



SMOKE SIGNALS

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photo by Toby McClary

New Construction In Grand Ronde — Unseasonably warm weather allowed the Tribe to begin construction on three new buildings that will provide much needed storage space for records archiving, procurement and facilities programs. Shown here is the general storage warehouse, which is 4,200 square feet. The building is being erected by Storm King Construction from Tillamook. The site utilities are being installed by the Tribal construction crew. Completion is scheduled for March 15.

Willamette University Seeks Renewal Of Its Native Roots

■ University opens a Native art gallery and initiates a Native American lecture series as it acknowledges a difficult past.



Red Sky At Night — On Tuesday, February 1 many Tribes from the Northwest attended the "Ceremony of Renewal for Willamette Valley Tribes" at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Honoring the 163rd "Founder's Day," which is usually a day devoted to recognizing Willamette University founder Jason Lee, this event focused on the original peoples of the Valley, the Native Americans.

By Ron Karten

Willamette University President M. Lee Pelton called the school's founder, the missionary Jason Lee, a man with "very high hopes but very little understanding" of the Native way of life.

The day's Ceremony of Renewal of relations between the Salem university and the Tribes of Oregon was a challenge for Willamette University on its 163rd Founder's Day, but the audience was more than ready to move forward with the promise of a growing relationship.

"They do everything with such class," said Kurt Peters (Blackfeet and Powhatan), Director of Oregon State University's Native American Collaborative Institute.

The story of the school's founding, as told at the start of the ceremony by June Olson, Cultural Resources Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, began with the Nez Perce asking "for a Black Robe to teach the mysteries of the Black Book."

"They knew treaties were coming," she said, "so they were interested to have their children speak the (English) language."

Lee, in turn, had a vision of a school for the Native people, answering what he construed to be "a



Photos by Toby McClary

"I feel like I close the circle"

~ Cultural Resources
Manager June Olson

plea for salvation." He built the school about 10 miles from Willamette University's current location, at the current Willamette Mission State Park. That was 1835.

"Native people have always wanted the education provided by missionaries," said Olson. "It was closed at one point, but now it's opened again and much stronger."

She described how her grandfather, "five generations back," Joseph Shangretta, had been orphaned by disease, and was among

See **RENEWAL**
on page 6



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