



# ***KIUYUM-ID-***

Volume 7 Issue 2

February 24, 1997

## **Board of Directors to Meet with Washington Tribal Members**

Two informational meetings have been scheduled for tribal members in the State of Washington and the Tribal Board of Directors.

The first meeting will be held on March 7, 1997, in Woodland Washington at 6 p.m. in the Commons Building of Woodland Middle School at 755 Park St.

On March 8, 1997, a meeting will be held in the Heritage Room of the Red Lion Inn at 221 Park St., Port Angeles, Washington at 1:00 p.m.

The tribes gaming revenues made it possible for the Board of Directors to begin holding meetings in Washington and California in 1995 in an attempt to better serve and hear concerns of the tribes out of state populations.

## **New Casino Floor Opens at Seven Feathers**

On December 11, 1996, the doors opened to a new 21,441 sq. ft. Seven Feathers gaming floor. The new casino floor space offers 500 slot machines, 40 blackjack tables, a new poker room and keno area.

To date the hotel, gaming floor, bingo parlor, gift gallery, lounge and ice cream parlor are open and operating. A 24 hour restaurant is temporarily operating out of the ice cream parlor while the actual restaurant is under construction.

A convention center with seating capacity for 1500 and a fine dining restaurant are also under construction.

Anticipated completion date of the 24 hour restaurant is scheduled for the end of March 1997, with the completion of the Fine Dining scheduled for the end of April 1997. The convention center will be completed by late summer.

Upon completion, total square footage for the Seven Feathers facility will be 205,180 Sq. ft.

## **Seven Feathers Grand Opening Set For April**

Tribal members and their families will be provided an exclusive opportunity to see the completed Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort in Canyonville at a Tribal Opening Ceremony to be held on Saturday, April 26, 1997.

Invitations to the event will be mailed out in mid-April to allow time for RSVP's. Mark your calendars, we will be releasing more information on this event as the plans progress.

## Tribal Government Offices Breaks Ground

In the Spring of 1996, 4 1/2 acres of property was purchased by the tribe to house the Government Administrative programs, Gaming Commission Office's and NEW Tribal Wellness Center.

The property, located at 2371 NE Stephen's Street in Roseburg, offered room for much needed space, consolidation of all of tribal programs and business entities as well as the opportunity to own versus rent.

Anticipated completion date of the complex is stated for late fall of '97.

## NCAI Calls Tribes to Task

The Winter Session of the National Congress of American Indians was held January 21 - 23, 1996, in Washington D.C. Overall focus of the session was the protection of tribal sovereignty.

Tribal leaders from across the nation called for the unification of tribes to fight to uphold the laws, treaties and the US Constitution that protects the sovereignty of tribes.

Senator Daniel Inouye, HI, Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and a long time champion of Indian rights, said "Sovereignty is the most important word in Indian Country" and urged tribes to educate their senator and congressmen on the issue.

Also present were Congressman Patrick Kennedy, RI, strong supporter of Indian rights and sovereignty, Bruce Babbitt, secretary of the Department of the Interior, and Don Glickman, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Congressman Kennedy backed Inouye's sentiments but added that tribes should also educate congressional delegates from states that don't possess tribes or reservations but are strong on human rights issues.

Tribal Chairman Sue Shaffer addressed both Secretaries' Babbitt and Glickman during the general assembly, calling on their support for protection of the tribes Huckleberry Patch which is being threatened by mining company interests.

## Grand Ronde Tribe Signs New Compact

On January 8, 1996, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde signed a new compact with the State of Oregon which will allow for expanded games within their Spirit Mountain Casino.

The compact, however, has been viewed as unfavorable by some tribes due to a clause which requires that the Grande Ronde Tribe will pay 6% of net gaming revenue to fund a foundation that will provide grants to various agencies, organizations or projects to benefit their local community.

While the Grand Ronde don't view the 6% as a tax, Cow Creek Tribal Chairman, Sue Shaffer is not as optimistic. "We (the Tribe) have always had close personal ties and working relationships with our Grand Ronde friends. While I will always support their right to determine what is best for their people, I cannot allow the State to force us into the same mold during our negotiations process. Each tribe has different needs and should be dealt with as separate entities. We have always been giving people to our community, but the whole focus of the past years of building this tribes assets is to secure a future for our people. We have our own folks out of state that we are earmarking funds and developing programs for. To force a



tax upon us would be both an insult as well as an interference in our right to self determination."

