

OR NEWSPAPER PROJ. UO LIBRARY SYSTEM
1299 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE OR 97403-1205

PRE PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALEM, OR
PERMIT NO. 178



NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Restarting *his* LIFE

Tribal member Brad Leno looks forward to his release from prison in February as his family continues supporting him at the MacLaren annual pow-wow

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

The scene on the grounds of the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility on Saturday, Sept. 8, could have been any big family picnic.

More than 100, maybe 200 with the comings and goings, gathered under a circle of trees — pine, birch, maples — on a beautiful sunny day.

It was the facility's 11th annual pow-wow, and it was not just Tribal member Brad Leno's immediate family that showed up to see him. Everywhere you looked there was somebody else from the Tribe visiting with Brad or another Tribal member living years of their youth behind bars.

At the same time, the institution's pow-wow has been the place that many have made a spiritual oasis on their unorthodox journeys into adulthood.

"Connecting back to the culture is a healthy thing," said Steve Llanes (Apache/Aztec), Native American Service coordinator at MacLaren. "It keeps them out of trouble because (culture's) a way of life.

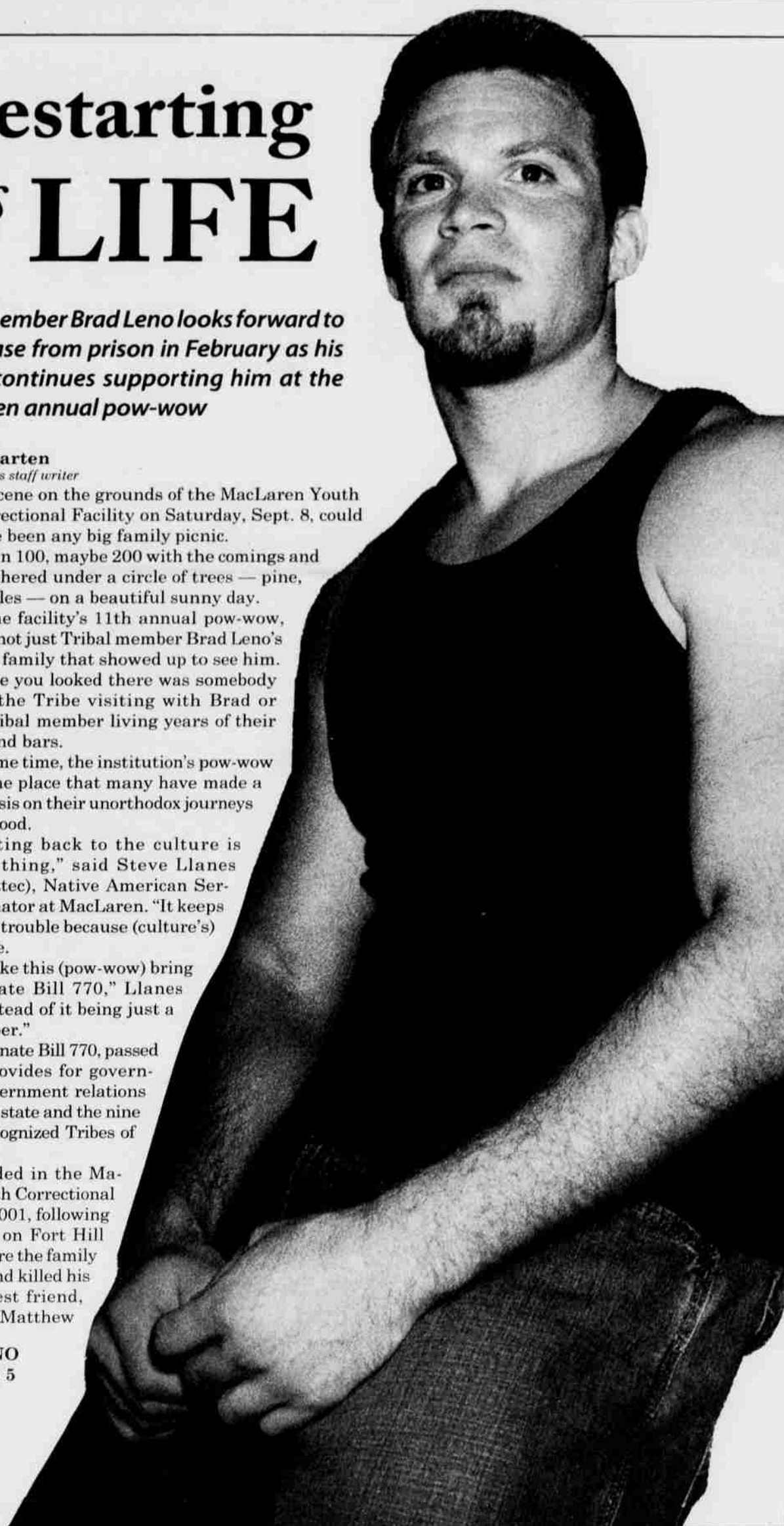
"Things like this (pow-wow) bring life to Senate Bill 770," Llanes added. "Instead of it being just a piece of paper."

Oregon Senate Bill 770, passed in 2001, provides for government-to-government relations between the state and the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon.

Leno landed in the MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in 2001, following a car crash on Fort Hill Road that tore the family car in half and killed his brother's best friend, 18-year-old Matthew

See **LENO**
on page 5

Photo by
Ron Karten



Forum crowd discusses Tribal future

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

In searching for important issues that will affect the Tribe's future, an invited crowd of 150 pulled out all the usual suspects:

- ◆ An enrollment policy that includes everyone deserving Tribal membership;
- ◆ An emphasis on the needs of youth and Elders;
- ◆ Health care for all;
- ◆ Lifelong education and continued development of all aspects of the Tribe's culture;

See **FORUM**
on page 3

Tribal Elder Feature

Rickard lives life to the fullest

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Until a stroke last year slowed down Tribal Elder Ruth Rickard, 77, she was having quite a ride.

She worked hard, raising four children as a single mother, and played when work was done.

On many occasions, family and friends came along for the fun.

"She was a party animal," says middle daughter Melia Rickard, who now cares for Ruth at her

See **RICKARD**
on page 6



Photo courtesy of the Ruth Rickard family

Ruth Rickard