

Tribe To Celebrate 23 Years Of Restoration

By Angie Sears, Tribal Mentee

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde welcomes Tribal members, community members and the public to join them in the celebration of 23 years of restoration and federal recognition as a Native American Tribe on Sunday, November 19, 2006.

The celebration will begin at the Community Center with a Tribal Feast from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (The main course will be provided, but desserts and salads will be by pot luck.)

The celebration will continue with a pow-wow in the Tribal Gymnasium. The Grand Entry will begin at 3 p.m. All drums and dancers are encouraged to join in.

In 1954 Congress passed a Termination Act which severed the Treaties between the federal government and the Grand Ronde Tribe. This meant that the Grand Ronde people would no longer be acknowledged as Indian people, and would not have rights to their reservation lands; the lands that

they were driven to and forced to live on in February of 1856.

As a child living through the Termination Act, Tribal Elder Dakota Whitecloud remembers what it was like watching other Tribal members leave their homes, their land and their extended families because their

culture alive through family and holiday gatherings.

"Even though we didn't have federal recognition as a people," said Whitecloud. "We recognized ourselves as a people, and we kept our traditions alive."

"I think people need to remember what it was like when we didn't have anything."

~ Dakota Whitecloud,
Tribal Elder



Photo by Toby McClary

land and the lives they once knew were suddenly stripped away.

"I think people need to remember what it was like when we didn't have anything," Whitecloud said. "We weren't recognized as Native Americans anymore; we were Americans, but that's all that we were."

Even though the Grand Ronde people had lost their identity as Indian people in the eyes of the government, they refused to accept termination and deny their heritage. Many families kept their

Soon after termination, a small group of Grand Ronde Tribal members began the fight for restoration. They made phone calls, and wrote letters to Congress asking to be heard and recognized for who they were. Soon that small group began to grow, as many Tribal members came together to represent the Grand Ronde people as a whole and fight for what was right.

The Grand Rondes were not wealthy people, but the community

came together and held bake sales, garage/rummage sales, and car washes to raise money for Tribal leaders to travel to Washington, D.C. and testify for their people.

It was a long hard fight, but on November 22, 1983 they were finally triumphant. The Grand Ronde Restoration Act, Public Law 98-165 was signed, and the Grand Ronde people were once again Federally recognized as a Native American Tribe and as a sovereign nation.

"When we were finally restored as a Tribe, it was a bigger deal than Christmas, Thanksgiving or any other holiday. Take them all and wrap them into one big bundle and this was more important," Whitecloud said. "This is because finally, we weren't an alien people in our own land anymore."

For more information about the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, or restoration visit the Grand Ronde web site at www.grandronde.org ■

Casino Staff Are Recognized As Heroes, Again

■ Nehalem woman is brought back to life.

By Ron Karten

Vicky Dillard, 66, almost didn't make it to 67. Luckily, she was at Spirit Mountain Casino when life almost passed her by.

"We did a fax out of the office," said Dillard, "and then we were just wasting time. Lee (her husband) said, 'I want to look at one of the new machines,' and he went that way and I went this. I remember getting real dizzy, and that's the last I remember."

"I couldn't get to her before she hit the floor," said Lee. "I was that close."

He was thinking, "Lord, don't take her now."

"I heard the call at the back of the house that a lady was down and not breathing," said Security Officer Mark Carroll, one of the Tribe's First Aid and CPR Instructors. "I came running out and she was unconscious. Her eyes were fixed and dilated. This lady was gone," he said.

"I started performing CPR."

"Then Ted (Johnson) was there." Johnson also is a Security Officer and First Aid/CPR Instructor for the casino. "I needed help and Ted took over the chest compressions."

Security Officer Terry Rains also rushed in for the rescue.

Nobody involved remembers exactly what happened to time. It could have been a minute or an hour that passed, they said. In fact, it was just a few minutes, maybe twenty in all, that they were working on her.

Casino staff quickly brought a curtain out and created privacy on the casino floor, reported Casino Security Manager Joann Mercier. "Even the surveillance crew watched from above for over 20 minutes as they relentlessly tried to bring this

lady back."

"When (Ted) started compressions, I started bagging her," which in first aid talk means inserting a tube down her throat and compressing the bag attached to the tube to give her oxygen.

Four or five minutes after they began, said Carroll, they gave her the first shock with the defibrillator.



Tribal member Joann Mercier, Manager of Security at the casino, (left), with Lee and Vicky Dillard, and (left to right) Casino Security Officers Mark Carroll and Ted Johnson. Carroll, Johnson and Security Officer Terry Rains, not pictured, all worked together to save Vicky Dillard's life.

"I saw her eyes change," said Johnson, "and finally she blinked."

"I thought, 'My God,'" said Johnson.

"Within seconds, she died again," said Johnson. "I continued with the chest compressions, and then we shocked her again. That's when I saw her eyes open, and she started resisting the CPR. She was trying to breathe on her own. I told her, 'You're going to be all right. Stay with us.'"

The ambulance came and took her to Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville, and from there to

Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in Portland.

"She had two blocked arteries," said Lee, "one 98 percent blocked and one 100 percent blocked. This thing happened at 2:30 in the afternoon and at nine that night I was visiting her in the hospital."

"Anyplace but (Spirit Mountain Ca-

she said. "We go with the flow and keep things going."

But she had this advice for everybody: "Next time you see a guard that you normally ignore, go up and shake their hands, and thank them."

"It was a combination of efforts," said a modest Carroll. This was the first time in 40 years of providing first aid that he had ever brought someone back from the dead. It was the first time for both of the men.

"It was like a religious experience," said Johnson. "Just one of the greatest feelings I ever had. The whole group kind of lit up."

In a ceremony on the casino floor on November 2, the Dillards presented the Security Officers with black t-shirts that read: Hero of the Day 10-12-06.

"She is our miracle lady," said Joann Mercier, "along with our miracle officers."

"It's nice to see, well...everybody," said Dillard.

Spirit Mountain personnel saved two other individuals that week. Six days earlier, Casino Security Officers Johnny Jacobs, Gary Madderom, Kevin Bolen, Tribal member Robin Norwest and Security Lead Valerie Doyle assisted a man who had collapsed in the back of his SUV in a casino parking lot.

One day after the Dillard incident, Security Supervisor Neil Jacox and officers James Gooley, Travis Harwood, Tribal member Jerry Bailey and Vincent Jones discovered an elderly man slumped over his steering wheel in the valet area. Another officer, Aaron Martinez, also came on to help. All of those in potentially life-threatening trouble that week were transported to hospitals and now are doing fine. ■

sino) and she'd be gone," said Lee.

The retired couple live in Nehalem but now spend half the year on the road with their motor home. On October 12, the pair were on their way to visit a sister in Salem. Nothing prepared them for the emergency that ensued.

"I'm low risk," said Dillard, a slim, fit-looking woman. "We're still trying to find out why this happened. My health is good." She didn't go overboard with exercising, she said, "but I kind of exercised."

"I'm kind of an ordinary person,"