Negotiations between Cow Creek and the State of Oregon are still in progress.

## Doernbecher Fund-raiser Slated

Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland is in desperate need of attention and if Mike Rondeau, Assistant Administrator in the tribal office has his way, they're going to get it.

Doernbecher, built in the 1950's is housed on two floors of the Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital. The hospital is crowded and out dated with up to four patients and their families sharing one room. Two patient restrooms serve 24 beds, with only one bath tub for both floors.

All of this came to Mike's attention while taking his son Zane to a routine pediatricians check-up. The doctor's wife heads the Douglas County chapter of the Friends of Doernbecher. The doctor and his wife talk to Mike, Mike talks to the Board of Directors, and after months of meetings and hard work as they say "the rest is history".

The result will be a "Golf Classics" fund-raiser golf tournament to be held August 23, 1997, at the Myrtle Creek Golf Course and a charity auction to be held at the new Seven Feathers Convention Center.

The golf tournament will feature 32 teams of four individuals per team. Participating businesses in the area have sponsored teams at \$400 each and/or donated prizes for the charity auction. Special guests will include Oregon Governor, John Kitzhaber.

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The friends of Doernbecher hope to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 at the event; all proceeds to go to the Doernbecher Construction Fund.

Doernbecher has been helping critically ill children from Oregon and 5 surrounding states since 1926. During 1995-96 63,549 children were assisted from Oregon; 582 were from Douglas County.

## TRIBAL PROGRAMS

### Indian Child Welfare Program

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) requires that all judicial custody proceedings involving enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes or children eligible for enrollment, the court must comply with ICWA standards. Custody proceeding are defined as: foster care placements, termination of parental rights, pre-adoptive placement, and adoptive placements.

In order for us to protect our Tribal children involved in such proceedings and prevent their placement in non-Indian homes, it is necessary that we develop a list of those Tribal members willing and able to provide foster care, both on a temporary and long term placement basis, and identify those willing to adopt these Tribal children.

If you have an interest in becoming approved for either or both of these lists please contact the Tribal ICWA Specialist, Jan Hough, at the Tribal Government Office at 541-672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.

## Housing Improvement Program

The Cow Creek Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Housing Improvement Program (HIP) is currently accepting applications for housing assistance. This program can assist eligible tribal members who are currently living in the seven county service area with housing needs such as rehabilitation (roof, weatherization, windows, doors, structural repairs, etc.) or down payment assistance. Priority is given to families with the greatest need in relation to income, family size, etc.

If you would like to apply for this program, contact Carol Ferguson at the Tribal Government Office.

## Child Care Assistance

The Cow Creek Child Care Assistance Program is provided through the Child Care and Development Block Grant and can provide full child care and/or after school care for income eligible families. All applicants must live in the seven county service area and be employed, engaged in an on-the-job training program, or enrolled in school. The children must be under the age of 13. Applicants must be able to verify low income level.

Income eligible families can also receive assistance for parenting classes.

For more information regarding this program, contact Carol Ferguson at the Tribal Government Office.

## Contract Health Program

The Contract Health Program provides medical, dental and vision coverage for eligible tribal members. In order to be eligible you must:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Cow Creek Tribe currently living in the seven county service area.
2. **Pre-authorize all services.** Emergencies must be called in within 72 hours of service.

Contract Health is a secondary insurance which means you must use all other resources to pay for your care, such as: Medicare, Medicaid, Oregon Medical Plan and/or private insurance. If you are a tribal member AND a tribal employee, Nesika is to be billed first. You **MUST** attend and sign-up for Nesika at the enrollment meeting. If you do not, you will not be covered by Contract Health.

If you have pharmacy coverage through your private insurance, you must use it when having prescriptions filled. Contract Health will co-pay.

You can call 1-800-929-8229 or 672-8533 to pre-authorize you appointments with Linda or Roma.

Contract Health applications will be mailed out soon to members in the service area. Under Federal guidelines, Contract Health must have an updated application annually, on each individual. Please fill them out and return to the Tribal Government Office upon receipt.

## Important Information Needed

The Tribal Government Office is holding 1996 \$100 Distribution checks for the following 19 Tribal members due to lack of address.

