

Editorial and Opinion

Casino construction visible at highway building site

After waiting so long, it is good to see the bustling building activity at the gaming center site near Highway 18.

We will continue to see more activity, and the project should be open by this time next year.

With the activity, and the promise and potential of the gaming facility, we should reflect with gratitude on how far we have come since the 1983 Restoration, what has to be done, and where we are going.

Our strategic planning process is working towards providing some of those answers.

A lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to bring the gaming project up to this point - planning, coordination, design, engineering and financing.

The \$18.5 million construction and operations loan from John Hancock Insurance Co. is a significant achievement. Such major financial backing means that the business world recognizes the economic health and potential of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

The gaming center is a concept that started as a dream to improve the Tribes' economic stability.

That dream is turning into reality.

General Council Meeting
Sunday, November 6, 11:30 a.m.
Meal Provided
All Tribal Members Welcome

Editorial Policy

Letters From Our Readers

Smoke Signals is a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. We have recently adopted an Editorial Policy that encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Smoke Signals* as well as other tribal issues. However, all letters from readers must be received at the Newsletter Office no later than the 20th of each month, with the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication.

Letters must be printed or typed, and cannot exceed 300 words.

Smoke Signals reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain libelous statements or personal attacks. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Smoke Signals*, tribal employees, or Tribal Council. Mail letters to: SMOKE SIGNALS, 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
 ATTN: Tracy Olson

MOVING? Let us know!

NEW	OLD
Name: _____	_____
Address _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cut out and mail to:
 Smoke Signals
 9615 Grand Ronde Road
 Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

Remember Restoration Day, November 22

Restoration Day, November 22, is a memorable time for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

It is a day to celebrate the rebirth and renewal of our tribal culture and heritage.

The 100-year long Trail of Tears came to a climax when the Grand Ronde Tribes were terminated in 1954. Deprivation, disappointment and destroyed dreams continued, because of the federal government's broken promises and ignored commitments.

Due to the efforts of many

dedicated people, tribal status was re-conferred on Nov. 22, 1983.

Grand Ronde people, other Native Americans, and non-Indians were instrumental in getting the restoration law signed into law.

Much has happened since then:

- Tribal government was established, and is working well.

- Health, dental and social services are provided for tribal members.

- A nationally-recognized youth substance abuse treatment facility, Nanitch Sahallie, was founded.

- The Tribes have over 10,000 acres of timber resources that provide a

good economic base.

- A major gaming facility is under construction. It will provide jobs for many tribal members.

- We are in the middle of a strategic planning effort that will provide a blueprint for tribal growth into the next century.

Eleven short years have brought a dramatic change. A bleak future has changed into one that looks bright and promising.

We should be grateful that we had leaders who nurtured that growth and change.

First Indian newspaper honored recently

At their recent Unity '94 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, the Native American Journalists Association presented a plaque to the Cherokee Nation commemorating the first Native American newspaper.

Some members of the association were uneasy about attending the conference because of Georgia's infamous record in the treatment of Native Americans - including the four-year Trail of Tears in the mid and late 1830s, when most Cherokees were forcibly moved west by the Georgia Militia. It was also a time when the tribe's printing office was destroyed.

The plaque, placed at the old newspaper site reads: "The Cherokee Phoenix (1828-34). To

honor the first Native American newspaper and to celebrate the founding of Native American Journalism at this place in 1828. Erected by the native American Journalists Association, 1994."

The *Phoenix* was published in the Cherokee national capital of New Echots, now part of Calhoun, Georgia.

The weekly newspaper was written in both the English and Cherokee languages. Cherokee printers also produced books written in their native language.

Books and a newspaper could be published because the legendary Sequoia had created a system that translated language sounds into written Cherokee language.

About 40 years ago, some Calhoun

residents began restoring the site, that had fallen into private use after the Trail of Tears. Many of the buildings, including the print shop, have been recreated. Some old lead type from the *Phoenix* was recovered during archeological excavations. The type was with the presses that were thrown down a well.

Healing began at the Unity '94 conference.

Non-native people who worked to restore the historic site offered their hand in understanding and appreciation.

They honored those first Native American journalists and their work that has built a strong foundation for the Native American newspapers we have today.

Robertson sends best wishes to new Council

Dear Tribal members:

Hi everyone. Since I missed the last edition of *Smoke Signals*, I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you. I want to thank those of you who so generously gave me their support in campaigning and voting for me in the last Council election. I deeply appreciate it.

I send my congratulations to Bob Haller, Ed Pearsall, and Gene LaBonte. Also, congratulations to Ed Larsen who has been elected by his Council to serve as Council Secretary. I wish you all the best in your new positions. To my former fellow Council members: I think of

you often and miss working with you.

To all the staff: I really enjoyed working with you, being there every day gave me an opportunity to get to know you better and to see how hard you work in order to keep the system running smoothly. We all learn by trial and error. I was proud to be a part of the decisions that were made jointly by the Tribal Council, administration, staff, and committees in order to improve our tribal services for our members.

Our tribal system is growing so fast, it is important that everyone believes his or her input is valued and really important. To all of

you...please keep up the good work! To Matthew, Kristina, and Claudette, thank you. It's people like you who really make a difference.

To my family: I love you and thank you all for the strength, support, and love you have shown throughout my term in office.

Bless you all and take care. I hope each one of you has a very healthy and pleasant year.

Sincerely,
 Candy Robertson