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# Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## First Nations Powwow set for Jan. 29



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**2009-10 Senior Miss Grand Ronde Halona Butler, front, and 2009-10 Junior Miss Grand Ronde Nakoosa Moreland participate in a jingle dress dance during 2010's second annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow.**

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

**A** powwow originally organized to remind Oregonians that Native peoples inhabited the Pacific Northwest long before statehood will be held for the third time later this month.

The Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow is scheduled from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center's Salem Pavilion, 2330 17th St. N.E., Salem. Admission is free.

Grand entry will be held at 1 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 have lived in what became the state on Feb. 14, 1859, since time immemorial.

The late January date was picked to symbolically occur before Oregon's official 150th birthday in 2009, commemorating the Tribal history that occurred before admittance to the Union.

Based on the success of the two previous powwows, organizers representing the five western Tribes — the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz — decided to hold a third event.

"As the five western Tribes

worked together in the observance of the sesquicentennial, it was very clear that we all wanted the same thing," said Sue Shaffer, former chairwoman of the Cow Creek Tribe. She was appointed to lead the original western Tribes' effort by former Gov. Ted Kulongoski.

"We wanted to honor our homeland and be recognized as the sovereign governments that we are. I am honored to have chaired the effort and I am grateful for the input from all five Tribes working together and their constructive approach to getting the public education accomplished."

Master of ceremonies at the third

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## Tribe to have own police officer

**Tribal member Jake McKnight to take state public safety training in Salem**

By Ron Karten

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**A**s Tribal Forest Patrol officer, Tribal member Jake McKnight has been a lone ranger with a lot of territory — the Tribe's almost 10,000 acres of forested reservation lands — to cover.

He is out there by himself daily and, in the words of his boss, Director of Development Pete Wakeland, also a member of the Tribe, "There are some bad people up there."

McKnight, a mixed martial arts professional who is now 5-0 on the circuit, is certainly tough enough for the job, but both endeavors are all about training, he said.

He is at the physical training part three to four hours every day, he said, and now the Tribe has reclassified him as a Tribal Police Officer to make it possible for McKnight to go through the state's 16-week public safety training course held at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Academy in Salem.

The academy trains police,



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal member Jake McKnight is taking on the new position of Tribal Police Officer. In addition to his duties in forest patrol, his former title was forest patrol officer, he will be patrolling areas such as Tribal housing.**

firefighters, emergency medical personnel and virtually all of the state's public safety professionals.

By reclassifying McKnight and adding police supervisory responsibilities to Wakeland's job, the Tribe is taking the first steps toward creating a Tribal

Law Enforcement program. It has been a long time in coming.

The 1985 Grand Ronde Tribal Restoration Plan included a law enforcement officer, but because the Forest Patrol officer position comes without the power of arrest in criminal cases, the Tribe has had a contract with

Polk and Yamhill counties to provide enhanced law enforcement services in Grand Ronde and on the forest reservation lands, respectively.

If McKnight sees criminal

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