



Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe celebrates 32nd anniversary of Restoration

By Brent Merrill
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde celebrated its 32nd anniversary of Restoration to federal recognition as a Tribe on Saturday, Nov. 21, with a full day of events.

The celebration began with a Tribal member-only prayer service at the Tribal Cemetery in Grand Ronde. The prayer service took place at the Atudship rock monument north of the cemetery.

The community began gathering at the Tribal gym at about 10 a.m. for the Restoration program and the midday meal. The Canoe Family started the celebration with singing, drumming and dancing.

Steve Bobb Sr., who is chairman of the Tribe's Veterans Special Event Board, emceed the event and introduced current Tribal Council members after Tribal Royalty performed "The Lord's Prayer."

"Welcome everybody to the 32nd Restoration anniversary of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," Bobb said. "I'm glad you could be out here today. We are very blessed and very honored to be where we are today. We give thanks to those that worked so hard."

Tribal Council member Chris



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Canoe Family dancers perform during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 32nd Restoration Celebration held in the Tribal gym on Saturday, Nov. 21.

Mercier was first in addressing the audience.

"I was only 8 years old when the Tribe got restored," Mercier said. "This is a unique community. I've made friendships that I know will last a lifetime."

Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek said that she hoped everyone would enjoy the day. "I love that we celebrate Restoration," she said.

Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi said she was proud to be on

council.

"I feel so blessed to be part of this Tribe," Tuomi said. "I'm so thankful to our ancestors. I

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Tribal flag hung at Willamina schools

Tribal Council member Jon A. George speaks about the Tribe's history to Willamina students during an assembly to celebrate the Tribal flag being hung in the gym at Willamina High School on Monday, Nov. 16.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

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WILLAMINA — A large contingent of Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde members participated in a long-awaited flag hanging ceremony during dual assemblies held at Willamina High School on Monday, Nov. 16.

The Tribal flag now hangs next to the Oregon flag, U.S. flag and a POW/MIA flag near the scoreboard in the school's gymnasium.

In an all-employee e-mail sent before the flag ceremony, Tribal Curriculum Specialist Mercedes Reeves called the event an "historic day."

The ceremony was held in two parts — one for younger elementary school children and one for older middle and high school students.

To begin the ceremony, Willamina School District Superintendent Carrie

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