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Smoke Signals

DECEMBER 1, 2011

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

'A people coming together'



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Royalty Princess Amaryssa Mooney dances a fast and fancy shawl dance during the Tribe's 28th Restoration Celebration powwow in the Tribal gymnasium on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Celebration marks 28 years as a restored Tribe

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

It's always good for us to be together, and to have our children here to see what we're doing," said Tribal member and Language and Culture Specialist Bobby Mercier as the Tribe unveiled a day's worth of activities on Tuesday, Nov. 22, starting

inside the Tribal plankhouse.

"I love sharing this day with all of my family," said Tribal Council member Toby McClary, "which is all of you."

The 28th anniversary of Tribal Restoration was a cold, rainy day that did little to slow enthusiasm for the celebration of the day that has been called the most important

in the Grand Ronde Tribe's history.

"Think of what we have," said Mercier, indicating the year-old plankhouse, dry and warm with two fires going. "And remember our ancestors living out in the rain."

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Tribe rejects enrollment changes

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Grand Ronde Tribal membership rejected 536 to 457 a bundled proposal to overhaul enrollment requirements in the Nov. 15 constitutional election held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Tribal members voted 54 percent against the all-or-nothing proposal while 46 percent approved it. Forty-six of the 1,039 ballots cast were rejected for myriad reasons, including extraneous writing on the ballot.

The Tribal Constitution requires that at least 30 percent of those

registered to vote cast ballots and any changes be approved by a two-thirds majority before a proposal can be adopted.

The bundled enrollment requirement proposal would have reduced the relinquishment period from five years to two years, eliminated the

requirement of having a parent on the roll at the time of birth or application to become a member of the Tribe, redefined Grand Ronde blood and established an annual

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