

Grand Ronde Tribe Prepares For "Nation" Status With New Publication

Public Information Office will launch online feature magazine March 1.

By Brent Merrill

Our history tells us that our ancestors spoke many languages. They spoke their own local language and many times were fluent in the jargon of other Tribes. Some of our people could even speak several regional trade languages that enabled them to survive and even prosper.

We were a versatile, willing, spirited and resourceful people that took pride in our ability to communicate with each other. So much pride that it became a permanent part of our ongoing legacy of survival – the ability to tell our story. The ability to pass on our history and customs in an oral fashion came from the pride in our ability to tell our story to our people and especially our children.

The advent of the dominant culture and the morphing of their value system into ours permanently displaced the Native way of passing on our ancient traditions, at least for the last 150 years. Times have changed.

Today, our people take advantage of technology so that we can

preserve our culture and its unique traditions and customs. We, as Native people, have a mission to pass on our people's story to the future seven generations.

With that mission in mind, the staff of the Tribe's Public Information office will present to you *The Grand Ronde NATION*. *The NATION* will make its online debut on March 1st at www.grandronde.org. *The NATION* will be an online, quarterly magazine that will take one of our most compelling feature stories and give you an expanded, more in-depth version than what you would see in the *Smoke Signals*.

We will give you even more of the story. We will take an even deeper look at our people, their lives and their legacies. You will get more of our feature writing, more of our graphics and more of our photography – including the pictures you didn't get to see in *Smoke Signals*. ■



Photo by Brent Merrill



Youth Project — On Wednesday, February 1, The Youth Education Department, along with Tribal students, hosted a workshop at the Youth Summit Meeting at Linfield College in McMinnville. Tribal youth Eric Sabin, Hope Lafferty and Alicia Selwyn instructed the workshop titled "Indian Country" where they discussed Tribal history as well as leadership skills.



Photos by Toby McClary

Grand Ronde Tribe's Spirit Mountain Community Fund Gets Wise

Charitable grant to Wisdom of the Elders Curriculum Project will help preserve traditional storytelling.

By Ron Karten

The Wisdom of the Elders' Curriculum Project has received a \$20,000 gift from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The gift will help fund a \$280,000 "Curriculum Project" for the group.

"The Spirit Mountain Community Fund is honored to support Wisdom of the Elders in their efforts to provide multi-media curricula to teach Oregon students about Native American culture and traditions through our cultural tradition of storytelling," said Shelley Hanson, Director of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

The project will develop multi-media curricula for Native American K-12 classrooms. The original focus was language arts but when the Intel Corporation became a partner in the project, contributing \$10,000, the chipmaker requested a curriculum that includes environmental science, social studies and arts as well.

The Curriculum Project is in line

to receive another \$10,000 from Intel next year based on the success of this year's pilot project.

Funding also is anticipated from the National Park Service.

The Wisdom of the Elders group is working with both Portland Public Schools and the Willamina School District for the pilot project with project evaluations to follow.

Wisdom of the Elders records and preserves oral history, traditional cultural values and messages of guidance from indigenous Elders to regenerate the greatness of cultural values among today's and future generations of Na-

tive Americans.

Smoke Signals last reported on Wisdom of the Elders in the January 15th issue, when the group sponsored a Storytellers Festival at

Portland State University.

This Community Fund grant raises the total amount given to Wisdom of the Elders from the Tribe to \$45,000. ■



Gifted — Wisdom of the Elders' Board of Director members Rose High Bear and Bruce Crespin

Photo by Toby McClary