



General Council briefed on Natural Resources — pg. 7

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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Veronica Gaston pushes Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison as they participate in a "Blue Heron Song" fun dance during the three-day "Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam" held in the Tribal gym on Wednesday, April 11. The children in the Tribe's Chinuk Immersion class sang and danced at the gathering.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Family matters

First Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam held April 11-13

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Grand Ronde Tribe has faced considerable historical obstacles: Being forced on to a Reservation, discouraged and sometimes legally required to abstain from traditional practices and lifestyles, Termination in 1954 and the subsequent relocation of many Tribal families.

After years of hard work and perseverance, the Tribe was restored

in 1983 and has subsequently flourished, albeit with its share of struggles and growing pains.

The first three-day Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam, held Wednesday through Friday, April 11-13, in the Tribal gym sought to give Tribal members an opportunity to connect, remember the past

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Senior momentum

Elders Committee Chair Jennie VanAtta committed to being involved

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Elders Committee Chair Jennie VanAtta has only lived in the area for four years, but has immersed herself in community involvement from the start.

She opens her calendar to demonstrate how retirement can be just

as busy as any other time of life. It is filled with volunteer activities, outings and medical visits.



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The last portion is due mostly to a back injury suffered during her 50s. VanAtta doesn't mince words when she describes it.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Jennie VanAtta is the current Elders Committee chair. She has lived in Grand Ronde for four years and has immersed herself in the community.