Anthony Aaron Albert  
David Michael Bell  
Loren Allen Bowers  
Kenneth M. Brown  
Daniel Lee Buschmann  
Roger Merlin Buschmann  
Vernon Robert Buschmann  
Victoria Carlene Buschmann  
Steven Dwayne Cole  
Carla L. Davis  
Doren Eric Deardorff  
Rose Ann Deardorff  
Shane Melvine Gibson  
Eric Wayne Horn  
Cody James Poole  
Jason Lee Potts  
Tod T. Pruitt, Jr.  
David Allen Schnetzer  
Penny Deneise Watson

Also, we are in need of updated addresses for the remaining Tribal members listed below.

Vernon Merle Buschmann  
Donna Marie Chapman  
Dean Scott Eamigh  
Patricia Ann Hussey  
Laura Elizabeth O'Niel  
Jerod Marshal Potts  
Rusty William Potts  
James Wayne Russell  
Paula Rena Russell  
Mitchel Ray Schmidt  
Robert Lynn Hill

If you have addresses for any of the above, please contact the Tribal Government Office.

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In addition, the Tribal Government Office needs social security numbers for the following individuals for accounting purposes.

Leonard Glenn Arnold  
Kenneth M. Brown  
Helen Kay Burchett  
Terry Ronald Buschmann  
Cohee Jean Carrillo  
Donna Marie Chapman  
Gilbert Cross, Jr.  
Pete Christopher Cross  
Lenore April Dunshee  
Dean Scott Eamigh  
Howard Shelton Haskett  
Linda Dian Jackson  
Phillip Peter Kandel  
Robert Frank Kandel  
Maxine Elene McCraw  
Rosena Angela Nelson  
Jesse Paul Olmstead  
Dennis Dwaine Parson  
Robert Lee Perdue  
Robert Allen Picard  
Michael Anthony Picard  
Steven James Rondeau  
Shawn Michael Rondeau  
George Shaffer  
Jennifer Jean Steffler  
Scott Brian Steffler  
Lattieca Ann Stewart  
Teddy James Travis  
Jan Wolfe  
Tina Marie Wangler  
John Edward Young  
Dean Troy Davis  
Dawn Michelle Eamigh  
Jason Lee Potts  
David George Jeska  
Cynthia Carol Jeska

If you are in contact with any of the above listed individuals, have them contact Carol McKinney at the Tribal Government Office, 1-800-929-8229.



## Education Programs

Tribal education programs consist of four areas geared to the attainment of quality continuing education, adult basic education, and life enhancing skills for tribal people. The four programs available are as follows:

- **Higher Education Program** - This program is available to all tribal members; there are no service area restrictions. The program assists those wishing to obtain a college degree at both the junior college and state college levels. This program funds undergraduate students, as well as masters and doctorate students.
- **Adult Vocational/Employment Assistance Training Program** - This program offers assistance to those seeking a vocational/technical certificate or associate of applied arts and science degrees. *Bureau of Indian Affairs within the seven county service area, and that training be completed within a 2 year time frame.* This program is geared toward achieving job skills necessary for employability in a relatively short period of time.
- **Adult Education Program** - This program is available to tribal members wishing to obtain a G.E.D., high school equivalency, or other adult basic education needs.

If you would like to make application to any of the above-mentioned programs, or need information, contact Yvonne Dumont, Director of Education at the Tribal Government Office.

## CHR Program

The Community Health Representative Program (C.H.R.) offers medical support to tribal members such as: "Special situation transportation" to and from medical appointments, blood pressure checks, general

health information, immunization information, home visits, and on special occasions, assists with setting up medical appointments. There are a wide range of services that can be provided through the CHR program. If you have any questions contact Rhonda Malone at the Tribal Government Office, 1800-929-8229.

## L.I.H.E.A.P.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible applicants with energy costs (oil, propane, electric, wood or gas). The following are the two services provided:

- **Heating Assistance:** Utilized to pay for eligible tribal member's heating costs such as those mentioned above. Payments are made directly to the energy provider. This is a one time per year payment.
- **Crisis Assistance:** Funds are available to eligible tribal members for emergency energy needs. Payments can be made to assist with home energy shut-off notices only. This is a one time per year payment.

To be eligible for this program applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Applicant must be a tribal member.
2. Applicant must live within the Cow Creek seven county service area (Lane, Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Coos and Deschutes).
3. Most categorical households already receiving assistance (AFDC, SSI, Food Stamps, BIA General Assistance or certain need-tested veteran's benefits) **may be automatically eligible.**
4. Applicant must not exceed 150% of the Federal Poverty Income guidelines, if determining eligibility on wages.

5. Submit a completed application with the necessary documentation attached. (Verification of income or categorical status, social security numbers for all members of the household, electric bill and utility bill if other than electric).

For further information and/or an application contact Rhonda Malone at the Tribal Government Offices.

## Tribal Health Insurance Plan

The following is a brief outline of the tribal self-funded insurance plan, the **Nesika Health Group**.

### ELIGIBILITY

Insurance plan membership will be limited to individual tribal members, and if they choose, their legal spouses, any children in the household for which the tribal member is legally responsible, and tribal employees. Again, the plan has no service area requirements.

### THE PLAN

The **Nesika Health Group** will provide medical, dental, and vision coverage for tribal members and their families who are enrolled and whose premium has been paid. You may select the health care providers of your choice, provided they meet certain requirements within your particular state. You are not limited to a primary care physician, as with HMO plans. (A **summary of benefits booklet will be included with the application for enrollment.**) The plan is a basic 80/20 plan with a \$100 deductible per person, or \$300 per family per calendar year.

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### THE COST

The **Nesika Health Group** will be funded greatly in part by tribal businesses, allowing for such low premiums for you and your family.

The cost to you, as an individual tribal member, will be \$50 per month or \$600 per year. A tribal member who wishes to include a legal spouse and/or any dependent children in the household may enroll in the family plan at a cost of \$60 per month. Therefore, a tribal family will receive coverage for \$60 per month, or \$720 per year, regardless of the number of dependents added to the enrollment. Coverage will begin upon receipt of a completed application including all necessary proof of legal dependents, i.e. copies of marriage certificates, and/or birth certificates, as well as a check for the appropriate premium amount.

Once enrolled in the plan, should a member decide to discontinue coverage, that individual and family would not be eligible to join the plan until the next enrollment period, which will January 1 of each year.

### PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

As with most plans, the **Nesika Health Group** does contain a pre-existing condition clause. However, Any member of the **Nesika Health Group** with a pre-existing condition will receive coverage up to \$2000 for the first year of coverage on any expenses related to their pre-existing condition. After the first year, the pre-existing condition coverage will not be limited, and the individual will receive regular coverage. Certain extensive illnesses may be cause for denial of coverage.

Any tribal member wishing to receive further information, an application for enrollment, benefits package, and/or billing information, may contact Joan Atchison at the Tribal Government Office, 1-800-929-8229. The benefits information packet outlines the details

on the medical, dental, and vision benefits coverage.

## Drug and Alcohol Program

The Cow Creek Drug and Alcohol Program provides the following counseling services:

- Individual and family drug and alcohol counseling.
- Marriage and family counseling.
- Mental health counseling.

Referrals to other mental health providers are provided through the Contract Mental Health Program.

For more information call Randy Anderson at the Tribal Government Offices.

## Family Abuse Advocacy Program

Recently federal funds were made available through the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act. This program is now available to tribal members. Brochures have been mailed to all Tribal households. Information explaining this program is included in the brochure.

If you have any questions concerning these services, contact Randy Anderson at the Tribal Government Office.

## Outdoor Recreation Therapy Program

The Outdoor Recreation Therapy Program provides Tribal youth a therapeutic experience in an outdoor setting, which includes river rafting, snow skiing and backpacking. Issues such as self-esteem, drug and alcohol use and communication skills are addressed. For more information, call Randy Anderson at the Tribal Government Offices.

## Field Health Nurse Program

The Field Health Nurse is always working towards promoting total wellness for the Tribe. The general goals are improving the delivery of preventive health services, promoting health care practices which lead to overall well-being, and to assist tribal members and their families in obtaining adequate health care.

During home visits or office visits, the Field Health Care Nurse screens tribal members and their families for existing or potential health problems. She then utilizes the appropriate resource agencies to assist with the problem.

Smoke alarms are given to every tribal home, with an annual inspection. Bicycle helmets are available to all tribal children and their parents, as well as infant car seats and booster seats for older children.

If you have any questions regarding the Field Health Nurse Program, contact Peggy Meharry at the Tribal Government Office.



## Special Classes Offered

### First Aid, CPR, or Child/Infant CPR

If you are interested in taking a First Aid, CPR, or Child/Infant CPR class, please call Rhonda at the Tribal Government Office, 1-800-929-8229.

### Pottery

A pottery class, to be held at the Umpqua Valley Arts facility in February, will be taught using coil, slab, and wheel methods.

### Basic Pistol Shooting and Safety Course

In March, a second National Rifle Association (N.R.A.) Basic Pistol Shooting and Safety Course will be taught by certified instructor, Jesse Rust. Jesse is employed by Seven Feathers Security and holds the position of President for the South Umpqua Rod and Gun Club.

