

# Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Madison Ross, 11, is led by her mother, Sarah, as she makes her first appearance to the community during her Coming of Age ceremony at the Tribal plankhouse on Sunday, Sept. 29. Leading up to this community event, Madison spent four days with her mother and grandmother, Elder Kelly Nelson, praying, learning family and Tribal histories, making giveaway items, such as beaded necklaces and cedar bundles, and on a search for the spirit that will guide her through life. This was the first public Coming of Age ceremony for the Grand Ronde Tribe in more than 100 years.**

## Coming of Age



**Madison Ross beads necklaces with her grandmother, Elder Kelly Nelson, at Nelson's Grand Ronde home on Thursday, Sept. 26. This was the second day of her five-day Coming of Age ceremony.**

Visit the Tribe's **facebook** page to see more photos

### Spirit Mountain Community Fund hits \$60.68 million in charitable giving

By Dean Rhodes  
 Smoke Signals editor

**S**pirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, reached the \$60.68 million mark in charitable giving on Wednesday, Sept. 18, as 25 checks worth \$591,517 were distributed during its quarterly check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium.

Formed in 1997, Spirit Mountain Community Fund distributes 6 percent of profits from Spirit Mountain Casino to nonprofit organizations in 11 western Oregon counties, as well as to Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes as part of its Oregon Tribal Grant program.

Since its inception, the Community Fund has awarded 1,984 grants worth \$60.68 million. So far in 2013, it has distributed 83 grants worth \$2.3 million.

The Community Fund supports projects in the areas of Arts & Culture, Education, Health, Historic Preservation, Public Safety, Environmental Preservation and Problem Gambling.

Community Fund Executive Director Kathleen George welcomed representatives of the grant recipient organizations and thanked them for partnering with the Grand Ronde Tribe to make Oregon a

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## Tribe receives \$695,466 in DOJ grants

*Funds will pay for substance abuse counselor, domestic violence position, police equipment and training*

By Dean Rhodes  
 Smoke Signals editor

**T**he Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde received three grants totaling \$695,466 from the U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday, Sept. 18, designed to bolster Tribal police efforts and help combat substance abuse and domestic violence in the Grand Ronde area. The awards were part of the department's nationwide effort to enhance and support Tribal justice and safety with 192 grants awarded to 110 Native American Tribes totaling \$90 million.

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### U.S. Attorneys meet with Tribal leaders

By Ron Karten  
 Smoke Signals staff writer

**C**ELILO VILLAGE — The four Columbia River Tribes hosted a Government-to-Government consultation with U.S. Attorneys at the Celilo Village longhouse on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

"It is especially fitting that these important discussions take place at Celilo Village, once the location of Celilo Falls, where Native settlements and trading villages existed in various configurations for 15,000 years," said Amanda Marshall, U.S. Attorney for Oregon.

A project of the U.S. Attorney General's Native American Issues Subcommittee, some



Jack Giffen Jr.

For the Confederated Tribes of Grand

25 Tribal representatives from across the Northwest and 30 U.S. Attorneys from across the country attended.

Tribal representatives let the federal attorneys know what has worked and what still needs improvement in Tribal law enforcement.

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