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# Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## Veterans Powwow coming July 10-12

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

This year's Powwow Committee is aiming for a "traditional, family-oriented powwow," says organizer and Army veteran Christian Tinney (Lower Eastern Cherokee), who is manager of the Tribe's convenience store and the Mək Mək Haws restaurant inside.

"We want a real picnic, family feel for the meals," he says.

The event is scheduled for the weekend of July 10-12 at Uyxat Powwow Grounds near Fort Yamhill State Park off Hebo Road.

Grand Entries are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and again at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Breakfast is set for 8 a.m. Sunday, with Mək Mək Haws sponsoring dinner at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Tribal Council provided funding for 10 new picnic tables that will be among the food court of vendors, Tinney says. Five tables will be reserved for Elders.

"We want to keep people there and make it easy to participate,"

Tinney says. "That's what it's all for."

There will be gourd dancing at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

In addition, a number of special additions to this year's activities include "little games" like "Sweep

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## BRIDGING THE AGES



Photo by Michelle Alaimo/Graphic created by George Valdez

With St. Johns Bridge behind them, the Grand Ronde Canoe Family leaves Cathedral Park in Portland after a break and to switch paddlers for the last leg of the Paddle on the Willamette on Saturday, June 13. This year's paddle was 26 miles long and started at Willamette Falls in Oregon City and finished at Kelley Point Park in Portland. More photos on pages 8-9.



File photo

Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte

## Tribal Elder elected chair

LaBonte to take over Governor's Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Tribal Elder and Vietnam War-era Navy veteran Gene LaBonte has been elected chair of the nine-member Governor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Affairs.

LaBonte, 67, was appointed to a four-year term on the committee in 2008. His one-year term as chair will start in September. Currently,

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## 18 vying for Tribal Council seats

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Eighteen Tribal Elders and members were nominated in this order to run for three seats on Tribal Council at a special meeting held June 28 at the Tribal Community Center.

Tribal member Denise Harvey, 47, Roll #1874. Harvey currently is Mentorship & Workforce Development coordinator for the Tribe, as well as chair of the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission. She lives in Tualatin and was nomi-

nated by her distant cousin, Tribal Elder and Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg.

Tribal Elder Jack Giffen Jr., 57, Roll #182. Giffen currently is Tribal Council Secretary and has served on Tribal Council since September 2003. He lives in Willamina and was nominated by his aunt, Tribal Elder Val Grout, herself a long-serving Tribal Council member who is now retired.

Tribal Elder Jackie Provost Many Hides, 57, Roll #643. Many Hides, who worked many

years in the medical field at the Tribe, lives in Grand Ronde. Many Hides was nominated by Tribal member Sabrina McDaniel.

Tribal member and Tribal Language & Culture Specialist Bobby Mercier, 32, Roll #1058. Mercier, who lives in Grand Ronde, was nominated by Tribal member Jackie Provost Many Hides.

Tribal Elder Alton Butler, 59, Roll #5504.

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