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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Council OKs \$13 million loan to remodel Spirit Mountain

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a loan not to exceed \$13 million to fund an extensive remodel of Spirit Mountain Casino during its Wednesday, Nov. 4, meeting.

During the previous day's Legislative Action Committee meeting, Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Stan Dillon said the loan would pay to renovate about 82,000 square feet of the casino, which just celebrated its 20th year in business.

Dillon said the renovation would be a one-year project that would substantially update the property.

According to a staff directive included in the Nov. 4 Tribal Council packet, the remodel will include moving the existing poker room to The Peak, adding a new casino entrance to the old poker room and adding a new bar to the casino.

"Moving poker and keno to The Peak will allow Spirit Mountain to rebrand The Peak as a non-smoking gaming area," the directive stated. "The entire casino space will be remodeled with new finishes, carpet, lighting displays, ceiling fixtures and signage."

In addition, the project will allow the casino to move approximately 200 slot machines from The Peak to the main casino floor, which will increase revenue by approximately \$730,000 annually.

I-5 Design and Manufacture Inc. of Lacey, Wash., will perform the work.

The loan will be structured as a

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Bull market



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Marcel Allen won first place in the Junior Bull Riding Championship at the 2015 Indian National Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas, Nev., on Saturday, Nov. 7. He won a saddle, chaps and a belt buckle.

Tribal youth Marcel Allen wins rodeo championship

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member Marcel Allen won the 40th annual World Junior Bull Riding Championship at the 2015 Indian National Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas, Nev., on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Allen qualified for the world championship, which was held at the South Point Equestrian Center, after winning three of seven bull riding events this summer.

"There were a lot more people," said Allen. "There was a different set-up and it was just a whole different thing. I was super excited about the whole thing. It was fun."

Allen, 16, scored a 73 on his first ride and a 66 on his second ride for a combined score of 139 points. Allen was in third place after the first two rides, which was good enough to qualify him for the short go.

Junior bull riders have to stay on the bulls for at least six seconds to register a score before the judges. Allen said he only had 15

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Tribe holds third History & Culture Summit



Photo by Brent Merrill

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

The question on everyone's mind was "What is culture?" as the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde held its third annual History and Culture Summit on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 28-29, with the theme of "Bridging Practices with Interdisciplinary Thinking."

Umatilla Tribal member Gabe Sheoships, right, is introduced by Grand Ronde Tribal member David Harrelson during the second day of the third annual Grand Ronde History and Culture Summit held in the Tribal Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 29. Sheoships gave a presentation about Pacific lamprey and detailed the history and meaning of the fish to Pacific Northwest Tribal culture.

Topics covered over the two-day summit included subjects like Tribal language programs, health and wellness, cultural education, archaeology, sacred sites and spaces, repatriation, Columbia River art, storytelling, educational

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