

## Former congressman opposes reservation

Smith now argues that Klamath restoration plan would not be fair to U.S. taxpayers

MEDFORD (AP) — The former U.S. congressman who won renewed federal status for the Klamath Tribes in southern Oregon in the 1980s has questioned the tribes' attempt to create a reservation out of national forest land.

At issue is a proposal by the tribes to settle their water claims in the Klamath Basin in exchange for the government handing over roughly 690,000 acres of the Winema and Fremont national forests.

Bob Smith, a Republican who served 14 years in the U.S. Con-

gress and left office in 1992, helped the tribes win federal recognition in 1986.

But he argued at the time that restoring a reservation was not historically justified because the government had already compensated tribal members when their land was taken away in 1954, during termination.

"I didn't think that would be fair to taxpayers," to return to tribes land already paid for, he said in an interview with the Klamath Falls Herald & News.

Smith said the federal government shouldn't give the land

back unless it gets something in return.

"To me, the issue hasn't changed," since the 1980s, he said.

Chuck Kimbol, tribal chairman during the restoration negotiations, said Smith backed away from putting language about land in the bill because he didn't want to face any controversy.

"He was all right with (restoration) as long as we didn't mention land," he said.

But, Kimbol said, the bill did have the potential for a reser-

vation because it called for an "economic self-sufficiency" plan.

That plan was completed in 2000, and the Tribes included the re-establishment of a reservation as a requirement of economic independence.

The Tribes' original reservation was abolished by the U.S. Congress in 1954 under a policy that encouraged the assimilation of American Indians. Tribal members had two choices: Take a payment as their share of the reservation or become "remaining members," with their shares

held in trust by U.S. Bank.

Several years later, members who voted to withdraw from the tribes were paid by the government for their shares of the reservation. In the 1970s, the trust was dissolved, and those who voted to be remaining members got payments.

Allen Foreman, current tribal chairman, argues tribal members were forced to take payments that were too low and completely ignored the value of timber on the reservation.

Information from: The Klamath Falls Herald & News.

## Plans made for tribal justice center in Idaho

FORT HALL, Idaho (AP) — Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Development officials will choose a firm soon to develop architectural plans for a Tribal Justice Center on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

Tribal officials have planned the center for years. It was requested by the Bureau of Indian Affairs during a recent law enforcement review, and it will serve the Tribes court system, law enforcement and jail under one roof, tribal planner Jon Norstog said.

The Justice Center will have two additional courtrooms, and will house all court documents. Currently, documents are stored in several buildings throughout the town.

Law enforcement offices would be in the building, and there would be rooms for confidential discussions between defendants and their advocates.

The facility also would hold a new jail. The present jail, about 30 years old, is in need of repair, according to BIA officials.

Tribal government officials, law enforcement and court employees will study dozens of proposals, and should choose a firm by March, Norstog said. The hiring process will conform to Indian-preference rules established by the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance, Norstog said.

The project is expected to cost up to \$12 million. The tribe has saved \$4 million, and Congress granted \$250,000 for design and planning. Officials are working with Idaho's congressional delegation to secure supplemental funding for the project.

"The whole region would benefit from stable law enforcement in Fort Hall," Norstog said.

## Development pending Nez Perce challenge county commission

PORTLAND (AP) — Commissioners in northeastern Oregon's Willowa County on Thursday approved plans for an upscale subdivision near the grave of Old Chief Joseph, land considered culturally significant to the Nez Perce Indians, who have lived in the area since time immemorial.

The Nez Perce and two other Northwest tribes had challenged the plans for 11 homes on 62 acres near the grave on a site that is also a trailhead of the Nez Perce Historic Trail.

Chief Joseph, the son of old Chief Joseph, followed the trail in 1877 in a running a 1,500-mile fighting retreat from the U.S. Calvary that ended with his surrender near the Canadian border and exile of his band from the Willowa Valley.

In a heartbreaking surrender speech to U.S. Gen. Oliver O. Howard at the other end of the trail, Chief Joseph said: "I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

Tribes had linked the grave of Chief Joseph's father and the area of planned development with this tragic chapter in their history, and said they hoped the land would be made into a park

or a preserve. They had also objected that the property, on a grassy ridge at the foot of picturesque Willowa Lake, held archaeological sites and possibly American Indian graves. Nez Perce tribal members once camped on the land and fished sockeye salmon from the lake and hunted in the Willowa Mountains.

