

## Culture Department Teaches Members The Old Ways

■ Tribal member Dakota Whitecloud shares her knowledge of traditional moccasins.



**Wisdom In Her Words** — Tribal Member Dakota Whitecloud, well known locally for her fine leatherwork, is teaching a moccasin making class. Here she holds a moccasin pattern and explains its importance to the class. Whitecloud said that she was very honored to be asked to teach the class.



**We'll Walk Many Miles** — Each pair of moccasins is custom made for the wearer by tracing the exact shape of their foot onto a paper pattern, which is the starting point for the moccasin.

Photos by Peta Tinda



**Passing On Her Knowledge** — Whitecloud is very personal in her style of teaching, making sure that each student gets plenty of one-on-one time with her. Here she shows Tribal members Judy Martinez and John Langley how to trace the pattern on to the top quality leather Whitecloud uses for her moccasins.

Whitecloud's moccasins are made in the exact same way that her grandmother taught her. "The style she taught me is the same as I teach," she said. "Making moccasins reminds me of what she was like." After the class is done the students will be able to make moccasins for friends and family members, keeping the tradition strong.



**Helping Hands** — The all-important pattern for the moccasins is traced onto the leather. It is important to make sure the pattern runs with the grain of the leather, to ensure a good fit without the leather stretching or shrinking.

