

SMOKE SIGNALS

JANUARY 1989

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE

GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

COUNCIL CONSIDERS BURIAL INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

The Grand Ronde Tribal Council has begun reviewing proposals for establishing a burial insurance policy for tribal members.

Besides looking at proposals from insurance companies, the Council is considering the feasibility of self insurance. The policy benefit has not been determined, but would be paid for with tribal timber revenues.

The Council will also be formulating guidelines on burial standards. Carrying out the guidelines set for the insurance policy would be the tribal Cemetery Committee.

The Council hopes to have a policy into place within the next few months.

REAGAN SIGNS INDIAN HEALTH CARE ACT

President Reagan signed into law the 1988 Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments on November 23, 1988. The Amendments include important changes for health programs.

*The Act includes a new Indian Health Care Improvement Fund, which will be targeted to tribes with the greatest resource deficiencies.

*The Act creates an Indian Health Professions Scholarship Program in which Native American participants would repay the grant by employment with a tribal organization. The Program is aimed at increasing the number of Native Americans in Health related fields.

The Act also includes new policies for health facilities and sanitation construction, allows third-party reimbursements directly to health contractors, and establishes urban Indian health care programs as a permanent part of the Indian Health Service.

TRIBE LEASES KEIZER FACILITY

Facility will be used for an American Indian Youth Residential Treatment Center.

The Grand Ronde Tribes signed a six month lease agreement with Southwestern Washington Hospitals Incorporated, for the former TurnAround Treatment Center in Keizer, Oregon.

The Tribes will use the building to operate the American Indian Residential Treatment Center which will provide services to Indian youth assessed to be needing substance abuse treatment.

The Center, scheduled to open in January 1989, will serve about 42 youth who reside within the Portland Area of the Indian Health Services, which includes the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The Tribe decided to set up a youth residential program after formulating a Tribal Action Plan on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. The planning process identified the need for a Youth Residential Treatment program, according to Health Director Cheryle Kennedy.

From then on, things just seemed to fall into place, said Kennedy. The TurnAround Center became available, and the Tribe worked to get federal and state funds that were set aside for drug and alcohol abuse, she said.

A director for the program is expected to be hired in late December. At full capacity the Center will employ 25, including administrative and maintenance staff, cooks, counselors, and teachers.

The Tribe expects to purchase the facility before the end of the six month lease agreement. Also within six months, the Tribe plans to transfer the Treatment Center over to a board of directors who will oversee its operation. The Tribe would retain ownership of the facility.

The building, owned by Southwest Washington Hospitals Incorporated, has headquarters in Vancouver,



Washington and operate a chain of hospitals and adult and youth alcohol drug centers. The facility is three years old and built primarily as a residential treatment center.

The treatment center will add to the Tribe's other alcohol and drug services which include an Out-Patient Prevention-Education Alcohol Program; and a Rehabilitation Aftercare Alcohol Program.

An Open House at the facility is scheduled for January 21, from 10 - 5 p.m. The facility is located at 5119 River Road N in Keizer.

AMERICAN INDIAN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER

OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 21, 1989

5119 RIVER ROAD N.
KEIZER, OREGON

10 - 5 P.M.

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