

Washburn confirmed as new head of BIA

Kevin Washburn, a member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Sept. 21 as the new Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior.

"As we continue to strengthen the integrity of the nation's government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian Tribes and empower Native American and Alaska Native communities, Kevin Washburn will be an outstanding addition to our leadership team and a vital asset for President Obama's initiatives in Indian Country," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "Kevin's professional and academic achievements and his thorough knowledge of the critical issues facing the nation's First Americans will help us to fulfill the president's commitment to empower Tribal governments and advance their economic and social goals."

Washburn is dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, a position he had held since June 2009. He succeeds Larry Echohawk as the head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. ■

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Oregonians rejected the same proposal in 2010

CASINO continued from front page

measure's ballot language.

Only two of the six scenarios Malik analyzed showed a net gain for the state, ranging from \$32 million to \$53 million, if a smaller casino is built.

Under the larger casino scenarios, far more money is diverted from the Oregon Lottery than comes back to the state from the casino. Oregon government coffers would lose as much as \$63 million a year, even after the casino's seemingly generous payment of \$100 million is factored in.

The Oregon Lottery is the state's second-largest source of revenue after income taxes. Lottery officials believe gamers who might otherwise spend their money on video poker would gamble instead at the proposed casino.

Within a 20-mile radius of Wood Village are 800 restaurants and taverns that have video lottery terminals, representing 37 percent of the state total and about \$350 million in annual sales.

The Oregon Lottery returns 65 percent of its revenues to Oregon while casino proponents are only offering to return 25 percent of its revenue to the state.

Steven Ungar, a former chairman of the state Lottery Commission, said Oregon's independent analysis is proof the state will be hurt by the casino.

"A private casino is ill-conceived and not in the public's best interests," said Ungar, a Portland lawyer. "I'm confident that the measure would result in a net financial loss to the people of Oregon."

The analysis found that money gambled at the casino would mostly come from within Oregon. Although

it found that an estimated \$83 million to \$126 million would be added to the economy, that addition is outweighed by the cash flowing out of state to the casino's owners and lenders. The Oregon economy could shrink by as much as \$74 million a year, resulting in overall job losses, the analysis found.

Gov. John Kitzhaber says a plan such as those in measures 82 and 83 would hurt the state budget, increase the number of addicted gamblers and unfairly punish Tribal casinos, which use gaming revenues to fund education, health care and other programs for their membership. With reduced revenue, members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes may turn to state services to replace those that would have to be cut by Tribal governments.

Kitzhaber wrote in an Aug. 28 letter to the Portland City Club that a private casino would "primarily benefit a few wealthy executives and foreign investors while creating increased opportunities for corporate corruption and organized crime."

The two measures are backed by wealthy Lake Oswego businessmen Bruce Studer and Matt Rossman and financially supported by Canadian gaming giant Clairvest out of Toronto.

In 2010, Oregonians rejected the same proposal by a 68-32 percent margin.

So far, casino proponents have spent more than \$1 million on a deluge of TV ads backing the project, which they have dubbed "The Grange."

"What the proponents of measures 82 and 83 are proposing is not just fuzzy math, it's Vegas math," said Justin Martin, the Tribe's lobbyist. ■

Costa Rican visitors



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Greg Archuleta, second from right, talks about the traditional use of lamprey to a delegation of indigenous Costa Ricans as Tribal Council member Jon A. George, right, looks on, during the group's visit to Grand Ronde on Friday, Sept. 21. Archuleta demonstrated the traditional way salmon and lamprey are cooked and later in the day the group was served a meal including the two.



A group of visitors from Costa Rica listen as, from left, Jordan Mercier, Travis Mercier, Brian Krehbiel, Bobby Mercier and Tribal Council member Jon A. George sing in the plankhouse on Friday, Sept. 21. Bobby Mercier also gave them a brief history of the Tribe. After the plankhouse, the group visited the Governance Center and talked with Tribal Council.

Zumba held Monday, Wednesday in Grand Ronde

Zumba, a Latin-inspired and calorie-burning dance fitness party, is held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in the old Grand Ronde Middle School.

The first class is free and \$6 thereafter for drop-ins, or \$5 if participants purchase a punch card.

For more information, contact Tribal Recreation Coordinator Matthew Mosely at 503-879-1369 or matthew.mosely@grandronde.org. ■

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