



# SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

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Photo by Peta Tinda

**Crystal Clear**— Beads of many shapes, colors and sizes were on display at the first-ever Native Youth Leadership Pow-wow held on Saturday, December 11 at the Willamina High School gymnasium. **Story and more photos on page 6.**



Photo by Toby McClary

**Country Christmas**— Lonestar performed at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, December 9. They have had several number one hits including "Amazed" and "My Front Porch Looking In," which was the most-played country song of 2003. Lonestar began their tour in July and performed 57 times throughout the rest of 2004.

## Cheryle Kennedy To Open U.S. Figure Skating Championships

■ International spotlight will shine on Oregon and the people of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

**By Ron Karten**

Shortly after 7 p.m. on January 12, under a cozy, international spotlight, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy will offer the world a one-minute welcome to the 2005 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Casino.

There will be a number of introductions to open the event including: one by Portland Mayor Vera Katz and one by Kennedy.

This piece of the finals takes place at the Portland Rose Garden and will be broadcast over the local ABC affiliate, KATU, Channel 2. ESPN also will carry the event live.

In addition to Kennedy, Spirit Mountain Casino selected Tribal Elder and

former Grand Ronde Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison to offer the invocation, Three Drum Singers as the drum

group for the occasion and the Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard to present the flags.

The Honor Guard includes Tribal Elder Steve Rife carrying the Eagle Staff, Norris Merrill carrying the American flag, Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte carrying the Tribal Flag, Wayne Chulick carrying the POW-MIA flag, and Soren

MacAlister carrying the Oregon State Flag. All are Veterans.

"We'll just do what they tell us," said Gene LaBonte. "It's something we've



Cheryle Kennedy

Photo by Toby McClary

**See SKATING  
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