

Elders' Christmas Bazaar



Photos by Ron Karten

The Elders Christmas Bazaar was held Nov. 30 in the Tribal gymnasium. Above, community member Tammy Cook, left, shows her cards to a visitor. Below, Tribal Elder Pat Allen enjoys a laugh while displaying her beadwork. The annual bazaar offered for sale various items for Christmas.



Youth Canoe Club

Every Friday 4- 5 p.m.
Youth Education Building

Contact Lisa Leno at 503-879-1471 or Travis Mercier at 503-879-2143 for more information.

Attention Tribal veterans

Applications are now being accepted for the Veterans' Special Event Board. If you are interested, contact Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org.

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

Election Board Alternate Positions Vacancy

Applications may be picked up at the Governance Center. Please submit applications to Dakota Whitecloud, TCRC, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

For more information, contact Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or dakota.whitecloud@grandronde.org.

Walking On...

Thomas Joseph Bean

Sept. 14, 1945 – Dec. 7, 2007

Grand Ronde resident and Tribal Elder Thomas Joseph Bean died Friday, Dec. 7, at the age of 62 after a short, but brave fight against lung cancer.

Mr. Bean was born to Fremont Francis Bean and LaVerne May Hosford (Teter) in McMinnville on Sept. 14, 1945 — a birthday he shared with his oldest sister, Donna.

He was a proud member of the Tribe and lived next door to his mother on the Reservation.

Mr. Bean was descended from members of the Northern Paiute, Kalapuya, Tillamook, Chinook, Iroquois and Mohawk Tribes. He believed his Native heritage was a blessing from the Creator.

He will be remembered for repairing cars, lawnmowers, washing machines, dryers and anything else that needed fixing. He mowed lawns, cleaned yards and gutters, fixed roofs, repaired fences, stained decks and painted kitchens for community members as well.

Mr. Bean also will be missed for his efforts to ensure members of the Grand Ronde community and his extended family had transportation to myriad appointments and meetings.

Mr. Bean was a community leader for his unceasing efforts to help people find, understand and maintain sobriety from drugs and alcohol. He was the community's main source of drug and alcohol counseling. He was clean and sober for the last 16 years and ran the Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in Grand Ronde for the last 15 years.

He received no money for his community efforts and survived on his Elder's pension and odd job earnings.

Family members remember him when he was a child as their "protector." Sisters Ellen, Linda and Joyce remember him not only for keeping them from harm but for leading them into mischief and keeping most of the candy bars he often distributed.

"He would break the candy bar in half and take a bite from one half," they remember. "Then he would hand us the piece that he had taken the bite from and just smile before running off laughing."

He attended Waldport Grade School, Agency Grade School in Grand Ronde, Benson High School in Portland and graduated from Siletz High School on the Siletz Reservation. He was a good-looking, fun-loving athlete who enjoyed playing basketball.

Mr. Bean began working in the woods with his father and older brother, Francis, and started earning a paycheck as a logger at the age of 16. He was athletic, scrambling over logs and setting chokers with guile and strength. He worked in logging mills in Sweet Home, Springfield and Cottage Grove, and also worked as a carpenter in Alaska. In addition, he was a counselor at Sweat House Lodge and Camp Adair, maintenance worker at Chemawa Indian School and electrician's helper during the construction of Spirit Mountain Casino.

Mr. Bean was a veteran who earned service medals as a private first class after entering the Army in 1965 at the age of 19. He was stationed at Korea in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. He was proud of his military service and participated in many veterans' events as a Tribal Honor Guard member.

He enjoyed playing basketball and watching football, especially University of Oregon games. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing in his youth and spent much of his free time working on art and wood-working projects. He loved to pick moss and fern almost as much as he liked good-naturedly teasing younger family members.

Mr. Bean also enjoyed dancing at pow-wows and carrying the flags as a veteran. Despite his humble life, he died a man rich with the love and admiration of his fiancée, family, fellow veterans and Elders, community and Tribe. He had a large, loving family that will miss him greatly.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Thomas Bean, and his grandmother, Margaret Menard; grandparents, Marshall and Pearl Teter, and his father.

He is survived by his mother, of Grand Ronde; sons, Thomas Bean Jr. and Michael Hawk; daughter, Tamika Rain Jones Bean; fiancée, Jackie Elaine Jones; sisters, Donna Marie Stronach and Ellen Dianne Fischer of Grand Ronde, Joyce Ann Kirk of Klamath Falls and Linda Margaret Bean of Siletz; brother, Francis Earl Bean of Salem; nieces, Sandra Stone Bean, Katrina Bean, Kim Campbell, Shawn Hostler-Jones, Lydia Logan and Jocelyn Huffman; and nephews, Brent Merrill, Donn Grishaber, Brian and Randy Bean, Tim Anderson, Keith and Kevin Campbell, Frank Hostler Jr. and Joseph Hostler.

A funeral service was held Dec. 12 at the Tribal gymnasium in Grand Ronde. A graveside service was held at the Tribal cemetery in Grand Ronde with a meal following at the Community Center. Contributions can be made to his daughter, Tamika.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

