

California
TITU

New director
joins Tribal
economic
development
effort — pg. 12

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Smoke Signals

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FEBRUARY 15, 2011

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

'Achfa-hammi'



Tribal member Kevin Simmons, holding the drum, sings a thanksgiving song during the Plankhouse Naming Ceremony in Grand Ronde on Sunday, Jan. 30. Before he sang the song that he created and gave to the plankhouse, Simmons asked members of his family to stand with him. The plankhouse was officially named Achfa-hammi, a Tualatin-Kalapuya word meaning "a house built of cedar planks," translating to simply "plankhouse."

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison shakes hands with Joe Herrie as she thanks him for the work he put into building the plankhouse during the Plankhouse Naming Ceremony in Grand Ronde on Sunday, Jan. 30.

Workers who were present at the ceremony were honored for their time and work. They were gifted Pendleton blankets and people approached them and shook their hand. In addition to Herrie, from left, David Rogers, Tribal Elder Don Day, Tribal member Devere Eastman and Jay Robinson, right, also were thanked. Rogers is the owner of Logs and Timbers out of Rhododendron, which was the contractor for the job, and Herrie and Robinson worked on his crew.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribe, other entities oppose Cowlitz decision

Lawsuits contend site is not connected to Cowlitz Tribe, violates Supreme Court decision and other federal laws

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 1, asking that a U.S. Department of Interior decision to grant the Cowlitz Tribe reservation land near La Center, Wash., be vacated.

In a separate lawsuit filed in the same court, Clark County, Wash., the city of Vancouver, Wash., Citizens Against Reservation Shopping, two nearby landowners and owners of card rooms in La Center asked for the same ruling.

The Tribe's lawsuit says Grand Ronde is challenging the decision because "the land is not located within the Cowlitz Tribe's aboriginal territory, is not historically or culturally significant to the Cowlitz, and would be taken in trust for a Tribe that was neither 'recognized' or 'under federal jurisdiction.'"

Grand Ronde's lawsuit says that the Department of Interior's decision is not authorized under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, violates the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and fails numerous times to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Defendants are the Department of Interior, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Assistant Interior Secre-

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Oregon's First Nations gather for third year

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand opening at the third annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations on Saturday, Jan. 29, put the spotlight on hundreds of Indians.

They danced in, walked in, came with walkers and in wheelchairs.

Although the program was sponsored by Oregon's five western Tribes, representatives of all nine federally recognized Oregon Tribes carried Eagle Staffs to lead the grand opening.

Among the nine were Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Steve Rife, a veteran of both the Army and

the Marines, who often carries the Eagle staff at Grand Ronde events. Following were Tribal representatives carrying Tribal, Oregon, POW-MIA

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Little Miss Grand Ronde Iyana Holmes participates in an Intertribal dance during the third annual Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow at the Oregon State Fair & Expo Center Pavilion in Salem on Saturday, Jan. 29.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo