

December 2000: The National Indian Gaming Commission announces that the Grand Ronde Tribe is recognized for operating a self-regulating Indian casino.

February 2001: Smoke Signals joined the World Wide Web at www.grandronde.org.

April 2001: Spirit Mountain Community Fund eclipses the \$10 million mark in giving.

May 16, 2001: Tribal members make their first visit to Tomanowos at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to bless the meteorite.

May 23, 2001: Ground is broken for a new education complex.

May 2001: Work begins on new rodeo grounds that will be adjacent to the Tribal Governance Center.

June 2001: Work starts on a 5,200-square-foot expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino, which will provide space for an additional 200 slot machines.

Aug. 1, 2001: The Tribe establishes a Court of Appeals.

Sept. 21, 2001: Ground is broken on a new Tribal member housing development that will include 36 one- through five-bedroom homes.

August 2002: Open house is held in the gymnasium of the Tribe's new Education Complex.

November 2002: The new Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority building completed.

April 2003: The Tribal Library opens.

April 4-5, 2003: The first Agency Creek Round Dance is held.

April 2003: The first Tribal Wellness Day is held.

May 13, 2003: Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrates \$20 million in charitable giving.

May 31, 2003: The West Valley Veteran's Memorial is dedicated on the Tribal campus.

June 26, 2003: The Tribe's new 36-unit housing development Chxi Musam Illihi ("A New Sleeping Place" in Chinuk Wawa) is dedicated.

August 2003: The Hall of Legends, which connects Spirit Mountain Casino with Spirit Mountain Lodge, is remodeled into a walk-through display showcasing the history and culture of the Grand Ronde Tribes.

Nov. 22, 2003: The Tribe celebrates 20 years of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino. Singer Crystal Gayle was the headliner at the event.

Dec. 19, 2003: The Tribal convenience store opens off Highway 18 next to Spirit Mountain Casino.

February 2004: The Tribe



Photo from Smoke Signals archive

receives a \$500,000 Indian Community Development Block grant to widen Grand Ronde Road.

April 2004: Work begins on an expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge that will add 150 rooms in five stories.

April 2004: Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses the \$25 million mark in charitable giving.

Sept. 1, 2004: The Tribe opens a satellite office in Portland.

March 2005: The Tribe opens a satellite office in Eugene.

April 23, 2005: The 163-room expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge opens.

April 2005: Round Valley becomes the Tribe's independent construction company.

June 15, 2005: Ground is broken at the Chemawa Station site.

June 2005: Ground is broken for a new 72-unit mixed-income development.

Aug. 1, 2005: The Grand Ronde Tribe participates in its first Canoe Journey, the Paddle to Elwha, which lands in Port Angeles, Wash.

Nov. 10, 2005: Spirit Mountain Community Fund tops \$30 million in charitable giving.

April 17, 2006: A 2.2-pound fragment of Tomanowos is repatriated to the Tribe by Willamette University.

July 5, 2006: The Tribe celebrates the opening of three Adult Foster Care buildings on the Tribal campus.

July 15, 2006: A name-giving ceremony is held for Stankiya, the Grand Ronde's homemade canoe. The name means "change" in Chinuk Wawa.

Sept. 1, 2006: Spirit Mountain Casino opens The Peak.

October 2006: New rental units in Chxi Musam Illihi ready for occupation in Grand Ronde.

October 2006: The Tribe starts building a fish weir in Agency Creek.

Feb. 5, 2007: A groundbreak

ing event is held for the southern expansion project at Spirit Mountain Casino.

May 25, 2007: A groundbreaking event is held for the new Elders' Activity Center.

Aug. 2, 2007: Gov. Ted Kulongoski signs the first state-Tribal Proclamation, which was the first step toward giving Grand Ronde Tribal members increased access to game for ceremonial purposes.

Aug. 24, 2007: Spirit Mountain Casino opens the free-standing PlayWorld Events Center.

Sept. 13, 2007: The Tribe celebrates the 10th anniversary of Spirit Mountain Community Fund, which surpasses the \$40 million mark in charitable giving.

March 2008: More than 600 Tribal artifacts from the Horner Collection are returned to the Tribe.

April 18, 2008: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission awards ceremonial hunting rights to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

May 15, 2008: The fourth major expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino opens, including a new Events Center and the Cedar Plank Buffett.

July 12, 2008: The first powwow is held at the Tribe's new Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road near Fort Yamhill State Park.

August 2008: The Tribal Reader Board along Grand Ronde Road becomes operational.

Sept. 15, 2008: The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles starts accepting Tribal identification cards as proof of legal presence in the United States.

Nov. 1, 2008: The Elders' Activity Center opens.

Nov. 22, 2008: The Tribe celebrates 25 years of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino. Events include a concert by Rita Coolidge.

Jan. 30, 2009: The first Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow is held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds in Salem.