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November 4, 1993

Volume 3 Issue 8

NOTICE OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, November 14, 1993

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: I.W.A. Hall
1523 NE Vine Street
Roseburg, Oregon

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

GAMING FACILITY EXPANSION UPDATE

In the "Good News Department" is the progress being made on the expansion of the tribal gaming center. The good weather has been a big plus. With a projected opening date of May 1, 1994 (the second anniversary of our opening), the 15,400 sq. ft. addition will have a feature dear to the hearts of all Cow Creeks, a replica of the South Umpqua Falls which will grace the entrance lobby and greet our patrons. As a cultural resource area where our families met, gathered and prayed together, and where our annual Pow-wow is held on the third week-end of July each year, the Board of Directors deemed it fitting that it have a special place of honor. At the present time the base is being prepared for the concrete slab to be poured, and on the north part of the property ground work is being done for the R.V. park. We are moving forward in our economic development venture in a strong and progressive way. The Cow Creeks have been commended in the gaming industry for building a solid foundation for our business, that is, securing full reservation status for the property, negotiating a tribal/state compact which has already been used as a model, securing proper funding for the start-up, negotiating a good loan package with the Bureau, as well as covering bases with the BIA (Central Office) and the National Indian Gaming Commission. It was a long and arduous process, taking over four years to get the doors open on the business that will provide for other business ventures and thus a secure future for the Tribe.

INDIAN GAMING RIGHTS

On a national level Senators Inouye and McCain have convened "meetings of principals" to discuss the proposed amendments to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Present were Governors, Attorneys General, Senators and representatives from the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians in an effort to reach consensus. Inouye and McCain both reiterated their commitment to Cabazon (the law that gives strongest protection to Indian gaming rights). Because Congress is expected to adjourn around Thanksgiving, an agreed upon proposal has a target date of Nov. 15th for presentation to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Tribal government is closely monitoring these developments.

An October 5th decision in the State of Idaho denied relief to the Nez Perce Tribe when the Idaho Supreme Court held constitutionally valid an amendment to the State constitution which expressly prohibits casino gambling. The Nez Perce Tribe had challenged the validity of the amendment.

"INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY"

Because of uncertainty in the gaming industry, tribes are warned to invest wisely. From "America's Indian Newspaper", (Indian Country Today), Oct. 20, 1993 the editorial states: "Over the years Indian Country Today has cautioned the successful gaming tribes to look to the future. If you tie up your profits in per capita payments you are creating another form of dependency that will be even harder to break than welfare if the gaming from goes bust. While the iron is hot, buy back lands. Build a solid economic base separate from the casinos. Think about tomorrow." The editorial echos the philosophy of our tribal Board of Directors in the effort to build a strong economic base for the tribe.

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

By act of Congress in 1989, the National Museum of the American Indian was created. The purpose of the museum is to portray the lives and cultures of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. The museum will occupy the last space on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and will also be closest to the White House. The goal is to have it completed by the year 2000. Rick West, (Cheyenne and Arapaho), is the founding director and a long time acquaintance. Recently, Phillip Bread became the community relations coordinator for the Smithsonian on museum issues. Mr. Bread came to meet with me earlier this month on issues relating to tribes in Oregon and their participation in the effort.

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

A filibuster on the issue of grazing fees in the Senate on the Conference Report on the FY 1994 Interior and Related Appropriations Bill is endangering passage of the bill. If the filibuster is not ended, Congress may move to simply pass a continuing appropriations resolution, which would be effective for all of FY 1994 and funding would be at the FY 1993 levels for interior agencies, which include the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service. On Oct. 28, the Senate did not vote to invoke cloture, therefore, at the present time operations are under a continuing resolution until Nov. 10, 1993. (Not yet for the full FY 1994 period). This action, of course, affects the direct Cow Creek appropriations.

CULTURAL RESOURCES RELATED ISSUES

SB 61, passed by the last State legislature, conforms state law to federal law pertaining to archaeological and funerary objects and provides procedure for dispute resolution. On Oct. 25, Carol McKinney, Assistant to the Board of Directors, and I participated as part of a group discussing the interim dispute resolution process, moving from SHPO to mediation to arbitration and then to the Oregon Court of Appeals. The meeting was at the Commission on Indian Services Office and was a direct result of issues raised at the conference held in early October in Klamath Falls, attended by our tribal Resource Committee member "Tooter" Ansures and myself. The effort is to protect tribal rights in the process. We will be monitoring this process as it develops.

The Klamath Tribe has joined our tribe in opposition to the proposed mining/testing project at the Huckleberry Patch. In a letter dated Oct. 11, 1993 the Chairman, Tom Ball, stated: "We do recognize that our overlapping gathering areas are in danger of being exploited for non-traditional use and oppose it on those grounds". This letter of support is most helpful to our cause. In times past many tribes met at the Huckleberry Patch with our own people. "Tooter" has been working with the Klamaths on this effort.

ELECTRIC POLES FOR SALE

Used 200 amp electric box and poles for sale, only 75. If you are interested in purchasing, please call Carol McKinney at the Tribal Office 672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.

"COATS FOR KIDS"

The "Coats for Kids" program is in full swing. With the change in the weather, many children are in dire need of a warm winter coat. If you have a coat you would like to donate to this program, please contact Roma at the Tribal Health Office, and if necessary, arrangements can be made to have the coat picked up and delivered to the program director. The coat does not have to be cleaned or in excellent condition as long as it is fixable. The program director will see that all coats donated are cleaned and mended before sending them out to needy kids in our area. Please help our kids.

CONTRACT HEALTH PROGRAM

Billing questions should be directed to Linda Rondeau or June Horn at the Health Office. They are authorized to answer any questions you may have regarding billing procedures, payment procedures or any questions related to the Contract Health Program. Please inform your provider of this when attending an appointment.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

If you are interested in, or if you know of a family who would be interested in participating in a Community Thanksgiving Dinner or getting a Holiday Food Basket, their are community programs that provide these services. For more information, call June Creager at the Tribal Administrative Office at 672-9405 or 1-800-929-8229.