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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

The power of women

Willamette Heritage Center opens two-month examination of influence of Native leaders



By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

SALEM — A celebration of western Oregon Native women opened with an invitation-only sneak peak at the exhibit for Grand Ronde Tribal members at Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill in Salem on April 5.

Tribal member Sarah Ross takes photos of baskets from the Horner Collection that are on display in the "shawash-ill?i luchmən — ntsayka ikanum: Grand Ronde Women — Our Story" exhibit during its opening reception at the Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill in Salem on Thursday, April 5.

Along with the exhibit, "shawash-ili?i luchmən — ntsayka ikanum: Grand Ronde Women — Our Story," some 200 Tribal members, museum members and guests enjoyed a meal that included salmon and chicken and steak kabobs prepared by Spirit Mountain Casino staff.

But what the crowd really chewed on was in the exhibit, put together over three months by the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department with Tribal member and Cultural Interpretive Specialist Julie Brown taking on the lead role.

The exhibit covers Native women in the fur

See **GRAND RONDE WOMEN**
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Primary election vote set for June 13

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Registered Tribal voters will decide whether they want to include a primary election process into the Tribal Constitution during an upcoming election.

On Jan. 25, Tribal Council voted 6-1 to send the proposal to Tribal members. The constitutional amendment would create a primary if the number of nominated Tribal Council candidates in late June exceeds 10. The top six candidates in the primary election would proceed on to the September general election.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was scheduled to send voter registration packets to eligible Tribal members on April 9. Tribal members have until May 9 to return their voter registration form to the BIA in order to vote in the special election.

Ballots will be sent to registered Tribal voters on May 18 and must be returned to the BIA by June 13.

To change the Tribe's Constitution, at least 30 percent of registered Tribal voters must cast a ballot and at least 66.7 percent of those voting must approve the change. If approved by Tribal voters, a primary election process would start in the 2013 election cycle.

The idea of a primary election was floated during a non-binding

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Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Madeline Ainsworth, 10, opens plastic eggs to see what's inside after collecting them during the 2012 Easter Egg Hunt at Tribal Housing in Grand Ronde on Saturday, April 7. She was adding the empty egg shells to the pile already left behind by other children.



Tribal descendant Ryan Beauchamp, 2, takes a look at the basket full of candy that the Easter Bunny (aka Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr.) is holding to see what he wants to take from it before the 2012 Easter Egg Hunt started at Tribal Housing in Grand Ronde on Saturday, April 7.

Easter Egg Hunt