



Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Contest Powwow set for Aug. 16-18



Smoke Signals file photo

More than \$35,000 in prize money up for grabs during annual event

By Dean Rhodes
 Smoke Signals editor

More than \$35,000 in prize money will be up for grabs during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's annual Contest Powwow set for Friday, Aug. 16, through Sunday, Aug. 18, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9390 Highway 22.

Leah Brisbois, right, participates in an intertribal dance during the 2012 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde last August.

The annual powwow – one of the largest in the Pacific Northwest – drew about 250 Native dancers last year. Dancers competed for prize money in 20 dance categories.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, followed by the first Grand Entry at 7 p.m. Royalty coronation also will be held Friday evening.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, a parade will be held at 10 a.m. and include cash prizes. Grand entries will be held at 1 and 7 p.m. with the deadline

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State recruiting for an Indian education specialist

By Dean Rhodes
 Smoke Signals editor

After a decade-long effort by Oregon Tribes, the state Department of Education is advertising for an Indian education specialist.

"This was one of our priorities for this session, getting positions of equity for all Oregon students," said Cindy Hunt, Government and Legal Affairs manager for the Department of Education. She helped shepherd the new position through the Legislature.

The proposal to return an Indian education specialist position has been around since 2003 as part of the Indian Education Plan, which was developed by Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes as a way to work with their respective school districts to improve Native American student achievement.

Oregon had a full-time Indian education specialist in the 1980s, but the position's hours were reduced to quarter-time because of budget cuts and then it was eliminated in the early 1990s. Tribes have been aggressively pushing for it to be resurrected ever since.

But returning the position to the Department of Education's budget ran into a major roadblock after the recession hit in 2008 and getting new employees approved in a stressed state budget proved impossible.

With state revenues rebounding

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The Grand Ronde Canoe Family travels in štankiya as they paddle on the Willamette River through downtown Portland on the third day of the Paddle to Quinault 2013 on Monday, July 22. Fourth from the front of the canoe is Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown, who joined them for part of their paddle to Cathedral Park in north Portland. Second from the front is Tai Mamaku, from the Maori of New Zealand, who is joining the Canoe Family on the journey.

Reawakenings

2013 Canoe Journey follows NW Shells and Cedar summer event

By Ron Karten
 Smoke Signals staff writer

NEWBERG — This year's Canoe Journey started on Saturday, July 20, at Rogers Landing in Newberg. Two Grand Ronde canoes landed 12 days later, on Thursday, Aug. 1, with as many as 100 other Tribal canoes at Point Grenville on Quinault Indian Nation lands on the Washington coast.

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The 225-mile voyage, traveling on two rivers and the Pacific Ocean, attracted about 350 Tribal Elders, members, staffers and students. There were those who

paddled in the canoes and those who provided support services both by the canoes in the water and at each stop.

At the first stop, Champoeg State Heritage Park in St. Paul, the Western Tribes Coalition, including Grand Ronde, Coos, Coquille and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe

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