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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Powwow set for Aug. 15-17

New grounds christened Uyxat, blessed

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Grand Ronde Tribe's first Contest Powwow at the new Uyxat Powwow Grounds on the east side of state Highway 22, one mile north of Highway 18, will be held Friday through Sunday, Aug. 15-17.

The Grand Ronde Tribal Council adopted the Chinuk Wawa word "Uyxat" as the name for the new powwow grounds on Aug. 5.

The word, which means "trail," has multiple meanings, said Tribal member and Cultural Protection Coordinator Eirik Thorsgard. It refers to Grand Ronde being the end of the Trail of Tears, Grand Ronde being the beginning of a new trail of life for the Bands and Tribes sent here and also Grand Ronde being a part of the historic Tillamook Trail.

The powwow grounds were blessed Wednesday, Aug. 13, by the Tribal Drum Group and about 40 people attended the event.

The Contest Powwow also will be filmed by a Travel Europe crew for the 15-part series "Oregon Uncovered," which will be broadcast in January in western Europe.

Powwow host drums will include Black Lodge from Washington state and Perfect Storm and Red Bull, both from Canada.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, followed by Grand Entry and Royalty Coronation at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 16, the schedule includes a parade and cash prizes at 10 a.m. Parade grand marshals will be Tribal Elders Gene LaBonte and Sylvia Fuller. Also on Saturday, Grand Entry will be at 1 p.m., dancer registration deadline at 2 p.m. and Grand Entry at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Aug. 17, Grand Entry is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Free camping is available at the new powwow grounds and a \$1 and/or canned food donation is requested for parking. About 50 craft and merchandise vendors and 17 food vendors are signed up to attend, said Tribal member Dana Ainam, who is acting chair of the Powwow Special Event Board.

Ainam said dancers from across the United States and Canada attend the Contest Powwow to compete for \$1,100 grand prizes in each adult dance category.



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Tribal member and Cultural Resources Protection Coordinator Eirik Thorsgard prepares to give smudges to Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., left, and Tribal youth Nick Atanacio during the blessing of the new Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Wednesday, Aug. 13.

Pets, drugs and alcohol are not permitted at the powwow grounds.

A shuttle will be available from Spirit Mountain Casino to the new powwow grounds for those staying

at or parking at the casino.

The Travel Europe film crew is scheduled to arrive in Grand Ronde on Friday, Aug. 15, and film that day and Saturday, Aug. 16. ■

Rocking for food



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Solomon George, 28, dances as the band Thorns of Creation performs during a concert in the Tribal gymnasium on Saturday, Aug. 9. George brought four heavy metal bands to Grand Ronde for a fundraising concert. The concert collected one barrel full of food and \$134 in cash, which will be donated to Grand Ronde Food Bank. About 80 people attended the concert.

Tribe, Salem-Keizer Transit working on service to Salem

By Kim Rogers

Tribal Planning & Grants Department manager

The Grand Ronde Tribal Council on July 30 authorized applying to the Federal Transit Administration for a \$393,142 Tribal Transit grant to help fund commuter transit service between Grand Ronde and Salem.

In the past few months, managers from Salem-Keizer Transit have been meeting with Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino staff regarding plans for developing the service.

The planned Salem service will focus on employee commuters, but also will be open to the general public. Service is planned to start this fall, possibly in early October, using current Tribal Transit funding to start.

Besides income from fares, several other funding sources are planned working with Salem-Keizer Transit, including Business Energy Tax Credits. An agreement between Salem-Keizer and the Tribe is being developed.

Before the meetings requested by Salem-Keizer Transit, the Tribe's future funding plans focused more on transit service to Dallas and little service to Salem due to costs. The

See TRANSIT GRANT
continued on page 3