



Tribe dedicates new employment building — pg. 5

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

www.grandronde.org

JULY 15, 2015

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Charnel House meeting slated for July 15

New cemetery building will house Tribal remains

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

Generations of Grand Ronde Tribal members have endured many indignities throughout modern times.

Living Tribal members mourn not only the loss of ancestors, but at times our people have been troubled by the treatment of their ancestor's remains as well.

Much of that will change now that the Tribal Historic Preservation Office has brought forward the idea of building a charnel house on the cemetery grounds.

"A charnel house is a vault or a building where human remains are stored," says Tribal Historic Preservation Program Manager

See BUILDING
continued on page 20

Tribe to remain drug-free

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Although recreational marijuana use became legal in Oregon on July 1 when Measure 91 took effect, the voter-approved law did not affect the Grand Ronde Tribe, which is a sovereign nation and has decided that use or cultivation will continue to be banned at Tribal enterprises and on Tribal land.

Tribal Council issued a statement on Friday, July 10, reminding Tribal members and Oregon residents that just because the use and possession of recreational marijuana has been decriminalized in Oregon, Measure 91 does not apply to the Tribe.

"In 2014, the Tribe began looking closely at the question of recreational marijuana use, believing the issue would be on the Novem-

See DRUG-FREE
continued on page 18



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Deitz Peters smudges the new arbor at Uyxat Powwow Grounds during its dedication ceremony on Friday, July 10.

Veterans Powwow christens new powwow grounds structure

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

The new arbor at Uyxat Powwow Grounds was the star of this year's Marcellus Northwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held in Grand Ronde on Friday, July 10, through Sunday, July 12.

This year's powwow culminated four days of honoring veterans in Grand Ronde that started on Thursday, July 9, with the third annual Native Veterans Summit.

Just before Friday's 7 p.m. grand entry, Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno asked everyone involved with building the new arbor to come out

on to the powwow grounds to be honored. Leno started with Tribal Engineering and Public Works Manager Jesse White.

"Jesse is the guy that council said, 'Build us an arbor, have it ready by Veterans Powwow and make it your number one priority,'" said Leno, who then presented White with a framed picture of the arbor.

Leno also said Chris Scholten of Chris Scholten Construction and Scholten's timber framer, Justin Stritzke, played key roles in the building of the arbor.

See POWWOW
continued on pages 10-11

Tribe hosts third Native Veterans Summit

Workshop aims to improve health care for Native veterans in rural areas

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The ultimate goal of the Native Veterans Summit, which was held for the third consecutive year on Friday and Saturday, July 10-11, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds as a complement to the Marcellus Northwest Memorial Veterans Powwow, is to provide resources, benefits coordination, health care and opportunities for healing and networking for veterans.

To help in that effort, the Con-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Mark Johnston, former head of the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center and current deputy executive director of the Coquille Tribe, talks about veterans' health care during a Native Veterans Summit pre-summit workshop held in the Tribal Community Center on Thursday, July 9.