

2003 Year In Review

■ Tribe accomplishes many goals throughout the year. Veterans' Memorial dedicated, 20 years of Restoration celebrated and new housing opened.

By Ron Karten

In January, the Health Clinic under nutritionist Darci Trego started the 10,000 Steps Walking Program. The educational piece was aimed at helping people understand why it's a good thing to walk as much as five miles a day.

"Me and the pedometer went all over," said Dental Assistant Donnette Spalding, who lost seven pounds and lowered her cholesterol reading while on the program.

Dental Hygienist Linda Mann, also a dedicated 10,000-stepper, won an "Award of Distinction" from GUM Brand and *RDH Magazine* recognizing hygienists who "achieve high levels of excellence and help their patients lead healthier lives with their approaches to patient education... and community health."

Casino employee Kathleen Salleng's daughter Danyel Leach fought off brain cancer with a number of operations during the year, and at years end, she was doing "pretty good," said Danyel. She was scheduled for cosmetic surgery after the first of the year.

Tribal member Amanda Jones Schulte learned she needed a heart-lung transplant this year, and began raising money for the many extras not paid by insurance.

Willie Nelson and Crystal Gayle performed at the casino.

Tribal member Jan Michael Reibach released his first CD of Native flute music, followed quickly by other similar CDs.

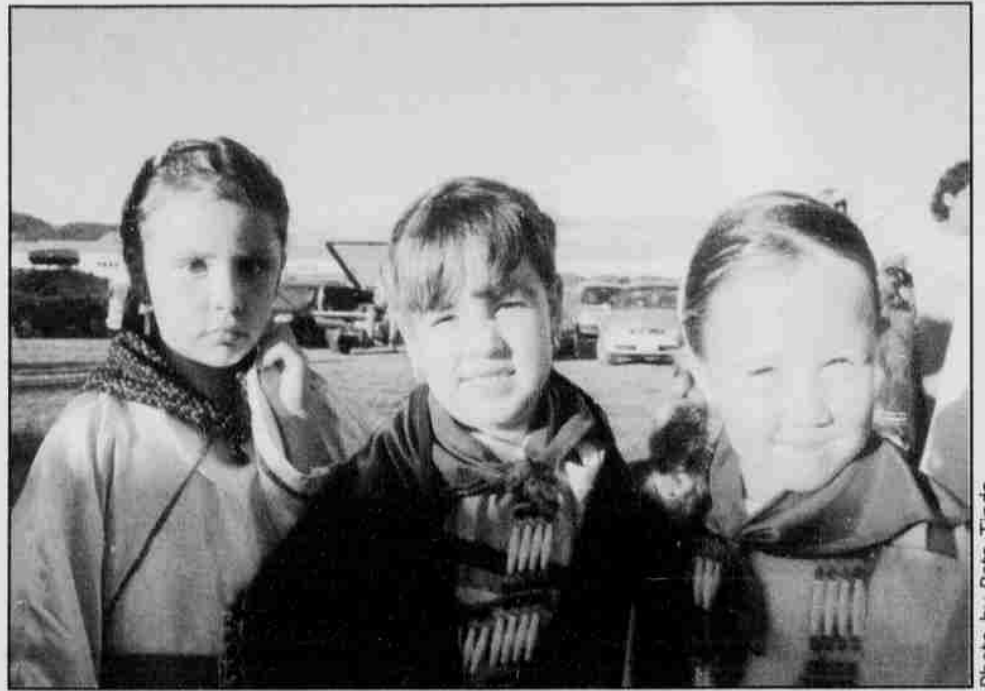
Spirit Mountain Casino, with a grant of \$3,000, purchased amateur radio emergency service components that will make the casino the hub of communications in the area in the event of a disaster that either cuts down or ties up traditional communications systems.

Ted Kulongoski was inaugurated as Oregon's 44th governor.