The course is open to anyone interested in pistol shooting or who would like to obtain their concealed handgun license. There will be a certificate of completion issued by the N.R.A. at the end of class. The class is 10 hours in length.

Please To sign up for the above classes call the Tribal Government Office at 541-672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.

## Employment Listings

The following positions are currently open at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort:

- **Reservation Agent**

If you are interested in employment at the Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino Resort, you may call

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for an application by contacting the Human Resources Department at (541) 839-1111.

The following positions are currently open at the Cow Creek Tribal Government Office:

### Clinic Director

Resumes will be accepted for a Clinic Director Position until March 10, 1997 by the Cow Creek Tribal Government Offices; Attention Administrator.

In summary, the responsibilities of the Clinic Director shall include planning, the operation of the new clinic, as well as oversight of all compliance requirements, accounting and budgeting of Indian Health Service (IHS) programs and various grants.

Basic qualifications for this position include: a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration (Master's Degree preferred); knowledge and application in principles of accounting; preparation, execution and oversight of budgets; successful competitive grant writing experience; five years experience as an administrator of health care; experience with Indian Health Service preferred; experience with diverse medical claims and billing relevant to IHS and the State of Oregon; formal training in computers; experience with private insurance plans, (Medicare, IHS, Oregon Medical Plan, etc.); a high degree of initiative; and strong verbal and written communication skills.

Tribal members interested in applying for the Clinic Director position may contact the Tribal Government Office and request an application and complete job description, which will include detailed responsibilities and qualifications of the incumbent.

Applications, resumes' and cover letters must be submitted no later than 4 p.m., March 10, 1997 to: ATTN.: PERSONNEL, Cow Creek Tribal Government Office, 2400 Stewart Parkway, Suite 300, Roseburg, OR 97470, (541) 672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.

# 1996 Annual Tribal Program Reports

During 1996, the Tribal Government Office administered 20 federally funded programs that provided benefits to the Tribe. The following is an annual overview of the programs of 1996.

## *BIA Housing Improvement Program*

The BIA Housing Improvement Program was able to provide grants to eight Tribal families in 1996, totaling nearly \$62,000.00.

Two Tribal families received \$4,917.00 combined for repairs to their homes with Category A Assistance (repairs to a home that cannot be brought to standard under the program guidelines). Three families received Category B service (rehabilitation to an existing home to program standards) in the amount of \$41,624.00. Another three families were assisted in buying a home with Category C Assistance (otherwise known as "down payment assistance") totaling \$15,000.00.

The Housing Improvement Program Director, Carol Ferguson, also assisted 5 Tribal families through the Indian Health Service Sanitation Program in coordination of 1 community sewer and water hook-up, 2 septic systems, and 2 wells, all totaling \$31,015.00.

## *BIA Education Programs*

During 1996, 91 Tribal members were assisted with funding from the BIA Education Program to obtain Adult Vocational Training (AVT), Adult Education (AE), Higher Education (HE) and Employment Assistance (EA).

The AVT Program assisted 16 Tribal members in obtaining certificates of completion, diplomas, or associates degree of applied science/arts through career counseling, tuition,

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books, necessary materials and subsistence to obtain training in fields such as Medical Assistance, Medical Transcription, Beauticians, and Phlebotomy.

Forty two Tribal students were assisted with scholarships from the Higher Education Program to work toward obtaining a higher education degree. A number of students in 1996 achieved bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and numerous associates degrees in such fields as education, psychology, geography, and human services.

The Adult Education Program provided assistance to 30 tribal members with tutoring, testing fees, and books for obtaining adult basic developmental education, GED's and Adult High School Equivalency Diplomas, as well as life/employment enhancement skills.

Three Tribal members were eligible to be assisted through the Direct Employment Assistance Program for various items and/or materials necessary to acquire employment, i.e. safety equipment.

## *Community Health Representative*

During 1996, the Community Health Representative (CHR) Program provided assistance to 86 tribal families consisting of 344 individuals, having made 186 home visits, provided 79 transports to 13 families, recorded 200 blood pressure checks, disseminated medical supplies to 10 families, distributed 8 bicycle helmets, 20 smoke alarms, 4 car seats, and 5 prescription deliveries. The CHR also coordinated CPR classes, certifying several Tribal members, as well as coordinating multiple referrals to various agencies.

