

Merrill to present at Native American symposium

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Brent Merrill will be a featured speaker at the upcoming 10th Sequoyah National Research Center Symposium scheduled for April 8-9 in Little Rock, Ark.

The research center is based within the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Merrill's presentation, "Native Imagery in the 21st Century," will describe how Indians are portrayed in the media, in the movies and on television, including a discussion of Native mascots, said Merrill.

Sequoyah Executive Director Dan Littlefield, a lifelong member of the Native American Journalists Association, described Merrill, former *Smoke Signals* editor, as "an intense young man who is quite knowledgeable about current issues in Indian Country."

The center has an all-Native board of directors, though most who attend its annual symposium are non-Native, Littlefield said. ■

Tribal Youth Wellness Day set for March 18

The ninth annual Tribal Youth Wellness Day will be held 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Keynote speakers will be Jason "Smoke" Nichols (Nakota/Chippewa Cree) and Melissa "MiMi" Nichols. The Nichols are motivational speakers, recording artists and successful business owners.

There also will be workshops focusing on teen pregnancy, identity and self-respect, healthy ways to text and surf the Internet, and teen suicide prevention.

For more information, contact Youth Prevention Specialist Lisa Leno at lisa.leno@grandronde.org or 503-879-1471 or Youth Prevention Assistant Shannon Stanton at shannon.stanton@grandronde.org or 503-879-1489.

The Wellness Day is presented by the Tribal Youth Prevention Program. ■

Helping hands



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Duane Wheeler, left, hands fellow Tribal Elder Dan Ham a bag as they add it to a truck packed full of donated items headed to the victims of the White Swan, Wash., fire that destroyed 20 homes and left an estimated 120 people homeless, most of them Yakama Indian Nation Tribal members, on Feb. 12. Wheeler and his wife, Regina, who is a Yakama Tribal member, grew up in White Swan and have family members who were victims of the fire. A variety of items were donated, including clothing, blankets, toiletries, five king-sized mattress sets left over from Spirit Mountain Casino's renovation and money. Donations came from Tribal Elders, Tribal employees and community members, and were collected at the Elders' Activity Center. The Wheelers made one trip to deliver donated items and Ham made the drive to drop off this load of donated items. If you are interested in donating to the victims, Tribal Elders are still accepting donations at the center. Tribal Council and Spirit Mountain Casino have each given \$10,000 to the White Swan Fire relief fund.

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Six Consecutive Classes on Wednesdays / April 6, 2011 through May 11, 2011

5:30 - 8 P.M. at the

Adult Education Building on Grand Ronde Tribal Campus

FREE Dinner Provided

FREE Childcare Provided

INCENTIVES FOR ATTENDANCE

For more information or to register, call Carmen Mercier (503) 879-1646.

Or e-mail at carmen.mercier@grandronde.org.