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Tribal employee works
with bees — pg. 6

Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Clinic increases clients

Director cites streamlined processes, new providers for bringing back Tribal members

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Health Executive Director Mark Johnston, a little more than a year on the job, has a message to Tribal members who were frustrated by scheduling issues, significant wait times and a revolving door of health care providers at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center.

Give it another chance. "Those are issues that have been aggressively pursued," Johnston says in his second-floor office.

And, based on patient numbers, the Health & Wellness Center is re-

ceiving better word of mouth among the Tribal community. Client count has increased from about 1,500 patients in 2003 to about 1,700 now.

Among issues Johnston was asked by Tribal Council to address upon his hiring in the summer of 2007 were access to care and timeliness of that access.

When he started, clinic providers were seeing about 12 to 14 patients daily, appointments stretching out to 40 minutes to an hour in length. Frustrating wait times were as

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Susan Wright has been a family nurse practitioner at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center since October 2007. The clinic has seen an increase in patients partly due to the recruitment of health care providers, like Wright, who are committed to staying in Grand Ronde.

Paddle to Cowichan



Members of the Grand Ronde and Chinook Canoe Families paddle down the Swinomish Channel as they arrive at the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in La Conner, Wash., for a stop on the 2008 Canoe Journey on Monday, July 21. More photos on page 9.

Photo by Michelle Alaimo/Graphic created by George Valdez

Tribe donates \$4,500 to catch elk killers



Photo courtesy of Oregon State Police

This elk is one of seven trophy bull elk killed in southwestern Oregon. The Tribe donated \$4,500 to catch the person or persons responsible.

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde donated \$4,500 on July 23 to a reward fund that has been established to help catch whoever has shot seven trophy bull elk and left them to rot in southwestern Oregon.

The Tribal donation increases the reward fund to \$17,500.

"The reward fund will pay for information lead-

ing to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals who illegally shot and killed seven trophy bull elk," said Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor.

"The Grand Ronde Tribe recently (on April 18) had its ceremonial hunting and fishing rights restored. Our rights were restored, in

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