



KIUYUM-ID-

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Evergreen Property Paid Off

As many of you will recall, the Tribe was able to purchase the Evergreen Property in 1985 with a Bureau of Indian Affairs Direct Loan. This loan was also mandated as part of Public Law 100-139, which set aside the principal amount of \$315,000.00 from the Tribal Judgment Fund with interest earned from this amount to be used on annual loan payments to the BIA. In January of this year, the Board of Directors of the tribe voted to payoff the Evergreen Bureau of Indian Affairs direct loan with proceeds from the gaming center. Also prescribed in the law is that once the Evergreen Property is paid off, the \$315,000.00 is freed up and must be divided into the other tribal programs. The Tribal Housing Program principal amount will be increased by \$100,000.00. The Tribal Education Program principal amount will be increased by \$115,000.00 and the Economic Development Program principal amount will be increased by \$100,000.00. Please keep in mind that these tribal programs are funded from the interest derived from these principal amounts.

Tribal Disbursement Plan in the Works

The Tribal Disbursement Committee is currently considering options for the tribal disbursement plan. The main desire of this committee and of the Board of Directors is to develop and approve a plan that will not only allow for a tribal disbursement but also allow for the important development of the tribal property as well. The need for further development at the gaming center is explained in more detail in the Expansion and Development article. The Tribal Chairman, Sue Shaffer, is meeting with Department of the Interior Representatives this month to discuss the specific requirements of the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (I.G.R.A.) as it pertains to distributions. This federal law contains language that regulates disbursements of money derived from Gaming Revenues. Therefore, any plan that is approved by the Board must also be approved by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Further information will be coming very soon.

Notice to All Tribal Members

On Saturday, April 29th, 1995, the Tribe will celebrate the Third Anniversary of our Gaming Center. This will be a gala event for tribal families and invited dignitaries. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. with appetizers, dinner to follow.

If you plan to attend, you must call 679-2498 no later than April 5, 1995, so that your special invitation can be mailed to you in a timely manner. When calling give names of those planning to attend.

It will be necessary to present your invitation at the door, in order for admittance. Your prompt response will be appreciated.

We look forward to seeing many tribal families. A huge tent will be erected for this event since special events will be conducted in both the bingo and the gaming side of our facility. Come visit and see the progress that has been made on the tribal property, as well as plans for the future.

EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT

As many of you may know, our Tribe, in 1992, entered into the first Tribal/State Gaming Compact with the State of Oregon. Since that time, the state has negotiated compacts with seven tribes in Oregon:

The Siletz Tribe
 The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 The Coquille Indian Tribe
 The Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw
 The Umatilla Tribe
 The Warm Springs Indian Tribe
 The Klamath Indian Tribe

The only tribe in Oregon without a compact is the Burns Piute Tribe, and they are currently in negotiations with the state. It is apparent that every tribe in Oregon intends to operate a casino.

With other tribes opening casino's throughout the state, it is imperative to our Tribal Gaming Center that we develop a destination resort that can compete in this new and extremely competitive market. Statistics tell us that the present level of business/revenues we now have at our gaming center will not be maintained, but rather will be siphoned off to other casino's if we do not prepare for it.

We were the first Gaming Center in the state and we are in a prime position to maintain our competitive edge, and to do this we must continue to build a solid financial base for the tribe.

We are very fortunate to be located so close to Interstate-5 which has an average traffic count of 31,000 auto's per day. This is an encouraging drawing factor to our business, however, we cannot ignore the fact that the two tribes located closest to us, the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw, are located only 80 miles from I-5.

As part of the plan to be competitive, a hotel and dining room/lounge will be necessary to attract patrons for our Gaming Center.

Members of the Tribal Board of Directors, Tribal Gaming Commission and Umpqua Indian

Development Corporation recently met in Roseburg with representatives of several different companies who presented ideas for development of the tribal property in Canyonville. The experts from the gaming industry have advised the Board of Directors of a fact that was already known: the Cow Creek Gaming Center is too small. Market based statistics suggest that an expansion of our gaming facility will increase tribal revenues considerably. The Board of Directors have decided that it is best to proceed with this expansion as well as the hotel and dining room/lounge to supplement the facility.

It is also important for tribal members to know that the hotel and dining room/lounge will be tribally owned and operated. **THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS TO GET ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING FOR ANY OF THESE POSITIONS.** Further information will be coming.

