe was federally acknowledged in 2000.

The appeal also will focus on the environmental impact analysis submitted by the Cowlitz Tribe and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, county representatives said.

The casino could face legal challenges from a number of other groups, including a coalition of

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Southern sights

Tribal member Perri McDaniel to manage Eugene satellite office

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

After a few months of on and off service in Eugene, Tribal member Perri McDaniel has been named coordinator of the satellite office.

"I hope to make a fresh start," McDaniel said. "We will be rebuilding the programming that used to be provided regularly."

McDaniel, who lives in Grand Ronde, is so into the effort that she is commuting down to Eugene four days a week and staying with her daughter.

At the moment, McDaniel is alone in that effort, but is looking to provide a good work experience for a Tribal member, possibly hiring someone through the federal 477 work experience program.

Among programs that are already in progress, McDaniel named:

- **Traditional Lifeways**, Tuesdays from 2-8:30 p.m. including woodcarving, basket weaving, drum making and Native art and design. Tribal member Greg Archuleta teaches many of these skills.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Perri McDaniel, a longtime employee of the Tribe and Spirit Mountain Casino, is the new coordinator of the Eugene satellite office.

- **Regalia making for ladies**, every other Wednesday from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (in February and March, the dates are the 9th and the 23rd) including lessons on making shawls, dentalia hair ties and accessories. Tribal member Carol Haskins teaches this course.
- **Making hand drums**, Saturday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Chinuk wawa classes**, Lane

Community College longhouse, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m. 100 and 200 level classes taught as Lane Community College courses have already begun.

- **Wellness**, including yoga, strength and cardiovascular training, and nutrition

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