



**2007** – Tribal Council Chairman Chris Mercier and Vice Chairwoman Angie Blackwell gifted a Pendleton blanket to Chinook Tribal Chairman Ray Gardner at the Chinook Plankhouse in Ridgefield, Wash., on Jan. 20 during the fifth annual Chinook Winter Gathering. “Let’s just say that I am completely envious of their longhouse,” Mercier said. “I really hope that Grand Ronde can eventually get something like that.”

**2002** – The Tribe’s philanthropic arm, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, moved from offices at Spirit Mountain Casino to two new offices built at the Tribal Governance Building. Community Fund Director Angela Blackwell said she was proud of the \$14 million the Tribe has given to nonprofit organizations in western Oregon since the fund’s creation in 1997.

**1997** – The Feb. 2 General Council meeting featured a report on Nanitch Sahallie Youth Treatment Center by Dr. Bob Ryan, manager of the facility. Nanitch Sahallie was a live-in treatment center for teenagers 13 to 18 years of age who are Native American. It was established in 1989 in Keizer, Ore. Nanitch Sahallie was one of only eight Native American youth treatment centers in the United States, Ryan said.

**1992** – Tribal member Myrna Brandon won a \$50 gift certificate from Fred Meyer for suggesting the name of the new Community Council’s project. She suggested Chee Mamook, which is Chinuk Wawa for “New Beginnings,” reported Community Encourager Michael J. Larsen.

**1987** – Navy Seaman recruit Randall L. Leno, son of Tribal Council member Russell Leno, completed training at the Recruit Training Center in San Diego, Calif. He was sent to Alameda, Calif., and was assigned to the nuclear aircraft carrier the U.S.S. Enterprise.

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

## Chinuk Wawa classes offered

The Tribe’s Cultural Education Department offers adult Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in Room 207 of the Tribal Education Building.

Language classes can be taken for college credit or for fun. For more information, call 503-879-2249 or 503-437-4599. ■

## Entrepreneurship program seeks business mentors

MERIT, in conjunction with Chemeketa Community College and the Grand Ronde Education Division, is looking for experienced business professionals and owners to mentor aspiring entrepreneurs enrolled in the business start-up program called Indianpreneurship now being offered in Grand Ronde.

Volunteer business mentors will have the opportunity to sit one-on-one with the entrepreneurs and provide valuable advice, insight and support from their own business experience.

Business mentors are a proven factor to entrepreneurial success; these business mentors will not only be helping the individual entrepreneur achieve business success, but also will be contributing the economic development of their community.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, contact Mona Edwards, medwar44@chemeketa.edu. MERIT welcomes mentors from any background or industry. ■

## Powwow dance classes held

The Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department is offering a powwow dance class from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Adult Education Building.

This is a family dance class for all ages that teaches all powwow dance styles.

For more information, contact Cultural Education Specialist Brian Krehbiel at brian.krehbiel@grandronde.org or 503-879-4639. ■

## ‘It doesn’t matter the color of the uniform’

POLICE continued from page 4

“my call load will go down.”

Legislators in attendance anticipate a technical fix in the current legislative session for an unexpected problem with SB 412.

“Legislators in attendance anticipate a technical fix for both clarification and certainty. Hopefully that will happen in the upcoming February legislative session,” said Tribal member Justin Martin, who is also lobbyist in Salem for the Tribe.

“Salem is the capital of unintended consequences,” said Oregon Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, a supporter of both the bill and the fix.

It is important to make sure the implementation of SB 412 goes well, because without follow-up action by the Legislature, it will sunset in 2015.

“It doesn’t matter the color of the uniform,” said state Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, who supported the bill and supports the fix. “We just need someone there to do the job.”

The keynote address was delivered by Paul DeMuniz, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court who presided over the Oregon v. Kurtz case involving Tribal police arresting a suspect fleeing from the Warm Springs Reservation.

The suspect was arrested off the reservation, prosecuted and convicted. The Oregon Appeals Court quashed the decision saying that under law, the Tribal officer was not a police officer and had no jurisdiction off the reservation.

The Supreme Court found that the arrest was legal, but opened the floodgates to litigation for every off-reservation arrest in the future. The Legislature, as a result, approved SB 412 to eliminate that loophole, and simultaneously

bring Tribal police into the same league as other police forces in the state.

“I don’t know if everybody’s happy (with the legislation),” said Jack Lawson, Tribal liaison for the Oregon Youth Authority, “but they’re getting happier. There are some good things happening.”

In Grand Ronde, the Tribe has been supportive of the legislation.

“This has been a long time coming,” said Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy. “One of the things I endeavored to do when I came into office is to establish law enforcement here for a safe, healthy community. The first thing was to provide health and wellness and security for our members.”

She told a story from years ago when she got a call that a Tribal member was coming to Grand Ronde to hurt somebody. Kennedy remembered calling Yamhill and Polk county police.

“Two days later,” she said, “the police showed up.”

The effort to keep Tribal members safe “has been fraught with many problems,” she added, “but they are solved with good relationships.”

“I’m very pleased that we could sit at the same table for this meeting and get to know each other. Some of the walls have been broken down at this meeting.”

For Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom, her question for the meeting was, “How are we going to put this together, to make it work?” At the same time, she added, “I’m happy it’s happening.”

The Tribe “hopes to be up to operations by the end of May,” said McKnight, but continues to evaluate whether to hire two more officers with an existing grant.

“If I can stay busy,” said McKnight, “I’m happy. And I’ve been staying busy. It’ll be good for the community.” ■



# Carving Class

Come learn the Columbia River art style. Cultural Resources will be having an ongoing apprenticeship class every Wednesday at the carving shop down by the food bank. We will only have room for 10 students. Please contact Brian Krehbiel at 503- 879-4639.

or e-mail brian.krehbiel@grandronde.org.



Ad created by George Valdez