## *Community Health Nurse*

The Community Health Nurse (CHN) during 1996 conducted in excess of 150 home visits, 10 hospital visits and numerous health related

telephone calls with Tribal members. The CHN disseminated 15 car seats, 10 bicycle helmets, 24 smoke alarms, and 5 carbon monoxide detectors and multiple medical supplies such as crutches, walkers, braces, diabetic needs, blood pressure monitors, shower seats, wheel chairs oxygen tanks, and thermometers. The CHN program also provided a flu clinic to both the gaming center employees as well as tribal members. More than 46 tribal members and their families participated in the clinic.

### ***Contract Health Care Program***

The Contract Health Care Programs service population for the 1996 year was 517 Tribal members, up from 489 in 1995. Conservative fiscal management by the Tribe during 1995 provided sufficient carryover funds to meet the "deferred services" needs of our tribal service area. Deferred Services are those that are placed on a lower priority, such as hearing aids, dentures, and orthodontics. The Contract Health Care Program covered medical expenses for 2,360 medical/dental/emergency visits. Total services provided to Tribal Members within the service area during the 1996 program year are in excess of \$423,264.70.

### ***Drug and Alcohol Program***

The Drug and Alcohol Program (D&A) Councilor assisted Tribal members and their families in a variety of areas during the 1996 year. Counseling was provided directly by the Tribal D&A Counselor, as well as from various providers within the tribal service area. Services provided during 1996 by the D&A program are up 25% from 1995. The program provided 13 individuals with Family Counseling, 14 individuals with Drug and Alcohol Counseling, 20 individuals with Mental Health Counseling and provided Outdoor Recreation Therapy for 60 children in the Tribe.

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### ***Child Care Assistance***

The Child Care Assistance Program has provided safe and quality child care for low-income families who otherwise could not afford to pay for child care while working, training, or in school. Participation in this program during 1996 grew considerably from previous years by assisting 13 tribal families and providing child care for 17 tribal children. Child care provider expenses for 1996 totaled \$16,398.81.

### ***Low Income Energy Assistance***

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provided Heating and Emergency Assistance to 38 tribal family households during 1996. Of the 38 households served, 32 were provided Heating Assistance and 6 were provided Winter Crisis (or emergency) Assistance.

### ***Tribal Education Program***

The Tribal Education Program assisted 85 Tribal members in and out of the tribal service area with books, tuition, materials, testing fees, and other expenses related to their training. The areas of training that students obtained included Realty, Beauticians, Massage Therapy, Computer technicians, and CDL - Truck Driving License. Grants provided to Tribal Students by the Tribal Education Program totaled \$ 65,759.00 during 1996.

### ***Tribal Housing Program***

For 1996, The Cow Creek Tribal Housing Program assisted 33 Tribal Families with down payment assistance and home repairs totaling \$80,561.44.

The Board of Directors approved down payment assistance for eleven Tribal families, totaling \$27,500.00 and twenty-three families received \$53,061.44 for repairs made on their homes.



Thirteen of the Tribal families receiving Tribal Housing Assistance live within the seven county service area while 23 live in other areas in Oregon, Nevada, California, and Washington.

### ***Prevention Program***

The Tribal Flu Clinic, held at the Gaming Center, administered vaccines to 46 Tribal members and their families in 1996. The vaccines were provided to the Gaming Center employees to help reduce absenteeism and doctor visits due to illness, as well as reduce tribal health insurance costs. The flu vaccines were offered at various times on many different days to allow employees on every shift to get a shot.

### ***Tribal Burial Benefit Plan***

In 1996, the Tribal Burial Benefit Plan assisted Tribal families with funeral expenses for 3 Tribal members in the amount of \$1,500.00 each. As the plan regulations state, the payment for the funeral costs are sent directly to the funeral home or cemetery.

### ***Nesika Health Group***

In April of 1997, the Tribe will celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Nesika Health Group, the self funded insurance program that provides coverage to tribal members, their families and employees of the Tribe and Gaming Center. Final figures on medical claims during 1996 will not be finalized until the end of the first quarter of 1997.

### ***Holiday Gift Certificates***

For the 1996 Holiday Season, the Tribal Board of Directors once again approved the purchase of Safeway Gift Certificates for all Tribal family households. On December 10, 1996, the Tribal Government Office sent Safeway Gift Certificates worth \$25 to all Cow Creek Tribal members 18 years of age and older.

