



Natural Resources Youth Crew program wins again — pg. 6

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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

First Nations powwow becomes annual event



Photo by Ron Karten

The Grand Ronde/Chinook Canoe Family performs at the Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow on Jan. 31, 2009, at the Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion in Salem. The event is being held again on Jan. 30.

Salem Pavilion hosts gathering on Jan. 30

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A powwow originally organized to remind Oregonians that Native peoples inhabited the Pacific Northwest long before statehood is on its way to becoming an annual January event.

The second annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center's Salem Pavilion, 2330 17th St. N.E., Salem.

Grand entries will be held at 1 and 6 p.m.

The 2009 Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow, organized cooperatively by the five federally-recognized Tribes in western Oregon, sought to remind Oregonians that Native peoples lived in what became the state of Oregon on Feb. 14, 1859, since time immemorial.

The late January event date was picked to symbolically occur before Oregon's official 150th birthday, commemorating Native history that occurred before admittance to the Union.

Last year's powwow attracted about 5,000 attendees — Native and nonNative — who watched,

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Community Fund creates Facebook page

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Are you on Facebook? So is Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, at www.facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund.

And the Fund is seeking friends.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund donates 6 percent of Spirit Mountain Casino profits to charitable organizations in an 11-county region in northwestern Oregon and to the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. In 2009, that total was \$3.7 million.

"By sharing our rich Tribal history and news of the charities we funded, we hope to empower and encourage Tribal members to join us in making positive change," said Tribal member and Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson.

"Additionally, grant applicants will be kept abreast of upcoming deadlines, workshops and helpful information to successfully complete the process.

"Our goal is to be more open with the community to share the good work happening in our neighborhood, the 11-county region surrounding Polk County. For instance, right now you could watch an inspiring video about Tribal funds supporting homeless children, making their constant moves smoother through consistent education."

"You can write on our wall, post pictures and videos, or take our poll to tell us what you want to know about."

~ Tribal member and Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson

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In her own words

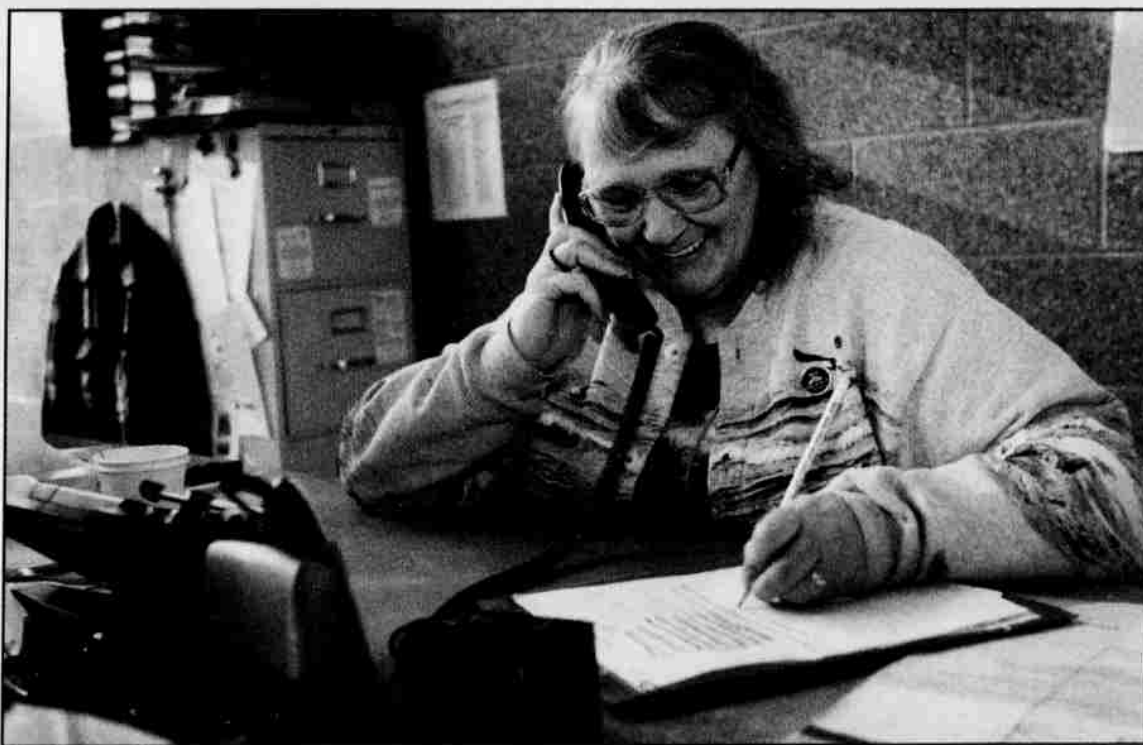


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Samantha Dala takes a table reservation for the Elders' Christmas Bazaar while working at the Elders' Activity Center on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Since moving back to Grand Ronde, Dala has made the Activity Center the center of her life and volunteers there.

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Elder Samantha Dala, 60, says that an Elder feature on her "won't be much of a feature. I've died twice already." Seven pills keep her going every day. She has a longstanding diagnosis of bone cancer that has tried to sideline her for much of her life.

When it drove her home to Oregon from California, where she lived and worked



a shock when at the start of the interview, Dala announces, "Good news. The cancer is gone."

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for almost 30 years, she thought she had come home to die.

So, it was something of