

A FUTURE OF HOPE.

Red Threads Designs: A Vision For Tomorrow

Red Threads Designs is a new, different kind of business that is blossoming in Grand Ronde. Owned and operated by tribal member Michael Reibach and Simone Copley, his mate, it is dedicated to the promotion of wellness and recovery.



Simone Copley and Mike Reibach display some items from Red Threads Designs.

Red Threads is a line of unique apparel, designed

and sewn by Simone, while Michael is responsible for business maintenance. It is a partnership.

Simone, who is from the Tsalagi Cherokee tribe, has made her home in Grand Ronde, and has a vision of unity for this Tribe.

"Just like the Sacred Circle in our Indian tradition, each one of us has a place. But our circle has been pushed apart by fear. I want *Red Threads Designs* to promote the spiritual aspects of life, by using money and financial gain in a positive way," she explained. "By believing in people and cooperation with each other."

Michael and Simone had a booth at the Pow-wow last summer, where Simone's sister gave Governor Roberts a *Red Threads* t-shirt. For now, the money they earn from the business goes right back into buying more supplies and other bills.

They have an idea for a youth entrepreneurial program that would allow tribal youth to work and learn about design production. Simone has recently begun silk-screening many of her designs, and feels that would be a creative outlet for young people. They could develop a talent and also make some money which would enable them to feel good about themselves.

She said, "This could be a prevention tool. It could be a creative alternative to hitting the streets."

Michael, who works in the tribal Natural Resources Division, is excited by the concept.

"*Red Threads*' spiritual base come partly from asking ourselves, 'How can I help myself and others at the same time?' The business is successful if we can be of service to the Indian community," he said.

Red Threads Designs are available in Grand Ronde. The business phone is 879-5490. They will also be shown in the Native American gallery, *Rainy Days*, located in Portland on December 5.

Planning Ahead: Future Search Conference

During the days of October 7, 8, and 9, the Tribe sponsored a special workshop called, "Future Search Conference: Discovering Common Ground". It was held at the Tribal Community Center and more than sixty people participated.

They included tribal employees, tribal members, community members, and representatives from agencies who work with the Tribe and have an interest in its future.

The three-day conference consisted of several different work groups which discussed the future of different tribal programs and projects such as education, health, and gaming.

Guests from outside businesses and agencies included Gary Simms, from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, John Anderson, Polk County Commissioner, Steve Nokolby, Assistant to Mike Kopetski, Jerry Leslie of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Terry Moore of ECO Northwest, Connie Green of Chemeketa Community College, Ann Berblinger of the Economic Development Administration, and Dave Bishop from the Oregon Department of Transportation—just to name a few.

The conference was facilitated by employees of the Northwest Institute of Chemeketa Community College: Vicki Willis, Sara Dinsdale, and Jill Ward. The Northwest Institute assists large organizations in planning and needs assessment. The conference format is based on the popular book "Discovering Common Ground", by Marvin Weisbord.

Said Personnel Director Kit Devine, "This conference brings the stakeholders of the organization together to build a consensus. It was an opportunity to apply an innovative approach to planning. We achieved six months worth of planning in three days. It was amazing how common our vision was."

The Future Search Conference was designed to include all human elements of the Tribe: its employees, members, clients, and outside constituents. Many participants were surprised to learn they shared the same goal for the Tribe. Said Dave Bishop, former Yamhill County Commissioner, "The Native American has a unique spiritual message that the larger society needs to hear. Participating in the process of rebuilding the Grand Ronde Native community to enable it to communicate that message is truly an exciting and humbling experience. This is terribly important work."



Grand Ronde Tribal Princesses Emma Leno and Valerie Haller Dance to the drum of Shantee Klotchman Tum Tum at the Oregon Hops Festival in Salem. The Hops Festival celebrated the Oregon crop as being the best in the world, and the history it has with Native American people. The Festival was held at the Old Mission Mill near the Marion County Historical Society.

The Historical Society is currently featuring a Kalapuyan Indian exhibit complete with information and cultural history of the Kalapuyan people.