

Elders fishing trip — pg. 9



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Community Fund turns 25 Quarter-century of giving surpasses \$90 million

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor / staff writer

Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrated 25 years of giving by awarding close to \$800,000 in grants to nonprofits and Oregon Tribes.

Grants were awarded during a 25th anniversary dinner celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Saturday, July 30, with approximately 200 attendees that included past and present Tribal Council members, Elders, Hatfield Fellows, Spirit Mountain Community Fund employees and board members, as well as representatives from various nonprofits and several Oregon Tribes.

“It’s great to see so many of you here tonight,” Community Fund Director Angela Sears said. “I’m honored, blessed and very thankful for our nonprofit partners. We’re here to recognize the contributions of those who came before us and the partnerships we have created over the years. Your leadership, vision, dedication and generosity has allowed us to create a positive change for the past 25 years.”

The event began with a drum song by Tribal Council member Jon A. George, Tribal musician Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach and Tribal members Ty George and Anthony Quenelle.

The Grand Ronde Color Guard brought in the flags followed by members of Veterans and Grand Ronde Royalty. Jon A. George gave the invocation and Reibach performed a flute song.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, who also serves on the Community Fund Board of Trustees, said the fund was dedicated to honoring Tribal traditions of sharing and

See FUND
continued on pages 6-7



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Above, McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity Board member Virginia Carlson accepts a \$5,000 grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Angela Sears during the Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Saturday, July 30. The Community Fund has given out more than \$90 million to 3,118 area nonprofits in the past quarter century.

At left, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy speaks during Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s 25th Anniversary Celebration.



New West Linn sign celebrates Tomanowos

By Danielle Harrison

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WEST LINN — Sixty years ago, the city of West Linn erected a replica marker of the famous Willamette Valley meteorite, Tomanowos. However, there was no mention of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde anywhere in the marker’s inscription.

In an effort to tell a more complete story of the

meteorite’s history, new interpretive signage was unveiled exactly 60 years later on Thursday, Aug. 4, outside the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Station 59 in West Linn, near where the meteorite ended up thousands of years ago.

Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Jon A.

See TOMANOWOS
continued on page 5

Tribal Council member Jon A. George drums in front of a 1962 marker depicting Tomanowos, also known as the Willamette Valley meteorite, during a dedication ceremony for a new sign describing more of its history and connection to the Tribe at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Station 59 in West Linn on Thursday, Aug. 4. The ceremony also marked the 60th anniversary of the original marker’s installation.



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez