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Tribe to mark 29 years of Restoration

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

O n Nov. 22, Restoration of the Grand Ronde Tribe to federal recognition will be officially 29 years old.

In honor of the 1983 legislation signed by President Ronald Reagan, the Tribe is hosting its annual celebration on Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Tribal plankhouse and gymnasium. The celebration was moved up four days this year because Thanksgiving Day also falls on Nov. 22.

The day will start with an open-

ing ceremony by the Grand Ronde Canoe Family at Afcha-Hammi, the Tribal plankhouse, at 10 a.m.

At noon, the celebration will move to the Tribal gym, where Tribal Council member Jon A. George will serve as master of ceremony, starting with the noon meal including traditional fish and game, roots and berries.

A shuttle will be available to transport people from the Tribal gym to the plankhouse and back.

Grand Ronde and Veterans Royalty will perform "The Lord's Prayer," Jolanda Catabay will sing If you go

What: 29th Restoration Celebration When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18 Where: Tribal plankhouse and gym More information: 800-422-0232

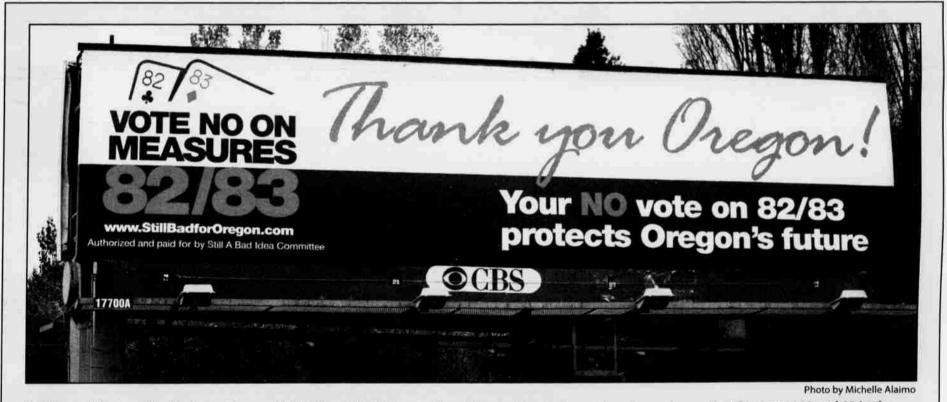
the national anthem, Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. will offer the invocation and Tribal Council members and other special guests will be introduced.

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family and Native American Music Award-winning musician Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach will perform.

Raffle prizes will be given away all afternoon, with a powwow scheduled to start at 4 p.m., also in the gym. The Grand Ronde Color Guard will post the colors.

Nick Sixkiller is the powwow mas-

See RESTORATION continued on page 7



A billboard displayed on Highway 18, near Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde, thanks Oregonians for voting against Measures 82 and 83 in the Nov. 6 election.

Oregon rejects private casino again

State tally shows growing opposition to idea

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

or the second consecutive election, Oregonians overwhelmingly rejected during the Nov. 6 general election the idea of allowing a private casino to be built in the Portland suburb of Wood Village.

This time around, the "no" was louder. In 2010, Oregon voters rejected a ballot measure that would have specifically permitted a private casino to be constructed at the shuttered greyhound racetrack in Wood Village by a 68 percent to 32 percent margin. This year, voters rejected the idea 71 percent

to 29 percent (1,146,612 to 471,320).

Oregonians also defeated a constitutional amendment to allow private casinos in the state 72 percent to 28 percent (1,164,016 to 457,457). In 2010, the constitutional amendment measure did not qualify for the ballot.

"This is a great win, not only for our Tribe and our future, but for Oregon," said Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr.

"I am proud of the margin that Measures 82 and 83 were defeated," said Tribal Council Secretary Toby McClary.

"I think the increased margin of victory speaks to the intelligence of the Oregon electorate, how they feel about Tribes, how they feel about the current level of gambling activity in Oregon and how they feel about foreign investors trying to come into Oregon and change the way our system works," said Tribal lobbyist Justin Martin, who led the Tribe's opposition to both measures.

"I think that increase in numbers shows the resilience of Oregon voters and the fact that they don't want to be insulted with these kinds of proposals."

Supporters of both ballot measures started their campaign before Labor Day – a rarity in politics — by running ubiquitous TV ads promoting "The Grange" and sending out a statewide mailer to likely voters.

Up until Oct. 16, the TV ads and another mailer continued to bombard Oregonians with pro-private casino messages.

See ELECTION continued on page 6