



**2007** – Mark Johnston took over responsibilities of the Grand Ronde Health Clinic and brings more than 12 years of experience in health administration working for Oregon Tribes. Previously, he worked with the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Coquille Tribe. He is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth with a degree in business and administration.

**2002** – Tribal member Kevin Simmons received the 2002-03 Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship from Spirit Mountain Community Fund. He was scheduled to work in the office of U.S. Rep. David Wu.

**1997** – The 1997-98 Grand Ronde Royalty Court included Miranda Provost, Miss Tiny Tot; Jenny Bailey, Senior Miss Grand Ronde; Ashley Tuomi, Junior Miss Grand Ronde; and Emma Leno, Miss Grand Ronde. Honorary princesses were Ali Holsclaw, Brandi Little, Sheena Johnson, Betty Sue Rose and Maria Godines.

**1992** – Beth Oliver was hired as the new general manager of Spirit Mountain Development Corp. She had just returned to the United States from Africa, where she worked with countries, Tribes and groups to enhance their economic development opportunities.

**1987** – More than 200 people listened to testimony by supporters and opponents of a Grand Ronde Reservation at a field hearing chaired by U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin at Grand Ronde Elementary School. "My purpose is to make life better for the Tribe in a way that makes life better for all of us," AuCoin told the audience.

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

## Adult Members' Trust and Minors' Custodial & Rabbi Trust Funds

Effective Aug. 20, 2012, investments in the Adult Members' Trust Fund and the Minors' Custodial and Rabbi Trust Funds are updated each business day. If you are a trust participant and/or if you are the parent/guardian of a minor member, you can access and review your balance and your minor child's balance by visiting [www.401Save.com](http://www.401Save.com).

To log-in, the initial User ID is your (or your child's) Social Security number, and the initial Password is "00" followed by your (or your child's) membership number. Once logged in, you can customize your User ID and password for security purposes.

If you have any trouble logging in to or using the system, contact the 401Save Call Center at 1-888-700-0808 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. ■

## Changes to your Skookum Health Plan

For Tribal members residing in the counties of Washington, Multnomah, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk and Marion, you will soon be receiving a new Skookum card with changes to your health plan ID number. This does NOT affect Tribal employees with the Shasta employee plan.

We are making a few changes to your health plan group identifier, which means that you will need a new ID card.

- The first three letters of your current ID number will be changing from GRT to GRC.
  - o Your current ID number looks like: GRT123456.
  - o Your new ID number will look like: GRC123456.
- Your ID number affects how your claims are paid, so to ensure your claims are paid correctly, please THROW OUT your old card and KEEP the new card starting with the GRC ID number.
  - o When you go to a doctor, dentist, pharmacy or eye doctor, make sure you give the provider your new ID card so the bill will be processed for payment correctly.
- The final change relates to your Explanation of Benefits (EOB). Going forward you will only receive an EOB if you owe the provider a portion of the claim costs or if the claim has been denied.
- If you have any questions on the above changes, please call Shasta Administrative Services' Customer Service at 1-800-880-5877 or Contract Health Services at 1-800-775-0095.

Again, these changes only affect Tribal members residing in Washington, Multnomah, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties! This does not affect Tribal employees. ■

## Tribal convenience store begins reinventing itself

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Tribal convenience store adjacent to Spirit Mountain Casino on state Highway 18 has been reinventing itself over the last few months.

Tribal Council, which had been overseeing store operations, turned operational control over in April to Tribal Finance Officer Julio Martinez, charging him with making the store profitable and ensuring that going forward the operation hires as many Tribal members as possible.

Martinez immediately closed the money losing restaurant and divided the workload among other Finance Department staff members, principally Larry Leith and Ken Trevino. At the end of June, he hired new store manager Opal Hale, and already the Tribe is seeing a profit from the business.

The convenience store had not been profitable in years. For 2012, Tribal Council budgeted a capital contribution of \$121,000 to keep the operation solvent, but with the new changes, said Martinez, no capital contributions will be budgeted for 2013.

Currently, seven of 14 employees are Tribal members.

"One of the things we do," said Hale, "is when we do need employees, we advertise in *Smoke Signals*. That's been the best form of advertising for us. A lot of Tribal members come in when jobs open up."

Plans for the food service part of the business, said Martinez, continue to be evaluated in coordination with the Tribe's Economic Development Department.

Since arriving, Hale has sharpened up the merchandising at the store, from the gas pumps to parking stripes to signage.

Gone with the restaurant is the restaurant signage on the east outside wall of the building. It has been



Opal Hale

replaced with another sign advertising the current price of diesel fuel.

"You can see that sign a mile-and-a-half down the road," said

Hale. "That's what we're trying to do. Clean up the appearance, and provide the best service you can buy. We're keeping the pumps' appearance really clean. We just had the parking spaces repainted. Our signage has been cleaned up and updated. There's a new propane sign. And the price of propane is more visible now."

The pumps all offer self-service, saving 10 cents over the full-serve price. Even Elders will save five cents over what they used to pay, said Hale, "and we still offer full service to anyone who wants or needs it. It's a better deal both ways. You save money and you have the option of self- or full-serve."

The car wash, a touchless system, is running, she said.

"We're saving money, too," Hale said. "It used to be, for the last 10 years, all the lighting for the station was on 24-7. We have that now on a timer, so the lights actually go off at 7 a.m. and come back on at 8 p.m. That should save us a lot of money and be energy efficient as well."

Before coming to the convenience store, Hale worked four-and-a-half years as Spirit Mountain Casino Banquet and Events coordinator. She has experience in grocery retail, fast food and catering.

All Tribal Council members serve on the Grand Ronde Food and Fuel Company Board. Council member Toby McClary chairs the board. ■

The Fish & Wildlife Committee is inviting Tribal Elders to participate in an Elders' Fishing Trip

**Thursday, Sept. 27**  
**7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

at Henry Haag Lake near Forest Grove.

The trip will occur rain or shine. Transportation, fishing gear and a meal will be provided. Vans will leave the Elders' Activity Center in Grand Ronde at 7 and 10 a.m. sharp and return by 5 p.m.

Lunch will include burgers, hot dogs and a picnic-style luncheon.

The trip is open to Elders and their spouses only. Although a state fishing license is not required, participants must have a Tribal fishing license, which can be obtained at the Natural Resources Department at 503-879-2424. Those interested in attending should sign up at the Elders' Activity Center or call 503-879-2233.