

Chachalu still under construction — pg. 7



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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal government dumps Wells Fargo

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Grand Ronde Tribal government will no longer be doing business with Wells Fargo Bank, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy announced during the Sunday, Nov. 5, General Council meeting to applause.

Tribal Council voted 8-1 in a staff directive approved on Oct. 13 to end the financial relationship. Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. voted against the decision.



Chris Leno

Kennedy cited three reasons for the Tribal government ending its financial relationship with the bank, including Wells Fargo's involvement in the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline project in North Dakota, it creating millions of fake bank and credit card accounts for customers and forcing unnecessary auto collision insurance on more than 800,000 clients.

Kennedy said that Columbia Bank, based in Tacoma, Wash., with more than 150 branches in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, will become the Tribal government's new banking partner.

The Tribal government's accounts with Wells Fargo are used to hold money only for short periods of time, Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno said.

The Tribal government is currently going through a transition period and the transferring of accounts should be accomplished by early 2018.

The Tribal government first employed Wells Fargo for banking services from 1996 to 2005 and then rehired the bank starting in 2013. The Tribe started re-assessing its relationship with Wells Fargo earlier this year when the Finance Department issued a request for proposals for banking services.

The loss of Tribal business will cost Wells Fargo less than \$100,000 in processing fees, Leno said.

However, the statement is more important than the lost revenue. In late 2016 and early 2017, the Dakota Access Pipeline project

See WELLS FARGO
continued on page 5

Dual summits

Fifth History & Culture event attracts more than 250



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

The overall message of the two-day Grand Ronde History & Culture Summit is that Tribal culture is rich in tradition and very much alive today.

The event, now in its fifth year, attracted a record number 250 people from across the state, ranging from Grand Ronde Tribal members to cultural resource firms to educators who spent Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 1-2, soaking up Tribal history and culture in the Tribal gym.

The annual summit started in 2013 to help remedy that the histories of Oregon's Tribes have not been properly documented.

"Looking at this as a person

See HISTORY
continued on page 10

Tribal Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier talks about plankhouses, including achaf-hammi, during the Grand Ronde History & Culture Summit held in the Tribal gym on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Tribal Council members attend state meeting

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

LINCOLN CITY — At the conclusion of the 18th annual State-Tribal Summit held Thursday, Nov. 2, at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, Gov. Kate Brown signed Executive Order 17-12 that establishes an Oregon Tribal Cultural Task Force tasked with surveying the Tribal cultural items currently held in storage or on display by state agencies, universities, colleges and public schools.

Brown was flanked by Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, middle, speaks during the 18th annual State-Tribal Summit held at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City on Thursday, Nov. 2. Also on stage with Kennedy is Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Chairman Dan Courtney, left, and Gov. Kate Brown, right.

See MEETING
continued on page 11