"We are extremely disappointed with the county's decision," Anthony D. Johnson, chairman of the Nez Perce tribe, said in a statement. "This decision ignores...the enormous public interest in protecting the site."

The Nez Perce tribe said Thursday it would appeal to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals within 21 days.

Commissioners approved the subdivision with modifications.

The developer, K&B Limited Family Partnership, will be required to conduct another archeological survey before building, said Commissioner Ben Boswell. Two previous surveys on the land found chips from tool making but no clear evidence of graves or village sites.

## Black Eagle drummers capture Grammy Award

A Jemez Pueblo drum group, Black Eagle, has won the Grammy Award for best Native American music album.

Black Eagle's album "Flying Free" received the award during Sunday's ceremony in Los Angeles. It beat out more than 100 original submissions.

The group has 20 members and focuses on northern-style powwow music.

The album's producer, Tom Bee of SOAR studio in Albu-

querque, said the group, which was nominated for a Grammy in 2002 but did not win, clearly earned the honor.

"I'm very happy for them," said Bee. "They're a very hardworking group, which will represent not just Jemez but all New Mexico pueblos in grand style."

Bee said the Grammy probably will be displayed at Walatowa Visitor Center in Jemez Pueblo.



Young dancers greet those in attendance at the Lincoln's Birthday Powwow, at the Simnasho Longhouse on Saturday, Feb. 14.

## During address to lawmakers Penobscot chief stresses sovereignty

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Chief Barry Dana of the Penobscot Nation stressed a theme of tribal sovereignty in his State of the Tribes address to the Maine Legislature on Tuesday, while making only passing reference to the Indians' failed casino proposal.

In his speech to a joint House-Senate convention, Dana said he foresees a time when "sovereignty is no longer a statement to be feared."

"We at times differ on our understanding of sovereignty. I stand committed in working to resolve those differences," said Dana. "This will only work if both governments are open, trusting and able to let go of old mindsets."

Dana also said the tribes and

state government should work collaboratively to address issues such as housing and the environment facing the Indians and their non-Indian neighbors.

"All of us, native and nonnative alike, are on a shared journey," Dana told lawmakers.

In a reference to last fall's Indian casino referendum campaign, Dana said he learned a lot about Maine people and their needs as he traveled across the state campaigning for the resort-casino plan.

"Mainers are proud and are hard workers and they need jobs," Dana said, adding, "There are indeed two Maines."

The Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes' proposal to operate a \$650 million casino in southern Maine, which sup-

porters said would have created thousands of jobs, was rejected overwhelmingly by voters in November.

Despite the losing campaign, Dana said "there were things we achieved. With integrity, we educated this state as to who we are."

"I still feel compelled to create economic opportunities for our nation and the non-natives in our surrounding communities," he told lawmakers.

Dana said some of the Penobscots' successful efforts include providing housing and loans to tribal members for homes, preserving tribal culture, fighting illegal drug use on the reservation and improving health care. But he said more needs to be done in some of

those areas, as well as providing "meaningful employment" for members.

The Penobscot leader did not mention the latest proposal by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation to allow them to compete for a license to operate slot machines at a Bangor harness racing track.

**Now Open**  
**World of Treasures, Inc.**  
*Antique Mall and Gift Shop*  
 plus  
**Second Time Around**  
*New and Used Furniture*



10,000 sq. feet of great treasures, new and old, with new items arriving weekly

Dealer spaces available for antiques and collectibles



Mattress sets, new and used.

Furniture, gifts, glassware, pottery, fenton dealer, Anheuser-Busch dealer for steins & collectibles, dolls dragons, candles and more

Stop in and check us out  
 Lay-aways  
 and credit cards accepted  
 Financing available

World of Treasures Inc.  
 Second Time Around  
 178 SW 5th  
 Madras, OR 97741  
 (541) 475-6991

**IRA'S SALES & SERVICE**  
 181 SW MERRITT LANE  
 JUST ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MILLER FORD DEALERSHIP

Leave it at Ira's **541-475-3861** Leave it at Ira's

**"You Trash-em, We Smash-em"**  
 Now buying salvage cars and taking in old junkers.  
 Rates, prices negotiable, hauling available.