



Youth Spring Break 2014  
— pg. 9

# Smoke Signals

APRIL 1, 2014

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org



UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## Thorsgard takes over at Education

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Cultural Protection Program Manager Eirik Thorsgard, as a member of the Land and Culture Department, recently moved his office from the second floor of the Education Building to the new Chachalu Cultural Center and Museum off Grand Ronde Road.

Now, he's moving back.

Thorsgard has been named the Tribe's new Education Department manager and will occupy an office on the Education Building's first floor.



Eirik Thorsgard

The position had been filled on an interim

basis by Higher Education Manager Bryan Langley since September when former Education Manager April Campbell left for a position as Indian Education specialist with the Oregon Department of Education in Salem.

"I felt I could contribute to my community and Tribe even more fully in this position," Thorsgard, 37, says. "The Education Department has an overwhelming amount of influence on helping Tribal members become and stay self-sufficient. Being part of that was very appealing."

With the benefit of seeing his five

See EDUCATION  
continued on page 15



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Historian David Lewis gives a brief overview of the Grand Ronde Tribe's history at the Tribal History and Cultural Practices training for staff held in the Community Center on Thursday, March 13. The trainings will take place quarterly.

## Cultural courses

Training reaches about 100 governmental employees

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

In the first of four classes planned for this and future years, Tribal Land and Culture Department staff members summarized some of the details of Grand Ronde culture, language and history.

Two one-hour sessions at the Community Center on Thursday, March 13, one repeating the lessons of the other, served almost a third of the Tribe's more than 300 governmental employees.

Tribal drums ushered in the program, which is primarily

intended as a new employee orientation, but all were invited.

Cultural Outreach Specialist Bobby Mercier explained drumming and song protocols.

"In the early days of the res-

See COURSES  
continued on page 14

## Women's Transitional House opens



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Ron Karten  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Women's Transitional House across from the fire station on Grand Ronde Road is bursting with hope that the Tribe has for the new facility.

It is large enough for eight women and their children. There is the potential for a mix and match of women to have their children with

them.

"Everything will depend on family need and the ability to safely accommodate them," said Behavioral Health Director Kelly Nelson.

One can see the hope in the kitchen where the gleaming new silverware and unchipped plates

See HOUSE  
continued on page 16

Nicole Estrada, left, Tribal Youth Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug counselor, and Nadine Burt, Tribal Behavioral Health secretary, put a mattress cover on a mattress as they prepare the Tribe's new Women's Transitional House for residents on Wednesday, March 19.