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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Getting their due

Grand Ronde Memorial Day ceremony focuses on Vietnam-era veterans

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

On a day when President Barack Obama lamented the denigration of Vietnam War-era military personnel when they returned home from a divisive conflict, that era's veterans were front and center in being honored during the annual Grand Ronde Memorial Day ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno and Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., both Marine Corps veterans who served tours of duty in Vietnam, were the principal Tribal speakers during the

Jim Willis, right, director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, reads a national proclamation that honored the 50th anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War and the veterans who served and died in the conflict during the Tribe's Memorial Day observance at the West Valley Veterans Memorial in Grand Ronde on Monday, May 28. Looking on in the background are, from left, Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno, Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal Secretary Jack Giffen Jr. and Tribal Council member Toby McClary.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

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ROCK 'N' ROSES



'Running Bear' lives again on this year's casino float

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Spirit Mountain Casino is ready to rock. The casino is title sponsor of the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade for the second year running.

The sponsorship puts the casino and the Grand Ronde Tribe front and center on the parade's main float. This year the float will have a waterfall rushing to the tune of the tragic pop song "Running Bear," which was a No. 1 hit for Johnny Preston

in 1960.

It tells the story of Running Bear, an Indian brave, and Little White Dove, an Indian maid, who are in love but separated by

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1,095 register for primary election vote

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Less than 30 percent of eligible Tribal members have registered to vote in the upcoming constitutional election that would, if approved, institute a primary process in Tribal elections beginning in 2013.

Tribal Election Board Chair Penny DeLoe said 1,095 Tribal members out of 3,879 eligible registered to vote with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for a registration turnout of 28.2 percent.

Tribal Council voted in January to send the primary election idea to voters. If approved, it would start a primary process if more than 10 Tribal members are nominated to run for Tribal Council in June. The primary would pare the nominee list down to six candidates for the September general election.

To amend the Tribal Constitution, at least 30 percent of those registered to vote must cast ballots — 329 in this case — and two-thirds of those voting must approve of the amendment.

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