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THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

JANUARY 31, 1995

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State OKs Highway 18 traffic diversion project



Construction worker digging footings for gaming center's concrete foundation.

The Grand Ronde Tribe received a special Christmas present Dec. 11 when Oregon Department of Transportation officials signed the Highway 18 traffic diversion project permit.

Bruce Thomas, director of the Spirit Mountain Development Corporation, said that work on the project will start in mid-February or early March.

In an October interview, Thomas said that the state has been very helpful and cooperative.

The state usually takes from two to three years to process permits for jobs similar to the casino traffic diversion project. The process and approval only took months for the Grand

Ronde project.

The contractor - a joint venture of Kraus-Anderson of Minn. and Drake Company of Portland, is starting foundation work on the casino.

"The concrete forms are being built and the concrete will be poured very soon," Thomas said.

Several tribal members have inquired about working on the job.

Thomas said that the contractor will be hiring workers, and anyone interested in employment should contact Jeff Dalton, with the Drake Company, at the construction site.

Minimum wage casino jobs will be good ones

Most of the jobs that will be offered at the Grand Ronde casino will not start at minimum wage. Most entry level-workers will start at \$6.50 and up.

"But minimum-wage jobs in the casino will provide excellent money-making opportunities. Every single minimum-wage worker should take home much more than the basic \$4.75 per hour." Bruce Thomas, director of the Spirit Mountain Development Corporation, said.

The minimum wage jobs will be held by food and

drink servers, and some casino floor workers who will get good tips from the public.

"I expect that many of the minimum-wage workers will be getting more take-home pay than their supervisors," Thomas said. "People who are patrons of casinos are known to be good tippers. Our minimum-wage people will benefit from that."

For a list of job openings, and training opportunities, call Tammy Cook at (800) 422-0232 or 879-2351.

Nanitch Sahallie celebrates:

Treatment facility receives donations, blessing featured in special ceremony

Nanitch Sahallie, a youth treatment facility located in Keizer, Oregon is owned and operated by the Tribe.

On Jan. 2 there was a special blessing ceremony and dinner. The center has recently been renovated, and Corbin Harney of the Shoshone Tribe was invited to give a blessing for the upcoming year.

There was drumming, and several employees of Nanitch participated in sweatlodge.

"As a people, we have to keep

together and remember what our ancestors taught us," said Mr. Harney.

Vice-Chair Kathryn Harrison and Dr. Bob Ryan presented him with a Pendleton blanket for performing the blessing ceremony.

Employees of Nanitch would also like to thank the person who donated a drum for the youth at Nanitch. Given anonymously, the drum was brought in and left with a note that read, in part: "This drum was made with a

humble heart, always mindful and thankful for all of life..." To the anonymous person or persons responsible, your gift is very much appreciated!

The program at Nanitch has also received a grant from REI outdoor gear and clothing distributors in support of Nanitch's youth recreation program. The items are: four 4-person REI GeoDome tents, and four REI Nod Pod sleeping bags. The items are valued at \$1,880.