

Grand Ronde hosts
Tribal-State Summit
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Restoration reunion

AuCoin joins Tribe as it fetes 35th anniversary at Spirit Mountain Casino

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Restoration is a gift — one which should never be taken for granted.

That was the message from Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy to the approximately 400 attendees at the 35th Restoration Celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Sunday, Nov. 18.

"The Tribe has come a long way," Kennedy said in the Event Center. "It is truly amazing and a gift from the Creator to us. For all of those gathered here, and to those who can't be here, this is a blessed day."

The celebration began shortly after 11 a.m. with singing and drumming by the Grand Ronde Canoe Family as the Veterans Honor Guard brought in the colors, followed by Tribal Council, Royalty and Youth Council members.

Vietnam-era veteran and Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. gave the invocation and Royalty members performed "The Lord's Prayer."

All Tribal Council members attended the Restoration Celebration. They are Kennedy, Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Jon A. George, Kathleen George, Lisa Leno, Jack Giffen Jr., Bobb, Michael Langley and Denise Harvey.

"(Restoration) is an effort that began with three people," Kennedy said. "They are Margaret Provost, Marvin Kimsey and Merle Holmes."

The three key Restoration Elders have since walked on — Kimsey and Provost earlier this year — and Kennedy urged young people to talk to Elders who experienced Termination by the federal government in 1954.

"I would be remiss if I didn't mention those Elders," she said. "They are always standing behind us to



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Former Congressman Les AuCoin, left, talks with former Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathyryn Harrison during the 35th Restoration Celebration held Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino. AuCoin was instrumental in helping the Grand Ronde Tribe achieve Restoration by introducing the Grand Ronde Restoration Act in the U.S. House in 1983.



To listen to audio excerpts from the 35th Restoration Celebration, go to www.spreaker.com and search for "Smoke Signals podcasts" or click on the link at the *Smoke Signals'* Facebook page.

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Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy looks at a scale model of Tomowanos, the Willamette meteorite, presented by John Atkins during the 35th Restoration Celebration held Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino. Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George looks on.

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