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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribute fills Marce Norwest with gratitude



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Marce Norwest receives a hug and kiss from his daughter Tribal member LaDonna Norwest after an all-veterans tribute to Marce presented by the West Valley veterans on Saturday, Jan. 10, in the Tribal gymnasium.

Jan. 10 event honors Tribal Elder

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Elder Marcellus "Marce" Norwest, 79, received the love, honor and respect of the Grand Ronde and local veterans' communities on Saturday, Jan. 10.

The ceremony, in the Tribal gymnasium, drew more than 100 people. It had been two months in coming, said Mark Weippert, Commander for AMVETS Post 2000 in Willamina, who organized the event.

"We wanted to pay tribute to him while we still can," Weippert said.

"I'm happy that they're doing it for him now, while he's still alive, instead of waiting till he's gone," said Norwest's wife of 43 years, Sharon. "It was amazing."

After a long life of service to the Tribe, commu-

nity and the nation in the Korean War, Norwest is now fighting pancreatic cancer. He is thinner than he has ever been and the lines in his face increasingly show the character that everybody knows is his trademark.

But he says that chemotherapy doesn't bother him at all. At the potluck afterward, he showed he could still eat like a teenager.

By the end of the ceremony, he joked, "I'm so hungry, I'm scared." And after the first round of spaghetti, he went back for more.

"I want to fight it and fight it to the end," he said. "Life is short, but if you keep at it, you can accomplish a lot in a short time."

Norwest's life, as many remarked during the ceremony, is a perfect example. He went through ups and downs, "through hell and back," as his

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David Lewis earns doctorate

*Cultural Resources manager
researches Tribe's Termination for
prestigious academic degree*

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member David Lewis, manager of the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department, will walk in this spring's commencement at the University of Oregon as a doctor.

His 500-page dissertation, "The Termination of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde of Oregon," is all but approved. He's got some edits, some cutting, some re-organizing, but the university committee evaluating the work says it is doctoral material.

Lewis, 43, is among the first in the Tribe to earn a Ph.D., says April Campbell, manager of the Education Division.

"It's a long process," Lewis says. "A lot of bureaucratic hoops, and a lot of people to appease."

But come spring, Lewis will have a doctorate in philosophy with a specialization in anthropology.

Lewis, raised in Salem, has taken a long, thoughtful, wide-ranging path. After high school, he enjoyed the hospitality of his mother's family, many of whom live in northern California. His mother is Polly Lewis, who used to work for the Tribe as a mental health counselor, and his father is Tribal Elder Gary Lewis of Salem.

He lived in California from 1983-93. During those years, he attended Santa Rosa Junior College, where he earned an associate degree.

"I finished high school and wanted to get out," Lewis says, "and our relatives in Petaluma, California, invited me down. I liked it a lot."

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Adding spark



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Sparks fly as the old Spirit Mountain Casino sign is dismantled in front of the casino on Tuesday, Dec. 30. A larger, more high-tech sign was erected earlier in the month to replace the old one. The new sign became operational on Jan 5.