

Justine Colton elected to lead Willamina High School Student Body — pg. 5



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Building tradition



Tribal Elder Lorry McKnight warms himself by one of the fire pits in the newly constructed plankhouse near the Uyxat Powwow Grounds during the blessing ceremony that kicked off the Tribe's 26th Restoration Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Tribal members 'keeping it alive' with blessing in new plankhouse for 26th Restoration



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members and Grand Ronde Canoe Family members Kyoni Mercier, left, and Mary Lopez lead a fun dance during the plankhouse blessing.

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Ideally, everything is handed down, generation to generation," said Tribal member Marcus Gibbons, Arena director for the 2009 Restoration Powwow held Sunday, Nov. 22, in the Tribal gymnasium.

Gibbons was talking about his traditional regalia, with eagle bone breastplate, deerskin leggings and moccasins, deer and porcupine head roach. Much of it is handed down, some of it 50, 70, 100 years old.

In Gibbons' case, the pieces came through the Quenelle-Warren family.

"As it gets worn, it's refurbished, adding new to the old," he said.

That is how it is with Restoration also, whether the Tribe's 26th celebration this year or any other.

This year, Restoration introduced the community to the new plankhouse, unfinished though it is. Standing like an old cathedral, growing with each generation, the community brought it to life with song, dance and prayer.

"What was so good about the dance at the plankhouse," said Tribal Elder and Tribal Council Vice

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