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Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe www.grandronde.org

APRIL 1, 2013

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

10 Years After Tribal vets remember Iraq War

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Among the members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde who served in Iraq, two recently reflected on their experiences at the war's 10th anniversary, which occurred on March 20, 2013.

"I joined for Native America," said Frank Quenelle, who is living with his two children in Tribal housing in Grand Ronde, "and to have that pride and honor for myself and my family. I have strong blood lines here."

His first priority, though, was introducing himself through his ancestors. His second great-grandfather was Capt. Frank Quenelle, who led the Indian police in Grand Ronde in the 1880s and '90s, and was a lawmaker for the Tribal people. His third great-grandfather was Chief Lewis Nipissing.

"I feel the honor and the pride of having both of them among my ancestors," he said. "Nipissing was the last chief of the Umpqua."

Quenelle volunteered for the Army because he wanted the honor of representing his people and experience combat "regardless of outcome."

Frank Hostler, who is today in the process of leaving the military, went "to free people."

He understood the war's purpose

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Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Round Dancing

Eva Rose Jurado, 11 months, receives support from her mother, Kim Roybal, as she participates in the 11th annual Agency Creek Round Dance held in the Tribal gymnasium on Friday, March 15. The two-day dance also took place on Saturday, March 16. Organizers said that more than 350 people attended the event, making it one of the most popular Round Dances held in recent years in Grand Ronde.

Laila Mercier, 6, covers her ears as she dances past the drummers and singers during the event on Friday night.



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Proposed Cowlitz casino faces legal setback

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A proposed Cowlitz Tribal casino within 15 miles of the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area received a significant legal setback on Wednesday, March 13, when U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Jacobs Rothstein ordered the Department of the Interior to issue a new Record of Decision concerning its granting of a Cowlitz reservation near La Center, Wash.

In her 12-page decision, Rothstein said that the Department of the Interior violated the Administrative Procedure Act by unilaterally

changing a Record of Decision after lawsuits had been filed.

In December 2010, the Department of the Interior issued a Record of Decision to acquire land in trust for the Cowlitz Tribe. Lawsuits were filed on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2011, asserting the department's decision violated the Indian Reorganization Act because the Cowlitz Tribe was not federally recognized or under federal jurisdiction in 1934. (Rothstein did not rule on this underlying issue.)

In March 2012, Clark County contacted the department's counsel regarding documents that

were missing from the administrative record that questioned the Cowlitz Tribe's historical connection to the La Center area.

In October 2012, the Bureau of Indian Affairs filed a supplemental Record of Decision, which "replaced and superseded" the 2010 Record of Decision, but did not change the ruling.

"The federal defendants cannot 'incorporate' a 2012 explanation into the 2010 ROD by characterizing it as a 'supplemental record of decision,'"

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