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SMOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

JANUARY 15, 1999

New Executive Officer makes plans for 1999

■ Ted Mala brings his experience and education to Grand Ronde.

By Tracy Dugan
Editor

The Tribe's new Executive Officer has appointments scheduled throughout the day. In the few weeks he's been with the Tribe, Ted Mala has been busy acclimating himself to life in Oregon, and meeting staff and managers, learning how our programs are operated. Considering how much the Tribe has grown this past year, it's going to take some time for him to get to know everyone.

Brought on board by Tribal Council in December, Mala understands tribes and Indian communities. He has spent his career working with Native people as well as peoples around the world.

An Alaska Native who attended Indian boarding schools, Mala says he comes from a very poor Alaskan village, and was the first in his family to receive a formal education. And it is an education that is impressive by anyone's standards. Mala holds three degrees: a B.A. in Philosophy, an M.D., and a Master's in Public Health from Harvard University.

"I have done a lot of work with tribes," said Mala. "I was a tribal planner, and I was the Secretary of Health for the governor of Alaska, where I was responsible for one of the state's largest divisions of government."

Mala's position for the governor of



Ted Mala, the Tribe's new Executive Officer.

Alaska included managing more than 2,000 employees within seven state health areas: public health, public assistance, Medicaid, social services, juvenile corrections, mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse were the programs he was responsible for, as well as a billion-dollar budget.

He has also worked for tribes in the Southwest and lived in the Dakotas.

Other jobs have included a professor of Health Sciences at the University of Alaska, and director of the university's public health institute. Mala is a member of the Association of American Indian Physicians.

Most recently, he spent a year in California learning about computers and educating himself on current technology.

"I wanted to learn everything I could," said Mala. "So I worked in an economic research institute."

It was in California that Mala learned of the Executive Officer position here in Grand Ronde.

continued on page 2

Tribal members meet Mala

■ SBD gives its program report; new EO is introduced to the membership at January General Council meeting.

By Tracy Dugan
Editor

Everyone is welcome at Small Business Development (SBD). That was the main theme that Division Manager Elaine Moore and her staff conveyed to folks at the General Council meeting on January 10.

The staff, who each spoke about their different programs and responsibilities, let the membership know that business and financial planning opportunities run in a wide range, and that tribal members, staff, and community members can all take advantage.

Most people assume that Small Business Development is only about helping tribal members who own their own company or home-based business. It isn't. SBD is available for assisting in career services, completing income taxes, taking computer classes, or simply doing business research. A lot of these services are done through the Business Information Center (BIC), which is located in the SBD offices and is a business library containing all sorts of information.

Perri McDaniel, who counsels folks who are interested in starting a business, spoke about the different classes, offered with ONABEN, that help get a business plan ready to take to lending institutions.

"Tribal members can take our classes, *You and Your Business Idea*, and *Starting A Successful Business*," said McDaniel. "We also offer Chinook On-Line, for Native artists to sell their arts and crafts on the Internet. We can get you started on that if you like."

McDaniel also spoke about a program called Venture Out, which is geared toward women who are interested in opening a home-based business.

Doug Hampton, who teaches most of the computer classes in the BIC, said that they have a large variety of software to cover just about what everyone is interested in. The computer class schedule is posted in *Smoke Signals* (see page 12), but if you are interested in a specific computer class or software program, tribal members can call Hampton and ask about it.

Barbara Lake, SBD Administrative Assistant said that the BIC is designed to help folks with all their business needs.

"We have guidebooks and videos on a wide range of subjects. They can be checked out," she said.

"We also have magazines, newspapers, and lots of software at the computer stations." Lake said that even if you just want to have fun — maybe make a card or invitation on the computer — all are welcome to do that. If you need help with your taxes, assistance is available. Or if all you want to do is browse the Internet, that's great, too.

The next agenda item was the introduction of the new Executive Officer. Tribal Council member Mark Mercier introduced Ted Mala to the membership at the meeting.

Mala said a few words to the members.

He said, "I wasn't born in Grand Ronde, but I got here as soon as I could."

Mala said he comes from an

continued on page 2



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