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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tilikum Village to be featured at Sept. 12 bridge grand opening

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

PORTLAND – For the first time in hundreds of years, a Native American village will occupy the western banks of the Willamette River in downtown Portland during the Tilikum Crossing grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The new \$135 million, 1,720-foot transit bridge over the Willamette River will connect Portland with Milwaukie for TriMet buses and light rail. It will be officially opened with a 9 a.m. procession that will be led by Grand Ronde Tribal representatives.

After the procession, Tilikum Village will occupy the western side of the bridge from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. The village will include drumming and interTribal and exhibition dancing, cultural demonstrations (cedar bracelets and roses, beaded necklaces and canoe carving), a Chachalu mobile museum, a children’s area (coloring station, face painting, temporary tattoos, giveaways), a traditional longhouse and summer house for viewing, food for purchase and a traditional salmon bake.

From noon to 1 p.m., the Grand Ronde Canoe Family will paddle on the Willamette River and

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If you go

Tilikum Crossing grand opening
When: Procession: 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12; Tilikum Village events, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Where: Vacant lot next to 3030 S.W. Moody Ave., Portland
More info: 503-879-1418

Betrothal on break



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Olyvia Perez, left, and Tribal member Clint Folden smile at each other after being married at Spirit Mountain Casino on Wednesday, Aug. 19. Perez moved their wedding date from Aug. 22 up to Folden’s birthday and surprised him with the wedding ceremony during his work shift at the casino. They were married by Tribal Elder Lewis Younger, behind them.

Bride gambles on surprise wedding at Spirit Mountain Casino

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Clint “Tony” Folden thought it was strange that his soon-to-be wife wanted to meet him outside in the courtyard between Spirit Mountain Casino and the lodge during his lunch break from being the casino’s maintenance supervisor.

Since it was his birthday on Wednesday, Aug. 19, and knowing her personality, he may have thought a birthday surprise was about to happen, but he had no idea what

he was about to walk into when he entered the courtyard.

His fiancée, Olyvia Perez, had planned a surprise wedding.

“Oh my goodness,” Clint said as he walked into the courtyard with his hand covering his mouth.

Family and friends who had gathered for the occasion greeted Clint by singing “Happy Birthday” as he scanned the scene and gath-

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Fire, smoky air prompt Tribal emergency responses

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A wildfire burning north of the West Valley community of Willamina and smoke from larger fires in eastern Oregon and Washington state that blanketed the Willamette Valley prompted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to activate its Emergency Operations Team from Wednesday,

Aug. 19, through Monday, Aug. 24.

The Willamina Creek Fire burned approximately 230 acres of heavily timbered land in Yamhill County. The fire occurred 4.8 miles from the northeast corner of the Grand

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A third of Tribal voters likely to cast ballots in election

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

If recent trends hold, approximately 1 in 3 eligible Tribal voters will cast a ballot in the Sept. 12 Tribal Council election. In other words, about 1,278 of the Tribe’s 3,872 eligible voters – those who will be 18 years of age on Sept. 12 – will vote. Since *Smoke Signals* last ran a

story about Tribal voter turnout in September 2012, the numbers have not varied immensely.

Before the 2012 Tribal Council election, voter turnout between 2003 and 2011 hit a high of 40.7 percent in 2004 and a low of 29 percent in 2010. The average vot-

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