



**Kyoni Mercier, Tribal member and Grand Ronde Canoe Family member, dances to the song "New Beginnings" at the Lane Community College Native American Longhouse in Eugene.**

**Photos by Michelle Alaimo**



**Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach plays the flute as he performs the song "Reborn" during the event at the Lane Community College Native American Longhouse. Playing guitar in the background is Tribal member Kenny Lewis.**

## Event honors longhouse

Tribal Elder Bob Tom and Tribal member Greg Archuleta were the planners of an event that took place at the Lane Community College Native American Longhouse in Eugene on Tuesday, Jan. 25. The event included a performance by Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach, in which Tribal member Kenny Lewis also participated, a presentation on the "Value of Formal & Cultural Education" by the Tribe's Education Division Manager April Campbell, also a Tribal member, singing, drumming and dancing by the Grand Ronde Canoe Family and dinner. According to Tom, the purpose of the event was to acknowledge the building as a living thing and to get a Grand Ronde presence at the college for current and future attending Grand Ronde students.



**Tribal members and sisters Kaelynn Simmons, 9, left, and Seq'Hiya Simmons, 4, participate in a fun dance as the Grand Ronde Canoe Family sings during the event at the Lane Community College Native American Longhouse in Eugene on Tuesday, Jan. 25.**

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## Vancouver City Council vowed to fight the casino in 2007

**COWLITZ continued from front page**

La Center card room owners, who would stand to lose business to the much larger casino, as well as the city of La Center, which would lose much of its tax revenue generated by those card rooms.

And the Vancouver City Council vowed to fight the casino in a 2007 resolution. The council, according to news reports, has met in closed session twice to discuss potential litigation since the casino was approved by the Department of Interior, although it is not clear whether the Cowlitz decision was the topic.

Interested parties have until early February to appeal the decision to take the land into trust.


"This was not unexpected by your Tribal Council and our legal, po-

litical and public affairs team," said Grand Ronde Tribal member and Tribal lobbyist Justin Martin. "It is simply the next step in a very long process and we foresaw it a year ago. Most importantly, we have options and your Tribal Council is acting responsibly to address this issue and work with our broader coalition."


The Cowlitz Tribe's primary financial backer, the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut, is currently dealing with more than \$1.5 billion in debt, forcing a staged building schedule.

Cowlitz Tribal Chairman William Iyall said the Tribe could have the casino operating within three years, but legal challenges likely would push that timeline back.

*Includes information from The Oregonian and The Columbian newspapers. ■*



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