



SMOKE SIGNALS

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Back To The Past —

Sarah Demmert, a Tlingit Native from Klawock, Alaska, dances in her grandfather's double raven crest button blanket and a traditional red cedar hat at the Western Oregon University Pow-wow.

Demmert, a student at Southern Oregon University, says she wears the blanket to honor her grandfather and "—to keep it dancing." Richard Sohappy, (above) a member of the Grand Ronde drum group Eaglebeak, waits to sing with his son, Grand Ronde Tribal member Kale Sohappy. Kale's mother is Grand Ronde Tribal member Diana Sohappy. Natives from all over the Northwest attended the January 24 celebration, which drew 10 drum groups, 50 dancers and hundreds of spectators.

More photos on page 4.



Photos by Peta Tinda

Tribal Member Sees The War In Iraq From The Front Row

■ As a Medical Corps Specialist in Baghdad, Erik Estrada was on hand following the firefight with Saddam's sons.

By Ron Karten

Tribal member Erik Estrada enlisted in the Army following the 9/11 attack in 2001, a few months after graduating from Edison High School in Huntington Beach, California.

"Just keep your eyes open and don't trust too many people," advised his grandfather, Tribal Elder Bud Leno, before Estrada left.

The family knew he'd look the part of a great soldier since Erik had

tried on his grandfather's World War II uniform during a recent Grand Ronde Pow-wow.

"It fit him like a glove," said Bud Leno, who wore the uniform while serving in the Air Force in the Pacific Theater in the 1940s.

Still, according to Erik's mom, Tribal member Debbie Estrada, "We tried to talk him out of (going)." Debbie is a hospice worker in California's Orange County.

"He wanted to travel when he

Estrada continued on page 3



Photo courtesy of the Estrada Family

Ready For Duty — As a member of the Army's 30th Medical unit, Erik Estrada performed a range of duties in Kuwait and Baghdad. This photo supplied by the family was taken in Kuwait with Estrada in front of a Blackhawk helicopter.



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