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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe to celebrate 33rd Restoration anniversary

If you go

33rd Restoration Celebration

When: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22. Canoe Family and program at 10 a.m., meal at noon and powwow at 3 p.m.
Where: Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road
More info: RSVP to Public Affairs at 503-879-1418 or publicaffairs@grandronde.org.

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's annual celebration of Tribal Restoration will occur on Tuesday, Nov. 22, with a Canoe Family performance and program, meal and powwow held in the Tribal gym in Grand Ronde. This year marks the 33rd anniversary of Restoration to federally recognized status following Termination in 1954. The Tribe was restored in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan signed the Grand Ronde Restoration Act on Nov. 22,

1983. The federal government also returned 9,811 acres to the Tribe as a Reservation land base on Sept. 9, 1988, also during Reagan's administration. "We should have never been terminated," says Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno. "When you hear the word 'Restoration' it is almost automatic to all of us who lived here during Termination that the first word that pops into your mind is 'Termination.' We were restored because it was the right thing for the government to do. We

never did quit being Grand Ronde Indians." The effort to achieve Restoration began in the 1970s. One of the first acts taken by Tribal members toward Restoration happened when Tribal members Marvin Kimsey and Merle Holmes testified before Task Force 10 of the American Indian Policy Review Commission in Salem on March 13, 1976. The commission was created to gather information about the state

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Grand Ronde ends legal challenges to Cowlitz decision

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has decided to not seek Supreme Court review of a July 29 U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that allowed the Cowlitz Tribe to keep its new 152-acre Reservation and continue building a casino 15 miles north of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area.

Tribal member and lobbyist Justin Martin said the change of plans occurred because the Tribe decided to focus on other economic opportunities in the Portland area.

"Grand Ronde has elected not to appeal the Cowlitz case to the U.S. Supreme Court," Martin said. "Although La Center is outside the historic lands of the Cowlitz Tribe, Grand Ronde has decided to direct its current resources to completing the remodeling of Spirit Mountain Casino on its Reservation and future resources to the development of projects in Grand Ronde's homelands and around Portland.

"We've made it a priority to fund our endowments and essential government programs for the benefit of our members. We will continue with these objectives and look to other opportunities that allow us to maintain and build upon those goals."

The ruling handed down by the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected arguments made by the Grand Ronde Tribe and Clark County, Wash., during a March 18 appeals hearing held in Washington, D.C.

At issue was a decision by District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein that favored the Department of the Interior's decision to take land into trust for a Cowlitz Reservation. The Tribe, city of Vancouver and Clark County appealed Rothstein's December 2014 ruling.

The three-judge Appeals Court panel that heard the case included Cornelia Pillard, Robert Wilkins and Harry Edwards. The decision, written by Wilkins, affirmed Rothstein's decision.

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Halloween Boos

"Superman" Devin Doar watches the bowling ball after throwing it down the lane during Youth Education's K-12 Halloween costume bowling party at Walnut City Lanes in McMinnville on Friday, Oct. 28. Lyliana Rideout, left, ties Symphony Zimmer's bowling shoes as they prepare to bowl.

More photos on page 15.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribe hosts History and Culture Summit

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's annual two-day History and Culture Summit held on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 26-27, in the Tribal gym continued the Tribe's ongoing examination of Tribal culture and what constitutes culture.

The theme of this year's conference was "Cultural Continuity" and speakers discussed myriad topics from how to better research Grand Ronde Tribal history to climate change to new Native media. Summit speakers and presenters came from Tribal communities throughout the

Northwest to share their individual expertise and wisdom with approximately 140 attendees.

"I'm excited to welcome you all here today," said Tribal member and Tribal Historic Preservation Office Manager David Harrelson during the Wednesday morning introduction session.

Harrelson said he was proud of the increased number of Grand Ronde Tribal members attending the summit this year and he thanked the Elders before acknowledging Tribal Council members present.

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