



2004 — Groundbreaking and foundation work for the five-story, 150-room expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge was set to begin. The addition will form a "T" on the west side of the current lodge. Completion is expected in February or March 2005.

1999 — The U.S. government asked the Grand Ronde Tribe to waive its right to more than \$1 million in federal subsidies for Tribal programs, such as forest management, education and social services. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was reacting to a congressional mandate to come up with alternative ways to allocate federal funds to the nation's 557 Tribes.

1994 — Dustin Leno, son of Reyn and Liz Leno, captured his third straight wrestling championship at the Class 2A State Wrestling Championship held in Monmouth. He followed in his brother Shonn's footsteps, making him only the second wrestler to have won three state championships in Willamina High School history.

1989 — Tribal member Camille Van Fleet was hired as the Johnson O'Malley coordinator for the Tribe. She was attending Western Oregon State College as a freshman and majoring in social sciences. She will work part time from April through June and begin working full time in June.

1984 — The Interim Tribal Council scheduled meetings at 6 p.m. Mondays throughout April.

Yesteryears, a look back at Tribal history, is taken from back issues of Smoke Signals in five-year increments.

Skookum Health Plan benefit update effective July 1, 2009

There will be an emergency room benefit change to the Skookum Health Plan occurring on July 1, 2009. Currently, the health plan covers a non-emergency visit to the emergency room with a 50 percent co-insurance; after July 1, 2009, non-urgent/non-emergent use of the emergency room will no longer be a covered benefit. Tribal members who go to an emergency room to receive non-urgent/non-emergent services will be responsible for the entire charge.

The reason for this change is over utilization of the emergency room. Many of the claims received from emergency room visits are for services that should be received through a physician's office or an urgent care setting. For non-emergency service, the average cost of an emergency room visit is close to \$500, while the same service in a provider's office or urgent care setting is only around \$100. Use of the emergency room for non-urgent/non-emergent services results in higher costs to the Tribe.

If you or someone you know is in need of medical attention and you do not know if you should go to the emergency room or not, take the time to contact the 24-hour Nurse Line at 800-970-7138 or your personal physician. If you are instructed to seek services at the emergency room by the Nurse Line or by your physician's office, it will be covered by the Skookum Health Plan.

If you have questions about this important benefit change, contact Barbara Steere at 503-879-2487 or Jim Holmes at 503-879-2221. ■

Transportation to Grand Ronde

The Portland Satellite office has a transportation day to Grand Ronde once a month for medical or dental appointments or enrollment cards. A minimum of three people must sign up. Call Lisa at 503-235-4230.

We will leave the Portland office at 8 a.m.

Please call in advance for the scheduled monthly date. ■

CULTURAL GATHERINGS

■ **APRIL 5: TROUTDALE YOUTH POWWOW.** Depot Park, 473 E. Historic Columbia Highway. **TROUTDALE, OR.** 503-679-5683 or 503-666-1740.

■ **APRIL 10-12: CELILO WYAM SALMON FEAST & POWWOW.** Celilo Village Longhouse, Frontage Road and Fulton Canyon Road. **THE DALLES, OR.** 509-480-5669.

■ **APRIL 18: 3RD ANNUAL DANCING FOR GENERATIONS' INI MIYA'C CHILDREN'S POWWOW.** Native American Student & Community Center, Portland State University. **PORTLAND, OR.** 503-467-1258.

■ **MAY 1-2: UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND UISHE NAIMUMA POWWOW.** Peter Stott Center, 930 S.W. Hall. **PORTLAND, OR.** 503-725-5671.

■ **MAY 16: 24TH ANNUAL POWWOW IN HONOR OF OUR CHILDREN.** Kelso High School, 1904 Allen St. **KELSO, WA.** 360-501-1655.

If you or anyone you know has information on cultural events happening, Smoke Signals would be glad to list it in our Cultural Gatherings. Please e-mail news@grandronde.org or write to Smoke Signals, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

Leno retires



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Russell Leno cuts a cake during a get-together at the Facilities Department on Tuesday, March 24. Leno's co-workers in the department, including Tribal Elder Bob Mercier, left, gathered to honor and celebrate his retirement. Leno's last day as senior groundskeeper at the Tribal Cemetery was Tuesday, March 17, and he worked for the Tribe for almost 22 years.

Behavioral Health starting Men's Group

The Behavioral Health Department is starting a Men's Group, which will be open to members of all Tribes. Topics that will be covered include healthy relationships, communication skills, anger management, spirituality, emotional intelligence and how to live one's life from a place integrity and authenticity.

The Men's Group will meet every Thursday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Behavioral Health Department at Health & Wellness. A certificate of completion will be awarded to men who have completed the training. Transportation may be available for those in need.

Please contact Tom Bender with any questions at 503-879-2067. ■

ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENT BOARD VACANCIES

The following Committees and Special Event Boards have vacant positions. If you are interested, please complete an application and submit it to Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, CTGR, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

Ceremonial Hunt Board	3 Vacancies
Culture Committee	1 Vacancy
Cultural Trust Board	2 Vacancies
Education Committee	1 Vacancy
Enrollment Committee	1 Vacancy
Rodeo Special Event Board	2 Vacancies
Social Services Committee	1 Vacancy
Timber Committee	1 Vacancy

Gallery showing Native American photography

Bonnie Kahn's Wild West Gallery, 1524 N.W. 23rd St. No 2, in Portland will be showing more than 500 photos of Native Americans from several Oregon Tribes beginning Thursday, April 2.

The exhibit will feature several photographs from major photographers of Native Americans at the beginning of the 20th century and will feature Native American basketry from the 19th and 20th centuries.

John Gogol, a leading authority on Native American photography and basketry, will lecture from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, and noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

The exhibit runs until April 30.

For more information, call the gallery at 503-293-9414 or send an e-mail to bonniekahn@aol.com. The gallery's Web site is www.bonniekahngallery.com. ■