Private casino proponents ‘fold’

Support for measures ceases three weeks before Election Day

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Measures 82 and 83 on the Nov. 6 ballot are now orphans. In a surprise move on Tuesday, Oct. 16—three weeks before Election Day—supporters of the two measures threw in the towel, stopped airing ubiquitous TV commercials and took down a Facebook page promoting “The Grange.”

Cultural Resources seeking Restoration, Termination material

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

As the Grand Ronde Tribe prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary of Restoration on Sunday, Nov. 18, employees in the Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department are already looking ahead to 2013 and the landmark 30th anniversary.

They are hoping that an appeal to Tribal members, Tribal descendants and community members will fill a hole in the Tribal archives that spans from 1964’s Termination era to the mid-1980s, when the Tribe was restored.

Tribal Interpretive Design Specialist Julie Brown also is hoping that the appeal will help the Tribe prepare an exhibit, curated by Tribal Museum Curator and Cultural Liaison David Lewis, which will open in April.

Titled “We Were Here First and We’re Here to Stay,” the exhibit at the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem will tell the story of the struggles and trials of Tribal members during the Termination and Restoration eras of the Tribe.

“It’s a then-and-now kind of things,” Brown says. “It will have quite a bit of educational value. The public is, I think, going to be surprised and shocked.

Brown said she is hoping that Tribal members, their relatives and community members will search for old photos, boxes of letters and official documents that originated between 1954 through the mid-1980s relating to the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Termination and 30-year effort to regain federal recognition.

The items could be stashed away

See RESTORATION continued on page 4

Having a gourd time

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Kalleigh Cox, 6, is determined to make it back to the hayride wagon with the pumpkin she chose as she carries it through the Heiser Farms pumpkin patch on Friday, Oct. 12. Her determination paid off; she made it and took the pumpkin home. More Halloween photos on pages 8-9.

Encampment visits shores of Clackamas

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

OREGON CITY — It was raining in January 2011 when the Oregon Department of Transportation closed the historic Arch Bridge for repairs and representatives of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde marked the event as part of the 14-member Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition.

Connecting Oregon City and West Linn, the bridge was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 and the repairs would bring the span back in its original style.

Residents from nearby neighborhoods crowded under tarps to see what all the excitement was about during the closing ceremony. They tasted traditional Native foods offered by Grand Ronde Tribal members, the first peoples of the area.

And it was raining again over the weekend of Oct. 14-16 when the Willamette Falls Festival honored the bridge’s official re-opening and Grand Ronde Tribal members returned to also mark the event.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is an active member of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition, a group aiming to capitalize on the culture and history of the area and to bring new life to the local communities on either side of the bridge and along the shores of the Willamette River running underneath.

See ENCAMPMENT continued on page 10