

SMOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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Lodge Grand Opening Celebration brings guests and cash cube



From left: Val Grout, Kathryn Harrison, and Mike Larsen.

By Tracy Dugan
Editor

January 22 was the Grand Opening Celebration of Spirit Mountain Lodge. Tribal Council invited community members and other guests to come tour the inside of the Lodge, Casino, and Hall of Legends.

Tribal Council member Val Grout gave an opening blessing.

Mike Larsen, Spirit Mountain Board of Directors Chairman said, "This is a wonderful day for the Tribe and the community. We all should be proud."

Mike also offered guests a chance to tour the Casino surveillance area. He said some folks might be interested in "how we keep our Casino

safe and secure."

Kathryn Harrison, Council Chair, said, "I want to give thanks to the people who gave us their support to build here. Not only our own people, but the community as well."

Harrison said she hopes the Lodge will be part of a positive legacy for future generations of tribal members.

"On days like this," she said, "I always think back to where our people came from. I am sure they didn't live in a place like this. I hope when the future generations take over, they will have good things to say about us. Because then, we will be the ancestors."

Harrison also spoke about the
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Taking Grand Ronde to the hoop

■ A local basketball team is well into its second season competing in all-Indian tournaments as representatives of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

By Oscar Johnson
Staff Reporter

For the past year a few local B-ballers have been taking the name of Grand Ronde to the hoop.

They have played in all-Indian B Division tournaments in Warm Springs, Salem, Wapito and Chilquin as well as one mainstream competition in Portland.

Melvin Brisbois, Richard Brisbois, Dustin Harmon, Shane Harmon, Haa-nah Mike, Winfred Pakootas, Jeremy Bailey, Greg Leno, Richard "Bubba" Sohappy and Lenny Logan are Grand Ronde's dream team.

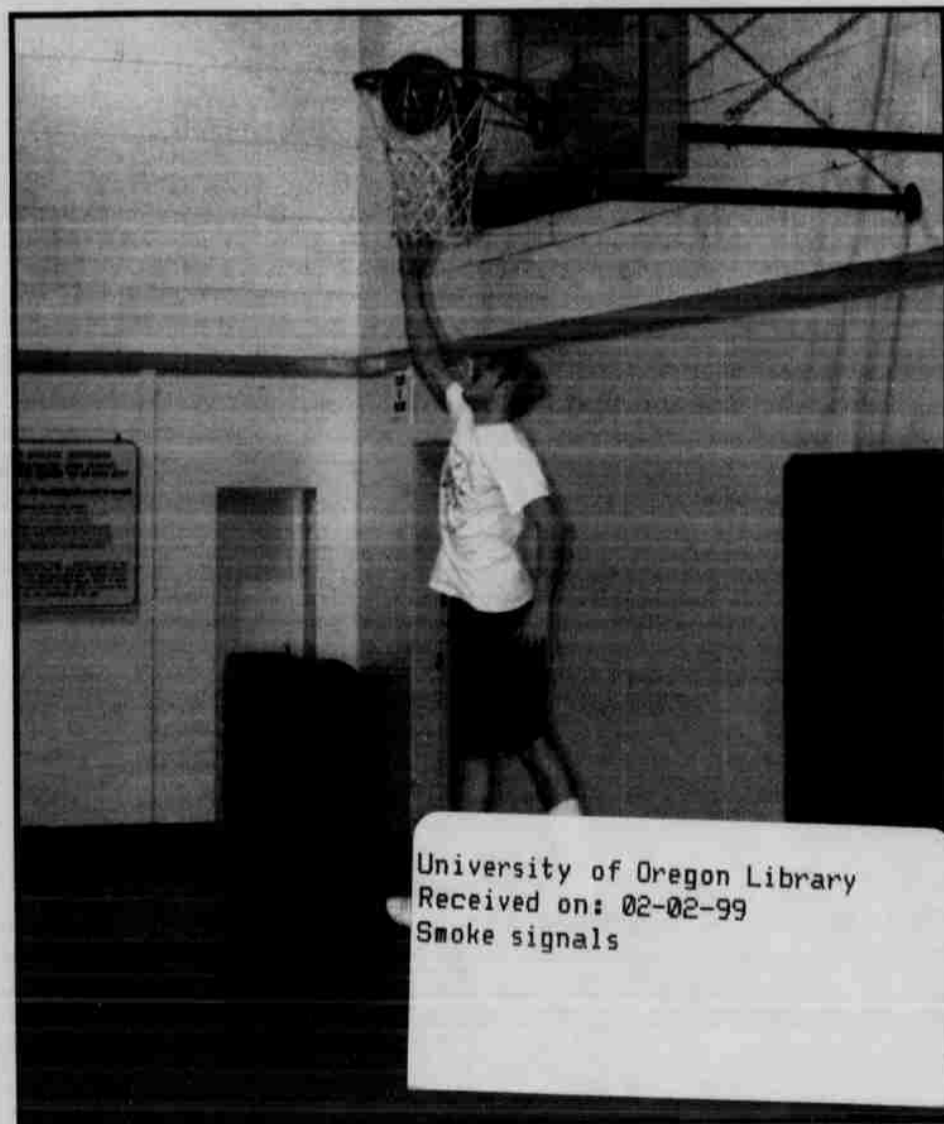
Nine of the 10 are tribal employees and all are Grand Ronde residents.

Many are tribal members but their tribal affiliation also includes Winnebago, Wind River Shoshone, Colville and Yakama. At all-Indian basketball tournaments, however, they are the guys from Grand Ronde.

"It's kind of neat, we're from different tribes but we all go as Grand Ronde," says point and forward guard, Greg Leno. "It's really almost kind of like a tribal team."

Last spring the team came away with a trophy after winning first place at a competition at Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

Team members say they are a 500 club winning about half the games
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Shane Harmon displays his vertical leap.

Photo by Oscar Johnson



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