

## Rose Festival Court visits Spirit Mountain Casino

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Fifteen Portland Rose Festival princesses and their entourage visited Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, May 22, to enjoy a brunch-style lunch and thank the casino and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for sponsoring the upcoming Grand Floral Parade.

Spirit Mountain Casino is in its second year as official sponsor of the iconic Grand Floral Parade, this year set for 10 a.m. Saturday, June 9, in downtown Portland.

This year's Rose Festival Court includes Carter Wallace, Wilson High School; Sade' Beasley, Benson High; Amirose Mallet, St. Mary's High; Meleah Cooper, David Douglas High; Janae Brown, Jefferson High; Katherine Sinnott, Central Catholic High; Nyausha West, Grant High; Cassidy Zusmas, Lincoln High; Keely van Baggen, Madison High; Asia Greene, Roosevelt High; Charlotte Taylor, Cleveland High; Lydia Terjerson, METRO West; Mehek Sethi, METRO East; Alexis Phillips, Franklin High; and Bre'Shay Barnes, Parkrose High.

Attired in Adidas pink rain jackets, the princesses were seated at tables inside the casino's Kalapuya conference room as Tribal Council members and casino staff arrived for the lunchtime event and meal.

Spirit Mountain Marketing Manager Greg Fritz, who also sits on the Rose Festival Board of Directors, introduced Rodney Ferguson, Spirit Mountain chief executive officer, to the Rose Festival Court.

"It is such a thrill each and every time to see your lovely faces," Ferguson said. "We are sure that your parents and everyone else are so proud of you and your years in high school. You have made it to this point in your life where your next step will be even more exciting. We are so happy to have you here."

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. gave the invocation, but beforehand he also welcomed the princesses to the Tribe's homelands.

"As Native Americans and as in most cultures, our young people are our treasures," Bobb said. "They are the vessels to the future. From



Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., second from left, talks with Rose Festival Court Princess Asia Greene, right, after she gave him and Rodney Ferguson, Spirit Mountain Casino chief executive officer, a handout with all of the princesses photos and a pin as a thank you during the court's visit to Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, May 22. Greene attends Roosevelt High School.

the day that you enter our lives, you are wrapped in a cocoon of hopes and dreams by a generation that knows you will accomplish things.

"On behalf of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, all of our members and our wonderful staff, we wish you the best."

After Bobb's invocation, the princesses were treated to a meal that included prime rib, eggs Benedict, baby shrimp, fruit, pastries and hash browns. Princess Carter Wallace said the Rose Festival Court had previously visited Pendleton, Astoria, Cannon Beach, Tillamook, McMinnville and Salem before making a stop in Grand Ronde.

In Tillamook, the court visited the Tillamook Cheese Factory; in McMinnville, they toured Evergreen Aviation Museum; and in Salem, they met with Gov. John Kitzhaber.

Princess Meleah Cooper said her favorite things about serving in the Rose Festival Court were, in order, the trip to Pendleton where they rode horses and met the Pendleton Roundup Court, the clothes that have been donated to them and the parades they have participated in.

Cooper said she had visited the casino before. When she was younger, her parents would stop at Spirit Mountain for the buffet and she and her brother would share from their parents' plates.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Rose Festival Court Princess Katherine Sinnott, second from left, introduces herself as other princesses look on during the court's visit to Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, May 22. Sinnott attends Central Catholic High School.

From Grand Ronde, the princesses were scheduled to board a bus and return to the Portland area for an evening dinner.

Wallace added that she is appreciative of the "limitless opportunities" being a Rose Festival princess has offered her while Cooper said she appreciates the "countless connections" she has made.

Wallace said she will be heading

to Western Washington University in the fall to study either theater or law enforcement while Cooper is headed to the University of Oregon to study product design and minor in business.

In addition to Bobb, Tribal Council members Chris Mercier and Toby McClary and Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor attended the event and mingled with the court. ■

### Elders' garage sale seeking donations

Tribal Elders are regularly seeking donations for fundraising garage sales. To donate an item or items, contact Tribal Elders Linda Brandon at 971-267-0918 or Duane Wheeler at 541-992-3254. ■

## Ballots due June 13

VOTE continued  
from front page

In a 2010 non-binding survey, Tribal members who responded supported a primary election process 582-366, or 61.4 percent in favor of the idea.

Recent Tribal Council elections since 2008 have regularly seen 10 or more Tribal members nominated. With so many candidates on the ballot, those elected to three-year Tribal Council terms customarily

receive less than 20 percent of the total vote.

Tribal members had until May 9 to register with the BIA to vote in the amendment election. Ballots were sent to registered Tribal voters on Friday, May 18, and must be returned to the BIA by Wednesday, June 13.

If approved by Tribal voters, a primary election would start with the 2013 Tribal Council election cycle if more than 10 candidates are nominated. ■

### Helpline Provides Free, Confidential Crisis Intervention and Resources

As 2012 begins, Oregon Partnership offers a reminder about our free, confidential alcohol and drug HelpLine (800-923-HELP; 800-923-4357).

Highly trained volunteers and staff provide compassionate assistance to people in crisis as well as to family members and friends concerned about loved ones.

The line operates 24/7, responding to those seeking crisis intervention and resources that help them heal.

#### YouthLine

A peer-to-peer crisis line for teens. Chat online [www.OregonYouthline.org](http://www.OregonYouthline.org). Youth working under the supervision of an adult answer calls on diverse topics including substance abuse, depression, self-harm, dating violence and other issues, many of which have substance abuse as an underlying issue. Call 877-YOUTH-911 - (877) 968-8491