

Grand Ronde Community Steps Up In The Face Of Tragedy

Davidsons continued from front page

cently at just one of many planned fundraisers for the Davidson family, who were recently involved in an accident. In a show of support for the family, dozens of people came to the governance center to buy an Indian taco or raffle ticket, with the proceeds going to help the family with medical costs.

The Davidson's, a well known local family and owners of Eyvette's Brookside Café, were driving home from McMinnville on June 20 with their three kids when their SUV suddenly caught fire, killing two of their children, Janesse, age 10 and Lucien, age 11. The other three family members, father Loren, mother Eyvette, and 12-

year-old son Benjamin escaped with severe burns.

The tragedy had a tremendous affect on the Grand Ronde community.

Many Tribal members appreciated the chance to make donations and show solidarity for the family. The Tribal Council donated two Pendleton blankets to the fundraising effort.

"It's the Indian way, to pull together," said Tribal member Janell Haller, who helped coordinate the fundraiser.

"It feels good to see so many people come out lend a hand, especially during a tragedy like this," said Haller.

Another Indian taco fundraiser is

scheduled for Monday, July 22nd at the Tribe's Community Center in Grand Ronde at noon. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Davidson family, the Loren Davidson Family Fund has been set up at Bank of America in Willamina. For more information on the fund call 503-876-2482.

The Davidson family has been supported by their family and close friends who rallied from all over the country to meet in Grand Ronde and get the Davidson's business, Eyvette's Brookside Café up and running again. The restaurant is located on Highway 18 between Grand Ronde and Rose Lodge.

Loren, Eyvette and Benjamin are

being cared for at the Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland. They are currently recovering and face months of treatment for their injuries.

Investigators with the Oregon State Police Department are still trying to uncover the mystery of the fire's origin. The 1997 Suburban is being held at the FBI Crime Lab in Portland. The fire burned so hot that it was early the next morning before the car could be towed to the lab.

A Remembrance Service was held for Lucien and Janesse Davidson was held in Grand Ronde at the Tribal Governance Center on Saturday, July 13. ■

Family Members From Throughout The Country Gather in Grand Ronde

■ Eyvette's Brookside Cafe reopens in time for the Fourth of July holiday.

By Peta Tinda

Eyvette's Brookside Café has reopened its doors after closing briefly when its owner's, Lauren and Eyvette Davison and their children, were involved in a tragic accident on June 20.

The cafe is now being ran by Eyvette's sister, Sharene Justen, until Eyvette returns. Located west of Grand Ronde on Highway 18, the café is a favorite of locals and Tribal members. It was reopened on July 3.

"It's been really busy," said Justen. "But we've had lot's of help from people in the community and people who have worked here. Roy and Joyce Zimbrick have been down here every day, helping to wash the dishes. Jeff Mercier has been helping out busing tables and taking orders, and Travis Stewart came down and repainted our sign," said Justen.

They've also has a lot of help from family members who came from all over to help out during these difficult times. Sharene is from Washington. Tiffany, a niece, flew in



Sharene and Lane Justen, Eyvette Davidson's sister and nephew, are running the Brookside Café until Eyvette, Loren & Benjamin return.

from Hawaii. And nephew Lane came up from Florida to help with the restaurant.

According to Justen, the Davidson family has been doing

much better.

"They're all progressing as they should. Eyvette is out of intensive care. They've all had their second round of skin grafts and are doing

well."

Skin grafting is surgical procedure in which unburned donor skin is removed from a patient's body and used to cover burned areas.

Justen says that she visits her sister about three times a week and calls her every day.

"She sounds good. We talk about recipes and she likes to be kept in the loop about what's happening with the business," said Justen.

Both Loren and Benjamin are still in intensive care, but they too, are getting better, said Justen.

"Loren has been getting up and walking around," said Justen. "And Benny goes down and visits Eyvette every day."

All three are listed as being in serious condition, and face months of recovery. In the meantime, the doors at Eyvette's Brookside Café will stay open.

"We really appreciate all the local support we've gotten," said Justen. "Everybody has been great." ■

Photo by Peta Tinda



Race Day — The Tribe's Spirit Mountain Casino again sponsored this year's annual G.I. Joe's 200 CART races at Portland International Raceway in mid-June. The race is part of the three days of racing held at PIR and is part of the FedEx Championship Series. The cars shown here competed in the Toyota Atlantic Championship (above) and the George Morlan Memorial Race.



One Legend To Another

Tribal member Cristina Lara, the daughter of Kimberley Contreras, talks to legendary Bulldogs' assistant coach Joe Caligure after reaching first base safely in the game versus Gold Beach. Despite the loss, Lara carved out her own legendary status by leading the team to a terrific season.

Photos by Peta Tinda



Softball Update

— The Willamina Bulldogs' girls' softball team (bottom) saw their dream season come to an end when they lost to Gold Beach in the Class 2A State Softball Championship Tournament. Gold Beach went on to lose to Dayton for the State Championship.



Happy 86th Birthday Verna Larsen!

Love your Family

Photo by Peta Tinda

Photos by Brent Merrill