A Successful Fight Night III at the Portland Rose Garden, funded in part by the Spirit Moun-

tain Casino, signaled more fights ahead for the Rose City.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrated \$20 million of giving this year with a big gala at the Portland Art Museum, an important recipient of the Fund's generosity. This year's gifts exceeded \$4.5 million to 123 grant recipients. Among them were Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland Classical Chinese Garden, the Salem Art Association, Artists Without Barriers, Young Audiences, Albina Head Start, Children First for Oregon, Head Start of Yamhill County and the Oregon



Seventh Generation — Tribal children highlighted 2003's Annual Contest Pow-wow in Grand Ronde. Children dressed in traditional regalia danced and drummed to the delight of their families and the large crowds that gathered in our community for what has become an annual family reunion and a showcase for the best frybread in Indian Country.

Photo by Peta Tinda



It Was Really Cold Up There — *Smoke Signals* Editor Brent Merrill took a ride in a 1929 biplane in early November to shoot footage for the Tribe's celebration of 20 years of Restoration video project. Copies of the Restoration video are now available through the Tribe's Public Information Office.

Photo by Brent Merrill

4-H Foundation.

After years of fund-raising, the Veterans Ad Hoc Committee reached its goal this year with completion of the West Valley Veterans' Memorial, designed by Tribal member and Vietnam Marine Veteran Steve Bobb.

The nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon met in January to talk about improving the atmosphere for economic development among Tribes.

Later in the year, they met again with hundreds of others representing many state agencies at the 6th Annual Government to Government summit in Corvallis.

Following a *Smoke Signals* article on the subject, the federal Housing and Urban Development Department approved a long sought regulation allowing the refinancing of mortgages on Tribal Trust land. Many of the Tribe's Grand Meadows residents took advantage of the new rule and lowered their monthly payments by \$100 or more.

The Housing Department opened the Tribe's newest residential community, a 36-home development for low-income families.

The Department said goodbye to Linda Layden, its award-winning director of nine years, and hello to Carina Kistler Ginter, its new director, who has worked for various

non-profit and low-income housing organizations for 22 years.

The Tribe's Procurement Department moved to the old Housing Authority digs on Grand Ronde Road.

The Tribe offered to fully fund a baseball stadium in Portland in exchange for the right to build a casino in the city, but Governor Kulongoski nixed the idea.

The Tribe also became an important sponsor of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, a minor league team in the San Francisco Giants organization. That led to Grand Ronde Night at the stadium, where more than 100 Tribal members joined in the fun.

A Natural Resources crew traveled to Corsicana, Texas to help with the search for fallen parts from the crash of the Space Shuttle Columbia, and later in the summer, helped extinguish the 5,000-acre Clark Fire above the city of Lowell, south of Eugene.

The department won a "Best in State" award for its summer youth crew program with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

The department signed a contract with the federal Forest Service to take on the planning for 6,600 acres of Federal Forest land.

Behavioral Health Manager Dr. Joseph Stone published a ground-breaking paper tracing the effects of colonialism on Tribal peoples today.

The Human Resources Department at year's end initiated a tough new drug-testing policy unrelated to work performance. The Department also hired a new manager, Judy Zettergren, with many years of corporate HR experience.

Tribal member Matt Lux, a hunting guide, finished second at the Rocky Mountain Elk Bugling Contest held this year in Salem, and earned a sponsorship agreement with Knight and Hale Game Calls.

Six Willamina High School wrestlers went to state this year. Cory Bryant brought home the state trophy while the team finished sixth. Bryant then went on to South Dakota State University on a full-ride scholarship.

Also on the wrestling front, 10-year-old Tribal member Daniel Scott won a national wrestling title at the Reno World of Wrestling Championship while 6-year-old Tribal member Matt Hofenbredl won the *Coach's Award for Outstanding Performance* and the *Rookie of the Year* awards for the area's Pee-Wee Wrestling Division.

In March, the Cultural Resources Department set up an historically important display of Indian baskets at the Mission Mill Museum in Salem.

As part of an ongoing effort, the department



Photo by Brent Merrill

Presence — Tribal Elder and former Veterans' Committee Chairman Marce Norwest stepped down from the role as chairman this year and handed over the reins to Tribal member Gene LaBonte. Norwest is respected not only for his generous contributions to the community but also for leading the Veterans' Color Guard into prominence throughout the northwest and the nation.