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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family paddles through Budd Inlet, the southernmost arm of Puget Sound, on Landing Day of the Paddle to Squaxin 2012 Canoe Journey on Sunday, July 29, in Olympia, Wash.



Grand Ronde Canoe Family skipper Bobby Mercier, standing, raises his paddle and celebrates, along with other Canoe Family members, to getting permission to come ashore during Landing Day protocol of the Paddle to Squaxin 2012 Canoe Journey in Olympia, Wash., on Sunday, July 29.

Paddle to Squaxin Island

Grand Ronde Canoe Family makes annual journey

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Paddle to Squaxin Island began on Saturday, July 21, at Wallace Marine Park in Salem for the Grand Ronde Canoe Family.

The family's canoe, Stankiya ("coyote") next stopped at Willamette Mission in Gervais and then Champoeg Park in St. Paul for two days of protocol — drumming, singing and a gift exchange.

Along the way, Stankiya was joined by Ponto ("slow and easy"), a Coquille Tribal canoe for the long paddle to Olympia, Wash., where 103 canoes would meet as this year's journey climaxed.

Late in the day on Tuesday, July 24, the sun sparkled off the Willamette River as the weathered faces of Tribal polers walked up the dock ramp in West Linn to again join friends and

See JOURNEY
continued on pages 8-9

Charged up: Tribal store to join electric highway

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Tribal Council set the stage on April 18 for two electric charging stations to be installed at the Tribal convenience store off state Highway 18.

Within the next few months — following successful environmental testing and administrative requirements — the project is expected to be ready to go.

The charging stations will make the Tribe among the first locations

"This project is ecologically sound and matches well with our culture."

~Tribal Economic Development Director Titu Asghar

in the United States to take such a stand for greener highways.

"As a Tribe," said Tribal Council member Toby McClary, "I believe we should be looking at any and all efforts that move toward environmental sustainability. We, as

Indian people, have historically protected Mother Earth and our natural resources. By reducing petroleum usage and identifying ways to battle pollution, we are helping to fulfill our environmental responsibilities."

"This project is ecologically sound and matches well with our culture," said Tribal Economic Development Director Titu Asghar. "There is no upfront cost for the Tribe and the Tribe is expected to generate some revenue from it."

Initially, electric car charges at the convenience store will be free, though in time, Monrovia, Calif.-based AeroVironment, the prime

See ELECTRIC
continued on page 7