

Antique store owner erroneously blames Tribe for access loss

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Westbound travelers on Oregon Highway 18 can't miss the banner.

Attached to the side of a truck in Bonanza Antiques' parking lot on the northwest corner of Grand Ronde Road and the state highway, the banner reads: "Tribal government stole our driveway discriminatory engineering."

The words "stole" and "discriminatory engineering" are highlighted in red type.

The sign, erected by Bonanza Antiques owner David Franzen on May 11, is inaccurate, Tribal Engineer Eric Scott says.

Polk County decided that ingress and egress to Bonanza Antiques from the new right-turn lane from Grand Ronde Road to Highway 18 would be unsafe.

"The sign is inappropriate and not true," says Polk County Public Works Director Ken Husby.

"A lot of good things are being done here," Scott says about the more than \$5 million Grand Ronde Road project, which is currently improving the intersection at Highway 18. "It's a shame to have it overshadowed by this guy. It's unfortunate."

In a statement, Franzen said, "We have put up banners to inform the public that our driveway was taken from us with no communication, no notice of imminent (sic) domain, no monetary reimbursement and no respect for our wants and needs."

However, those involved in the Grand Ronde Road project say Franzen received notice last year that he would be losing a driveway off Grand Ronde Road.

Scott says that during the plan review process for the new intersection, it was determined that Bonanza Antique's two unpermitted access points on the west side of Grand Ronde Road were too close to Highway 18.

Once it was determined between the Tribe, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Polk County that the access points were the county's jurisdiction, the county decided that it would be safer to consolidate his access and construct one large commercial driveway farther north on the west side of Grand Ronde Road.

"We talked to the county and they had issues, same as we did," says Don Jordan, District 3 manager for the state Department of Transportation, "being so close to the highway. The access points were on a county road and they used their rules."

"I personally met with him last fall. He has known he was going to get that one driveway," Husby says.

Scott says the main objective of the recent work has been improved safety by shifting the intersection to the west so it is aligned with the crossing, as well as improving grocery store access, drainage and sight distance, installing crosswalks and creating a right-hand turn lane from Grand Ronde Road.

"Mr. Franzen used to have two

entrances to his parking lot on the east side of his property," Tribal member and Tribal Director of Development Peter Wakeland says. "He now only has one. ... The Tribe is not responsible for the loss of his second entrance. Staff has discussed this with him, but he refuses to accept it."

Bonanza Antiques retains access from Highway 18 west of the Grand Ronde Road intersection, as well as off Grand Ronde Road.

"He has reasonable access," Scott says.

"He's got two full accesses from the highway and a county road," Jordan says. "That should be adequate."

Franzen says that although it might have been a county decision, Grand Ronde Road is a Tribal project. He expressed frustration over the numerous governmental entities involved in the road improvement project and claims the Grand Ronde Road driveway he now has is "steep and more dangerous than what we had."

Franzen, who has owned Bonanza Antiques since 1997, says that he will not leave the \$500 banner up very long.

"I wanted it to be food for thought," he says, adding that he did not mean to be offensive to Native Americans by using red type to highlight the words and that he would cut the word "Tribal" off the banner. ■

Grandparents support group meets May 28

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 28, in the Elders' Activity Center on the Tribal campus.

The May topic of discussion is "Interventions: Parenting Young Children."

For more information about the group, contact Carmen Mercier at 503-879-1646. ■

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