

MOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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Lodge opening kicks-off Christmas week

By Tracy Dugan, Editor

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held during the Grand Opening of Spirit Mountain Lodge on Monday, December 21.

Community members and staff dropped by the new hotel to hear some words of dedication from Tribal Council and Spirit Mountain Board of Directors Chairman, Mike Larsen.

Travis Benoist, who blessed the new hotel and the Hall of Legends earlier in the week, gave an opening invocation.

"Native Americans always had their homes blessed," said Benoist. He added that blessing the building is done to recognize that many different people will "travel from all four directions to come here to rest and sleep. We want them to have a good rest here."

Tribal Council Vice-Chair Reyn Leno thanked all the different groups of people who made the building and opening of Spirit Mountain Lodge possible.

"Spirit Mountain Lodge will add to the success the Tribe has had here. We have a very successful gaming operation. And this will make it an



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Council Vice-Chair Reyn Leno cuts the ceremonial ribbon in the foyer of Spirit Mountain Lodge. From left: Tammy Cook, Ed Larsen, Chip Tom, Bob Mercier, Reyn Leno, Ed Pearsall, Val Grout, Bob Haller, Mark Mercier and Greg Archuleta.

Photo by Kim Mueller

even greater attraction," said Leno.

The completion of Spirit Mountain Lodge comes at the tail-end of another momentous year for the Tribe. It has been a year where not only

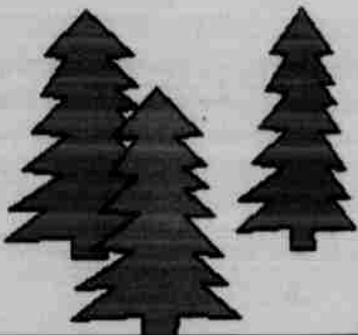
many different projects have been completed (see timeline, below), but the membership has been able to utilize all the programs and benefits Tribal Council has implemented.

Leno said that the Hall of Legends will also help educate people outside of the Tribe about Grand Ronde history and heritage.

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**As another new year is upon us,
it is a time to pause and to appreciate
the good will of others...**

**The Tribal Council and
Staff would like to
extend our warmest
wishes to you and your
family throughout 1999.
Happy New Year!**



1998: Year-end reflections

By Tracy Dugan, Editor

1998 was a banner year for the Tribe. This is not surprising. Since the Tribe was restored in 1983 every year it has grown just a little more than the year before. Many may find themselves asking, "What is there left to do?"

Plenty.

There's plenty to do, yet. There is always ways to improve the services to the membership, our youth, and our Elders; contribute to the community; and create more opportunity and enhance the lives of everyone. But even though there is work left to be done, there's a lot to be proud of, too. The following timeline summarizes significant events and accomplishments of 1998. Bring on 1999!

JANUARY: The Tribe announces it has purchased a parcel of land in Salem where it will build a retail center that will include several businesses and restaurants. The retail center is located on South Commercial Street.

FEBRUARY: In conjunction with the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the Tribe creates the Hatfield Fellowship, which will allow a Native American person to work in Washington, D.C. for one of Oregon's elected officials. The fellowship is created as a living tribute to Senator Mark Hatfield, a friend of the Grand Ronde Tribe. It is also meant to honor his aide, Susan Long, who worked closely with the Tribe during the Restoration effort, and has since passed away. The Hatfield Fellow will be determined through a competitive application process, and awarded a stipend of \$55,000 for living and travel expenses.

MARCH: Construction begins on the Governance Center, which will hold all Tribal Council offices, many program offices, tribal court, and a ceremonial area.

APRIL: A dispute develops between the Tribe and the Grand Ronde Community Water Association.

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