

Council moves economic vitality forward

By Clint Jacks and Teresa Hogue

In March the Tribal Council continued to advance four Economic stewardship goals by adopting resolutions that increase the ability of the tribes move economic vitality forward.

Tribal Council continues to hold up the following goals: To increase tribal revenue, to increase jobs, to foster private sector business development and to improve reservation infrastructure.

In prior action the Council set up three funds to help achieve these goals: the Business Investment Revolving Fund with \$8 million in funding; the Private Business Revolving Fund, with \$2 million; and the Capacity Building Fund, also with \$2 million.

The March resolutions: Moved management of the old apparel factory building to the Warm Springs Property Management, LLC, under "Ventures" or the EDC.

This will allow for maintenance, upgrading, and leasing out the building to three tribal

enterprises: the Warm Springs Telecommunications Co. (Teleco), Ventures and Construction.

The building will have extra space for lease to tribal enterprises or private businesses.

The March resolutions also: Moved all outside plant tribal telecommunications infrastructure to Teleco; and established that Teleco will be the preferred provider for telecommunications on the reservation.

By resolution the Council adopted the capacity building budget, a multi-year \$2 million budget which provides for timely reporting to Tribal Council by the secretary-treasurer's office, and places a strong emphasis on recruiting outside grant dollars.

Under the capacity budget there are major areas of emphasis:

Creating a private business center with support services, and paving the way for a loan to the Warm Springs Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), managed under the Warm Springs Community Action Team. The CDFI

will focus on loans to private businesses. Other major areas of emphasis:

Job creation and development of a skilled workforce with a focus on upgrading skills of potential employees for jobs in tribal enterprises, private business and tribal government.

Places an emphasis on upgrading the physical infrastructure with sewer, water, power, and telecommunications for tribal enterprises and private businesses through grant development.

Creates two positions, one working out of the secretary-treasurer's office to coordinate and facilitate economic development projects, and the second position to give additional capacity to Ventures as they access potential business opportunities.

Provides for a road map for short and long term economic development projects and opportunities. In addition the Tribal Council emphasized the importance of moving quickly on policies and procedures for the \$2 million Private Business Revolving Fund, which be the topic for the Economic Stewardship report on April 19.

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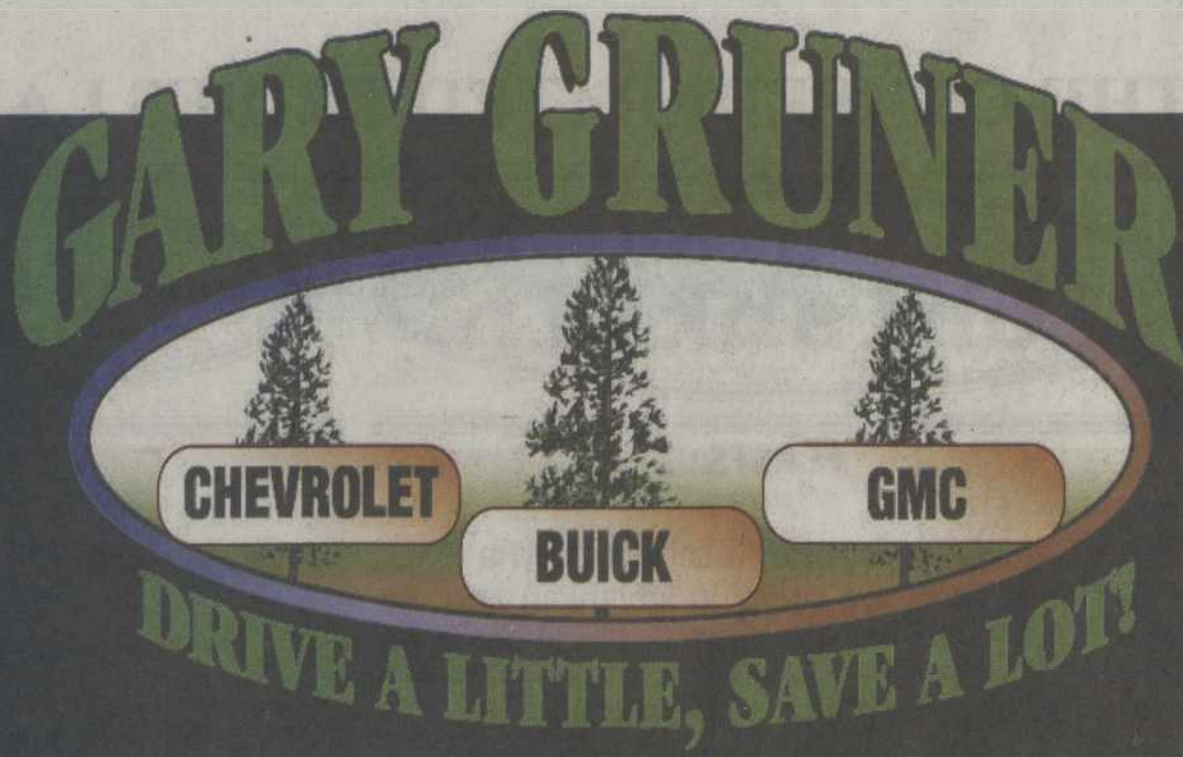
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