



'Fire in the Valley'
dinner held — pg. 9

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Return of the rattler

Tribal employees find butte of a rare snake

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

At Rattlesnake Butte Wildlife Refuge just outside of Monroe, the Grand Ronde Tribe has made a rare, indigenous rattlesnake find.

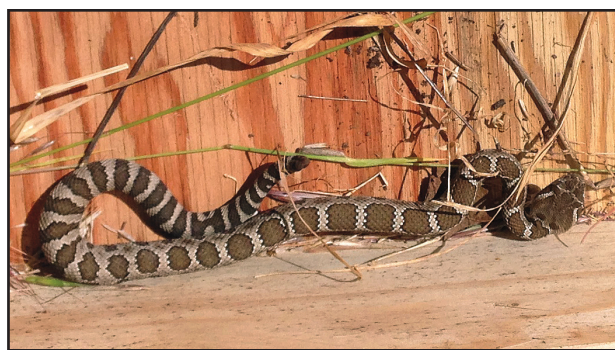
A small, female western rattlesnake, the only indigenous rattlesnake found in Oregon, showed her face on June 12.

"We had placed these tin sheets out to attract them," said Fish and Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen, who made the discovery with Biological Technician Nathan Breece. "The tin sheets draw the snakes because they provide cover and warm up underneath when the sun's out. We flipped the tin over and there was the snake."

"We have equipment that we used to safely get our hands on the snake. We had it for maybe 10 minutes and then released it."

Dirksen and Breece documented the first western rattlesnake the Tribe has seen at the refuge. Although there is a history of western rattlesnakes in the area, it has been so long since

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Courtesy photo by Nathan Breece

A female western rattlesnake was found by staff members of the Tribe's Natural Resources Department at the Rattlesnake Butte Wildlife Refuge near Monroe in June.



Photo by Ron Karten

Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Clark helps Malachi Beal, a fourth-grader from Eagle Rock Elementary School, with his beading project during a Tribal Encampment held at TouVelle State Park on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Encampment marks third anniversary

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

MEDFORD — Keith Farber, a fourth-grade teacher at Eagle Rock Elementary School with a longtime interest in Indian culture, heard about the Grand Ronde Encampment in a note from his principal.

Farber then invited his students to attend the Tribal event.

The Tribe's annual encampment at TouVelle State Park in Central Point on Saturday, Sept. 20, celebrated the anniversary of the

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Conference endorses law that helps Tribal police

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

The words of the day came from Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw counsel Pete Shepherd.

"Coffee," Shepherd said, "is a better way to improve communication than a two-way radio."

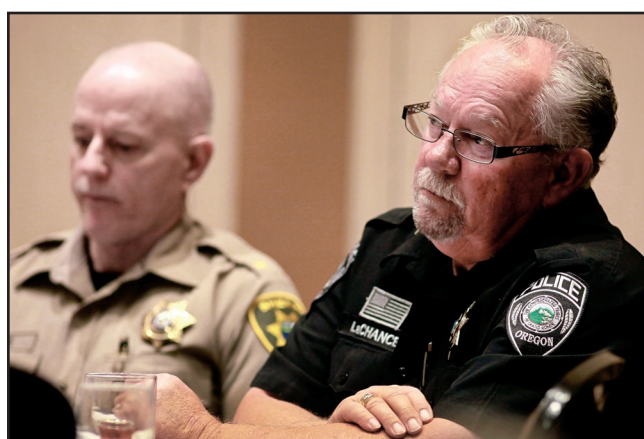
Shepherd's observation came during a daylong conference regarding a 2011 law, known as Senate Bill 412. It gives police serving Oregon's

nine Tribes the same rights to make arrests on Tribal lands as city, county and state police have to make arrests in their jurisdictions.

"It mirrors state and municipal laws," said Shelby Rihala, an attorney with Jordan Ramis law firm.

Law enforcement professionals from Tribes, county sheriff's depart-

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Grand Ronde Police Chief Al LaChance participates in a conference concerning Senate Bill 412 held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, Sept. 18.

Photo by Ron Karten