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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe fetes 27th anniversary of Restoration

Events include plankhouse ceremony, meal and powwow to mark creation of a new Tribal nation

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Monday, Nov. 22, marked the 27th anniversary of Restoration in Grand Ronde. Commemorative events started in the new plankhouse near Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road.

"Today's a beautiful day because this is the day we got the right to say who we are and what we would become," said Tribal member and Tribal Cultural Protection Coordinator Eirik Thorsgard.

Restoration 2010 came in the rain this year, with weather reports of snow on the horizon. Yet Tribal members and other attendees kept mentioning what a beautiful day it was.

"If you see anyone involved with Restoration, go up to them and thank them," said Thorsgard, referring to the now Tribal Elders who worked many long hours in the 1970s and early 1980s to restore the Grand Ronde Tribe to federal recognition.

The effort was started by Tribal Elders Margaret Provost and Marvin Kimsey and the late Merle Holmes, but also was supported by numerous Tribal members over the decade-long effort. Their hard work led to President Ronald Reagan restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe in 1983.

"The young ones today are only the fourth generation out from those who did the work for us," said Tribal member and Language and Cultural Specialist Bobby Mercier. "We are their reflection."

"This is the greatest celebration that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde can ever have," Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "Against all odds, a new nation was created on this day, and that new nation is us."

Kennedy said she carries in her heart the thought that young people now have the knowledge of who they are in their hearts.

The daylong celebration started with smudging, good words and songs and dances. While there was wild weather outside, fires



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Eirik Thorsgard, Tribal member and the Tribe's Cultural Protection coordinator, talks about what a beautiful day Restoration Day is during the opening ceremony of the Tribe's 27th Restoration Celebration at the Tribal plankhouse on Monday, Nov. 22.



Tribal member Sophie Grout, 2, dances during the Restoration Powwow of the Tribe's 27th Restoration Celebration.



Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno plates a piece of salmon for Tribal member Mataya Holmes as he helps serve dinner during the Tribe's 27th Restoration Celebration in the Tribal gymnasium on Monday, Nov. 22. Also helping to serve dinner are, from second from left, Tribal Council members Jack Giffen Jr. and Toby McClary and David Lewis, Tribal member and the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department manager.

See RESTORATION
continued on page 8

Remodeled Health & Wellness Center sets Open House

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal members who have not visited the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center recently might be surprised by all the changes that have occurred in the last year.

It's larger, by 4,000 square feet — 2,000 square feet more in the

Dental Clinic, which has added six more work stations, and 2,000 square feet in the Medical Clinic for the renamed Community Health Program.

There's a new metal roof and Native-themed flooring.

The Pharmacy has moved and doubled in space.

Lab and radiology have installed

updated equipment in a new, expanded area.

There is more medical exam room space.

And there's improved confidentiality.

The approximately \$2.25 million renovation, most of which was paid for with federal grant dollars leveraged by about 10 percent in Tribal

funding, will be on display between 5:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, during the Health & Wellness Center Open House.

Ultimately, Tribal Health Services Executive Director Mark Johnston said, the expansion will provide

See OPEN HOUSE
continued on page 7