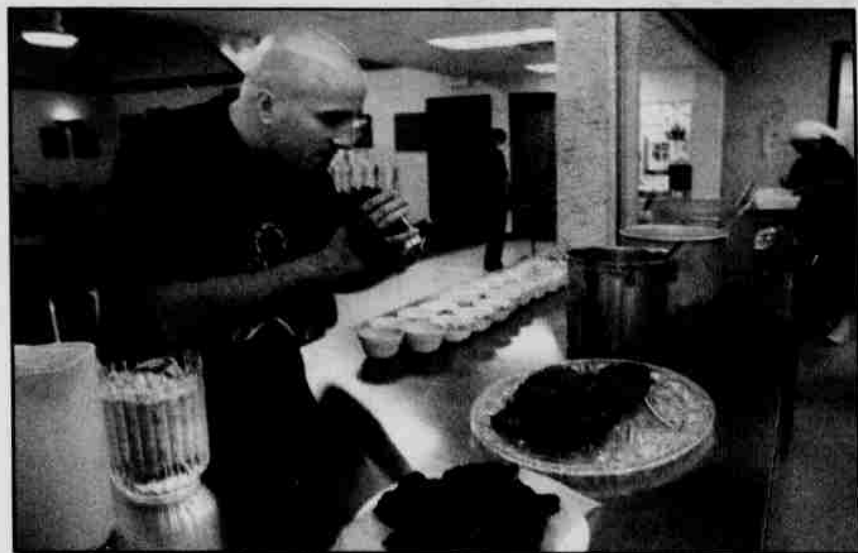


Foods celebration



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Chris Mercier films some elk meatloaf as he makes a video at the Native Foods Celebration at the Tribal Community Center on Saturday, May 9. Salmon, lamprey, sea rose, mussels and deer stew were among the food served besides the meatloaf. Below, Grand Ronde Princesses Kallie Provost, left, and Goldie Bly fill cups with blackberries and strawberries as they help prepare food for the Native Foods Celebration at the Tribal Community Center.



Men's Group starting

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.

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

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. ■

Burial benefits reduction notice

Effective June 1, 2009, burial benefits for nonTribal members will decrease. Currently, the benefit available to all enrolled Tribal members and their immediate family members is \$5,500 to be paid directly to a funeral establishment of choice. There is also a \$300 reception benefit which is paid directly to a family member.

Regretfully, due to budgetary reasons, and with the best interest of the Tribe in mind, Tribal Council made a difficult decision to reduce the burial benefit for nonTribal members. This benefit will continue as is for Tribal members, but will decrease to \$2,500 for nonTribal members not including the \$300 reception benefit.

Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery plots are still available at no cost to Tribal members, their spouses and children. ■

Mutt Movement operates through contributions

DOGS continued
from front page

rescue efforts.

"My main love is saving animals. It is my passion," Modrell says. "Last summer, my co-worker, Deborah Lee, and I started this organization. We began pulling dogs out of our local animal shelters and adopting them out in our area."

The Mutt Movement is an all-volunteer, non-profit dog rescue organization. It is committed to finding permanent and happy homes for unwanted and homeless pets in the Los Angeles area.

The Mutt Movement operates through contributions, as well as volunteers who provide temporary foster homes for the animals while they await a permanent placement. To date, says Modrell, "I believe we have successfully placed 70 of our furry little friends."

"We didn't start this with the intention of it becoming an organization," Lee says. "Actually, we had just found a stray that needed a home and it all snowballed from there."

"Once we began rescuing dogs from shelters, we realized the cruelty behind the system of the shelters in the Los Angeles area."

During the summer of 2008 while visiting her niece in Eugene, Modrell, 39, also visited the Greenhill Humane Society so she could look into its programs. While she was there, she noticed a shortage of small dogs.

Returning to California, she contacted an acquaintance, Robin Har-

mon, who runs a program called Pup My Ride. Harmon transports small dogs from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City, Utah, where there is a waiting list for small dogs.

"These dogs would have surely been put to sleep had they remained in the Los Angeles area," Modrell says.

Modrell made it her goal to ensure that the Eugene area also was blessed with small dogs as well. On April 11, the Eugene version of Pup My Ride arrived with 30 small dogs ready for adoption. This was the beginning of Modrell's dream of creating a program for transporting small dogs to humane societies all over Oregon.

"I believe," says Modrell, "that it is our mission to plead for their lives, campaign for their safety and uphold their right to a good and loving life. We shall seek out the injured, maimed and unloved, as well as the abandoned, and tend to them."

"One should not forget their place in the hierarchy of life, nor forget that we walk in each other's paths. It is our job to renew their spirits when they are waning, bind their wounds when they bleed, cradle them when they whimper and comfort them when they mourn."

"From these creatures of the earth, one may learn the fruits of compassion as well as that of undying love."

For more information, contact The Mutt Movement, 147 N. Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90004; call 323-993-6139 or visit www.mutt-movement.com on the Internet. ■

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