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Indian Country Angered by Non-Response of Bush and Gore

Tribal governments are incensed by the lack of interest in Indian issues shown by the two front runners of the 2000 US Presidential Race. The leading presidential candidates of the Democrat and Republican parties have shown little interest involving Indian issues. Many requests for position statements have gone out to all presidential candidates, however, there has been little, if any, meaningful response.

The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has planned a "National Presidential Candidates Forum for Indian Nations", to be held in Phoenix, AZ, later this summer. NIGA has received confirmation from NBC that they will televise this event nationally, however, neither Bush nor Gore have responded to the invitation. NIGA continues to make every attempt to get a response from the candidates. In June, Cow Creek Tribal Chairman Sue Shaffer was invited, along with four other Tribal Leaders, to meet with President Clinton in Arizona. The mission of these tribal leaders was to encourage President Clinton to place pressure on and encourage Vice-president Gore to commit to the Campaign Forum in Phoenix. President Clinton stated that he was fairly certain Gore would at-

tend. NIGA has also placed full-page ads in USA Today and other newspapers, urging presidential candidates to appear in Phoenix.

Many tribal nations have recognized President Clinton as one of the most supportive Presidents in history, with respect to Indian issues and the government to government relationship.

Of the two presidential front runners, Gore, as Vice President, has been more supportive of Indian issues because of the Clinton Administration, although it is unclear if he has provided Tribe's with any detailed agenda relative to Indian Country.

George W. Bush has angered many tribal leaders by comments made earlier in his campaign. Bush, while campaigning in New York, was quoted by the Post-Standard as saying "My view is that state law reigns supreme when it comes to the Indians, whether it be gambling or any other issues." Also, when asked by Indian Country for a position statement, Bush has provided little more than anti-gaming material.

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General Council and Annual Election Meeting

The Quarterly General Council and Annual Election Meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2000 at 11:00 a.m. at the Tribal Government Offices, located at 2371 NE Stephens Street, Roseburg. Lunch will be provided at 1 pm by the Seven Feathers culinary staff.

As with all tribal elections conducted since the passage of the Tribal Constitution in 1991, the current year's tribal election is by absentee ballots, and is being conducted with the assistance of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Siletz Agency.

All ballots are due into the Siletz Agency no later than Friday, August 11, 2000.

The Election Committee and the BIA representative will count the ballots in the Tribal Government Office, and the results will be announced during the General Council Meeting.

If there are any questions regarding the election process, tribal members are encouraged to contact the Tribal Government Office at 1-800-929-8229.

Washington State Republican Party Calls for Tribal Termination

During the Washington State Republican Party Convention held in June, Republican leaders passed a resolution calling for termination of all tribal governments on Indian reservations. The resolution stated that Article IV, Section 4, of the US Constitution, "guarantees every state a republican form of government and this guarantee to each state is a warranty to protect the citizens of that state....". The resolution went on to accuse the Bureau of Indian Affairs of aiding and abetting Indian tribes to regulate and collect taxes, and of injuring property rights, among other things.

The resolution concluded with the following language:

"Therefore be it resolved that the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federal government immediately take whatever steps necessary to terminate all such non-republican forms of government on Indian reservations.....".

The author of the resolution, John Fleming, the Skagit County delegate, stated to the Associated Press that, "We do not recognize them [Indian Tribal Governments] as sovereign nations, as governments". Further, Fleming stated with regard to the termination of tribal governments, "We think it can be done peacefully," but if tribes were to fight the effort, "then the US Army and the Air Force and the Marines and the National Guard are going to have to battle back".

Tribal advocates are alarmed by this resolution, and have expressed concern for the ignorance in America of Indian treaties and the sovereign status of tribal governments as provided for in the US Constitution.

The Republican National Committee assured tribal governments in a letter dated July 17, 2000, that they "reject this resolution and everything it stands for".

The letter, signed by Senator John McCain, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, also stated that "The elimination of tribal governments is not an option".

Both the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) have responded swiftly to this attack, with resolutions of their own denouncing the actions of the party.

The NCAI, through its resolution, also calls upon Republican and Democratic leadership in the federal, state and local governments, to implement a program of education in the public schools for all US citizens regarding Indian nations and their rights to self-government.

"We want freedom from the white man rather than to be integrated. We don't want any part of the establishment, we want to be free to raise our children in our religion, in our ways, to be able to hunt and fish and live in peace. We don't want power, we don't want to be congressmen, or bankers....we want to be ourselves. We want to have our heritage, because we are the owners of this land and because we belong here.

The white man says, there is freedom and justice for all. We have had "freedom and justice," and that is why we have been almost exterminated. We shall not forget this."

1927 Grand Council of American Indians

Proposed Change to Tribal Distribution Plan to be Submitted to Interior

Tribal members may soon see an increase in their annual tribal distribution. For the past two years, the Tribal Board of Directors has discussed options that would benefit the Tribal membership, as related to the Tribal Distribution Plan.

The Cow Creek Tribal Distribution Plan, submitted by the Tribe and approved by the Department of the Interior in 1995, called for a one time disbursement of \$1000.00 to all tribal members out of gaming proceeds and \$100.00 annually after the first year. The plan also called for the Board of Directors to review the tribal disbursement portion of that plan in the year 2000.

In April, the Board of Directors approved changes to this plan and will now submit them for approval to the Department of the Interior.

The proposed plan is for tribal members to receive an annual payment of \$500.00 in December of 2000. This increase is up from the original \$100.00 disbursement that Tribal members have received over the last several years. In 1999, Tribal members received a total of \$250, with \$100 coming from tribal gaming and \$150 coming from the non-gaming income of diversified Tribal businesses, i.e., truck stop, rental income, etc.

In addition to the proposed annual payment, tribal elders 60 years and older will receive an additional \$250 per month.

Again, any changes to the existing plan must meet specific criteria and be approved by the Department of the Interior.

Garage Sale Set For Surplus Items

Members of the Seven Feathers staff have been requested by the Tribal Board of Directors to organize and conduct a garage sale of surplus items owned by the tribe. The items are a collection from the government offices, bingo hall, casino, restaurant, truck and travel center, and motels. The surplus items include furniture, glassware, computer parts and accessories and many other miscellaneous items.

The garage sale is scheduled to be held in the parking lot of the Canyonville Cubbyholes (across from the Seven Feathers Convention Center) on Saturday, August 26th and Sunday, August 27th. The sale will be open to the public, however, tribal members and their immediate family will have first opportunity to view and purchase items, prior to the sale opening up to the public.

The schedule for the garage sale is as follows:

Saturday, August 26, 2000

"Tribal Members Only" 8 AM – 12 PM
(Tribal ID Card Required)

Open to the Public 12 PM – 5 PM

Sunday, August 27, 2000

Open to the Public 8 AM – 5 PM

Tribal members who plan to attend the private "Tribal Members Only" portion of the sale on Saturday morning must present their Cow Creek Tribal ID card to be admitted.

If you do not have a Tribal ID card, please contact Carol Ferguson at the Tribal Government Offices at (541) 672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.

“Seven Feathers’ Game Show” opens in Casino

A new form of entertainment has been introduced to the patrons of the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort. This new and entertaining act is a mixture of several game shows, part Who Want's To Be A Millionaire, part Newlywed Game and part Name that Tune among them. The games involve a great deal of audience participation, with dozens of prizes awarded during each show.

The “Seven Feathers’ Game Show” is another production of Greg Thompson Productions, and will be running through October 1, 2000. The prizes awarded to participants have been donated by local businesses, and include

televisions, vcr's, radio's, toaster ovens, and dozens of gift certificates to local restaurants and other businesses. The businesses that have donated to the game show are promoted throughout each performance.

Show times are Tuesday through Thursday at 7:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Admission is free with a two-beverage minimum. Reservations are required, and no one under 21 will be admitted. Tuesday shows are non-smoking. For reservations call 1-800-548-8461, ext. 1334.

Changes made in Resort Discounts for Tribal Members

Discounts for enrolled members of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians are available at various outlets at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort.

Tribal members must present their Cow Creek Tribal I.D. card to receive a **25%** discount in Scoops, the Cow Creek Restaurant and the Gift Gallery. Discounts in the Gift Gallery are not available for consignment items.

The tribal member discount does not apply to alcoholic beverages. The **25%** discount applies to other family member meals on the ticket. This does not apply to guests of tribal members.

Tribal members will also receive a **10%** discount on Convention Center charges, for tribal family events, which have received pre-approval from the Tribal Board of Directors. Again, this discount does not apply to alcoholic beverages.

The tribal discount does not apply to ticketed events, such as conferences, at the resort.

Upon presentation of a valid Cow Creek Tribal I.D. card, tribal members will be eligible for a \$40.00 per night rate at the Seven Feathers Hotel. When making your reservations for the room, please notify the clerk that you will be presenting a Cow Creek Tribal I.D. card. This card must be presented to receive the \$40.00 room rate.

Summer Camp Cancelled

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Committee met on July 31, 2000, to discuss the 2000 Cow Creek Summer Youth Camp. At this meeting, it was determined that the camp would be canceled for this year due to coordination difficulties of teachers and speakers, time commitments and lack of participants.

The committee decided that the SPLASH event will be rescheduled for Saturday, August 19, 2000. Please contact Dan Nichols at (541) 863-5995 or Rhonda Malone at the Government Office 1-800-935-2649, ext. 5513, to obtain further information. *(Drop off correction on the SPLASH flyer; we will be dropping the children off at the drop off locations on August 19)*

The JOM Committee has set a regular meeting schedule for upcoming JOM meetings. The committee will meet the first Monday of every month in the Tribal Government offices located at 2371 NE Stephens, Roseburg, Oregon, at 5:30. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Water Safety For All

Drowning is a significant cause of death and disability in children younger than 4 years of age. For every death due to submersion six children are hospitalized and approximately 20% of hospitalized survivors suffer severe neurological problems. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 300 children under the age of five drown each year in residential pools.

Here are a few safety tips:

1. Surround the swimming pool with a 5-foot fence and self-enclosing, self-latching gate.
2. Never leave a child alone near any body of water; beach, river, lake, pond, pool, not even a bathtub. A child can drown in two inches of water!!
3. Lifejackets & personal flotation devices (PFD) are not a substitute for adult supervision.
4. Do not let children use inflatable floating devices (e.g. armbands & toys) because they may deflate.

Such devices provide a false sense of security, and may allow the child to drift too far from shore.

5. Teach children who dive to be sure that the water is deep enough, and that the bottom is free of glass, stones or other dangers. Diving accidents cause 500 cases of paralysis in the United States each year.
6. Alcohol appears to be a significant risk factor in adolescent drowning, and avoidance of alcohol is imperative to prevent poor judgment and accidents.
7. Keep essential rescue devices and first aid equipment close at hand.
8. Do not allow swimming for at least one hour after eating a heavy meal.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

"Strengthening the Next Generation"

Cow Creek Health and Wellness Center is offering another workshop by the Parenting and Family Program. The focus of the workshop is on parents helping each other with the challenges of raising children, skill and strengthening family ties. The program is open to anyone involved in raising children, not just mothers and fathers, but also grandparents, aunts, and uncles, etc. It is a night off from cooking, and a night for family fun, helpful information and support.

Who: All tribal families are invited to participate.

What: A tribal program called "Strengthening the Next Generation"

When: Every Thursday night from September 7 to November 9, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided from 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Cow Creek Health & Wellness Center
2371 NE Stephens, Suite 200
Roseburg, OR 97470

How: To enroll, complete and return the enclosed registration form by August 28. For further information, please call the Cow Creek Health & Wellness Center at (541) 672-8533 or 1-800-935-2649.

Free childcare will be provided by workers trained in infant/child CPR, and will include fun activities the children will enjoy.

A graduation award dinner will be held on November 9. The family who attends the most sessions will receive a six-month family membership at the YMCA!!

Tribal Property Acquisitions Continue

In accordance with the goals and objectives set by the Tribal Board of Directors, the Tribe continues to purchase strategic parcels of land in locations having economic development potential.

The Tribe negotiated a refinance of the Seven Feathers Resort in 1998. Proceeds from the refinance process were utilized to pay off previous casino debt and provide funds for land acquisition and economic development.

The collateral for this loan is a percentage of future casino revenue, which allows the land that is acquired to be purchased free and clear.

The purpose for the refinance was to diversify the tribal economy away from gaming. Gaming revenue alone is not a safe bet.