Tribal Land Acquisition

The Board of Directors approved the purchase of a piece of property located in Roseburg on N.E. Stephens Street. This piece of property will greatly benefit the Tribe in many ways. As many tribal members are aware, the current Administrative and Health Offices are located at two separate locations. While we are fortunate to have them located within a quarter of a mile of each other, it has been difficult to conduct normal business. Adequately sized office space in Roseburg is very difficult to find.

Economically and socially, the Tribe will benefit from the purchase of the property. The Tribe, through federal grants and contracts, pay rent for the offices to other companies. With a new building owned by the tribe, all rents currently charged by other businesses will now be paid to the Tribe.

The social benefits that would be created with the new Tribal Office include adequate meeting space for Quarterly Council Meetings and other tribal activities, such as youth activities and cultural classes. These activities will no longer have to be held at rented locations.

The new Tribal Offices will have sufficient space for the Administration, Health, the Tribal Government and Tribal Gaming Commission. Possible future plans for

the Health Office include a part-time optometrist, orthodontist and nurse practitioner that will be available to all tribal members.

Construction is expected to begin within the next two years, depending upon funding resources.

Appropriations Update

The Tribal Chairman will be testifying on March 13, 1995, before the House Appropriations Interior Subcommittee in Washington D.C. with the intent of securing funding for the proposed Administrative and Health Offices, as well as land acquisition. You will recall that the last testimony presented by the Chairman successfully secured \$180,000.00, which was used to pay off the loan on the 17 acre Block property. The balance of the funding was used for land acquisition.

Huckleberry Patch Update

Critical to the cultural identity and the heritage of the Tribe is the area on the Rogue-Umpqua Divide more commonly known as the "Huckleberry Patch". For over ten years the Tribe has made a concentrated effort to protect its integrity by opposing a mining operation that would truly mean desecration. The Cultural Committee continues to explore every avenue of protection. At the present time there appears to be some options of security open to the Tribe. You will be kept informed of the progress in future newsletters.

Enrollment

It is important that those eligible for tribal enrollment request an application. For more information, please contact Carol McKinney at the Administrative Office.

CPR, First Aid, and Baby Sitting Classes

There will be an Adult CPR, Child and Infant CPR, First Aid, and Babysitting classes held at the Tribal Administrative Offices. For times and dates see the following schedule:

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March 25, 1995 - Adult C.P.R. (only)

April 8, 1995 - First Aid

May 13, 1995 - Red Cross Baby sitting

August 19, 1995 - Adult, child and infant C.P.R.

September 16, 1995 - First Aid

All classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays at the Tribal Administrative Office. The class size is limited to 12 students. Please call Rhonda at the Tribal Administrative Office to register.

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

As of March 15, 1995, the heating assistance portion of the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (L.I.H.E.A.P.) will be closed.

Emergency assistance will be available as long as funds are available.

For further information, and/or an application for emergency assistance, contact Rhonda at the Tribal Administrative Office.

Jobs Available

Gaming Center:

The following jobs will be available at the Cow Creek Gaming Center:

- Security Officer
- Admissions/Bingo Caller
- Accounting Data Entry Clerk
- Director of Human Resources
- Surveillance Operator
- Slot Cashier
- Wait Person
- Restaurant Cook
- Host Person
- Dishwasher

For more information about these positions please contact the Cow Creek Gaming Center Personnel Department at 503-839-1111.

Tribal Offices:

The following jobs are available in the Tribal Offices. Send resume and cover letter to the following address:

Attn: Resumes

Cow Creek Tribal Administrative Office
2400 Stewart Parkway, Suite 300
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

- **Receptionist:** For a fast paced office. Must work well with the public, have proficient office skills, including telephone, typing, data processing, and filing. Closing date: March 17, 1995.
- **Economic Development Planner:** With experience in grant writing and proposals, RFP's, and a basic understanding of construction development, inspections and contract negotiations. Experience in working with local government agency's a plus. Closing Date: March 17, 1995.
- **Contract Health Clerk:** Experience with computers, insurance billings and general medical office duties. Closing date: March 17, 1995.
- **Indian Child Welfare Specialist/Social Worker:** Bachelors Degree in Social Science or related field preferred; a combination of schooling and work experience in a related field may be considered. Must be able to set up caseloads, keep accurate records and write and submit reports in a timely manner. Excellent writing skills mandatory. Occasional evenings and week-ends.

I.H.S. Scholarships

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is now accepting applications for the 1995-96 scholarships cycle. The three (3) scholarship programs available are:

Health Profession Preparatory Scholarship Program.

