



SMOKE SIGNALS

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A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photo by Toby McClary

Native Pride — Portland Community College hosted its 6th Annual Traditional Wacipi "They Dance" Winter Pow-wow on the Sylvania campus gymnasium in Portland, Oregon. The pow-wow was Saturday, January 22. Eagle Beak and 10 other drum groups and hundreds of dancers attended. See page 3 for more photos.



Photo by Toby McClary

New Rooms — The new expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge adds a total of 106,000 square feet and added 163 rooms. The finished project will include 254 rooms, 14 of those being suites, a new front desk, new administrative offices, a gift shop, a business center and a small conference room. "We hope to open with around 70 percent occupancy during the week and 100 percent on the weekends," said General Manager of Spirit Mountain Lodge Wayne Miller. The lodge expansion is expected to be completed in April 1.

Tribal Elder Feature:

Tribal Elder A Leader And A Legendary Rebel

■ Colorful Dean "Running Bear" Mercier was Tribal Council Chairman at the time of Grand Ronde's Restoration.

By Ron Karten

Tribal member Jeff Mercier dropped in on Tribal Elder Dean Mercier and his wife, Christina, on a cloudy afternoon last October. He sat down on a black leather footstool in the living room, the match to one of the recliners facing the 52-inch television, and with the air of somebody who belongs in that living room, he let it hang out.

"I was missing dad (Joseph Mercier, now deceased) today," he said. "I needed to talk to some ... Merciers."

For Dean Mercier, the man with the signature flat-top, this was not quite a jaw-dropper, but it was something. Dean is a guy who can



Photo by Toby McClary

**Tribal Elder
Dean Mercier**



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