



Smoke Signals

DECEMBER 1, 2007

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

'Most important day in Grand Ronde history'

Feast, pow-wow fete 24th anniversary of Tribal Restoration

By Dean Rhodes
and Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writers

Although the weather outside was frightful for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's 24th Restoration celebration held Nov. 18, the feast and pow-wow held inside the Community Center and gymnasium, respectively, were quite delightful.

Almost 500 Tribal members, friends and family signed in for both events, according to Elder Pat Allen, who kept track of sign-in sheets.

One year shy of the Tribe's silver anniversary of Restoration, the silver linings of the cloudy, rainy day were two festive events commemorating the 1983 signing of legislation by President Ronald Reagan that restored federal recognition to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

Inside the Community Center, a feast of salmon and pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls, macaroni salad and various vegetables started at 11 a.m. and ran until 2 p.m. The flow of Tribal members arriving for the Restoration celebration was as constant as the raindrops falling outside.

Tribal Elder Cordelia Kneeland blessed the meal and was at the honorary head of the serving line, followed by Elder Dale Langley.

Cafeteria manager Kristy DeLoe estimated that 150 pounds of pot



Photo by Ron Karten

Nolan Stevens, grandson of Tribal members Rose and Deitrich Peters, was among those competing in the Youth Grass Dance category during the Restoration Pow-wow on Nov. 18 inside the Tribal gymnasium.

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Expert suggests ways to staunch local gang activity

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Native American gang specialist Christopher Grant returned to the Tribe the week before Thanksgiving with some good and bad news.

The good news is that on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing frequent and violent gang activity, he thinks Grand Ronde rates only a three. Maybe a four.

The bad news? Gangster mental-



Chris Grant

"There are some reservations where gang activity is practically

ity has taken root in Grand Ronde and even though gang activity is currently not as significant as in other Tribal communities, the potential exists for growth.

out of control," Grant said.

Grant conducted a gang activity assessment of the Grand Ronde area in May and returned in September to assist with Tribal anti-meth efforts. On his Nov. 14-15 visit to Grand Ronde, he recommended strategies to combat gang activity.

On Nov. 14, he met with Willamina School District staff in the morning, held a Tribal staff train-

ing session in the afternoon and spoke at a community training session at the Tribal Community Center at night.

The next day, he met with the Tribe's Community Awareness Team, briefed Tribal Council and spoke at another community training session at the Community Center.

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