



SMOKE SIGNALS

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photo by Brent Merrill

Grand Entry On Display — Clint BlackWeasel (Blackfeet) leads the Men's Fancy dancers in the afternoon Grand Entry at Grand Ronde's Annual Pow-wow on Saturday, August 20. BlackWeasel went on to win \$1,000 for taking first place in the Men's Fancy competition. Kenny ScabbyRobe (Blackfeet) emceed this year's pow-wow and there were three host drums: Blacklodge, Perfect Storm and Blackstone. **SEE PULLOUT INSIDE.**



Photo by Toby McClay

In Harmony — Award-winning country singer Trisha Yearwood performed before a sell-out crowd at Spirit Mountain Casino on Sunday, August 7. Yearwood released her hit single "She's In Love With The Boy" in 1991. Yearwood has made a name for herself as one of the leading female vocalists in country music today.

NAJA Walks The Talk For Free Press; Promotes Indian Cultural Literacy Among The Mainstream Press

■ *Smoke Signals* takes home five awards.

By Ron Karten

In a remarkable exercise underscoring the value, risks and the lessons of a free press, the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) again sponsored student-run television newscasts. This year, they made public criticisms of three candidates running for the NAJA board of directors.

Among those criticisms was one targeting Indian journalism icon Tom Arviso, Publisher of *Navajo Times*, coincidentally one of two major publications that represent the free press in Indian Country. (The *Times* and the *Cherokee Phoenix* are both financially and editorially separated from their Tribal Councils.)

Newscaster and university student Melissa Ragels (Spirit Lake Nation) reported on Thursday, the first evening of the conference, that Arviso had declined for some years to pay back \$1,500 of a \$2,000 loan from NAJA. The next day, Arviso pulled out of the race, repaid the balance of the loan and apologized

to the NAJA membership.

In an interview after the conference, Arviso affirmed his respect for a free press but felt ill-used by the student report.

"I had went and talked to them and explained everything. There was more to the story before they aired it," he said.

"There's some validity to the statement," said student Mentor and independent filmmaker Jenny Monet (Laguna/Pueblo/Zuni), "but we're not a 24-hour broadcast or a nightly newscast, either." With a Wednesday night deadline for a Thursday night broadcast, updated information may have been available before broadcast but according to Monet, it came after the deadline had passed. A follow-up story, broadcast at the awards banquet on Saturday night, reported that Arviso had paid off the loan and pulled out

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