



Grand Ronde hosts Ethnic Studies — pg. 8

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tintype Treasures

Tribal Elder Barbara Danforth hopes Elders develop new stories from her family's photos

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

The photographs, holding court in a classroom at the Cultural Resources Department, brought back memories of a time gone by.

"I didn't even know they existed until my parents passed on," said Tribal Elder Barbara Danforth of Tigard. She inherited the treasures some two years ago from her mother, former Tribal Elder Bernice McEachran.

"These are some of the oldest photographs and tintypes we've ever seen," said Tribal Elder June Olson, former manager of the Cultural Resources Department.

Along with a handful of other Tribal Elders, Olson poured over the treasures originally from the estate of former Tribal Elder Victoria Howard, Danforth's great-grandmother.

They looked for people and places they recognized. They were awed by the age and rarity of what they saw.

"I really think that might be (former Tribal Elder) Mose Allen," said Olson of one picture.

The intriguing cache of almost 150 pieces,



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elders Peachie Hamm, left, and Kathryn Harrison look at a tintype photograph to see if they recognize the person in it during a photograph identifying session at the Cultural Resources Department on Friday, March 25.



Tintype photographs are laid out for people to look at and hopefully identify the people in them during a photograph identifying session at the Cultural Resources Department on Friday, March 25.

including some 20 letters and a huge basket, date back as far as the late 1800s and as close as the 1950s. They include pictures of people for whom the Tribe has no other photographic record, Olson said.

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison had never

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Cultural Resources installs canoe exhibit at The Mill

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Months of work in a cold steel shed are about to pay off for Grand Ronde Cultural Resources staff members and volunteers.

The first river canoe carved in Grand Ronde since Restoration and probably much earlier will go on display Friday, April 8, at the Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill in Salem.

Three canoes, including the river canoe, the Tribe's Tillamook canoe, which is usually on display in the Governance Center's Atrium, and a historic Kalapuya canoe owned by the Heritage Center will be part of the upcoming Grand Ronde Canoe Journey exhibit at the Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St. S.E., Salem.

The exhibition, with curator credits spread across the entire Cultural Resources Department, "explores the importance of canoes to the Native Peoples of the Willamette Valley," according to the Heritage Center Web site.

"(David) Lewis (manager of the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department) and his staff use the canoe as a means to share aspects of Native history and culture, including: how the canoe has been a tool of cultural revival for the Grand Ronde community, canoe styles, features and

If you go

Grand Ronde Canoe Journey exhibit

When: Friday, April 8, through Monday, May 30

Where: The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, 1313 Mill St. S.E., Salem

Cost: Free with Mission Mill Museum admission, which is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors 55 and older, \$4 for students with ID and \$3 for children 6 to 17 years of age.

More information: www.missionmill.org or 503-585-7012.

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Longtime Tribal friend Mike Propes walks on



Smoke Signals file photo

Polk County Commissioner Mike Propes spoke inside the Tribal Governance Center Atrium in November 2009.

Polk County commissioner dies March 19 at age 56

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

When the Grand Ronde Tribe officially dedicated the \$6.4 million Grand Ronde Road improvement project in November 2009, the only elected official to attend the ceremony was Polk County Commissioner Mike Propes.

His attendance not only honored the Tribe's effort to make Grand

Ronde Road safer, but was symbolic of his decades-long relationship with the Tribe and its members, as well as his concern for the West Valley area.

Sadly, Propes walked on Saturday, March 19, at the age of 56.

Polk County Sheriff Bob Wolfe said deputies were called just after 7 a.m. to Propes' home on Gooseneck Road in the Sheridan-Willamina area.

Propes was in his sixth term on the three-member Polk County Board of Commissioners. He had

served since 1988 with a brief break in 2003-04 after heart surgery.

Propes reportedly had battled through health issues, including joint pain and diabetes, but ran successful election campaigns in 2004 and 2008.

He was a familiar face at the Tribal Governance Center, often meeting with Tribal Council to officially, and sometimes unofficially, discuss the county's government-

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