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### ***Tribal Distribution Plan***

In early 1996, the Tribal Distribution Plan designed by the Board of Directors received approval from the Secretary of the Interior. As you will be reminded, the distribution plan requires the Tribe to place 5% of tribal gaming profits into a permanent trust fund which will eventually guarantee tribal members an annual distribution derived from the interest of the trust fund. The plan started with an initial distribution of \$1000.00 to every eligible tribal member in the first year, with a distribution of \$100.00 to eligible tribal members every year after that until the plan has earned enough interest to provide every eligible tribal member an annual distribution of \$1000.00 or more, based on gaming center profits. The initial distribution of \$1000.00 was made to tribal members in April, with the annual distribution of \$100.00 in December 1996.

Distributions for tribal members under the age of (18) years of age are being placed into a trust fund that can be accessed by the individual only after they turn eighteen (18).

Tribal records indicate that some tribal members have not cashed their distribution checks. **Please be reminded that distribution checks are void one year from the date issued.** Specifically, the initial \$1000.00 distribution checks issued on April 5,, 1996 will be void after April 5, 1997 and the \$100.00 annual distribution checks issued on December 10, 1996 will be void after December 10, 1997. Should tribal members require further information regarding the Tribal Distribution Plan, please contact Carol McKinney at the Tribal Office.

### ***Sewage Treatment Facility***

As reported in previous newsletters and at out-of-state meeting with tribal members, the Tribe is now operating a new sewage treatment facility that serves the entire Seven Feathers

Hotel and Gaming Resort. The sewage treatment facility is located behind the hotel and casino on the Block property.

The facility will receive an estimated peak daily flow of 75,000 gallons per day. The treatment plant will be sized to treat approximately 86,000 gallons per day, with room for expansion to 180,000 gallons per day.

### ***Tribal Land Acquisition Program***

In 1996, the Tribal Board of Directors approved the purchase of various properties in South Douglas County. With the continued threat of the Istook Amendment (*see page 13 Legislative Year in Review*) attaining approval by Congress, the Tribal Board has identified land acquisition as a priority to increase the size of the Cow Creek reservation. The Istook Amendment is expected to be reintroduced in some form again this year and if passed, the consequence to our Tribe and others will be disastrous.

### ***1996 Seven Feather Hotel Opening***

"Tribal Night" for the opening of the Seven Feather Hotel was held on July 31, 1996. A record number of Tribal members were present for this historic event. Champaign, **hors d'oeuvres**, a buffet and desserts were served to tribal families in celebration of the opening of the new facility.

During the evening, guests were invited to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Hotel Lobby entrance. Tribal elder, Wallace Rondeau Sr. was present to cut the ribbon that "officially opened" the hotel.

After the event, Tribal members and their families were invited to spend the night in the new hotel. Many Tribal members that were unable to stay were given the opportunity to make a reservation for any night in the month of August 1996.

## **1995/96 Legislative Year in Review**

### **Legislation - 1995**

#### **HR 2491**

During 1995, the House Ways and Means Committee added a provision to levy the federal unrelated business income tax (UBIT) on tribal gaming operations in the FY 96 Budget Reconciliation Bill. The tax, if passed, could have been nearly 40% and would have applied to all income generated by Class II and Class III Indian Gaming Facilities. This tax would be devastating to the financial side of Tribal Gaming Operations, but also as the precedent it would set for the taxation of tribes as well.

Fortunately for tribes, President Clinton vetoed this bill for a variety of reasons, however, in May of 1996, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, William Archer of Texas, held hearings related to the proposed tax.

### **Legislation - 1996**

In 1996 proposed anti-Indian legislation was potentially disastrous for Indian Tribes across the nation. Not only were the proposed bills focused on gaming, but on tribal sovereignty as well. Tribal leaders successfully fought to keep these bills from passing in 1996, however, many have already been reintroduced or are expected to be reintroduced this year.

The following is a brief overview of the legislation introduced during 1996.

#### **Istook Amendment**

During 1996 the U.S. House of Representatives adopted an amendment, introduced by Rep. Ernest J. Istook of Oklahoma, which would have imposed state and local government taxation on



tribal trust land operations. This language would have violated tribal sovereignty and would have been detrimental to tribal economic development initiatives by allowing state and local taxation of any Indian enterprise that might be developed on lands taken into trust.

Fortunately, this amendment was not included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, ending its threat to tribes for 1996.

