



**2009** – The Tribe purchased a new building in Portland in which to house its satellite office. The two-story CIDA building is at 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd. Purchase of the 20,000-square-foot building was completed in early November.

**2004** – Spirit Mountain Casino Tribal employees were introduced to new Interim General Manager Mike Larsen. The meeting was held to give appreciation and show recognition to all Tribal member employees at the casino, Larsen said.

**1999** – Spirit Mountain Casino served as the primary management consultant to the Kalispel Tribe in developing its Northern Quest Casino north of Spokane. “Spirit Mountain has helped turn things around for the Grand Ronde people,” said Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison. “We are happy to be helping another Tribe work toward self-sufficiency.”

**1994** – An announcement that the Siletz Tribe signed a compact with Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts to build a \$20 million casino and convention center in Lincoln City did not upset the Grand Ronde Tribe. “Economic studies show that the market for our gaming center will draw mainly from the Willamette Valley,” an editorial in *Smoke Signals* said.

**1989** – *Smoke Signals* and Tribal archives do not have a copy of the December 1989 edition.

**1984** – Health Director Cheryle A. Kennedy announced that a health survey was being conducted by outreach workers to help the Tribe determine its needs and what services will be offered in the area of Multnomah, Washington, Polk, Yamhill, Marion and Tillamook counties.

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



File photo

## Tribe sponsoring ‘Shop With a Hero’ on Dec. 13

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Willamina School District and West Valley Fire Department will sponsor the first annual “Shop With a Hero” event on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Dallas Wal-Mart store.

Modeled after the “Shop With the Sheriff” program, which was moved from Willamina to the Falls City School District this year, “Shop With a Hero” will have Willamina School District counselors identify 25 children to shop for Christmas gifts with Tribal police officers, West Valley firefighters and emergency medical technicians, and other volunteers, such as teachers and military personnel and veterans.

The Tribe’s Social Services Department will drive the children to Wal-Mart and Tribal Council has donated funds for each child to have a \$50 shopping limit and a meal gift card for their family. After the shopping spree, the children will be brought back to the Tribal Community Center, where they will wrap their Christmas gifts to take home. They also will receive a goody bag.

“Since our department is so small, we need all the volunteers we can get,” Police Records and Evidence Technician Mindy Lane said. “We are calling our event ‘Shop With a Hero’ and we are inviting West Valley Fire to participate, and will be soliciting volunteers from other backgrounds as well to participate.”

The three Tribal vans will be driven by Grand Ronde Police Chief Al LaChance, Social Services Department Manager David Fullerton and Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno.

The event is for children selected by the school district.

“The children are specifically selected by the school counselors based on a variety of factors,” Lane said. ■

### Christmas tree lighting set for Dec. 12

The Culture Committee and Youth Education and Youth Prevention departments will be holding a Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at the Community Center. There will be gifts for children in attendance and the event is designed for the community to come together and celebrate the season. For more information, contact Culture Committee member Linda Brandon at 971-267-0918. ■

## Blessing the bank



Submitted photo by Jake McKnight

**On Monday, Nov. 24, the new Grand Ronde Food Bank was blessed and Tribal Council members and numerous Tribal staff members performed a walk-through of the new building, which is supposed to open on Monday, Dec. 1, and hold its first food distribution on Thursday, Dec. 4.**

## Spirit Mountain holding annual hospital toy drive

By Angela Sears

*Advertising supervisor*

Spirit Mountain Casino is holding its seventh annual Holiday Toy Drive to benefit Oregon Health & Science University’s Doernbecher Children’s Hospital through Monday, Dec. 15.

Casino guests can help spread the holiday cheer by bringing in new, unwrapped toys to the Coyote Club desk in exchange for \$10 in free slot play. There is a limit of one free play offer per day with a maximum of \$50 in free play throughout the promotional period, which started on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Doernbecher Children’s Hospital is in need of appropriate toys for infants and toddlers, school-age children, and teenage boys and girls. For a full wish list, visit [www.spiritmountain.com](http://www.spiritmountain.com).

“This is our seventh year of helping make the holidays a little brighter at Doernbecher,” said Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Stan Dillon. “Each year, our guests generously and selflessly donate toys to help bring a smile to a child’s face during a difficult time in their life. It is these efforts that allow us to provide sufficient toys to meet the hospital’s needs throughout the year.”

The toy donations are not only used during the holiday season, but are used for birthdays, special occasions, educational tools, playroom toys and treatment pals through the entire year.

“We are grateful for the continued opportunity to work with the incredible staff at Doernbecher. On behalf of the employees of Spirit Mountain Casino and the members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, we extend our prayers and blessings for the holiday season and the year to come,” Dillon said. ■

## Certified Application Assister sets Portland dates

Certified Application Assister Loretta Meneley will be at the Tribe’s Portland office, 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 and 22, to provide information and answer questions about applying for an exemption from the shared responsibility payment, as well as to sign up members for health insurance.

For more information, contact Meneley at 503-879-1359 or by e-mail at [loretta.meneley@grandronde.org](mailto:loretta.meneley@grandronde.org). ■

## Chemawa Indian School holding craft show

SALEM — Chemawa Indian School, 3700 Chemawa Road N.E., will be holding a craft show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6.

Admission will be a canned food donation. Hand-crafted items and Native-style gifts will be for sale and there will be door prizes. The craft show is sponsored by the Chemawa Powwow Club. Vendors should contact Karen Serna at 503-399-5721, ext. 225, or via e-mail at [karen.serna@bie.edu](mailto:karen.serna@bie.edu). ■