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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe wins police force grant

\$672,525 to fund two police officers for three years

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Moving to accept a three-year, \$672,525 federal Department of Justice grant on Oct. 12, the Grand Ronde Tribal Council has set the stage for a greater Tribal police presence in town.

The Tribal police force will consist of three of-

ficers supervised by Tribal member Peter Wake-land, the Tribe's Development Director.

Earlier this year, Tribal member and Forest Patrol Officer Jake McKnight graduated from the state's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Academy in Salem to become the Tribe's first officer. McKnight's position is Tribally funded.

When the two new positions are filled, the four-member team will continue to work with the Polk County Sheriff's Office for coverage in the community.

"We are not going to build a jail," said Tribal Council member Toby McClary. "And we are not going to set up our own police communications system."

In July, the Oregon Legislature gave Tribal police the same powers given to other Oregon police. Senate Bill 412 required Tribal police be trained at the state's training academy, that Tribes provide police oversight, adhere to the

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1,463 Tribal members register to vote in Nov. 15 election

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Interest among Grand Ronde Tribal members in the Nov. 15 Constitutional Amendment election regarding enrollment requirements is slightly less than the interest that occurred during 2008's enrollment election.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Siletz Agency Office, 1,463 Grand Ronde Tribal members registered to vote in the upcoming election. Of the 3,834 Tribal members who could have registered to vote, 38.2 percent did so.

In 2008, 1,491 Tribal members out of 3,578 eligible registered to vote for a 41.6 percent registration total. In addition in 2008, 1,159 of those who registered eventually voted for a 78 percent turnout.

In early June, Tribal Council voted 5-4 to send a bundle of four proposed enrollment changes to the General Membership. The Bureau of Indian Affairs approved calling

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Plankhouse turns 1



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family sings and drums during the first anniversary of the opening of Achaf-Hammi, the Tribe's plankhouse, in Grand Ronde on Saturday, Oct. 15. More photos on page 12.

Second Elder housing units due in summer 2012



By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority expects that the new development of 23 Elder homes, which have designs making new units easier to use and more comfortable to live in, will be completed next summer.

Work on the Elders Housing Phase II, a new development of 23 Elder homes, recently began in Grand Ronde and will be completed next summer.

Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The build-out has started between the existing Elder housing units and the Governance Building, displacing some of the trees there, but keeping a country feel in the new neighborhood.

The project is funded with "maximum development costs" of \$5.6 million in federal Indian Housing Block grants, according to Housing Authority Executive Director Carina Kistler. The funding requires

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