



# SMOKE SIGNALS

MARCH 1, 2003

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

## INSIDE MARCH 1

Kenny Rogers  
..... page 2

"C" Store  
..... page 4

Baseball Idea  
..... page 5

Program  
Honored  
..... page 5

Employee  
Recognition  
..... page 6

Community Fund  
..... page 7

State Wrestling  
..... page 8

Veteran's  
Memorial  
..... page 8

Dance Night  
..... page 10

## Tribe Will Play Ball In Exchange For Portland Casino

■ Grand Ronde proposes stadium funding to help bring Major League Baseball to Oregon.



Photo by Willie Mercier

**First Class** — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's showcase Spirit Mountain Casino has become the most successful Tribal Casino in Oregon. An idea to fund a Major League Baseball stadium in Portland could put in place a plan to help the Tribe remain competitive in the state's current gaming picture. The Montreal Expos are currently looking for a new home and Portland has been a top contender for the team. With the Tribe's financing, the package the city hopes to put together for baseball meetings next month could be much stronger. At press time, a meeting between Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl Kennedy and Portland Mayor Vera Katz provided positive results and an optimistic outlook for the future of the project (See story on page 5).

## Tribal Member Jake McKnight Joins Crew Searching for Shuttle Debris

■ Grand Ronde community answers the President's call.

By Ron Karten

Tribal member Jake McKnight has joined a team made from the Tribe's Natural Resources Department fire fighting crew and as many as 3,500 others across the country in answering a Presidential Emergency declared to help find remains of the lost NASA shuttle, the Columbia.

The effort aims to recover as much shuttle debris as possible in the next 30 days because spring foliage will soon cover everything up.

Team leader Joshua Clift and fellow crew members McKnight,

Shane Harmon, Bill Borck, Jeremiah Spencer and Brandi Duff left early on the morning of February 21, according to Jeff Nepstad, a Siviculture Protection Coordinator for the Natural Resources Department, and team coordinator.

The team's destination is Lake Halbert City Park in Corsicana, Texas. With the crew's wild land fire experience, the six were expected to join others to form a 19-man team, a "Type 1 team," which is charged with "the orga-

*Debris continued on page 4*



Photo by Ron Karten

## St. Michael's Parish Facing Possible Consolidation

■ The community's 143-year-old parish started as a poor Indian mission; now it has more than \$300,000 in the bank.

By Ron Karten

St. Michael's Church is the kind of place where the parish hall keeps a sign on the door: "When done, turn off the heat, sweep, pick up trash & mop floor."

It's the kind of place where Tribal Elders Butch and Gene LaBonte, Sherrie Butler, Frank Bean, the Holmes boys, the Hudson and Vivette girls used to roller skate in the gym. Tribal Council member Ed Larsen

used to play basketball over there ("Of all the things I learned, I never learned to roller skate," he said.) Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno went to grade school there all eight years.

The roller skates they used then had wooden wheels, and they are still on hand, said Tribal Elder Leonette Galligher, who was one of those Vivette girls. The gym floor, one of *St. Michael's continued on page 3*



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