

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

MAY 15, 2013

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Government Day honors the teaching of Native children

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

SALEM – Tribal Government Day at the State Capitol on Thursday, May 9, honored the ways Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes are teaching their children educationally and, perhaps most importantly, culturally.

Or, as Leo Stewart, chairman of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, said, "How we are teaching our children what we have learned from our ancestors."

Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy briefed Government Day attendees about Grand Ronde Tribal efforts in educating its youth while speaking in the State Capitol rotunda.

"This year's theme for this Tribal Government Day is 'We Are Teaching Our Children,'" Kennedy said. "When you think about the word 'teach,' you think about things that we, not only as Tribal leaders, but leaders in our homes, leaders at work ... that we must acknowledge skills and experience in order to teach. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is involved deeply in that."

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"In teaching, we must also have a deep belief in our children's potential. We must do whatever it takes to expand opportunities for our children."

Kennedy talked about Tribal efforts to teach its culture despite Termination.

"I want to thank all of the teachers who were within our Tribe and within our people who helped us to have faith in ourselves, to have belief in what could be done, and to persevere and march forward so that Restoration was achieved," she said.

Kennedy said one of the main reasons the Tribe sought Restoration was for the education its Tribal children.

"Today, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde operates an education program that spans all ages," she said. "We recognize that language is so important to the existence of our people that language is a priority."

Kennedy also discussed how the

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Grand Ronde Canoe Family member Andrea Grijalva dances in front of the State Capitol during Tribal Government Day at the State Capitol in Salem on Thursday, May 9. Behind her is her sister, Kayla Grijalva.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

New police officers sworn in



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Police Department Officer Ron Wellborn is sworn in by Tribal Court Chief Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend in Tribal Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 1.

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Police deputies who formerly worked for Polk and Yamhill counties have been sworn in as the two newest officers for the Grand Ronde Police Department.

In addition, former Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Mindy Lane, who started as a police trainee on Monday, May 13, will go through the 16-week state training program at the Department of Public Standards, Safety and Training, also referred to as the police academy, in June.

In September, after successful training, Lane will start eight to 10 weeks of field training, said Grand Ronde Police Chief Alvin LaChance Jr.

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Grand Ronde Police Department Officer Patrick McConnell is sworn in by Tribal Court Chief Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend in Tribal Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 1.