

Institute For Tribal Government Serving Across The Country

Government continued from front page—

"It educated us in many ways," said Tribal Council member Bob Haller. "It was very useful."

Classes in Tribal governance have been designed to be the national education system for Tribal leaders. Information highlights "the underlying legal and policy foundations" for maintaining effective Tribal, state and federal relationships, according to the Institute's website (www.tribalgov.pdx.edu/). The focus is on Tribal government "in the modern era."

"Democracy is an interesting thing," said Furse from her modest office in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. "We are not trained for it," but with the Institute's program, "here's an opportunity to gather information for three days."

The Harvard School of Government's program for American legislators served as a model, said Furse, who attended the Harvard program when she began serving in Congress in 1992.

The Institute For Tribal Government program, run by board members from Tribes across the country, has grown according to the needs on reservations across the nation. "When we started," said Furse, "the board said that too many leaders are dying without their stories

being told." And thus was born a program to make and preserve audio records of Tribal members. To date, "the Institute has interviewed 17 great Tribal leaders," said Furse. (See sidebar) The Institute also supported the newly-opened

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**~Elizabeth Furse
Former Oregon Congresswoman**

Portland State University Indian Student and Community Center.

Most recently, the Institute has been involved with some 22 trainings, including two serving 88 Tribal Council members of the Navajos, said Furse.

And just before Grand Ronde's Restoration celebration in November (*Smoke Signals*, 12/1 03 issue), Furse had returned from a presentation to the United South and Eastern Tribes, based in Nashville, Tennessee and representing 24 federally recognized Tribes based along the East Coast.

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Photo by Peta Tinda

d'Alene Tribe, the Chickasaw Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Elizabeth Furse Scholarship Fund. ■

Who's Who In The Video Program Of "Great Tribal Leaders Of Modern Times"

- Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and former Tribal Chair Kathryn Harrison
- Nisqually Tribal member Billy Frank, Jr.
- Former Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Wilma P. Mankiller
- Colville member S. Timothy Wapato
- Edward T. Begay, Speaker of the Navajo Nation
- Thomas Begay, Navajo Nation Tribal member
- Colville Tribal Council member Mel Tonasket
- Yupiaq Eskimo Mike Williams, now serving as Chairman of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council and Vice Chair of the Alaska State Board of Education.

- Russell Jim, a member of the Yakama Indian Nation currently the Program Manager of the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program for the Tribe.
- Eddie L. Tullis, former Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, the only federally recognized Tribe in Alabama.
- John Echohawk, a member of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and former Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund.
- Ramona Bennett, a member and former Chairwoman of the Puyallup Tribe of S.W. Washington.
- Anthony Pico, member and former Chairman of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.



Beauty — The Veterans' Memorial in Grand Ronde was covered in snow in the aftermath of the worst snow storm to hit Oregon in a decade.



Clean Up — The Tribal maintenance crew is pictured here removing all the snow and ice that fell during the storm.



Pow-wow? — The pow-wow grounds were blanketed beneath a layer of snow.



Got Sled? — Snow was piled up in the parking lot of the Tribal Governance Center.