

New economic development project announced

■ Grand Ronde Tribe joins with Portland developers to build lofts along Pearl District streetcar line.

The Grand Ronde Tribe announced today that it is joining with Portland developer John Carroll to build a \$36.6 million loft project in the Pearl District, complete with residential condominiums, office and storefront retail space.

The Gregory, located between Glisan and Flanders on the new streetcar line on 10th Avenue, is scheduled to be complete in 2001.

The Grand Ronde Tribe, through its business arm, Spirit Mountain De-

velopment Corporation, is a major investor in the project. It is the Tribe's second investment in transit-oriented development in the Portland area. Russellville Commons, along with the eastside MAX light rail line in the Northeast Portland, opened in January of 1999 and offers a mix of multi-family rental units, office and retail space.

"*The Gregory* is appealing to the Tribe because it is high-quality project that will enhance Portland's

livability by using transit and focusing development downtown, which saves farmland," said Bob Watson, Interim CEO, Spirit Mountain Casino. "This also provides an excellent opportunity for the Tribe to work toward self-sufficiency and diversify its economic base."

Once an industrial area, the Pearl District has become a center for art galleries, restaurants and lofts.

"*The Gregory* further enforces the idea that there are options to the sub-

urban experience," said John Carroll. "Residents will have great access. Art and industry, sophistication and simplicity, work and play are all here."

The Gregory is located directly between the new streetcar routes on 10th and 11th Avenues. The street line, which will connect Portland State University and Northwest Portland, is expected to begin operation in spring of 2001.

Adults and youth learning to speak Chinook Jargon

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Through attrition, Jargon became the universal language of the Grand Ronde reservation and is the only remaining tribal language still spoken and practiced. For this reason, Jargon is the focus of the Tribe's language efforts.

A revival of the language is currently taking place, little by little, in Grand Ronde. Classes are being taught to tribal members young and old. As an aging generation of Jargon speakers searches for someone to carry on the traditions, a growing group of tribal youth seems poised to listen and take their place in the talking circle.

A new relationship with the University of Oregon has enabled the Tribe's Chinook Jargon classes to recently begin again. The U of O's Northwest Indian Languages Institute will sponsor the classes in Grand Ronde every Monday night through May 15. Classes began in March.

Class participants can now get college language credits for attending the classes.

Language specialist and teacher Tony Johnson is pleased with the latest turnout and expects to one day build a core of Jargon speakers to carry on the once popular tribal language. Besides teaching Jargon to adults and families on Monday nights, Johnson said he will begin to try to establish a working relationship with the Tribe's preschool program to introduce Jargon to children as young as two years old.

Johnson, a member of the Chinook Tribe in Southwest Washington, said he envisions a future population of young tribal members speaking Jargon as their second language.

"We want to work real intensively with Head Start to really create speakers of Chinook," said Johnson of the language program's possible connection to tribal youth. "The Head Start program is real relevant to us. We're working on a grant (application) right now that would fund a Jargon program at the tribal preschool (Head Start). Regardless of whether we get this grant, I'm going to keep looking for funding for the same program."

Another Jargon teacher could be hired to help with the new program.

"We have to get at least another teacher hired and really intensively trained in Chinook," said Johnson. "If we get funded for this thing and we train a couple of teachers then, we would do a test program with Head Start."

Johnson, who switches easily from conversation in English to one in Jargon and back again, envisions an immersion program where two and three-hour sections of each morning would be set aside for Jargon speaking. All conversations and teaching would be conducted in Jargon. Children would respond in Jargon.

For now, Johnson settles for teaching as many adults as he can because he knows they will teach their children and the cycle will begin.

Deputy helps in cyber-threat case

■ Grand Ronde family calls Deputy O'Brien after receiving ominous e-mail.

By Brent Merrill

A 19 year-old Grand Ronde resident may have averted a tragedy by having her father, James Gordon, contact local authorities about a threatening e-mail she received from a 17 year-old high school student in Virginia.

The local young woman had been communicating back and forth with the Virginia boy for several weeks when the tone of one of his messages turned threatening. He spoke of taking a gun to school and shooting his principal and 30 students before killing himself.

Alarmed, the young woman shared the message with her father who contacted Polk County Deputy Tom O'Brien.

O'Brien said he got the call about ten o'clock in the evening and began investigating the case. The investigation led O'Brien into the latest in electronic technology and started an odyssey that would put him in contact with at least ten different police agencies in eight different counties.

According to O'Brien's police report, the boy had mentioned attending a particular high school in Virginia. The search for the boy's location began shortly after O'Brien received the initial report. The boy had also sent a scanned photo of himself to the woman and that was used in the search effort as well.

O'Brien worked with the computer crime team in Hillsboro and with the FBI as well as several county and state police agencies in Virginia to initiate the search. O'Brien's investigation then led him to a telephone conference call with a special agent in the White House in Washington D.C.

O'Brien said all police agencies he worked with took the threats seriously and wanted to locate the suspect before school began the next morning. Correspondence continued across the country throughout the night until the FBI tracked down the source of the threatening e-mails in Powhatan, Virginia through America Online.

Powhatan is 30 miles from Richmond, Virginia.

Agents then observed the boy's home and searched the school before school started. Agents stopped the boy on his way to school that morning and found shotgun ammunition, but no gun. Police did find a knife on the boy. Later, a search of his home turned up a rifle in his bedroom.

The boy is still under investigation and has been released.

He told authorities he made the threats, but had no intention of carrying them out. In a subsequent e-mail message, the boy apologized to the local woman and claims he would have turned himself in. He also claims not to remember what put him in the threatening mood in the first place.

O'Brien said the incident kept him up all night on adrenaline and he was amazed at how quickly officers from all over the country went into action.

"It was a rush," said O'Brien. "Everybody worked so hard and it was just a good effort. What really impressed me was a deputy in the Pacific Northwest, in the middle of the night, can get such a major response to something like that with so many people and agencies responding."

O'Brien also said he sometimes wonders what the world is coming to.

"What makes me really upset is somebody like this (the Virginia teen) can generate so much movement and can get so many people involved and so much money is spent," said O'Brien. "Everybody took this seriously. He did admit to making the threats, but said he was just fooling around."

According to O'Brien, whether or not the boy was serious about his threat to join his community with others across the country that have experienced real tragedies, there is no question the local woman and her family made the right choice in notifying law enforcement.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 22

9:30 am

Grand Ronde
Health and Wellness Center
~ RAIN OR SHINE ~

This is a free event for children 0-8 years old.

Bring your Easter Basket.

For more information,

please call the Wellness department

at (503) 879-2078 or 1-800-775-0095.

