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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribe holding History and Culture Summit

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

The 2016 edition of the Tribe's annual History and Culture Summit will occur in Grand Ronde at the Tribal gymnasium on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 26-27, with a focus not only on the positive work being done by people locally, but also on people and projects that are making a difference throughout Indian Country.

Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson said that he would view the fourth installment of the event as being successful if Grand Ronde Tribal members and employees attend in large numbers.

"It looks like it's going to be a reoccurring theme. Our goal for the event is we want as many Tribal members and employees to come as possible," said Harrelson. "We really felt like we needed to try and bring in Tribal members because we want them to be a part of it. We are prepared to continue to do it every year."

Summit Coordinator Rebecca Knight said "cultural continuity" is the theme of this year's summit that will consist of two days of interdisciplinary lectures and discussions and feature sessions on anthropology, culture, history, archaeology and environment.

Harrelson assigned a team to facilitate the event that includes Knight, Senior Archaeologist Briece Edwards, Cultural Protection Coordinator Jordan Mercier and Cultural Collections Supervisor Veronica Montano.

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Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George teaches Tribal Elder Celia Randolph how to weave during the Tribal encampment held at the Upper Table Rock Trailhead near Medford on Friday, Sept. 16.

Coffee & Conversation

Tribe hosts fifth Medford area get-together, encampment

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

MEDFORD — Tribal legends say that the selfish actions of an ancient medicine man led to the creation of the flat-topped Table Rock in southern Oregon.

According to Cultural Outreach Coordinator Bobby Mercier, Red Tail Hawk knocked the tops off of

those mountains with his wings after Blue Jay told him about a self-absorbed medicine man.

"One of the stories we always like to tell our children that goes along with this place is how Table Rock was actually formed," said Mercier to a gathering of Grand Ronde Tribal members, Tribal Council members, Tribal staff and local representatives billed

as a "Coffee & Conversation" meeting in Medford on Friday, Sept. 16.

"One of our stories that goes back to our creation stories about this place talks about how one of the medicine men that was down here became very powerful

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Tribal Council elects Kennedy, George as officers

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Only Tribal Council's vice chair position was supposed to be up for election at the Wednesday, Sept. 14, meeting since Jack Giffen Jr. ran for re-election on Sept. 10.

However, two of three officer positions were eventually filled.

Tribal Council members elevated Secretary Cheryle A. Kennedy to vice chair and then filled Kennedy's suddenly empty officer's spot with Jon A. George.

Tribal Council member Chris Mercier nomi-



Cheryle A. Kennedy



Jon A. George

nated Kennedy as vice chair. She had to resign as secretary to accept the nomination. No other nominations occurred, so Tribal Council Chair

Reyn Leno ruled that Kennedy was elected vice chair by acclamation.

Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek then nominated Jon A. George to succeed Kennedy as secretary. Again, no other nominations were made and Leno ruled that George was elected secretary by acclamation.

Kennedy has a long history of service as a Tribal Council officer, including 11 years as Tribal Council chair. This is George's first appointment

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