## Smoke Signals A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## State analysis: Private casino a bad deal

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Pirst, the Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review Commission voted 17-7 against measures 82 and 83, which would amend the state Constitution and allow a private casino in Wood Village.

And now a state economic analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office finds that a huge casino in east Multnomah County would probably cost state and local governments money and likely shrink the Oregon economy.

The analysis, written in July by Mazen Malik, a senior economist in the Legislative Revenue Office, evaluated three scenarios in which the proposed casino would operate 2,200 slot machines and three more scenarios in which it operated 3,500 slots, the number included in the

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## Community Fund awards \$902,699 to nonprofits, Tribes

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

a s part of the Tribe's most recent effort "to improve the quality of life in Oregon consistent with the Tribe's values," Spirit Mountain Community Fund gave out \$902,699 in grants to Oregon nonprofits and Tribes on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

In 34 grants to nonprofits, the Community Fund awarded \$502,405, funding projects in education, health, arts and culture, environment, historic preservation and public safety.

This quarter's recipients included the Black Parent Initiative of Portland, a 6-year-old nonprofit that uses parent training and coaching to bring about family stabilization in Multnomah County, said Charles McGee, president and CEO of the nonprofit. The \$20,000 award will enable Black Parent Initiative to increase services to 250 families from the 200 it served before the award.

This was the first Community

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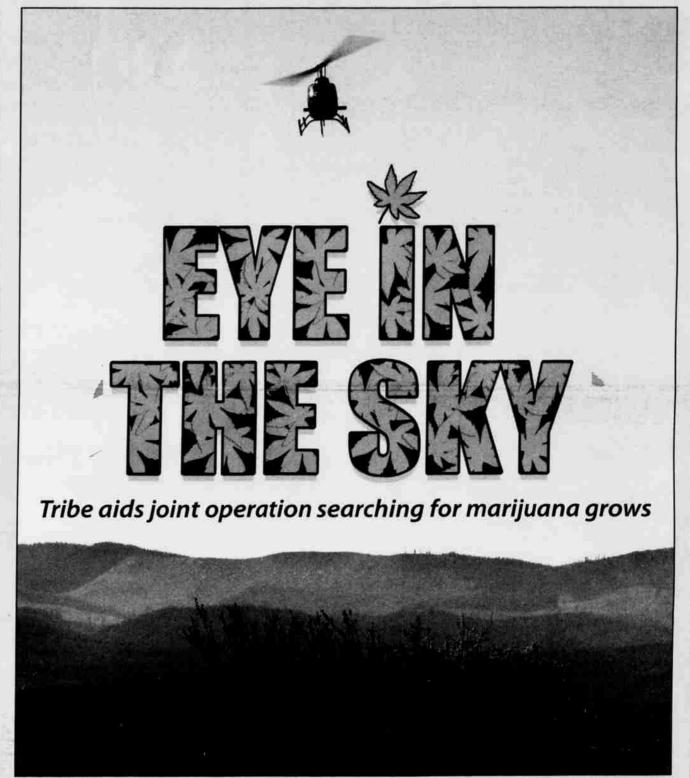


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

A National Guard helicopter comes in for a landing near the Tribal Natural Resources Department building on Thursday, Sept. 6. The crew on board was part of a multi-agency drug team searching for large-scale marijuana grow sites in the area.

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

At 11 a.m. on a sunny Thursday, National Guard helicopters landed on a patch of grass in front of the Tribal Natural Resources Department building like it's a M.A.S.H. unit, but the whirly-birds were not bringing in the wounded.

They are part of a multiagency drug team, back from the first of two flights scheduled for the day, searching for largescale marijuana growing sites. This year, for the first time, the operation for the four northwestern counties started and ended on Tribal property in Grand Ronde.

"We're a certified law enforcement agency," says Director of Development and Public Safety Pete Wakeland, "so it makes sense that we cooperate with other law enforcement agencies. It's a combined effort to keep the Reservation and local community safe."

Making Tribal property available to the team started with a request from Oregon State Police Senior Trooper Randy Ogle to Tribal Interim Police Chief Jake McKnight. They have worked together for years — Ogle as coordinator of the Coast Region Marijuana Team and McKnight as the Tribe's Forest Patrol officer.

"Whatever I can do to make it easier on them, I'll lend a hand," says McKnight.

Ultimately, Natural Resourc-

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