

Tribal Elder
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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Community Fund tops \$49 million in giving

Grand Ronde's philanthropic arm celebrates 12 years of aiding Oregon charitable organizations, Tribes

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, topped the \$49 million mark in giving with this year's contributions, said Tribal member and Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson at the Dec. 6 General Council meeting

held at the Community Center in Grand Ronde.

Hanson reported that the Community Fund awarded \$3.676 million in 2009 in its 11-county service, with 120 large grants accounting for more than \$3 million of that total and 37 small grants totaling \$197,000.

In addition, 2009 marked the second year that the Community Fund provided funding to the nine-federally recognized Tribes



Community Fund
Director Shelley
Hanson

in Oregon. The Community Fund gave grants totaling \$299,340 to six Tribes — Burns Paiute, Siletz, Umatilla, Coquille, Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw, Grand Ronde and Klamath.

Hanson said 2009 was a "challenging and successful" year for the fund.

"This past year, SMCF experienced a significant increase in the number of grant applicants, which, in part, was reflective of the downturn in our economy," she said. "Many grant seekers primarily focused on

See GENERAL COUNCIL
continued on page 3

Santa Came to Town



Photo by Michelle Alamo

Tribal member 1-year-old Jack Provost checks out Santa (aka Tribal Elder Jack Giffen Jr.) during a visit to him at Tribal Council's Christmas Party in the Tribal gymnasium on Saturday, Dec. 5. More photos on page 8.

Interior receives criticism during consultation hearing

Traveling roadshow visits Portland as feds seek Tribal input on new policy

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A U.S. Department of Interior visit to Portland seeking Tribal input on creation of a new consultation policy heard criticism from northwest Tribal representatives, as well as some constructive suggestions, on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn in northeast Portland.

Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Tribal Council Secretary Kathleen Tom and Tribal Attorney Rob Greene attended the three-hour hearing, which attracted about 50 attendees, including Tribal representatives from more than 10 Pacific Northwest Tribes.

Grand Ronde Tribal member Bryan Mercier, who is a Tribal account executive with the Bonneville Power Administration, also attended.

Kennedy opened the meeting with an invocation and welcomed attendees to the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

"Welcome to our homelands," Kennedy said.

The meeting was facilitated by Tracie Stevens (Tulalip), senior adviser to Assistant Secretary of

See POLICY
continued on page 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS