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# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe www.grandronde.org

APRIL 1, 2009

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## Kennedy testifies before Congress

*Tribal Chairwoman cites 'severe' funding shortage for Indian health care and its effect on Native peoples*

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, a health administrator for 30 years, testified about the "severe under-funding" of Contract Health Services and the significant effects that has on terminated Tribes before the House Committee on Appropriations' 14-member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies on Wednesday, March 25.

"The Contract Health Services

budget is the most important budget item for the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center as there are no hospitals in the Portland area, unlike most other Indian Health Service areas," Kennedy testified.

"This is significant because inpa-



Cheryle A. Kennedy

tient hospitals are able to provide services that outpatient clinics cannot. The gap in services is otherwise borne by a Tribe's CHS funds. Due to lack of facilities to deliver health services, Grand Ronde has no choice but to purchase specialty care from the private sector.

"It is important to understand that the CHS program does not function as an insurance program with a guaranteed benefit package. When CHS funding is depleted, CHS payments are not authorized.

"The CHS program only covers those services provided to patients who meet CHS eligibility and regulatory requirements, and only when funds are available. Nationally, the CHS program represents 19 percent of the total health services account. In the Northwest, the CHS program represents 30 percent of the Portland Area Office's budget."

According to the Indian Health Ser-

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### Tri-ball!!!!!!

## Grand Ronde's Boys of Summer date back to early 20th century

By Ron Kasten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

When you feel the sun returning, baseball fans know the Boys of Summer can't be far behind. And that's been true in Grand Ronde for more than 80 years as well.

"I always liked the sound of the ball hitting the mitt," says Tribal Elder Marcellus Norwest, 79. "I was too young to play, but I used to go and watch them."

Tribal teams played on Sunday afternoons, Norwest says, on a field where Willamina Middle School is in Grand Ronde today.

"With the cars all circled around," Norwest recalls.

Norwest says he would walk from where he lived under Spirit Mountain to the ball field. The area was known as "New Town," Norwest says, because the reservation was up in the hills. Near St. Michael's Catholic Church, above Hebo Road, where the agency office used to be, was known as "Old Town."

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Graphic created by George Valdez