



# SMOKE SIGNALS

MAY 1, 2005

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA

## Jay Leno Launches Tribe's New Lodge Expansion



Photos by Toby McClary



**Director's Cut** — On Saturday, April 23, Spirit Mountain Casino opened a 163 room expansion of the Spirit Mountain Lodge. It now has a total of 254 rooms. Approximately 200 people attended the event that was held in the lobby. The expansion includes 12 new Jacuzzi suites, a gift shop, a continental breakfast room and 35 new jobs. Comedian Jay Leno (inset) accompanied members from Tribal Council (above) and executives from the casino in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. A personable Leno also performed a stand-up routine later that evening. **Story and more photos on pages 6-7.**

## St. Michael Church Is Honored for Its History

■ The church needs a lot of TLC and a larger membership roll, but Tribal contributions aim at holding the community together.

**By Ron Karten**

St. Michael Catholic Church figures in the stories that Grand Ronde's Tribal Elders tell. Roller skating on Saturday nights at the church hall is high among those church memories.

With attendance at St. Michael Masses dwindling and the parish's very existence in question, Willamina's Cross Cut Construction company, thanks

to a \$10,000 matching grant from the Tribe, was nevertheless rebuilding that skating surface on a recent morning.

The larger church faces a priest shortage and every Catholic parish or mission adds to the strain. The Portland

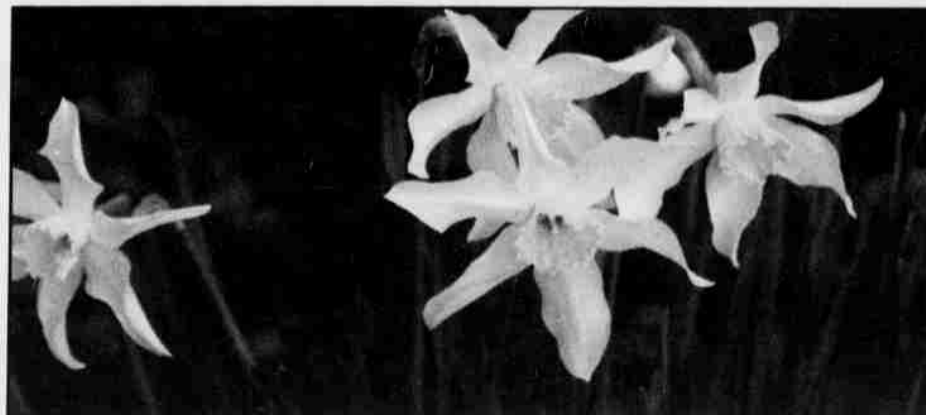
**See CHURCH on page 8**



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**Seasonal** — Spring has given way to early summer in the West Valley with flowers like these daffodils staying in bloom.

Photo by Toby McClary