



2009 – Tribal Elder and Vietnam War-era Navy veteran Gene LaBonte was elected chair of the nine-member Governor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Affairs. He was appointed to a four-year term on the committee in 2008 by Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

2004 – Tribal member Perri McDaniel's elaborate regalia and horse trappings won second place in the Best Individual Native or Costume category during the Portland Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.

1999 – The Grand Ronde Tribe celebrated the return of the peregrine falcon to Portland with its float entitled "Soaring Spirit." The float won the Sweepstakes Award in the Grand Floral Parade and featured members of Royalty – Ali Holsclaw, Halona Butler and Stephanie Duran.



File photo

1994 – A \$45,000 donation by Harold Blair purchased a mini-bus for Senior Services transports and excursions. Blair, an Elder himself, lives near the Reservation and spent much of his life logging and working in the woods. The donation came after he sold some of his land to Hampton Lumber.

1989 – Tribal Council voted to proceed with putting the Tribal Cemetery and Depot properties into trust. Nelson Witt, Siletz superintendent, was requested to attend the next Tribal Council meeting to discuss the process for putting land into trust.

1984 – The Tribe's Constitution and bylaws were completed and sent to Washington, D.C., for approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Once approved, they will be sent back to be approved by the general membership. Upon that approval, the Tribe will be governed by those documents.

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

Royalty selling fireworks

Tribal Royalty will be selling fireworks from 9 a.m. to dusk Monday, June 23, through Saturday, July 5, at the corner of Hebo Road and Highway 22 across from Spirit Mountain Casino.

The TNT booth will be selling fireworks that are legal in Oregon.

For more information, contact Tribal Royalty Coordinator Jackie Many Hides at 503-879-7002. ■

Fee assistance

Enrolled Tribal members can request assistance with test fees (i.e. GRE, SAT, LSAT, ACT) and admissions application fees.

Contact Higher Education for more information at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275. ■

Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority



Home repair grants for Tribal homes

The Tribe, through the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority, offers Home Repair Grants to Tribally owned private homes for needed repairs, upgrades and maintenance.

If you own a home in Oregon and it needs a little help with things like a worn-out roof or a tired heating system, get in touch with your Tribal Housing Authority and see if you and your home qualifies. 503-879-2401.

Sacred Hoop



Photo by Ron Karten

Kevin Simmons, who works for the Tribe as the Adult Education and College Advising coordinator, drums during the Sacred Hoop Ceremony held on Saturday, June 21, in the Tribal gymnasium. About 50 participated in what has become an annual event in Grand Ronde. The event was filled with historic traumas that have devastated Native Americans and advice for healing from facilitator Marlin Farley and others. Farley is a master trainer for White Bison, a Native American organization created for healing. The training this year ran about five hours and included time for testimonials from participants, who talked to the group about their addictions and traumas. The hoop represents a world that was broken and now is in a period of healing.

Butler to referee at a national event honoring Pvt. Lori Piestewa

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Elder Alton Butler will be on his way to Arizona between July 9-13 because he has been named a basketball referee in the annual Lori Piestewa National Native American Games, started in 2003 after the Hopi soldier was killed in Iraq.

Piestewa is thought to be the first Native American woman ever killed in combat.

The Piestewa games are part of the National Congress of State Games, a component of the U.S. Olympic Committee. They are being held in the Phoenix metropolitan area on the Fort McDowell and Salt River Indian communities.

Two-hundred Native American teams from Tribes across the nation are expected to compete in a variety of sports. Butler is among some 90 referees and he has offered to referee eight one-hour basketball games a day with an hour break in the middle.

"You have to be in great shape," Butler said.

Butler has been a referee since he was 25, after he left the Marine Corps.

"I always loved sports," he said.

He competed in baseball, football and wrestling during his years at Willamina High School.

Butler said he heard about the games when reading about Piestewa and offered his services as a referee a few years ago. This year, they called him.

He has been a referee in Salem, West Valley and Tri City leagues at one time or another working with all age groups and in football, basketball, baseball and softball.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Alton Butler will referee basketball games at the Lori Piestewa National Native American Games being held in Arizona between July 9-13.

He said that being a referee can be tough, but the comments roll off him. He once had a mother come up to the pitcher's mound to talk to him while the game was going on.

"I have people who are still mad at me from a call I made in Little League 20 years ago. It's normal to make 50 percent of the people mad at you during a game, but if you make 100 percent of them mad, that's a really good game."

He knows about getting angry at referees because before he became one, he said, "I yelled at the refs all the time."

Butler is the building official for the Tribe. Previously, he was recreation coordinator. ■