Health Professions Pregraduate Scholarship Program.

Health Professions Scholarship Program.

For more information and to receive an application packet contact:

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Darlene B. Marcellay
Scholarship Coordinator
Portland Area Indian Health Service
1220 S.W. Third Ave, Room 315
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 326-2019

Applications must be submitted to the above address by the deadline date of April 3, 1995.

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. If you know of any tribal members who have not been receiving correspondence from the Tribal Office, please recommend that they call and update their address.

Tribal Health Insurance Plan

Work continues on the Self-funded Tribal Health Insurance Plan. Staff members who will be participating in the administration of the plan will be receiving training this month from Sycuan Insurance Services. Once the plan summary of benefits has been completed, all tribal families will receive an insurance application packet.

The Tribal Insurance plan has been named "The Nesika Health Group". "Nesika" is a Chinook jargon word meaning "ours".

Notes from the Chair

At the General Council Meeting on Feb. 19, 1995, I gave those in attendance an update on what is happening in Congress and the grave concerns about the future in all of Indian Country. Tribal leaders are fearful of severe budget cuts across the board.

- There is no question, this 104th Congress is determined to cut the budget. Indian programs are targeted in every area. Tribes know they must put forth all effort to merely maintain the status quo.

- At the National Congress of American Indians meeting last month, Dr. Michael Trujillo, Director of Indian Health Service, warned, as did other presenters, of the danger of remanding the Title XX Block Grants back to states. So far, there is no set aside for Indian programs. If the Indian set aside is not provided for, the concern is that Tribes will not get their fair share. As Senator Inouye warned, the measure before Congress does not address treaty rights. It needs to be amended to include tribal governments. Presently they are only recognizing state governments. Tribes have constitutional rights, but.....no one knows where the axe will fall, either in Congress or by the line item veto. Friends in Congress can try to hold the line for tribes, but..... there are no guarantees.

- Senator McCain, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, spoke on the necessity of reforming the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He stated that the BIA had failed to get their regulations in place in order to implement the various laws. The down sizing of the BIA is of concern to tribes who feel that services in funding to tribes will be severely impacted. Cuts are coming at the agency level, where tribes should have the strongest assistance and direction.

- Welfare reform - Again, Congress intends to *slash!* If the funding authority is remanded back to states, tribes will suffer. Eligibility requirements for benefits under Aid to Families with Dependent Children will be changed considerably. The issue of eligibility requirements includes whether teen-aged mothers should be eligible and whether there should be "family caps", restrictions on aid involving children born after the mother is on AFDC. The concern is that such a shift would be placed on already limited Indian health care funding, resulting in less services for all. Proposed time limits will also become a reality. Those who have received benefits for five years within a lifetime would be dropped, no exceptions. States would have the option of denying benefits to anyone who has received AFDC for as little as two years.

No doubt, you have all been reading about the "Contract with America". In the terms of the Contract, tribes must be ever vigilant:

- Of the initiatives contained in the Contract, most could have significant impacts on Indian people including a balanced budget amendment, line-item veto, tax code reform, welfare reform, unfunded mandates, crime legislation, health and insurance reform, and natural resource protection..

Critical to the Cow Creeks and our future are the gaming issues before Congress. Three bills have been introduced to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. What concerns the tribes is state intrusion into their sovereign rights. Both the Interstate Governors Councils and the States Attorney Generals are taking a keen look at gaming tribes. Unfortunately, the public views tribal gaming operations on a level of the Mashantucket Pequots' "Foxwoods" in Connecticut, where there are 25 million people within a 2 hour radius, (not like our gaming center in rural Oregon).

Our gaming center has allowed us to pay off the Evergreen property and to acquire additional property to expand our land base. It is the engine that pulls our economic development train and allows us to venture into other business operations that will not only provide employment but sustain tribal programs. However, because of the publicity of some tribal per capita payments, there has been discussion of federal withdrawal of funding for gaming tribes, to the extent that at the National Congress of American Indians Executive Session, a resolution was passed that stated: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, although some tribes are engaged in casino gaming, the National Congress of American Indians requests that the revenue derived from gaming not be viewed as a replacement for federal trust and treaty responsibilities." Our Tribe must be very cautious in any planning in that direction.

This has been my endeavor to give all of you an understanding of the climate in Congress as it pertains to Indian issues and how we must make every effort to provide a solid foundation for the future of the Tribe. I hope to have the opportunity to visit with you at our anniversary celebration.....

Sue Shaffer