

## Cultural Resources slates classes

The Tribe's Cultural Resources Department has scheduled several classes in November in Grand Ronde, Portland and Eugene.

### Grand Ronde

- Carved Paint Brush: 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 18 and 25
- Chinuk Wawa every Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

### Eugene

- Carved Paint Brush: 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 3.

### Portland

- Chinuk Wawa from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 3.

To sign up for any of the classes or for more information, contact Cultural Education Specialist Misty Thorsgard at 800-422-0232, ext. 2320, or by e-mail at [misty.thorsgard@grandronde.org](mailto:misty.thorsgard@grandronde.org).

## Wellness staff moves back to Health Center

Wellness Department staff who have been located in the Tribal Community Center are now back to the Health & Wellness Center.

Staff members who moved back to the Health & Wellness Center include Bonnie Mercier, Darlene Aaron, Pearl Mekemson, Vernon Kennedy, Stephanie Grim and Daniel Provost.

They are located in the same wing as Optometry and retain their same phone numbers.

For more information, call Health & Wellness Center Administrative Assistant Jill Hafliager at 503-879-2060. ■

## Wages made possible by the 477 Employment and Training Act

LANDSCAPING continued  
from front page

organizer of the project.

"This is the first time that I took a piece of subcontract work and turned it into a teaching experience," Harvey said.

Last year, under a program called Grand Ronde Occupational Workshop, Harvey presented an unpaid training opportunity at the pow-wow grounds.

This year, she said, the hourly wage, made possible by the federal 477 Employment and Training Act, ought to look good in comparison, but for Rock, raising three children on (slightly more than minimum wage) is still no easy task.

Still, Rock says, he's learning a lot working with Newberg-based Aspen Creek Landscaping Inc.

"We put in a sprinkler system today, like 10 zones," he said.

"We got the sod down," Martin said, referring to the area where he had just been working.

"We wired up the zones," Rock said.

"And we learned how to set the sprinkler heads at different angles and whatnot," Martin said.

"They are learning soil prep, irrigation systems, landscape lighting, planting, design and installing a water feature," Harvey said.

"The guys are doing it well," said José Alvarez, site foreman for Aspen Creek.

With the beginning of the cold, wet weather on Oct. 30, the clouds had gathered over the new Elders' Activity Center. In front of the two-story window that faces Spirit Mountain, half a dozen workers roll out sod. Another group is at the same job in front.

Three groundskeepers from the Tribal Housing Authority — Tribal members Joe Lane, Sean Beauchamp and Kevin Ruggles — are over for the day to help get the sod down. So is Tribal member Gregg Leno from Facilities and from Natural Resources came Jeremy Ojua, Gabe Clift, Orvie Danzuka, Jason Bernard and Tribal member Colby Drake.

"John and Kerri Stepisnik from Touch of Glass in McMinnville, Cynthia Lopez, RN from the Grand Ronde Medical Clinic, and casino employee Kaylynn Lopez all donated three days of their time to help the Elders make the stepping stones for the rose garden," Harvey said.

"We also had many other volunteers from foster care and the



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Above, Tribal member Tyrone Rock rolls out a piece of sod as Tribal member Dustin Billings, right, lines the sod up with another piece while working on the landscaping at the new Elders' Activity Center on Thursday, Oct. 30. Tribal member Nacoma Martin, left, also was working on the landscaping. At right, Tribal member Mike Little Jr. flattens down pieces of sod.**

medical clinic who dropped by to help out. Last week we had employees from Housing, Facilities and Natural Resources come by to help us out with the sod and to prepare for the Elder Activity Open House on Saturday.

"If the rain comes and the ground gets soaked," Harvey said, "the sod doesn't go down evenly." She had more to worry about than six work experiences. The rolls of sod sat where they had been dropped off on the street, or in back of the center, their glory days as a sparkling, weedless lawn still ahead.

"If the rain comes one minute after the sod goes down, that's fine," Harvey said, "that's perfect."

"Everything is OK," said Alvarez, who is training Tribal members.

"I'd like to make landscaping a career," said Billings, a 477 client who before this project was pulling bark by hand off of large logs for the



Tribal plankhouse.

This was Billings' first time laying sod. "It was like putting together a jigsaw puzzle," he said. "I'm getting a lot of experience, using the machinery, making dry creek beds. It's pretty nice." He has been involved in the Work Experience Program for three months, he said.

The Tribe paid Aspen Creek for the planning, materials, equipment and supervisory work, but worker salaries were stripped out of the total because Tribal members are being paid by the federal government. On the other hand, the training program takes a little more time to finish the job, Harvey said.

The Tribe has benefited from the

generosity of many in the industry, Harvey said, and she thanked:

- ◆ Dyna Electric, Salem, donated \$4,300 worth of landscape lighting;
- ◆ Al's Garden Center, Sherwood, donated \$1,900 worth of plants;
- ◆ Loens' Nursery, Sherwood, donated \$3,000 worth of plants;
- ◆ Basalite, Portland, donated 100 stepping stones worth \$500 for the Elders' Memorial Rose Garden;
- ◆ Heirloom Roses, St. Paul, donated \$306 worth of roses for the Memorial Rose Garden;
- ◆ Aspen Creek, Newberg, donated plants and the training opportunity for Tribal members. ■