With the gaming industry's turbulent nature, the Tribal Board of Directors followed the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, passed in 1988, to create economic development through business diversity.

Another reason for the land acquisition program is the continued threat of losing the ability of having land taken into trust for tribes. Since 1994, Congress has produced a multitude of anti-Indian legislation relevant to the trust process

and taxation of tribal governments. Trust emplacement is critical to tribes because once property becomes tax exempt it is under their sovereign jurisdiction.

During 1999 and 2000, the Tribe has acquired 17 parcels of land totaling 3,265 acres. All property is located close to exits on Interstate - 5, between Roseburg and Canyonville. Some of the properties that have been acquired are the Starlite Drive-In Theater, Doug's Diesel, Oregon Gourmet Foods (*renamed Umpqua Indian Foods*), Creekside Property (*behind the Seven Feathers Truck and Travel Center*) and the K-Bar Ranch.

A training program for tribal members is under development for the K Bar Ranch. This program will focus on management of the ranch and other tribal agricultural properties.

The Tribal Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Umpqua Indian Development Corporation, continues to research development options that will ultimately provide jobs and income for tribal membership.

OMAP Coverage

The Contract Health Services department has recently had several inquiries regarding the Oregon Medical Plan eligibility and coverage as it relates to the Contract Health Program. The following information is provided:

Federal guidelines mandate that the Contract Health Program is the payer of the last resort, therefore, any tribal member eligible for the Oregon Medical Plan must maintain current OMAP coverage. If coverage under OMAP lapses for the lack of member responsibility, the Contract Health Program will not cover any medical appointments or prescriptions.

If you have additional questions about the Oregon Medical Plan, or eligibility for the Contract Health Program, please call Linda Rondeau at 1-800-935-2649 or (541) 672-8533.

Medicare B Reimbursement

The Medicare Part B reimbursement program is for Tribal Elders, 65 and older, that have the payment for part B withheld from their social security checks. You become eligible for this program on your 65th birthday, and will be reimbursed at the end of the year the amount that is verified by the Social Security Administration.

Over-the-Counter Program

The Over-the-Counter Health Program enables all tribal members, regardless of where they live, to \$100.00 of non-prescription pharmaceutical supplies, such as Advil, Tylenol, cold and flu medicines, cough syrup, thermometers, vitamins, etc.

To enroll in this program, you must contact Tamara Robinson at the Cow Creek Health and Wellness Center at 1-800-935-2649, with the name of the pharmacy you normally use. Once the account information is established with your pharmacy, you can call Tamara at least 24 hours in advance, for **pre-approval** of your pharmaceutical needs. Your list needs to be at least 5 items or more.

Updated Address

Tribal members are encouraged to maintain a current address at the Tribal Government Offices. Tribal members who have minor children not living in their household should update the child's current address to receive information on trusts and youth activities. If you know of any members who have not been receiving correspondence from the Tribal Government Offices, please recommend that they call the toll free number 1-800-929-8229 or write to Cow Creek Government Tribal Government Office, 2371 NE Stephens, Suite 100, Roseburg, OR 97470.

Tribal Jobs Line

Tribal members interested in employment opportunities at Seven Feathers Casino Resort, the Cow Creek Gaming Commission or the Tribal Government Offices, call the Tribal Jobs Line at 1-800-676-0854 for a pre-recorded listing of all job openings. The Tribal Jobs Line is updated on a weekly basis and provides instructions as to where and how to apply.

Tribal Identification Cards

Tribal Identification Cards are available to any tribal member upon request. To obtain an I.D. card, contact Carol Ferguson at the Cow Creek Government Offices. You will be sent an application with an I.D. card attached for your signature. Simply fill out the application, sign the ID card, enclose an appropriately sized photo and mail back to the Tribal Government Offices for processing.

PLEASE DO NOT FILL IN ANYTHING ON THE CARD EXCEPT YOUR SIGNATURE.

In order for cards to be uniform, this procedure must be followed. The card will then be processed with the Tribal Chairman's signature, laminated and then mailed back to you.

www.cowcreek.com



Cow Creek Tribal Government Offices
Attn: Tonya Bishop
2371 NE Stephens, Suite 100
Roseburg, OR 97470

Phone: 1-800-929-8229

Fax: (541) 673-0432

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