

Police issue gang warning

A police officer that works with the DARE program is passing this warning on to other local and state agencies. The following warning may seem a little outrageous, but it is not a joke. Please tell all your family and friends about the dangers of gang activity.

If you're ever driving after dark and see an on-coming car with no headlights turned on, DO NOT flash your lights at them! This is a common gang member "initiation game" that goes like this: The new gang member under initiation drives along with no headlights and the first car to flash their headlights at him is now his "target." He is now required to turn around and chase that car and shoot at or into the car in order to complete his initiation requirements. Make sure you share this info with all the drivers in your family!

Restoration: former Council honored

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Also, special mention was made to those Council members who have passed on: Eula Petite, Frank Harrison, Nick Leno, Ray McKnight, Ken Hudson, and John Allen.

Chet Clark drummed a song and told an old story of a boy and music. Gifts were given to the oldest man and

woman present, as well as the person who had traveled furthest for the celebration. Door prizes were drawn for potted marigolds.

Tribal member Merle Leno, who closed the ceremony, said, "This is where we are today. I think we can go a lot further."

Good news from Education Division

■ **Members get updates from Education and Casino staff at December General Council meeting.**

By Tracy Dugan

More and more tribal members are taking advantage of educational opportunities through the Tribe, according to Education Division Manager Dean Azule. The Division gave its annual program report to the membership at the General Council meeting on Dec. 6.

A representative from each of the Division's programs spoke via video presentation to the members. The presentation included photos and recordings of tribal education programs and was the first time a division gave its report using this type of technology. All Education staff were available to answer questions, as well.

Areas covered by Education included Twah Sunchako Learning Center, the Before and After School Care programs, the Tribal Youth Development program, Adult Education and Training, Higher Education, Adult Vocational Education, and education Advising/Counseling.

"Our student enrollment is at an all-time high," said Azule. "In 1998 our programs served more than five hun-

dred tribal members."

Bruce Thomas and Chuck Galford gave a Casino/development update. Thomas said there are currently 155 tribal members employed at the Casino, approximately ten percent of the total employees. Thomas and Galford presented the results of a customer satisfaction survey recently completed, where 600 patrons of the Casino were interviewed.

"Customer satisfaction at the Casino is very high," said Galford. "The results show that 87% of the people interviewed rate their enjoyment level at the Casino as good or great. Only one percent said they had poor experience at Spirit Mountain. There isn't a company in the United States who wouldn't give anything to have these same results."

Galford also noted that guests of the Casino site employee friendliness and positive attitude as one of their biggest reasons for returning and having a good time.

Door prize drawings were won by: Lisa Watt, \$100; Stanley Jeffers, \$100; Tammy Cook, \$100; and Marilee Davis, \$250.

Regional News...

Casino to double in size

AUBURN, WASH. (AP) — Plans to more than double the size of the Muckleshoot Casino and install electronic gambling machines have been announced by the tribe.

John Daniels Jr., tribal chairman, said the 78,000-square-foot expansion should be completed by September, when the casino in this suburb between Seattle and Tacoma will be four years old.

The expansion will enable the casino, which now has more than \$40 million in revenue a year, to add 350 employees to the 900

now on staff, Daniels said.

A key feature of the project is the addition of 450 machines designed to provide an electronic form of scratch-ticket gambling with the look and feel of slot machines, which are banned in the state.

The machines are still being developed, and Jerry Allen, vice president of the Northwest Alliance of Gaming Tribes, said it could be months before any are installed.

Also included are a 200-seat buffet restaurant, showroom and banquet hall.

Tribal employees accused of doctoring payroll records

POCATELLO, IDAHO (AP) — A Jan. 19 trial date has been set for three Fort Hall residents accused of embezzling funds from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

Suzan Bagley, Colleen Edmo and Karen Nielson were arraigned in District Court this month on embezzlement charges.

A grand jury indictment alleges

they stole tribal funds while working for the tribe's finance department by adjusting payroll records and paying themselves for more hours than they worked.

Bagley, Edmo and Nielson pleaded innocent to the charges. U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill will preside over the case.

Makah discuss whaling alternatives; decide to proceed with hunt

NEAH BAY, WASH. (AP) — The Makah decided this month to go ahead with their gray whale hunt after meeting to discuss a proposal from opponents who say the whales are worth more to the tribe alive than dead.

"There will not be any deal that will stop us from whaling," said Keith Johnson, president of the Makah Whaling Commission. "We're not going to accept anything that could be construed as selling our treaty rights."

About 200 Makah gathered for a closed meeting called by the five-member tribal council.

A group called People for Makah and Whales has urged the tribe to put off its first gray-whale hunt in decades, paying for newspaper ads that mention potential money-making ventures for the Makah.

"The gray whale, by living, can now provide for your tribe in a way no longer possible through its death, and in a man-

ner that can enhance Makah tradition and pride," said an ad in the Nov. 25 Peninsula Daily News.

"The instant one whale is killed, however, your options are foreclosed," it said.

Other opponents have called on the tribe to explore tourism as an option.

The Makah have been cleared to whale since Oct. 1 but have not yet ventured out into the Pacific to intercept the gray-whale migration from Alaska to Mexico.

The tribe, whose whaling tradition dates back centuries, stopped the hunts in the 1920s when commercial whaling decimated the world's whale populations.

The Makah moved to resume the hunts after the gray whale was taken off the Endangered Species List in 1994. Their efforts are supported by the U.S. government, but activists contend a hunt would violate international law.

Next General Council Meeting:

Sunday, January 10

11:30 a.m.