



Eagle Beak



Tribal Elder Marce Norwest



Veterans Merle Leno and Lynn "Bear" Robertson

Affordable Family Housing in Grand Ronde

The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, September 21 at the Tribe's planned affordable housing development in Grand Ronde. The 20-acre site will hold 36 one through five bedrooms homes that will be targeted at Tribal members with families. Construction will begin soon and completion is set for spring of 2003. The site is located just off the east side of Grand Ronde Road across from the Tribe's Housing Authority office.



LINDA LAYDEN
Housing Director



CHERYL KENNEDY
Tribal Council Chair



VAL GROUT
Tribal Council member
gave the invocation.



F. TRAVIS BENOIST
Spiritual Leader



PHIL MARQUIS
Architect



TIM HOLMES
Housing Board
Chairman

Grant Keeps Chinuk Wawa Alive

By Chris Mercier

As if the Generation Gap hasn't caused enough communication lapses between kids and their parents, a new \$193,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) will have them speaking different languages entirely. Only this time around, local parents and children for that matter are all the more ecstatic for it.

The Grand Ronde Preschool Language Curriculum and Training Project will kick off this fall as Tribal members engage in one of the more ambitious attempts to fortify its identity by restoring a cultural fundamental: Language. The language in question would be none other than Chinuk Wawa, a first language for some Tribal Elders not long ago and the same that collaborators from Education and Culture hope to instill in Grand Ronde youths, through early age immersion.

"Kids are the best language learners," said Tony Johnson, Tribal Language Specialist. "Their brains are set up for learning."

But Johnson isn't expecting to have a new generation of fluent Wawa speakers to spring up overnight. Rather, he hopes that through this project the community will be endowed with a contingency of solid Chinuk speakers, which will in turn pave the way for a sustainable young Wawa learning program.

"This is one of the only ways, in my mind, that we can move the language into the future in a natural way. We will teach them language by use, not formal schooling, but natural language use."

~ Tony Johnson

"This is one of the only ways, in my mind, that we can move the language into the future in a natural way," Johnson continued. "We will teach them language by use, not formal schooling, but natural language use."

But Johnson admitted that's easier said than done, which is why he plans to knuckle down with some Chinuk speakers of note and get the project going this fall.

Year One will basically be laying the groundwork for Year Two, which includes the vital aspect of hiring a teacher. No less than a Tribal member will do, preferably one who has some understanding and previous experience with the language. Johnson, along with Dr. Henry Zenk and Tribal Elder Ila Dowd will enter into a master-apprentice relationship with the trainee and other Language and Education staff, assuring a minimum of 300 hours of language exposure during the first year. Furthermore, the apprentice will learn the nuances of teaching and linguistics through the University of Oregon's Northwest Indian Language Institute.

The project team will also begin to phase-in one hour of conversational Chinuk into the preschool program. This should be made easier by the presence of Elaine Lane Raven, who will serve as the primary Preschool Teacher but also as a secondary Chinuk teacher. Raven would also be attending training, and by the start of Year Two will likely be a fluent Wawa speaker. Thus by preparing teachers and introducing children to basic Wawa, the immersion program will be set for the second year.

Year Two will essentially be the heart and soul of the program, as the preschool, newly equipped with fluent Chinuk teachers, will kick into full gear by implementing a daily four-hour morning immersion plan. Family immersion activities will start as well, in order to accommodate parents. Picnics, potlucks and even weekend excursions are planned, as parents will have the opportunity to learn or further their language skills alongside their children.

The ANA grant will cover nearly all training costs and the apprentice's salary, for the duration of the first

year, while splitting evenly with the Tribe at the onset of Year Two. By the third year, when the project will hopefully be up and running, the Tribe's Education department and Language program should begin covering the costs.

The ANA is a federal agency that promotes self-sufficiency in Native Americans, Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Though they achieve this by giving out grants that help foster independence, the agency doesn't exactly "give" them away, as Tony Johnson can attest.

"This is the fourth straight year we've applied for it," he said. "And it's the first time we've gotten it."

Applicants for ANA grants generally must submit detailed outlines of their projects and the booklet Johnson and others put together this year is a good two inches thick. A lot of work went into it and more looms. For Johnson, no number of hours or money can hint at the significance.

"I feel obligated to the language," he said. "And the best way to keep it going is through the kids."

Even then, Johnson acknowledges that this is just the first step in a grand scheme of making Chinuk a thriving community language.

"Our next goal is creating a maintenance program," he said. "To keep the Chinuk environment."

"And I can't see a reason why we can't do that, either." ■

CRAPS & CHROME AUTO SHOW



American Graffiti, Casino Style —

The 2001 Craps and Chrome Car Show on Saturday, September 15 at the Tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino drew 426 (compared to 280 last year) show cars from 27 Northwest auto clubs this year making the event the biggest yet. More than a thousand people were drawn to the event by the possibility of winning the show's grand prize — a 1949 Plymouth Business Coupe. The car was won by Grand Ronde Tribal member Sandra Stone (far right) and her boyfriend Curt Perkins. Stone said she was thrilled by the score and wants everybody to know that despite the fact that she is a girl, she loves cars and plans to cherish this one.



Brent Merrill



Peta Tinda



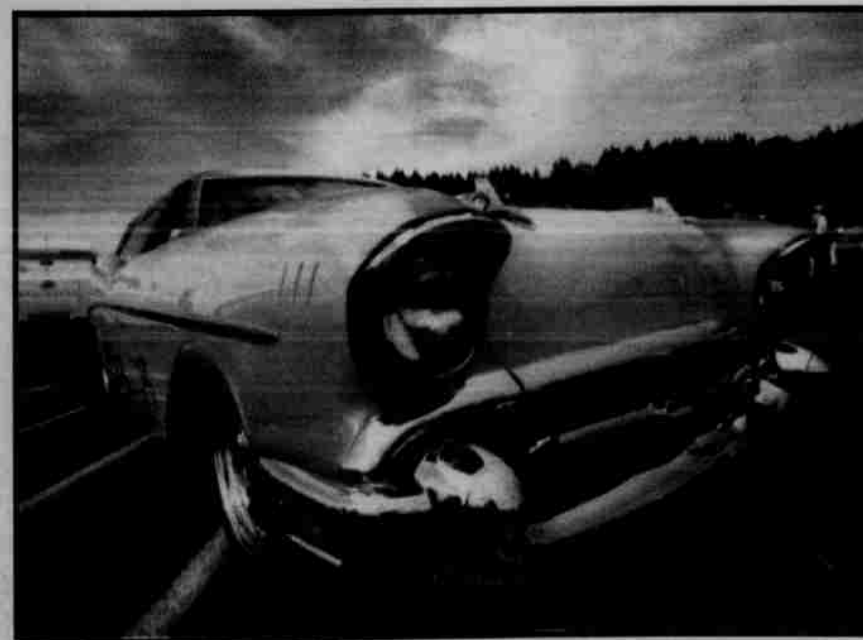
Brent Merrill



Brent Merrill



Brent Merrill



Peta Tinda



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