



**FREIGHTLINER / G.I. JOE'S 200 CART RACE**  
The Grand Ronde Tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino was one of the sponsors of this year's Freightliner/G.I. Joe's 200 at Portland International Raceway on June 23-25. The event brought in Indy-style racing cars from all over the world. Pictured at left is the winner of the Dayton Indy Lights Race.

Photos by Brent Merrill



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# SMOKE SIGNALS



A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

July 15, 2000

## Contribution to Portland Art Museum will create the Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art

■ Tribe donates \$500,000 through the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

By Brent Merrill

With paint on their fingers and faces, and even some on their paper, young Tribal members at Grand Ronde's Twah Sunchako preschool are busily becoming the next generation of Native artists.

Young Native artists today will have a chance that Native artists before them have not had until now. A chance that will be provided by the Grand Ronde Tribe through its Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

Today, children learn their art in a variety of ways. Some at schools like Twah Sunchako, some at their public schools and some from their family and friends.

These young, potential artists in the making, as well as the artists of today and yesterday, were the driving force behind the creation of the new Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art. When these artists

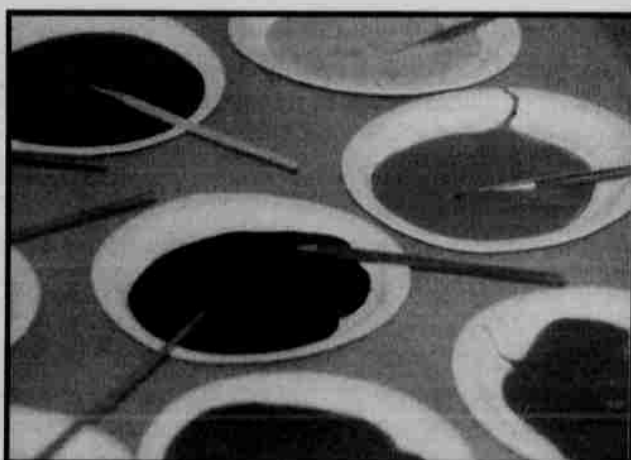
grow up, there will be a place for their work to be showcased.

"To know us, you have to know our art," said Grand Ronde Tribal Chair Kathryn

Harrison. "You have to know our crafts, our foods, our culture. That certainly includes artwork — not only from our Tribe, but all Tribes.

"Our Tribe has provided a tool for young people," said Harrison of the grant. "It will help them improve their self esteem and even encourage them to carry on with their artwork. Art is a good way to show beauty. It is a way to tell the world, 'this is how I feel.'"

Calling it a way to share the spirit of Native peoples and a way to build a bridge for future artists, the Tribe made the \$500,000 donation to the Portland Art Museum intending to



Students at the Tribe's Twah Sunchako preschool use a variety of paints and colors to create their artwork.

give visitors a better sense of the museum's Native American collection.

Coupled with an earlier donation of \$500,000, the museum will now begin a two-year remodeling of their Hoffman wing and create the Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art. The new center will provide 7,000 square feet of exhibition space for new galleries that will be dedicated to Native art.

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Photos by Brent Merrill

Grand Ronde Tribal youth Selena Ulestad, 4, proudly shows off her latest creation with oil crayons. Thanks to a donation to the Portland Art Museum from her Tribe, Selena will one day have a place to display her art in the Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art.

## Veterans' Pow-wow: the beat of the drum touches the heart



Ashley Tuomi (right) was crowned Grand Ronde Veterans Queen 2000-01 by last year's Queen Nikki Norwest. Shown here, Norwest and Tuomi are all smiles after the crowning.

The annual Grand Ronde Veterans Pow-wow took place on the Tribal pow-wow grounds July 7-9. This year's emcee was Bob Tom and Don Moccasin acted as the event's host. Several drums, including the host drum Wocus Bay, participated in this year's celebration.

"They gave up a lot for us. They put their lives on the line and they should be honored for their service to our country," said Tribal Council member Bob Haller of the Veterans being honored at the pow-wow.

This year's Veterans Pow-wow was

also a kick-off for the Veterans Memorial Ad-hoc Committee's renewed efforts to raise money for a community memorial. The committee hopes to break ground this fall and com-

plete the memorial by the pow-wow in 2003. The memorial will honor members of the Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan communities as well as Tribal members.



Photo by Brent Merrill

Veterans Carl Lambert (left) and Ron Richardson (right) share a light moment with Grand Ronde Tribal Veteran Gene LaBonte while carrying the flags at the Tribe's Annual Veterans Pow-wow on Saturday, July 8.



Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde  
Community of Oregon  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
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