

Spring Concert To Be Performed

The Bay Area Concert Band will hold their spring concert at the North Bend Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 15. Band Director, Mr. Mark Allen takes up the baton for the 7:30 PM performance.

bring music to their community and look forward to seeing familiar faces (and new faces) in the audience. Admission is free, although donations are accepted. The proceeds go into a scholarship fund to help our younger members further their musical education.

The members of the band work hard to

Every Vote Counts!

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Friday, May 9, 2008

SUPPORT FOR ALLOWING THE COQUILLE TO MANAGE BLM LANDS

The following is a letter received by Koos News from Doug Robertson, Douglas County Commissioner, regarding the proposal by Coos County Commissioner John Griffith to allow the Coquille Indian Tribe to manage the Coos Bay Wagon Roads lands.

In his remarks at a candidates forum that I supported the idea of Coos and Douglas County pursuing a transfer of ownership of the CBWR lands.

I, along with the vast majority of county commissioners who make up the O&C Board of Directors, would jump at the opportunity for our respective counties to gain title to the O&C lands and/or CBWR lands. The chance of that happening in the foreseeable future, however, is non-existent. The most recent attempt to sell a small amount of margin-

ally productive Forest Service land to help offset the cost of the county payments program could not even get one single vote of support in the United States Senate...not one!

A much more practical approach that does not require the United States to relinquish its ownership has been suggested by Coos County Commissioner John Griffith. John is a board member of the Association of O&C Counties. His is one of the most knowledgeable and respected voices on federal forest issues, as well as issues that impact all of our coastal communities.

Commissioner Griffith's suggestion is to capitalize on the fact that the Coquille Indian Tribe is already managing federal forest land in Coos County. Commissioner Griffith proposes to redesignate the CBWR lands within Coos County, so that they remain in federal ownership but come under the management of the Tribe. The fact that the Tribe is already operating within the Department of Interior and has a compact to manage BLM lands, lends substantial credence to John's suggestion. Coos County has 60,000 acres of CBWR lands within its borders, which represents a significant potential for income. So long as such an arrangement could be reached without opening up possible amendments to the 1937 O&C Act, I would support Commissioner Griffith's idea. His proposal also stipulates that the tribe could not engage in any primary wood manufacturing, so they would not compete with manufactures in the private sector. The land would also remain open for all of the current uses the public now enjoys.

Douglas County has a much smaller ownership of CBWR land (14,000 acres) and these lands are not near or adjacent to

the lands now being managed by the Tribe, as are the CBWR lands in Coos County. I have had preliminary discussion with some of our federal representatives about the possibility of a transfer of management authority to Douglas County for these lands. Because the County is not part of the Department of Interior, and has no management agreement in place with the BLM, this approach would be much more difficult to achieve. Having said that, however, it is going to take the innovative thoughts of

people like John Griffith to create a way out of the fiscal crisis in which the counties now find themselves.

All of us need to keep an open mind in considering and discussing any plan that increases balanced management and forest health on our federal timber lands.

Doug Robertson,
Douglas County Commissioner and President of the Assn. of O&C Counties

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Rotary Benefit Announced

Bay Area Sunrise Rotary Club will host its 2nd annual Black & White Benefit Gala, a dinner-dance-auction to benefit Rotary Community Projects. Join us for gourmet food, wine and art, silent and live auctions, and the "It's About Time Big Band." The event will be held Saturday, May 10th, 6:00 - 11:00 PM at the Oregon Coast Culinary Institute at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Tickets are \$40.00 each and are limited in number. For more information or tickets contact: Lynda Kristoffersen, 756-4570 or Jan Delimont, 290-1850 or Shirley Bridgham 756-5401.

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