#### HR 3289

Rep. Glenn Bowder of Alabama submitted legislation that would subject new Indian gaming activities to state jurisdiction, as well as prohibit tribes from using sovereign immunity as a defense against state actions to enforce state laws and state regulation of gaming as well.

#### HR 1512

Reps. Robert Torricelli of New Jersey and Gerald Solomon of New York introduced legislation called the "Fair Indian Gaming Act" which would have required state endorsement of planned tribal gaming operations. This would further erode the government to government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States by giving state governments control over tribal governments on gaming issues, completely ignoring tribal independence and sovereignty.

#### HR 1364

Rep. Terry Everett of Alabama submitted legislation that would have required community approval of Indian Class III gaming facilities, again an infringement on tribal rights. Fortunately, both HR 1512 and HR 1364 were stalled last year in the Resources Committee by Chairman Don Young of Alaska, however, Rep. Gerald Solomon has already reintroduced legislation this year designed to subject tribal gaming operations to state authorities, as well as

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to apply the federal income tax to tribal gaming operations.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS**

The Tribal Board of Directors and the Administrative Staff would like to give a special "thank you" to all tribal members who called and sent cards to wish the Board and staff a happy holiday season. We appreciate your kind words and thoughtfulness. Again, thank you.

## **In Memory of .....**

### **Gordon Eldon Buschmann**

Tribal Elder, **Gordon Buschmann**, of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, born July 26, 1936, died at the age of 60, on Sunday, February 2, 1997. Survivors include his wife Bertha, two sisters, Hazel Lycett and Ester Gatewood, three daughters, Rhonda Malone, Rachele Buschmann and Melissa Buschmann, and six grandchildren, (Christopher, Stephen and Kimberly Knighten, Jeremy and Joshua Malone and Brandy Gill Malone).

Gordon worked at Huffman and Wright Logging for 24 years. Gordon valued the importance of education and attained his General Education Diploma when he was 57.

A funeral was held Saturday, February 8, 1997 at the Mountain View Funeral Home in Tri City. Gordon's eulogy was delivered by Tribal Chairman Sue Shaffer.

### **Wallace J. Rondeau, Sr.**

Tribal elder, **Wallace J. Rondeau, Sr.**, born on April 22, 1899, in Glendale, Oregon died at the age of 97 on Tuesday, January 21, 1997.



Wallace was the oldest Tribal member since federal recognition on December 29, 1982. He was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth and their son, George "Jack" Rondeau. He leaves behind five children, Wallace "Buster" Rondeau, Jr., Dorothy Yeust, Richard "Butch" Rondeau, Jerry Rondeau, Tim Rondeau, and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

A funeral was held at the Assembly of God Church in Glendale, with graveside services at the Rondeau Family Cemetery. Family and friends gathered at the Masonic Lodge in Canyonville after the services to share a meal and memories. Wallace's eulogy was delivered by Tribal Chairman Sue Shaffer.

Family members have established the **Wallace Rondeau, Sr. Memorial Health Fund**. This fund is intended to augment the Cow Creek Tribal Contract Health Program funding. Specific guidelines are being established by the family. Contributions can be made to this fund at 1224 N.E. Walnut, #504, Roseburg, OR 97470.

## Walter Buschmann

Tribal elder, Walter Buschmann, born August 5, 1914, died on December 11, 1996 in Oroville, CA. Survivors include his wife, Frances, two children, Stanley Buschmann and Rose Mary Houser, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Walter worked as a logger and truck driver as well as working for the Yuba County Road Department.

## Forest Service Annual Picnic

The Tiller Ranger Districts Annual Forest Service Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 7,

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1997 at noon at the Tiller Ranger District. The Picnic will be potluck and you will need to bring your own table service.

The US Forest Service has recognized the important involvement of the Cow Creeks and their contributions to forming early and recent history of the U.S. Forest Service and will be honoring past and present Cow Creek Tribal members that were employed by the Forest Service. Many Tribal elders took part in pioneering work such as leading mule trains with supplies to remote areas of Douglas County, building roads (such as the road around Crater Lake National Park) and fire fighting.

## Update your Address

It is the responsibility of each tribal member to keep their address current in the Tribal Office. Several newsletters have been returned for lack of proper address. Tribal members who have minor children not living in their household should update the child's address for current information on the trust funds. If you know of any tribal members who have not been receiving correspondence from the Tribal Government Office, recommend that they call the toll free number (1-800-929-8229) or write to: Cow Creek Tribal Government Office, 2400 Stewart Parkway, #300, Roseburg, OR 97470 to update their address.