

January General meeting features reports from Small Business, Housing, Casino, and house fire

■ SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SBD)

A look back at 1996 is very rewarding with a total of 62 tribal member owned businesses (including artists). The Small Business Program serviced 148 new business clients with counseling, ONABEN classes, and the use of the BIC computer lab and library.

Projects of 1996 included the SongBasket Marketplace, Strawberry Patch, and Christmas Bazaar. A lot of feedback and positive ideas were received to help with the planning in 1997 of these projects.

Your input is needed for the 1997 activities. SBD will service tribal member business needs as usual in the following areas:

•**Business Consulting:** Their goal is to increase your ability to be successful. They plan to increase one-on-one training in accounting and marketing on existing businesses. Also, feel free to share your business ideas with the staff, they will help you with a business plan.

•**ONABEN Training:** Currently offered are 3 different classes which you may acquire college credits.

You and Your Business starts February 4.

Getting your Business Started runs 10 sessions (once a week for 2-1/2 hours), beginning February 18.

Management classes are for people already in business and meets once a month.

•**BIC (Business Information Center):** This year SBD would like to focus on preparing tribal members with knowledge of computers and softwares. They offer computer classes and encourage you to take advantage of this training. If you can not attend the scheduled classes please call for individual training. It is important to pre-register for these classes, and to call if you need to cancel.

The computer lab is open for use daily from 8 to 8:45 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. (unless a class is scheduled, again please call ahead of time).

•**State License focused classes:** This could possibly include licensing for insurance, real estate, construction/contractors, tax preparers, and day care certification. Before these can be offered your input is needed. What are you interested in? What time and location is most convenient?

Please call Small Business Development with our suggestions, comments, or for more detailed information:

Barbara Lake, Administrative Assistant at 879-2476

Doug Hampton, Computer Specialist at 879-2484

Roland Metzger, Business Consultant at 879-2477

Elaine Moore, Division Manager at 879-2478 or toll-free at 1-800-422-0232.

Small Business Development is located at 28840 Salmon River Highway, 1/2 miles west of Grand Ronde Road on Highway 18.

■ HOUSING IMPROVEMENT

Presented by Lonnie Leno, Housing Improvement Specialist, the Housing Improvement Program basically consists of three areas:

•**Emergency Assistance** which can supply qualified tribal members with a grant up to \$2,500.

•**Major Assistance Rehab** grant up to \$20,000.

•**Down Payment** grant up to \$10,000 to help a tribal member buy a home.

Currently, the Housing Authority is working with the 37-lot "Grand Meadows" manufactured home park located on Grand Ronde Road. An area of 12 lots has been reserved just for Elders and 17 lots have been assigned to Elders and other families. There are about 40 more applications to review. Financing and the wet weather has delayed completion to be as early as March, or as late as June.

A survey has recently been mailed to all Elders. This survey will be very important in determining the housing needs of our elders. A \$50 cash prize drawing will be held for all applications returned by January 27.

The three to five year housing plan includes the possibility of building HUD homes and single family homes to rent or buy in Grand Ronde.

■ SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO

Bruce Thomas, President of SMDC, stated that 90 percent of all comments about Spirit Mountain Casino are positive. The Casino offers quality food and entertainment, with high standards in cleanliness. On the average, 7,000 people visit Spirit Mountain each day.

The 100-room, 6 floor hotel is in the final stages of planning (see story on front page), and soon will be submitted to Council for approval. Plans for an RV park are on hold because there is currently not enough water to accommodate both a hotel and RV park.

■ OTHER BUSINESS

•**Bob Mercier**, representative of the Timber Committee, presented Mark Mercier with a jacket for all of his support throughout the years.

•The home of Harold and Velma Mercier, and Dean and Christine Mercier burned down. They lost everything and have no insurance protection. The door prize drawings and Elders' raffle money was donated to the family. This is a very sad time for them. Our thoughts and prayers are with them. **HAROLD G.** shirt size: XL; pant size: 42 x 30; shoe size: 10; **VELMA** blouse size: XL; pant size: 16 or L; shoe size: 10; **DEAN** shirt size: XL; pant size: 40 x 28; shoe size: 9 wide; **CHRISTINE** blouse size: XL; leggings size: L; shoe size: 7-1/2. **FOR DONATIONS OF ANY KIND, PLEASE CONTACT JACKIE WHISLER AT TRIBAL GOVERNMENT, 879-2301 OR 1-800-422-0232.**

February General Meeting
Sunday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m.
Tribal Community Center

Benefit Fund notice

If you plan to make a withdrawal from your Member Benefit Fund in the near future, please note that all applications must be received by the last day (the 30th) of each month in order to be processed by the 10th day of the following month. All checks will be mailed on the 10th.

Submit all applications or questions to: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Attention: Chris Leno, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. Chris' direct phone line is (503) 879-2340.

Sheriff's Report

By Deputy VanLaanen

Both Deputy O'Brien and I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Grand Ronde Sheriff's Office has been busy the past two months.

Again we find it necessary to remind the community to drive safely this winter season. Although the new "Safety Corridor" has produced positive results along the Highway 18 area, we are still experiencing problems on our county roadways. Once again, we have lost a member of the Grand Ronde community to another motor vehicle accident-fatality.

On a more positive note, Deputy O'Brien and I have been very active in the Grand Ronde Service Integration Team. The Team, consisting of members from many community and local government agencies, has really developed into a strong, effective community advocate. We meet twice a month to discuss and solve local problems and address the needs of people and families in the Grand Ronde area.

The Team helped make Christmas a little better for some of our less advantaged children. "Shop with a Sheriff" provided nearly 40 children with money and an opportunity to spend it on their family and friends for Christmas. Sheriff's Office personnel and other volunteers joined the children at the Dallas Wal-Mart to help them do their shopping. We finished off the day with a meal at McDonalds and a gift wrapping party back at the school.

The event was a total success. Both the children and the volunteers had a wonderful time and all were reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. Our only regret would be that we could not help every child in need. Our goal for next year will be to expand the project to include more children and possibly other communities. Much credit and thanks to the Tribe, the Sheriff's Office, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, and the Service Integration Team for their time, effort, and unselfish giving.

Looking back on the past year I see Grand Ronde as a growing, evolving community. We have made great strides in improving our way of life here. Tom and I have been busy, with over 1,200 cases generated here in Grand Ronde alone. Our goal, as local law enforcement, is to continue to serve our community and help make Grand Ronde a safe place to live and work.

In future issues we will address crime prevention techniques, community involvement, watch groups, and other crime solutions that we hope will reduce the crime rate further in our area. With your help and cooperation we can make 1997 a great year to be part of the Grand Ronde community. *With all the best wishes for a healthy, peaceful, prosperous new year from Sheriff R. E. Steele and the entire office.*

Basket winner to be announced

The Culture and Heritage Board will be selling raffle tickets to help with the costs of the Elders' Social planned for January, as well as the Tribal Quilt Project. The drawing for the winner will be at the February General Council meeting, and the prize is an elk leg basket made by tribal employee Vivian DeMary. You need not be present at the meeting to win. To purchase tickets, contact Pam Warren at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2028, Claudette Parazoo, ext. 2382, or June Olson at ext. 2249.

U.S.D.A. DISTRIBUTION

— SALEM —

February 3: 3 to 7:30 p.m.

February 4: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

February 5: Noon to 8 p.m.

— SILETZ —

January 21, 22, and 23: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

February 18, 19, and 20: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.