

Casino holding Holiday Toy Drive

For the third consecutive year, Spirit Mountain Casino is holding its annual Holiday Toy Drive to benefit Doernbecher Children's Hospital.

New, unwrapped toys or games are being accepted at the casino's Coyote Club desk through Friday, Dec. 17.

In exchange, Spirit Mountain Casino will give \$10 in free slot play for every toy or game donated with a maximum of \$30 in bonus play per person.

"This is our third year of helping make Christmas a little brighter at Doernbecher," said Spirit Mountain Chief Executive Officer Rodney Ferguson. "Our guests have stepped up in the past, even during tough economic times, to bring a smile to a child's face and we hope we can replicate last year's donation, which was our largest number of toys yet."

Last year, a semi-trailer donated by TP Freight Lines of Portland transported more than 50 pallets of toys to the receiving dock at Doernbecher, the world-class facility that is part of Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland. ■

Attention Grand Ronde Tribal Elders

We stated in the last mail out there would be an Elder Committee Election at the December Birthday Meeting/Meal. Due to our need to change the bylaws first, the only election will be at the January General Council meeting. We apologize for any confusion on this issue. ■

Food Bank seeks help

The Grand Ronde Food Bank is seeking volunteers to help with pre-assembling and distribution of Christmas food boxes.

The Food Bank plans on assembling Christmas food boxes on Wednesday, Dec. 15, and distributing the boxes from Friday, Dec. 17, through Monday, Dec. 20.

To volunteer, call or leave a message for the Food Bank manager at 503-879-5731 or send an e-mail to nancy.holmes@grandronde.org. ■

Notice of Availability of Funds and Request for Comment on Proposed Use

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, as a Special Transportation Fund Agency, has been allocated up to \$112,669 in federal 5310 grant funds and \$30,000 of State STG funds for the 2011-2013 biennium under the Public Transportation Discretionary Grant program offered by the Oregon Public Transit Division. The Tribe is requesting comment on the following project proposed for use of this funding: A project to support transit operations between Salem and Grand Ronde and between Grand Ronde, Willamina, Sheridan and McMinnville through round trip purchased services Monday through Friday which are open to the general public and lift equipped for the disabled. At this time the Tribe anticipates renewing intergovernmental agreements for transit services with the Salem Area Mass Transit District and the Yamhill County Transit Area.

Both routes are in the Tribe's existing adopted Coordinated Transportation Plan as a priority service. The Plan was created with and reviewed and recommended by the Tribe's STF Advisory Committee and then adopted by Tribal Council.

Additional information is available from Kim Rogers, Planning & Grants Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347; 503-879-2250. The Tribe invites comments on the proposed application by writing to this same address. Comments should be received by 5 p.m. Jan. 4, 2011. It is anticipated that the application will be reviewed by the STF Advisory Committee on Jan. 5, 2011. The application may be revised based on the comments received. ■

Need assistance with scholarships?

Are you looking for scholarships and don't know where to start? Do you need assistance with your scholarship applications and/or personal statements? If so, contact the Tribal Scholarship Office at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1345, or e-mail luhui.whitebear@grandronde.org. ■

'It just kind of stinks a little bit'

CHRISTMAS BABIES
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always had (birthday) cake after Christmas dinner."

Selwyn, who works at the Tribal switchboard through the Publications office, also came home from the hospital in a Christmas stocking.

"I have the stocking I was in when I was born!!!" she wrote in an e-mail. "My grandma said I was on the news in that stocking because I was the first baby born at the OHSU hospital in Portland on Christmas Day 10:46 a.m., 1987. All she could see was my little head poking out and my little hands and my big eyes."

Being born one day later, however, could be an altogether other story.

"It just kind of stinks a little bit," says Jessica Lillard, a member of the Tribe born on Dec. 26. "I'd always get one gift for Christmas and my birthday. I felt like everyone was worn out from Christmas, and they were too tired to celebrate my birthday."

A couple days later, and it might be a different story again.

Kelly Herber, Tribal Procurement assistant, was born on Dec. 28.

"For me," she says, "I celebrated my birthdays as usual. It didn't matter that it was three days after Christmas. I was treated no different."

On the other hand, she says, "I always wanted a birthday in the summer, so we could have had an outdoor birthday party, you know what I mean?"

"It can be a little bit awkward," says Cindy Post Senning, director at the Emily Post Institute, "but I



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Alicia Selwyn was born on Christmas Day in 1987. She was brought home from the hospital in this Christmas stocking that her grandmother, Tribal Elder Marcella Selwyn, has hung on to over the years.

think there's a couple things you can do that would be fine.

"Sometimes, parents will separate the day from the holiday, maybe celebrating a week later. Some do half-birthdays (by scheduling the celebration on June or July 25), but I would always talk with the child about it."

"For me, I like to think of birthdays as a really special day. In our home, you got to pick what your dinner was. Then, it becomes focused on things that are special for and about that child."

"Christmas is about the community (instead of the individual), the family community, and it comes

with traditions that are not about that individual. It would be hard on Christmas Day to say, 'What do you want for dinner?' because there might be another tradition in the family."

"The cutest thing," for Marilyn Portwood, a Tribal Elder born on Dec. 16, was how her parents made that day special. "My folks always got the Christmas tree up by my birthday." (In those days, they didn't put them up that early — usually on Christmas Eve.)

And for her birthday, she says, "My dad would knock himself out." The day's activities included Mickey Mouse cartoons. "My folks

really tried to make it special."

"I just remember basically thinking that I was going to get twice as many presents," says Doug Colton, a Tribal member born Dec. 20, who also serves as the Tribe's Facilities Maintenance supervisor. "I usually got more presents. Mom (Jackie Whisler, a Tribal Elder who walked on in 2007), and dad (Doug Colton Sr.) were pretty good to Mike and me."

"My mom would be right there making a cake, right up until she passed away."

To this day, Colton remembers getting "a whole set of Hot Wheel cars."

Kassie Simi, a member of the Tribe born Dec. 29, says, "I really liked them being close, because I felt like I got a lot more stuff. I always went to Skate Palace or Chuck E. Cheese's. My mom always made sure they were completely separate."

For Tresa Mercier, a Tribal member born Dec. 18, "Presents have never been an issue." Being an only child, she always felt like she got plenty, and in fact, she says, "Sometimes, I feel like my birthday is in the way."

"When I was just a little tyke," Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg wrote in an e-mail, "and we were so very, very poor, my birthday present and my Christmas present were combined because they were so close together, so to make up for this great injustice, I suggest that everybody send me a present this Christmas, and just skip the birthday present."

Soderberg was born Dec. 29, but did not arrive home in a Christmas stocking. ■