



Grand Ronde Canoe Family members, including Kailiyah Krehbiel, dance around gifts that are laid out on the floor of achaf-hammi, the Tribe's plankhouse, during a ceremony for them on Wednesday, July 20. The gifts will be given to Tribes that host the Canoe Family while they are on the 2016 Canoe Journey "Paddle to Nisqually." The Canoe Family left for the journey on Friday, July 22.

Canoe Journey begins



Tribal Council member Jon A. George speaks before giving a blessing at a gathering to send off the Grand Ronde Canoe Family on Friday, July 22. They left from the Tribal Community Center for the 2016 Canoe Journey "Paddle to Nisqually."



Ihaia Puketapu, left, thanks Grand Ronde as he speaks during a gathering and blessing ceremony for the gifts being brought on the 2016 Canoe Journey "Paddle to Nisqually" at achaf-hammi, the Tribe's plankhouse, on Wednesday, July 20. Puketapu, along with his wife, Marissa Puketapu, middle, and Waikarere Gregory are the Maoris who traveled from New Zealand to join the Grand Ronde Canoe Family on this year's journey.



At left, Amelia Mooney loads bins into the box truck as the Grand Ronde Canoe Family prepares to leave for the 2016 Canoe Journey "Paddle to Nisqually" on Friday, July 22.

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Photos by Michelle Alaimo