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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Heads of state



Photo by Leah Branson/Keene Studios

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy met with President Barack Obama on Wednesday, Oct. 20, before the president's appearance at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. President Obama traveled to Oregon to support Democrat John Kitzhaber's campaign for governor. Kennedy was among several Native American chairpersons from western Oregon to meet with Obama. "I had an opportunity to shake his hand and welcome him to the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and thank him on behalf of all Tribes in the country for the good work he is doing," Kennedy said. "There's still a lot of work to be done in honoring all of the treaties, but he is working hard at correcting the injustices. It's great to have a president who is aware of Native American issues and addressing them." Kennedy also communicated an invitation from her 8-year-old grandson Kaleb Allen for President Obama to come to dinner at their home. "He said he might one day," Kennedy said. "He was a very gracious man."

Talking the talk

Adult Chinuk wawa classes under way

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Chinuk wawa language classes are being held in the Adult Education Center from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Aimed at adults and being taught either for college credit or just for fun, the classes mix interactive techniques with repetition, said Tribal member and interim Cultural Education Coordinator Kathy Cole, who is also the kindergarten Chinuk immersion teacher.

"Scripted, guided breakout conversation sessions," is what Tribal member David Harrelson called the classes.

Harrelson previously worked as a firefighter for the Natural Resources Department and recently became a site monitor for the Cultural Resources Department, and is diving into Tribal activities after work.

Harrelson was attending his third Chinuk wawa class in the second floor meeting room on Oct. 11.

"A lot is the sounds. They're new sounds," he said, working on the word for good, which is pronounced "lush."

"The letter is called the barred 'l,'" said Cole. "To say it, your tongue is at the same place in your mouth as the 'l' sound in English [the alveolar ridge], but it is made by forcing air to roll over and around the sides of your tongue."

"It's going to be interesting to see if I can do the slurring," said Tribal member Sarah Ross, a speech language pathologist for the Tribe.

"I got bored staying home," said classmate Mary Reeves, a Tribal spouse living and working in Grand Ronde. As a substitute teacher's



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Kathy Cole, K-5 Chinuk wawa teacher and Tribal member, counts to 10 on her fingers in Chinuk during the adult Chinuk wawa language class at the Tribe's Adult Education building on Monday, Oct. 11. On the left, David Harrelson, Tribal site monitor and Tribal member, counts along with Cole to learn the words.

aide, Reeves said, "I just want to learn the language to help the kids learn new words. It's kind of fun."

A map with Native languages and language groups is hanging on one wall in the room. It shows nine Native American language groups and more than 40 individual languages from Western Oregon.

"I already know Spanish and American sign language," said Tribal instructional assistant Lynn

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Hattie's world

Nickelodeon returns to Grand Ronde to feature 5-year-old Tribal member for 60-second spot

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Before it was over, the folks from Nickelodeon Junior spent two days in the West Valley area, shot five to six hours worth of digital video, and will, in a month's time, have that edited down to a 60-second television spot ready for broadcast.

Tribal member Hattie Mercier, 5, was the focus of all the filming. She may not yet know that children in Amsterdam and India, across the

Middle East, Europe and China will be seeing her beautiful smile before the year is out.

The project called "Kids Around the World" aims for a documentary style. Interviews with 4-to-6-year olds from around the world each fill 60-second spots as they show and talk about

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Crew member Baker Poulshock holds a clapperboard up before the start of an interview scene as Tribal member Hattie Mercier is filmed for a Nickelodeon Junior "Kids Around the World" spot at her Willamina home on Thursday, Oct. 21.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo