



Summit promotes benefits pg. 4

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Veterans Powwow honors LaBonte

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The three-day Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 11, through Sunday, July 13, honored Tribal Elder and Navy veteran Gene LaBonte on Saturday, July 12.

During the Vietnam War, LaBonte served in Stockton, Calif., for three years, 11 months and 29 days, he said, as a Radioman 3rd Class Petty Officer.

"I never went to sea," LaBonte said. "I was

a dry land sailor. It takes 100 non-fighting personnel to support one soldier."

Ever since, LaBonte has been active in veterans' affairs. He has participated in many capacities for many years at the Tribe and in 2008-09 LaBonte was elected vice chair and then chair of the nine-member Governor's Advisory Committee on Veterans Affairs.

LaBonte was appointed to a four-year term on the committee in 2008 by then-Gov. Ted

See POWWOW
continued on pages 10-11

Tribal Elder and Navy veteran Gene LaBonte receives a hug during a dance in his honor at the 2014 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 12. Before the dance, he was presented a Pendleton blanket by Tribal Council.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribe ready to reap benefits of economic development

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Entering its third full year of operation, the Tribe's Economic Development Department is starting to see returns on its investment of time and Tribal funds.

One Tribal investment will start returning a profit on schedule, said Economic Development Director Titu Asghar, and the Tribe's investments are creating job opportunities for Tribal members.

"One of our investments should be returning money next month and on schedule," Asghar said recently in his office on the second floor of the Governance Center. "If things go according to our plan, the Tribe should see a huge pop in three to four years."

The Economic Development Department started in 2011. One of its first goals was to develop a Tribal Council-approved investment policy to guide its activities.

In October 2012, the Tribe purchased a majority stake in Shasta Administrative Services of Redmond, which processes third-party medical claims. "For a fraction of its worth," Asghar said.



In December 2012, the Tribe purchased 20 percent of SAM Medical Products of Wilsonville. The company is known for manufacturing splints that are used worldwide by

health care providers.

In addition to those two investments, Economic Development staff worked with the Health and Wellness Clinic to expand its mail-order pharmacy business, enrolling several Pacific Northwest Tribes. This contributed to a 12 percent increase in contract pharmacy services in 2013.

Economic Development also coordinated the installation of an electric car charging station at Grand Ronde Station at no cost to the Tribe in collaboration with the state Department of Transportation.

"We get 6 percent back on the charges," said Economic Projects Coordinator Jilene Mercier, adding that the charging station provides cross marketing opportunities between Spirit Mountain Casino and Grand Ronde Station because owners of electric cars are probably making purchases at the convenience store or walking over to the casino while they wait for their vehicles to fully charge.

In 2013, the Tribe invested in MicroGREEN Polymers of Ar-

See DEVELOPMENT
continued on page 14

Council amends Enrollment Ordinance

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council voted to amend the Enrollment Ordinance to give the Enrollment Committee authority to make final decisions on involuntary loss of Tribal membership cases and to remove Tribal Council from that enrollment process during a special meeting held Wednesday, July 2.

Since the amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance were adopted on an emergency basis, they became effective immediately. Tribal Council will follow regular procedures for final adoption of the amendments, including seeking Tribal member comments.

Those facing involuntary loss of membership – disenrollment – retain the ability to appeal the Enrollment Committee's final decision to Tribal Court and the Court of Appeals under the new rules.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr., Secretary Toby McClary

Tribal Council amends Burial Fund Ordinance on page 5.

See COUNCIL
continued on page 6