



Tribal Elder attends
inauguration — pg. 5

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A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe



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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Here before, here after

*Tribes mark Oregon's
statehood with Gathering
of First Nations events
honoring Native presence*

By Dean Rhodes
and Ron Karten

The state of Oregon
officially turned 150
years old on Saturday,
Feb. 14.

However, many Native Amer-
ican societies existed in
what became Oregon be-
fore Feb. 14, 1859.

To honor that irrefut-
able fact and stress cur-
rent Tribal sovereignty
issues, the five feder-
ally recognized Tribes
of western Oregon

the Confederat-
ed Tribes of Coos,
Lower Umpqua and
Siuslaw Indians, Co-
quille Indian Tribe,
Cow Creek Band of
Umpqua Tribe of
Indians, Confeder-
ated Tribes of Grand
Ronde and Confederat-
ed Tribes of Siletz — banded
together and put on a
well-attended two-day
celebration Jan. 30-31 in
Salem to celebrate the
state's 150th birthday
while symbolically re-
minding residents that
Oregon's history started
long before admission to the
Union.

Events started at 11 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 30, at the State
Capitol as Gov. Ted Kulongoski
read a proclamation naming
Jan. 31 Oregon Tribal Nations
Honor Day.

Before reading the proclamation
aloud in front of more than 100
Tribal representatives, Kulon-
goski praised Oregon's pre-state-
hood Tribal nations for being good
stewards of the land.

"The celebration of the State of

See FIRST NATIONS
continued on pages 8-9



Photo by Ron Karten

Tribal contingent to meet with new administration

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A group of Grand Ronde Tribal
Council members and Tribal
employees is traveling to
Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Feb.
22, and spending a week connecting
with officials working for the new
Barack Obama administration, as
well as newly elected Oregon mem-
bers of Congress.

Tribal Attorney Rob Greene will
accompany Tribal Council Chair-
woman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Tribal
Council Secretary Jack Giffen Jr.
and Tribal Council members Steve
Bobb Sr., Valorie Sheker and Wink
Soderberg on the trip.

"As a council member, I took an
oath to responsibly represent the
Tribe and its interests," Giffen said.
"There is a need to educate the new
administration on key concerns of
Grand Ronde and those issues in-
volving Indian Country as a whole.
There are tough challenges that
our Tribal communities are facing.
Protecting our way of life rests in our
ability to communicate and collabo-
rate with national leaders in finding

See WASHINGTON, D.C.
continued on page 3

General Council receives overview of 2009 budget

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal members received an
overview of the final 2009 ad-
opted budget during the Feb. 8
General Council meeting held at the
Tribal Community Center in Grand
Ronde.

Tribal Finance Officer Stanley
Arend and other Tribal department
heads briefed 154 Tribal members
in attendance about the spending
reductions included in the 2009 fiscal
year budget.

The details of the 2009 Tribal bud-
get were sent to Tribal members in
the January *Tilixam Wawa*. Tribal
members also can review the adopted
budget on the Tribal member side of
the Web site at www.grandronde.org.

In other news:

◆ Tribal Elders elected Violet Folden,
Duane Wheeler and Tom LaChance
to the Elders' Committee.

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