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SMOKE



SIGNALS

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON MAY 1994

General meeting features candidate, tribal court update

By Frank King

The General Council meeting April 10 featured an introduction to a Congressional candidate, motions asking Tribal Council to take another look at their recent pay raise, and a progress report from the tribal judge.

State Sen. Catherine Webber, D-Salem, is seeking her party's nomination in the May 17 primary election. She is running for the

on gun control. Webber said that she was not a gun control nut, but believed that reasonable prudence had to govern the use of firearms.

She was a supporter of SB334 that was narrowly defeated in the Oregon Senate last year. The bill would have made taking a gun to school a

felony.

Webber said that she supports the Grand Ronde Tribes in their programs and efforts towards economic independence.

Motions for three different advisory votes by Reyn Leno and Angela Leno were made and passed. The votes called for:

-That the Tribal Council reconsider their recent pay increases.

-That the Council come up with a reasonable hourly wage rate for Tribal Council members.

-That reimbursement for travel to and from tribal headquarters be curtailed.

Tribal Council Chairman Mark

Mercier said that the Tribal Council will address this issue at a future meeting.

Tribal Judge Les Marston said that the tribal court has been expanding its stages.

"We want to strike a balance to meet our needs within the resources we have available," he said. "We don't want a complex court, but one that is simple to use."

Marston has developed simple forms that can be used in many cases by litigants.

The tribal court can perform marriages; conduct simple, uncontested divorces that include child custody and property agreements; name changes for
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Catherine Webber addressed the General Council last month.

Council Member

Ray McKnight dies after suffering stroke

Tribal members everywhere were saddened by the passing of Council Member Ray McKnight, 70, on April 16. Ray had recently suffered a stroke and was recuperating at



Oakwood Care Center in McMinnville.

A member of Tribal Council since 1987, Ray helped pioneer many programs and policies for the Tribe, especially those involving forest management, land acquisition, and natural resources. He was widely known as an avid sportsman, and spent time hunting on the reservation. He was a native of Grand Ronde, and worked most
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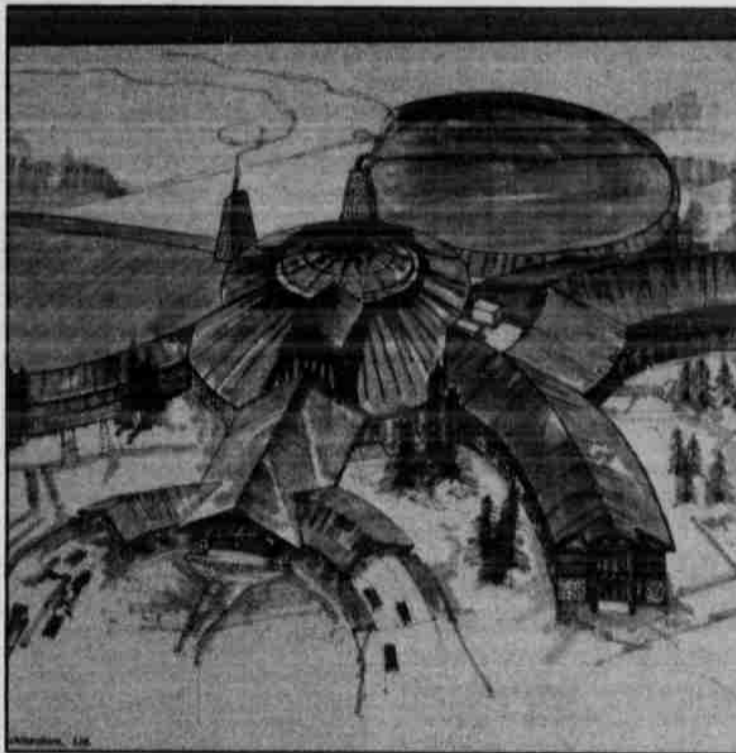
Gaming is one step in big plan for Tribe's future

The idea for a gaming facility came about after members of Council and some staff visited the Poarch Creek Tribe in Alabama. This was before gaming was very visible in Oregon.

"The Poarch Creek had a very good facility," said Bruce Thomas, General Manager of Spirit Mountain Development Corporation. "It was after the initial visit with them that Council decided to take a closer look at gaming."

The gaming facility is expected to hold an 800-seat bingo hall, 500 video slot machines, a Keno operation, and some table games. It will also have a full-service buffet restaurant, and will provide employment to approximately 500 people in the area.

"Our goal is to design a building that will serve many purposes," said Bruce. "It could serve as a meeting place, or a convention center. I believe that if we provide patrons will a good time, in nice facility, they will come back."



This illustration depicts what the gaming facility and future resort may look like.

Strategic Plan

Help Tribe Choose A Future

The focus of Tribal Council during the years since restoration has been on establishing a tribal organization, log-run endowments for its operation and services, and a community center in Grand Ronde.

These goals are now mostly accomplished. With a solid organizational foundation, the Council is ready to move to the next phase of tribal development, in which it can expand services it offers to all tribal members.

The big questions for Council and for tribal members, is how the Tribe should grow. Should growth emphasize new facilities and programs? Should it focus on the Grand Ronde area?

Council has been involved in a strategic planning process during the past five months. Tribal officials have identifies issues that will need to be addressed during the coming months.

As a tribal member, you have an important role to play in the long-range planning efforts of the Tribe.
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