

The Grand Ronde Community Resource Center presents the

1st annual dinner & auction fundraiser

Date: Friday, Sept. 18
Location: Tribal Community Center
Time: 5 p.m. — View auction items
 6 p.m. — Dinner
 7 p.m. — Auction
Cost: \$12.50/dinner ticket

Items to be auctioned:

Weekend getaways
 Native American artwork
 Gift baskets
 Handcrafted quilt
 Seattle Seahawk tickets
 Home Depot gift cards and much more

All proceeds will go to support the Grand Ronde Food Bank, community garden project, Senior & Disabled Meals on Wheels, canning and nutrition classes and all other services provided by the Grand Ronde Community Resource Center. To order dinner tickets, contact Patrice at 503-879-5731 or e-mail GRCRC@hotmail.com.

INFLUENZA UPDATE

By Linda Bird
 Tribal Family Nurse Practitioner

There has been a lot of information and misinformation in the media regarding the influenza viruses H1N1 (swine flu) and Influenza A and B.

Here are the current facts:

1. There are currently no identified cases of swine flu or Influenza A or B in the Grand Ronde area.
2. According to the latest information, we do not anticipate any shortage of either vaccine.
3. The vaccine(s) will be arriving in several shipments and we will be holding vaccination clinics targeting high-risk individuals first (those identified as most at-risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
4. The recommended immunizations will be one seasonal flu vaccine (early October) and two doses of H1N1 vaccine (early November/December).
5. So far, the H1N1 has not proven to be more serious than regular influenza in terms of severity of symptoms. In many cases, it has actually been milder.

How to protect yourself from influenza

1. **Get vaccinated:** According to the CDC, this is the single best way to help prevent flu.
2. **Good hygiene. Avoid germs as much as possible.** Wash hands often. Carry hand sanitizer with you and use it. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth as much as possible. Cough and sneeze into your elbow. "Hot spots" for germs include water fountains, doorknobs, light switches, phones, micro-waves and faucets.
3. **Take care of yourself:** The best protection against flu or other infections is a healthy immune system. This means: Eat right; Exercise; Stop smoking; Get plenty of rest; Drink plenty of fluids; Don't try and do too much if you are tired.

NEXT MONTH: When should I stay home from work/school? When should I see a healthcare provider? ■

Margo's last day of employment was Aug. 14

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Margo's great-great-great-grandfather was Tribal Elder Joe Hutchins, who signed the treaty with the Kalapuyas (1854-55).

Tribal Elder Martha Jane Sands, whose image is sitting cast in bronze at Spirit Mountain Casino, is her great-great-grandmother.

Tribal Elders John and Hattie Hudson are her great-grandparents.

On other side of the family, her great-grandparents are Tribal Elders Arthur and Agnes Mercier, and her grandparents are Tribal Elders Hubert and Martha Hudson Mercier.

Monte George's great-great-grandfather was Tribal Elder Solomon Riggs, subchief of the Umpquas. And their family has lived here since the reservation began.

"I married (Monte) in 1973," Margo said. "I did it purposely to have Indian children. That was very conscious in my mind."

Tribal members Marlo (who passed on in 2005), Sol, 29, and Sam, 27, are her children.

"My dad was a logger," she said, "and we had a small farm in my childhood. We raised our own meat and vegetables, dairy cows. It was real simple. We played outdoors a lot. There were no close neighbors with little kids."

So, the eight Mercier brothers and sisters, all Tribal members — Connie, Carmen, Mark, Lowell, Margo, Doug, John and Barbara — played around the barn, down at the Yamhill River where they lived on Highway 22 near Hebo.

They also spent time away from the farm with extended family Elders.

"We were always big on trout fishing and crowddaddyng, and when our family gathered eels (lamprey) and fished for salmon (at the Blaine section of the Nestucca River) out-



File photo

Margo Mercier, center, in this photo of what may be a Tribal informational meeting or a Restoration or holiday celebration, probably in what was then the Grand Ronde Elementary School gymnasium. Former Oregon Congresswoman Elizabeth Furse is seated behind and just left of Margo and Tribal Attorney Mike Mason is behind and just to Margo's right. How many others can you name? We have found Tribal Elders Val Grout and Bob Mercier; Mercier's wife, Gayle; Tribal Elder Shelly Kent and her children, Tribal members Deanna and Carla, as well as Tribal Elders Marie Schmidt and Cheryl Carl.

side of Beaver, we always had big gatherings to do those things. It was always with the extended family.

"When we would fish for salmon, I remember, me and my brothers that were around my age would catch the salmon and lay them down on the ground and we would lie down next to them to see who was closest to the size of the salmon.

"We went with the Kimsey family a lot at that time."

Of her extended family — her grandmother Martha and Tribal Elder great aunts Velma Mercier, Ila Dowd, Pearl Mercier, Gertrude Mercier, Eula Petite and their children — she now feels that maybe she took them a little for granted.

"They influenced me greatly in

how I am today in loving and caring and always being there for you."

The influence of this family on the Tribe's early days was overwhelming. Early on, Barb Mercier said, "There were four of us working there (Tribal Elder Mark Mercier was on Tribal Council along with Carmen, Margo and Barb), and when they arrived at work one morning, there was a banner stretched across the entrance reading: The Confederated Tribes of Darrel Mercier."

And she has passed on that dedication to her children.

"I recall her having us, as kids, do volunteer work at the cemetery to clean it up," remembers Solomon. "She made sure that we were in-

involved because we are a Tribe and that's something that she wanted from all of us, to be involved with our people in any way we were capable of."

"My experience here at the Tribe has led me to following a dream to serve others in a different arena," says Margo. "Hopefully, continuing to serve the Elders. I am happy to move on, because I will have more of my own personal time to pursue those dreams."

She looks back on a life of ups and downs, and says, "I feel good about myself now, so that's what counts, isn't it?"

Aug. 14 was her last day of employment with the Tribe as Enrollment Program manager. ■