



2012 Spirit Mountain Stampede — pg. 6

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# Smoke Signals

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## Tribe continues effort to amend Reservation Act

*Leno testifies before House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs*

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Tribe continued its effort to amend the 1988 Grand Ronde Reservation Act to streamline how the Tribe takes former reservation land into trust on Tuesday, July 24, when Tribal Vice Chair Reyn Leno testified orally and in writing before the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs.

In early February, Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in support of Senate Bill 356, which is the sister bill to House Resolution 726.

The Senate bill was introduced by Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley and co-sponsored by fellow Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden.

The House resolution was introduced by Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader and co-sponsored by Oregon Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici, Peter DeFazio and Greg Walden, as well as Oklahoma Rep. Dan Boren.

The proposed amendment would end the current two-step process that requires the Grand Ronde Tribe take each piece of former reservation land into trust with approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then request that the

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*Smoke Signals file photo*

Junior Miss Grand Ronde Iyana Holmes performs a fancy dance during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 2011 Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde in August 2011.

## Contest Powwow to shine spotlight on children

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The success of recent intertribal powwows for children, coordinated by longtime Royalty member Halona Butler and Washie Squetimkin (Colville), will show up at this summer's Contest

Powwow as "a whole new revitalization for our young people," said Dana Leno-Ainam, primary organizer for the powwow and a member of the Powwow Special Event Board.

"Many will be out at powwow for the first time," she said, because "young people are under-

standing powwow and wanting to be involved with regalia and through dance."

This year's event, set for Friday, Aug. 17, through Sunday, Aug. 19, at Uyxat Powwow

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## Solar units sending juice back to the grid



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The solar panel installation on the rooftops of the new Elder Housing phase is the third Tribal solar panel project. Eight solar panels deliver 2,500 kilowatt hours of power a year, which amounts to two to four months of electricity at current rates.

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

With the second low-income Tribal Elder housing development scheduled for completion and occupancy this fall, the Tribe has embarked on its third solar panel installation project.

The new installation serves the 20 two-bedroom, one-bath units and the three three-bedroom, two-bath "grandfamily" units with 10 percent to 40 percent of their electrical needs, said Don Coon, Tribal Housing Authority Housing Improvement coordinator.

Housing units facing south, best for making

the most of solar panels, each received eight solar panels that deliver 2,500 kilowatt hours of power a year, which amounts to two to four months of electricity free at current rates, Coon said.

The solar energy collection is improved because the units are well insulated and served by efficient heat pumps that heat the units in the cold months and cool them in the warm.

For housing units not facing south, the project installed as many as 32 panels on the top of carport structures and then devoted eight panels

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