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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Grand Ronde Fire Station close to opening



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Andy Rhodes, working for AR Landscapes Inc., plants Euphorbia Blue Haze plants around the new Tribally-funded fire station at the corner of McPherson and Grand Ronde roads in Grand Ronde on Tuesday, April 27. The Tribe will receive the keys to the new station on May 5, and it will be operated and managed by the West Valley Fire District.

New facility will 'hugely increase capabilities,' Fire Chief says

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Grand Ronde area will become a substantially safer place to live, work and play this month when the new Tribally-funded fire station

at the corner of McPherson and Grand Ronde roads opens.

The new \$1 million fire station will be operated and managed by the West Valley Fire District and have two firefighters assigned per shift that can provide

fire and emergency medical services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I think the fire station, for

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Tribal Government Day set for May 14 at State Capitol

Event to key in on Oregon's 'Nine Sovereigns'

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Government Day at the State Capitol in Salem on Friday, May 14, will promote the sovereignty of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes and celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

The theme of the event, "Oregon's Nine Tribal Governments: Nine Sovereigns," will continue the Tribal effort to educate Oregonians that Oregon's nine Tribes are sovereign nations, per the U.S. Constitution, and possess a government-to-government relationship with the state of Oregon.

Public events will begin at 9 a.m. in the State Capitol with a morning buffet served by Spirit Mountain Casino staff and with Tribal government informational tables, including one from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde staffed by Public Affairs Department personnel.

The official program will begin at 11 a.m. with a drum and flag procession that will include Grand Ronde Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno, a Vietnam veteran.

After the national anthem and an invocation, Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Grand Ronde's representative on the commission, will join Siletz Tribal Chairwoman Dee Pigsley in welcoming attendees to the Tribes' traditional homelands.

State Sen. Ted Ferrioli (R-John

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Tribal member Jake McKnight patrols reservation

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribal reservation is 10,000 forest acres. It is hilly and wooded, the game and fish are coming back, and while the Tribal Reservation is a great resource for camping, hunting and fishing, for firewood and a walk along dozens of trails cutting through the land, it all too often looks like trouble to Tribal member and Forest Patrol Officer Jake McKnight.

McKnight, a three-time undefeated professional cage fighter, would sometimes like to drag his adversaries into the ring for a good talking to.

He'll settle, however, for a little diplomacy, and a little help from the forest's friends.

A recent case involved firewood that was legally cut, but provided for personal use only, and McKnight found the wood stacked for sale in one of his rides through the local

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Tribal member Jake McKnight patrols the reservation land looking for illegal activity as the Tribe's Forest Patrol Officer.

Photo by Michelle Alaimo

