



SMOKE SIGNALS

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UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



Photo by Toby McClary

On Friday, April 20, a group of Tribal members joined a group of Willamette National Forest employees for a two-mile hike that led to Cascadia Cave which houses petroglyphs (above) that date back over 8,000 years. Cascadia Cave is located near the Cascadia State Park about 14 miles east of Sweet Home on Highway 20. SEE STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7.

4 places

Special Pullout INSIDE

Youth Leadership Conference Focuses On Healthy Relationships

■ Jillene Joseph and Robert Johnston talk about spirit and responsibility.

By Ron Karten

Here's how Jillene Joseph (Gros Ventre) described a successful conference: "It's like they catch that spirit, that collective spirit," she said. "They've gained that trust, that sense of belonging."

The keynote speaker for the 4th annual Youth Leadership Conference is Director of the Gresham-based Native Wellness Institute, and also is the lead consultant-trainer for the National Indian Child Welfare Association's Positive Indian Parenting curriculum.

Intentions are vital for the success of the event, she said. The intentions of those planning the event and the intentions of those attending it are equally important, she said. Both have to care to make it happen.

"It's about making those commitments to relationships with classmates, with the earth and with the creator," said Robert Johnston (Creek/Choctaw), the conference's other major speaker and a trainer with the Native Wellness Institute. "We're working on the development of those relationships," he said.

This year's event was held at the Grand Ronde gymnasium April 12, 13 and 14.



Photo by Ron Karten

Jillene Joseph at the 4th Annual Youth Leadership conference held in Grand Ronde.

The training aimed to help students consider relationships from four sides, said Johnston, naming "spiritual, emotional, physical and mental."

Groups of youth from more than eight Tribes across the Northwest participated in discussions and

See LEADERSHIP on page 4



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