

# Community Fund briefs membership

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal member and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson briefed the Tribal membership on its 13-year-old philanthropic entity at the Dec. 5 General Council meeting held in Grand Ronde.

And the numbers, after more than a decade of Tribal giving, are starting to get quite impressive.

Since Spirit Mountain Community Fund was started in 1997 as the first Tribal philanthropic organization in Oregon, the Grand Ronde Tribe has given more than \$52 million in grants from the fund's 6 percent share of Spirit Mountain Casino gaming profits.

In those 13 years, the Community Fund has received 3,359 grant requests and funded 1,606 of them, for a 48 percent approval rate.

In 2010, Hanson said, the Community Fund's budget totaled \$3.5 million. This year, the fund received 406 grant requests totaling \$11.74 million and funded 153 of those requests for a total of \$3.2 million.

The Community Fund continues awarding grants in the broad categories of arts and culture, education, environment, health, historic preservation, problem gaming and public safety. It is overseen by an eight-member board, which currently has one vacancy.

Current board members are Tribal Council members Reyn Leno, who is vice chair, and Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal member and Spirit Mountain Casino Human Resources Director Camille Mercier, Portland businessman Sho Dozono, Secretary of State Kate Brown, former Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Portland attorney Chip Lazenby.

Hanson said the Community Fund's highlights in 2010 included publication of its annual report, participation in an ad campaign that helped defeat private casino proposal Measure 75, starting



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**David Lewis, Tribal member and Cultural Resources Department manager, talks about an ethnohistory conference he recently attended in Canada, where he gave presentations about Grand Ronde history and the Summer's Collection during the General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 5.**

quarterly award presentations, creation of a new Web site and conducting more training for small non-profits.

In addition, Hanson said, the Community Fund continues its Oregon Tribal Grants program, which has a \$300,000 budget and funds grant requests from Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.

The Community Fund also continues to fund and manage the Tribe's Hatfield Fellowship program, which this year selected Nez Perce/Cayuse Tribal member Shana Radford to work in Sen. Ron Wyden's office.

For 2011, Hanson said the Community Fund will continue its Tribal grants program for a fourth year, partner with the Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance to inform Oregonians about the charitable giving of Oregon Tribes, foster

stronger community partnerships and work toward being a cornerstone of Oregon's philanthropic efforts.

Before Hanson's presentation, Tribal member and Cultural Resources Department Manager David Lewis discussed his recent activities.

He said he recently attended an ethnohistory conference in Ottawa, Canada, where he gave presentations about Grand Ronde history and the Summer's Collection, which is stored in the British Museum in London.

The 300-artifact collection, assembled in the 1870s and 1880s, is a significant part of Grand Ronde history and should be returned, Lewis said, although there is no law or international agreement that can force the British Museum to do so.

Lewis said the Tribe will host a British Museum representative in April in an attempt to start convincing the museum that it is morally correct to return the artifacts.

"This will be a long-term project," Lewis said.

In other business, Tribal Elders Gladys Hobbs, Duane Wheeler, Samantha Dala, Julie Duncan, Ken Lafferty and Richard Ray were nominated for three open seats on the Elders' Committee. The election will be held between 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Jan. 9, during the next General Council meeting in Grand Ronde.

Tribal Elder Betty Reed and Ken Lafferty and Tribal spouse Kathi Ray won the \$50 cash door prizes; Tribal Elders Kathryn Harrison and Georgene Gray won the \$50 Safeway gift cards; and Tribal spouse Terry Gray won the \$100 cash door prize. ■

## Eugene Tribal Wellness Program meets weekly

The Eugene Tribal Wellness Program meets at 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

All levels of fitness are welcome. The program covers strength, cardio and stretching, and discusses strategies for healthy living at home.

The program is free to Tribal members and their spouses.

For more information, call the Eugene satellite office at 541-484-7085. ■

## Getaway briefing



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Eirik Thorsgard, Tribal member and the Tribe's Cultural Protection coordinator, middle, talks with KGW reporter Grant McOmie, left, before the filming of a Grant's Getaways segment at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area on Monday, Nov. 29. On the right is Park Manager Ryan Sparks, who talked about the history of the heritage area and Thorsgard provided input on the Tribal history of the area.**

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