



2005 — The Tribe opened a satellite office in Eugene. The 1,200 square-foot office included a large entry/gathering room, small conference room, computer lab and two offices. Tribal member Brenda Tuomi was serving as the office's Tribal Services representative.

2000 — The Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. board tapped Robert J. Watson as interim chief executive officer and president of Spirit Mountain Casino. Watson was formerly head of the state corrections departments in Oregon and Delaware.

1995 — The Tribe received a \$65,000 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for habitat restoration work on Agency Creek. Eric Anderson, wildlife biologist with the Tribe's Natural Resources Department, said the work will be done on the reaches of the North Fork and West Fork of Agency Creek.

1990 — Tribal Council scheduled a public hearing on policies for Health, Education and Housing Tribal Trust Funds to collect information and comments from the Tribal membership on the draft policies for each area.

1985 — The Tribe was preparing to elect a Tribal Council on March 23 after having an interim Tribal Council following 1983's Restoration.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Names being sought for Veterans' Memorial

Names are being accepted through March 31 for review and placement on the West Valley Veterans' Memorial on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus.

To qualify to have a name placed on the memorial, the person must be:

- A member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde with an honorable discharge or other military document that shows service dates and branch of service or proof of active service at this time;
- Anyone else with an honorable discharge or other military document that shows service dates and branch of service or proof of active service at this time. The person also must prove that they live in the West Valley (Sheridan, Willamina and Grand Ronde) or close surrounding area at the time of service or currently.

Documents should be submitted to Val Adamson at Adamson's Funeral Home, P.O. Box 10, Sheridan, OR 97378, or in person by the end of March.

People whose names are added will be honored at the 2010 Memorial Day program held at the memorial.

For more information, call Adamson at 503-843-2525. ■

McKnight to fight in St. Patty's Beat Down

Tribal member and Tribal Forest Patrol Officer Jake McKnight will be one of the fighters in the St. Patty's Beat Down that starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion, 2330 17th St. N.E., Salem.

McKnight, who is a professional mixed martial arts fighter, will face off against Chris Ensley in the cage fights.

Tickets range from \$15 general admission to \$45 on the floor in the first two rows.

Tickets can be purchased at unitedcombatsports.com or viciousfightgear.com. You also can purchase tickets by contacting McKnight at 503-434-0863. ■

Native Youth Wellness Day slated

Native Youth Wellness Day, for middle and high school students, will be held from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 19, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

For more information, contact Tribal Youth Program Assistant Shannon Simi at 503-879-1489 or shannon.simi@grandronde.org. ■

Attention Tribal members

Copies of Legislative Action Committee recommendations are available on the Tribal member side of the Tribal Web site. They are located with the Legislative Action Committee minutes. These forms are only a recommendation used by the Legislative Action Committee to move discussion items to a regular Tribal Council meeting for a vote of the Tribal Council. If you have any questions, please contact Dakota Whitecloud, Tribal Council Relations Coordinator, for more information. You may reach Whitecloud at 503-879-1309 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1309. ■

Library opened in 2004

LIBRARY continued from front page

It is too small to hold the library's collection of 11,000 items, which has increased from about 800 items in 2004, when the existing library facility opened.

"Shelf space has become crowded and there is little room left to add new items in many of the collection areas," said Tribal Elder and Tribal Librarian Marion Mercier. "Non-fiction and DVD/video shelf space is about non-existent at this time. There is still shelf space for growth in the children and youth collection, but floor space is very crowded for the four youth groups that come in for story and library time each week."

The library also doesn't have room for the computer and media stations and work tables that it needs to serve a variety of users.

Also, the library's entrance and bathrooms are the same ones used by the Tribe's Education Building. During weekend and evening hours, the library exposes the rest of the building's offices, including Cultural Resources on the second floor, to unauthorized off-hour visits.

The expansion will make the Tribal Library self-contained, with its own entrance and restrooms.

Mercier will lead programming efforts in the design of the library addition. Construction should begin by March 2011 and be completed by the summer or fall of 2011.

The expansion will allow the Tribal Library to hold and offer more programs and serve a wider variety of users, which will enhance the education of children and adults, the grant application states.

"Library services and programs

provide enrichment resources and activities that support early literacy, education benchmarks, job search efforts and the opportunity to participate in alternative activities," Mercier said. "The library helps youth pursue their interests and build self-esteem. Education and self-esteem are important for self-sufficiency."

The larger space, however, will not require increased staffing. The Tribal Library currently has 1.2 employees.

"Most clients occupy themselves at the library for the vast amount of time spent and only a small portion of the time requires interaction with the librarian," the grant application states. "Additional staff could be hired someday and the addition will allow enough counter space for this future growth to be included."

"I expected it to happen someday and I'm excited that it happened now," Mercier said. "We have little shelf space left. I think, for the population base we have now, the library will be adequate being doubled."

Mercier said doubling the Tribal Library's size will be enough space to accommodate more housing expansions in the Grand Ronde area.

"It should be good for a number of years," she said. "It's exciting. I am proud that our Tribal leaders take note of the Tribal membership and community needs and then take actions for improvement."

"The Tribal Council's support of the library expansion is another example of the generosity and forward thinking by our leaders in making changes for a positive difference in our community. The library is an awesome place to be." ■

Woven Picnic Basket

Join the Cultural Resources Department for a three-day woven picnic basket class. All level of basket weavers are welcome and materials will be provided. Classes will start Tuesday, March 30, through Thursday, April 1, from 5:30-8:30pm. All classes will be in Education Room 124.

For more information, call Misty Thorsgard 503-879-2320 misty.thorsgard@grandronde.org

Ad created by George Valdez