

Valentine's  
Day Party  
— pg. 8

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# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

MARCH 1, 2010

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## Tribal Library expanding



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder and Librarian Marion Mercier adds a book to a full shelf as she reshelves books at the Tribal Library on Monday, Feb. 22. The Tribe has received a \$325,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant to make the library larger.**

### *Tribal receives \$325,000 grant to double size of current facility*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

**T**he Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has received a \$325,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant that will help double the size of the current 1,390-square-foot Tribal Library.

Added to \$108,334 in Tribal matching funds, the federal grant will pay for the addition of 1,500 square feet to the Tribal Library located in the Tribal Education Building.

The Tribe originally requested \$500,000, said Tribal Planning & Grants Development Manager Kim Rogers, for an almost 2,900-square-foot addition and finished just out of the running for federal funding.

However, when other regions did not spend all of their federally allocated block grant funds, the Tribe received a call from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Public and Indian Housing, asking if it would accept a \$325,000 award instead.

The answer was "Yes," and the Tribe scaled back the expansion to 1,500 square feet because of the reduced funding.

Still, the addition will more than double the library's size and address one of the more pressing needs on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus.

The Tribal Library, which serves the entire community, has issued 1,200 library cards to Tribal and community members. In 2009, it had more than 7,000 visits and more than 6,500 circulations.

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## Salem Transit seeking more ridership

*April promotional push hopes to increase use by Salem and Grand Ronde residents*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

**T**he 1-year-old Spirit Mountain Casino Express bus service between Salem and Grand Ronde is about one-third of its way toward meeting original revenue estimates, said Salem-Keizer Area Mass Transit District Director of Finance Pat Mercier.

In an effort to improve awareness and increase ridership, the district is planning an April promotional push to coincide with Earth Week to get people to try the bus.

"We're looking to increase ridership from staff at Spirit Mountain Casino, as well as Grand Ronde community members," Mercier said.

The bus service between Grand Ronde and Salem started in January 2009 with nine round trips daily Monday through Friday between the Salem-Keizer Transit Mall and Spirit Mountain Casino.

It has since expanded and now offers 10 round trips during weekdays with stops in front of the Tribal Governance Center at 7:45 a.m. and 5:10 p.m.

Mercier said there are approximately 250 to 300 casino employees

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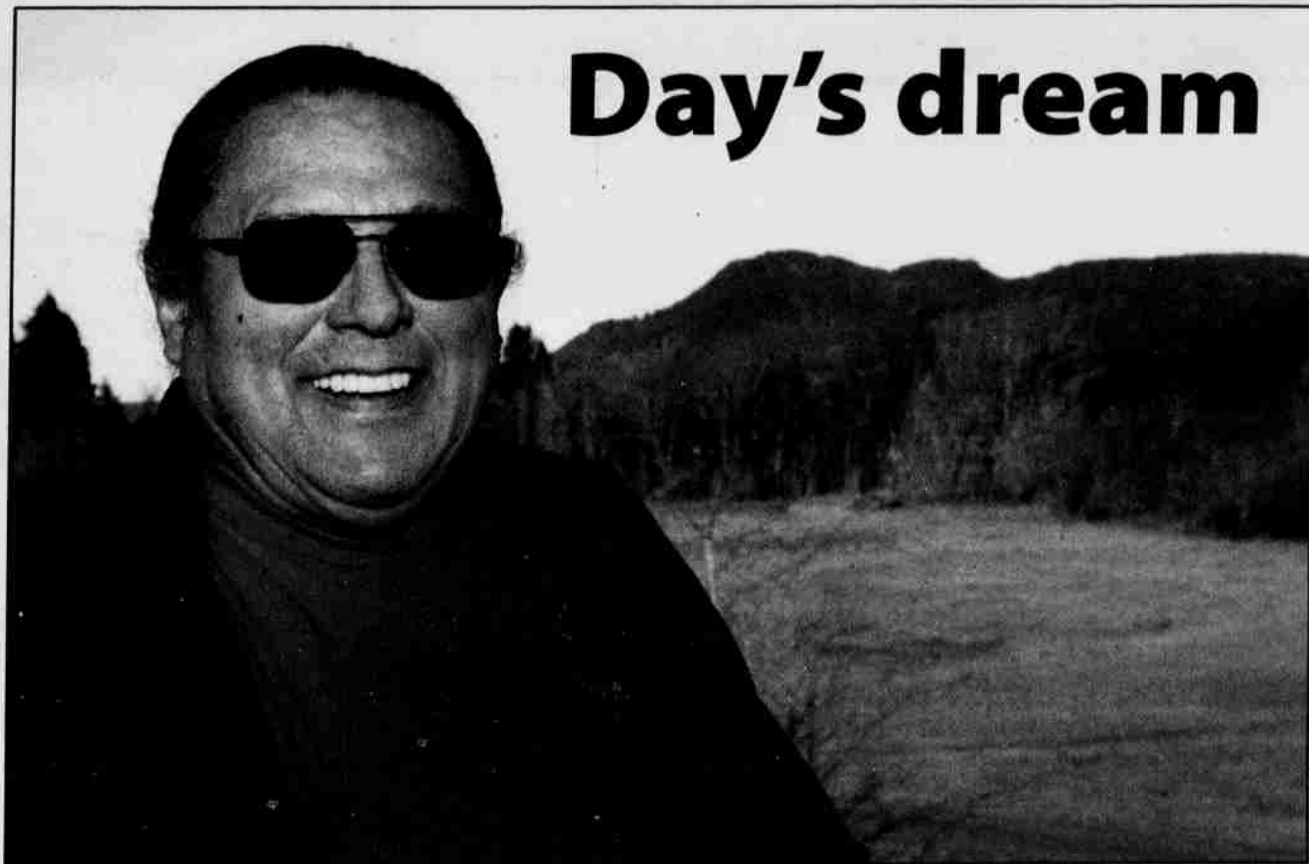


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Don Day, Tribal Site Protection specialist, received final approval for his Master of Arts degree from the University of Oregon on Friday, Feb. 19. It is a multi-disciplinary degree that includes the fields of anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and geology.**

### *Tribal 'force of nature' earns Master of Arts degree from U of O*

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**I**t is totally amazing to me that 500 years ago, somebody figured out how to build a house, and how to make the tools to do that," says Tribal

Elder Don Day.

Today, the Tribe's latest Master of Arts holder knows how his ancestors did that. When he picks up a chunk of oak or yew to adze into a wedge, he knows ahead what that house

and even that wedge is going to look like.

With his 53-page master's thesis and an 8-by-10-foot model

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