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May 15,
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ROGUE RIVER

SMOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

May 15, 2000

**Tribal Council
nomination results**
page 3

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

**Wed., May 17
1 to 3 p.m.
Community Center**

The Yamhill County Sheriff's department is facilitating a focus group meeting to be held in Grand Ronde. The purpose of the meeting is to gather input about public safety and concerns in the community. For more information, call Mary Alice Bowen at (503) 879-2060.

**SPECIAL APPEARANCE
BY NATIVE AUTHOR**

SHERMAN ALEXIE

**Friday, May 19
5:30 to 8 pm**

**Chemawa Indian School
3700 Chemawa Rd., Salem**

Tickets are limited and must be presented at the door.
Sponsored by Portland State University Extended Studies.

Admission: 2 or more cans of food which will be donated to Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest, Inc. (NARA).

TO REQUEST TICKETS:

call: (503) 315-4281

email: bgarcia@chemeketa.edu

SMART Read program teams Tribe with the Portland Trail Blazers

■ Children in Oregon are the winners in this game.

By Brent Merrill

Teaming up to help kids become better readers is what Oregon's SMART Read program is all about. With a boost from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and a helping hand from the National Basketball Association's Portland Trail Blazers, disadvantaged children at 13 elementary schools will have an opportunity to learn to be better readers and get books to take home with them that they can keep.

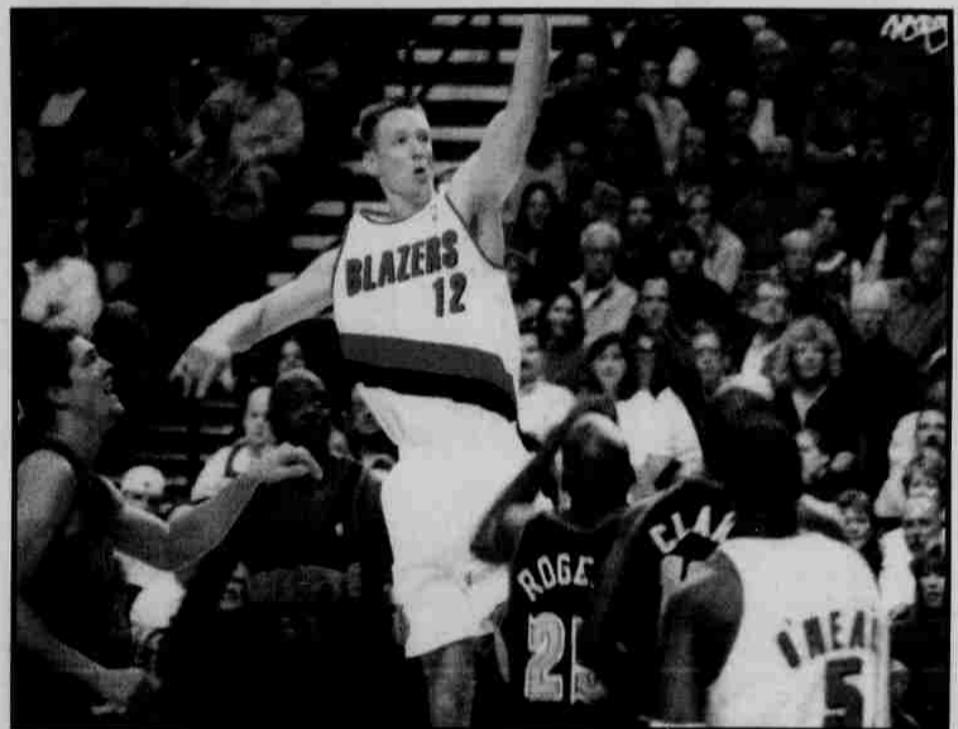
Elementary schools throughout Western Oregon, including Grand Ronde and Willamina, will benefit from the \$149,800 grant.

SMART stands for Start Making a Reader Today. The program is administered by the Oregon Children's Foundation. The program has a proven track record of success and has gained national recognition as a program that helps children succeed and become leaders in their communities.

The program is targeted at children from kindergarten through the second grade. SMART is aimed at schools with a high number of disadvantaged students.

Free books are provided and adult volunteers come and read with children who are part of the program. Volunteers spend at least one hour a week reading to kids.

"This very successful program



Portland Trail Blazer Forward Detlef Schrempf drives to the basket in the team's final home game of the season against the Denver Nuggets. The Blazers are participating in Oregon's SMART Read program with the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Photo by Brent Merrill

links kids with adult readers and also encourages reading," said Spirit Mountain Community Fund spokesperson Lora Cuykendall. "The program started in 1992 with eight schools. It is now in 169 schools in Oregon and reaches 8,500 kids."

Cuykendall said the SMART program is currently involved in a campaign to build the number of children involved in the program from 8,500 to 10,000 by the time the 2000-2001 school year rolls around

in September. The gift from the Community Fund should go a long way in making that happen.

The Trail Blazers are very involved with the SMART program and produce several volunteers throughout their organization.

As a way to give the SMART program more exposure, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and the Trail Blazer organization came up with the idea of having the "Spirit

continued on page 3

Local youth hunt for Easter eggs



The Tribe hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 22 on the lawn of the Health Center. More than 200 children participated just before the rain started.

On Friday, the day before, the Wellness staff invited babies to come in to have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny.

Photo by Kim Mueller

Spring is here

Camas in bloom!

Camas is a plant of the lily family that grows in wetland areas like the Willamette Valley and along waterways.

The bulb of this plant was a staple food of many Northwest Tribes. Traditionally, camas was harvested by Native women using a digging stick of elk horn, and was usually roasted in camas ovens before eating.



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