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# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe JULY 15, 2011

[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## Marce's memory



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members, from left, Nikki Grefsrud, Makya Grefsrud, 4, and T.J. Grefsrud walk the powwow arena during his coming out wearing Marce Norwest's regalia, which was gifted to him after Norwest walked on on May 22, during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at the Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 8. T.J. is married to Nikki, Norwest's granddaughter, and Makya is their son.

### 2011 Veterans Powwow is all about honoring Norwest

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**O**n the evening of Friday, July 8, Sharon Norwest and her family marked the first Marcellus Norwest

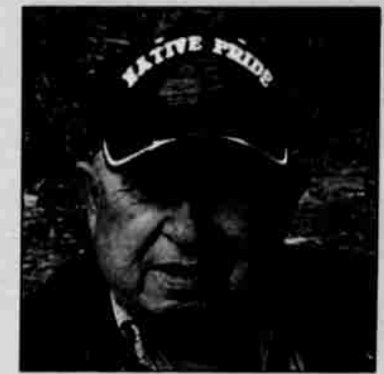
Memorial Veterans Powwow with a giveaway to more than 100 friends and neighbors.

The Veterans Powwow was renamed this year to honor the Tribal Elder and Army veteran

who walked on on May 22.

Marce led the effort to start both the Veterans Powwow,

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**Harold Dean Mercier**  
 April 18, 1930 - July 6, 2011

Tribal Elder Harold Dean Mercier, 81, walked on peacefully on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, at his home in Grand Ronde with his family around him.

Mercier was an important part of the Tribe's quest for Restoration in the early 1980s and served on that era's Tribal Council. At the request of his family, a feature story about his life will appear in the Aug. 1 issue of *Smoke Signals* instead of today's edition.

His walking on notice appears in today's edition on Page 16. ■

## Tribal police bill awaits gov's signature

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

**T**ribal police officers in Oregon will soon be recognized as police officers under state law.

A bill that will hopefully foster greater cooperation between Oregon law enforcement agencies and the police forces of the nine federal-

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## Tribal member Brandy Starmer, 15, fighting cancer

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**T**ribal member Brandy Starmer and her mother, Tonya, also a Tribal member, live in the eastern Oregon town of Wallowa, but they recently spent six weeks in Portland fighting cancer.

It's not a one-person job.

Tonya is the daughter of Tribal Elder Donald Gene Jeffers.

Following a fall on ice last December, when Brandy landed on the back of her head, symptoms of a larger problem emerged. In April, the Starmers arrived in Portland where doctors removed a cancerous tumor from the spot. The

doctors said that the tumor had been there for more than a year.

The operation was successful. So far so good. They returned home last week, and plan to be

See BRANDY  
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**Tribal member Brandy Starmer, 15, and her mother Tonya recently spent six weeks in Portland for Brandy to be treated for cancer at Oregon Health & Science University's Doernbecher Children's Hospital.**

Photo by Michelle Alaimo

