

YCTA expanded service includes Saturdays

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Getting to Mac and back on Saturdays became easier for Grand Ronde residents in January.

Yamhill County Transit Area expanded its Monday through Friday service to the West Valley to include Saturday rides thanks to two state grants totaling \$698,999.

"We recently received two grants from the Oregon Department of Transportation that allowed us to implement a number of expansions to the system and purchase capital items," said Tonya Saunders, Yamhill County transit manager.

"We also have had numerous requests for Saturday service to the West Valley for quite some time now. The West Valley route is one of our more heavily traveled routes and I believe the Saturday service

will be a huge hit."

The earliest Saturday bus arrives at the Grand Ronde Governance Center at 10:25 a.m. and the latest return drops off passengers at 5:20 p.m.

Pickups in Grand Ronde also occur at 12:30 and 3:20 p.m. and return trips to Grand Ronde drop off at 12:25 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. as well.

The last ride home from McMinnville to Grand Ronde leaves the bus stop at the intersection of Fifth and Ford streets at 4:30 p.m.

Fares are \$1 one-way and \$2 for a day pass. Riders also can purchase a \$15 booklet of 10 day passes or a \$30 unlimited monthly pass.

The Transit Area also offers a dial-a-ride service for those unable to access the fixed routes because of mobility issues, or for those whose origins and/or destinations are not

close to the fixed routes.

Dial-a-ride fares are \$1.50 one-way and an unlimited monthly dial-a-ride pass is \$35.

Dial-a-ride is curb-to-curb transportation services operating throughout Yamhill County. It operates from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and pickups must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance by calling 503-472-0457, ext. 122, or 503-538-7433.

Yamhill County Transit Area's service between Grand Ronde and McMinnville also includes stops at Grand Ronde Station downtown Willamina and TJ's in Sheridan.

Monday through Friday runs start at 5 a.m. at the Governance Center and pickups also occur at 6:55, 9:15 and 11:05 a.m. and 1:05, 3:15 and 6:15 p.m.

Drop-offs at the Tribal Governance Center start at 6:55 a.m. Monday through Friday and occur again at 9:10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 3, 6:05 and 8:25 p.m.

For more information, visit www.yctransitarea.org on the Internet.

Grand Ronde residents seeking to reach Salem also can ride a Salem-Keizer Transit District bus twice a day at the Tribal Governance Center.

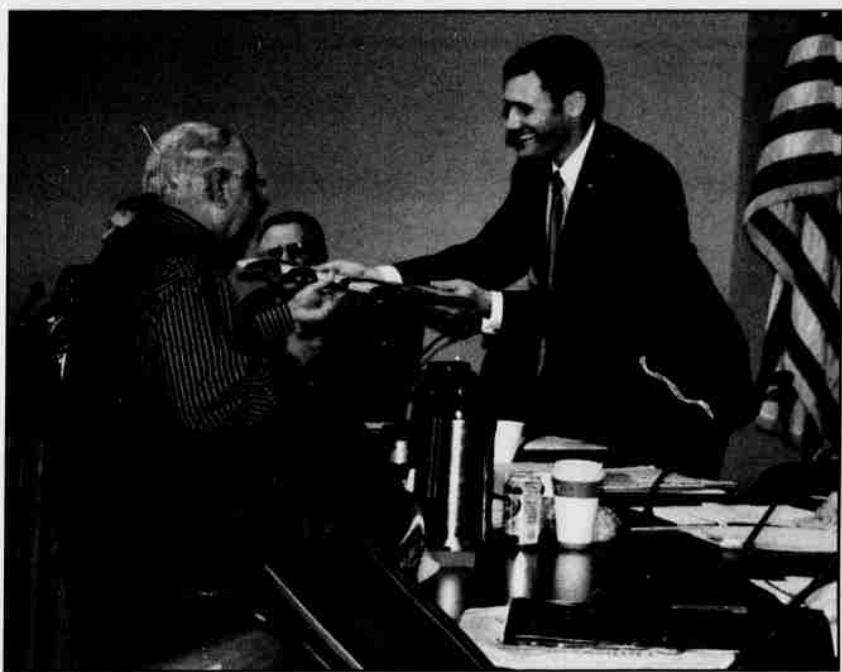
The district provides 10 round trips daily Monday through Friday between the Salem-Keizer Transit Mall and Grand Ronde with busses arriving at the Governance Center at 7:45 a.m. and 5:10 p.m. daily.

To see the complete schedules for Yamhill County Transit Area and Salem-Keizer Transit District, turn to the ad in this edition of *Smoke Signals* on Page 9. ■

Transportation to Grand Ronde

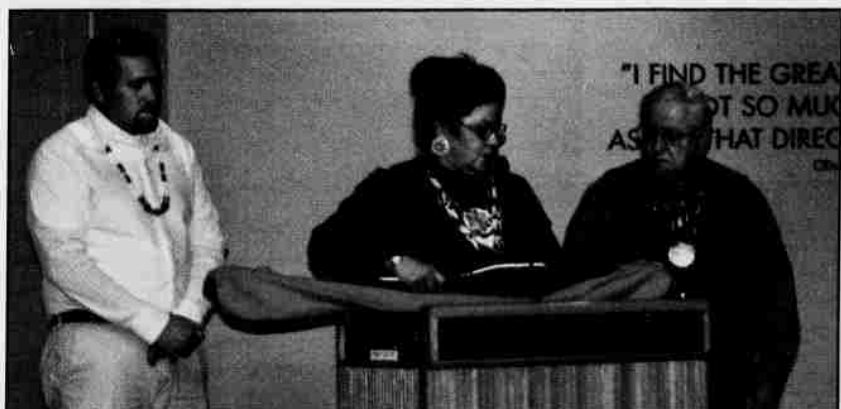
The Portland satellite office has a transportation day to Grand Ronde once a month for medical or dental appointments or enrollment cards. A minimum of three people must sign up. Call Lisa at 503-235-4230. You must be an enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member. The vehicle will leave the Portland office at 8 a.m. Please call in advance for the scheduled monthly date. ■

Welcoming a new mayor



Photos by Siobhan Taylor

Members of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council extended a welcome to Vancouver's newly elected mayor, Tim Leavitt, during his swearing-in ceremony on Jan. 4, 2010. Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg presented a carved canoe paddle to Leavitt while Tribal Council Secretary Kathleen Tom spoke to the mayor and City Council about Grand Ronde's traditional ties to the Vancouver area. She reminded Leavitt about Grand Ronde's ceded lands in the Vancouver and Clark County area, the Tribe's role as a sovereign government and the need for continued dialogue. Tribal Council member Toby McClary also attended the ceremony.



Volunteers wanted

We are looking for volunteer produce pickers when the fields are ready. A portion of the produce picked goes to the Grand Ronde Community Resource Center in Grand Ronde. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Lynn House, Gleaners of Yamhill/Mac, at 503-376-9222. Your name will be placed on a call-list. ■

CULTURAL GATHERINGS

- FEB. 6: **ELMIRA POWWOW.** Elmira High School, 24936 N.E. Fir Grove Lane. **ELMIRA, OR.** 541-461-2882 or amerrill@lesd.k12.or.us.
- FEB. 12-14: **LINCOLN'S POWWOW.** Simnasho Longhouse, BIA Road 3 & Simnasho Road. **SIMNASHO, OR.**
- FEB. 27: **130TH BIRTHDAY POWWOW.** Chemawa Indian School, 3700 Chemawa Road N.E. **SALEM, OR.**
- MAR. 6: **EVERGREEN & BATTLE GROUND SD'S TITLE VII POWWOW.** Covington Middle School, 11200 N.E. Rosewood Ave. **VANCOUVER, WA.**

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.

Elder Foster Program

"A Place To Call Home"



The Tribe's Elder Foster Care lodges are committed to offering quality care to our Elders and helping them remain as independent as possible, while providing the personalized assistance they need. At our lodges, a wide range of services is available in a comfortable setting where privacy is respected and maximum independence is supported. For information, contact the Elder Foster Program director at 503-879-1694.