

Shimkhin
exhibit opens
— pg. 13



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SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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Families having fun



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

One-year-old Reece Ryan plays with a pinwheel before the start of the Children & Family Services Family Fun Run/Walk held on the Tribal campus on Saturday, April 15. April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and the pinwheel is a symbol for it. [More photos on page 12.](#)

Kotek reiterates stance on expansion of Tribal gaming: No!

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

SALEM – New Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek officially notified the chairs of the nine federally recognized Tribes in the state on Thursday, April 13, that she does not support an expansion of gaming and will maintain the status quo during her term in office.

As first reported by *Smoke Signals* before the November 2022 general election, Kotek reiterated that she will maintain the policies of former governors John Kitzhaber and Kate Brown regarding Tribal gaming in Oregon.



Oregon Gov.
Tina Kotek

“Throughout my legislative career, during my campaign for office and since the start of administration, I have been clear that I do not favor an expansion of gaming,” Kotek wrote, adding she will stick with the one gaming facility per Tribe on Reservation land policy. “This helps all of us avoid confusion, use of resources, and advocacy for and against changing my stance in favor of one gaming facility per Tribe on Reservation land.”

Kotek’s letter potentially affects the future of two proposals to expand Tribal gaming in Oregon.

The Coquille Tribe has applied to the Department of the Interior to have land in Medford taken into trust for gaming purposes and the Siletz Tribe has proposed opening a second casino in north Salem. The Siletz Tribe already operates Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City.

Should either of the two proposals be approved by the Department of the Interior, they would still need the OK from Oregon’s governor before they could proceed.

Enrollment endgame? Other Tribes might hint at solution

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

During the March 22 Tribal Council meeting that lasted almost three hours, Tribal members asked what the “endgame” is for the current enrollment quagmire the Grand Ronde Tribe is experiencing.

Between predictions that the Tribe will not have qualified members it can enroll under current membership rules within 50 years to an

announcement that almost 70 percent of current Tribal members have lower provable blood quantum than what is contained in their confidential enrollment files, the problems were inescapable.

Former Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. said the Tribe was in an “enrollment crisis.” In addition, Tribal Council announced a poten-

See ENROLLMENT
continued on page 10

See GAMING
continued on page 8

Memorial Day event set for May 29

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Attendees at this year’s Memorial Day event at the West Valley Veterans Memorial will see one of two things – two holes in the ground or two new blank black granite slabs.

The Tribe received a \$33,000 grant from Oregon State Parks to install the two new granite slabs that will continue to hold the names of West Valley residents who have served in the military.

After almost two decades of add-

ing names to the pillars, two of the four pillars are running out of room. The pillars for Navy and Army veterans are filling up and in February 2020 Tribal Council approved seeking a state grant to add two additional pillars.

According to *Smoke Signals’* running tally, the Army pillar contains more than 1,140 names while the

Navy pillar has almost 700 names. The two new pillars should last awhile since the Air Force and Marine Corps pillars have substantially fewer names on them.

Tribal Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb said the orig-

See MEMORIAL DAY
continued on page 5

Installation work has started for two new granite slabs to be added to the West Valley Veterans Memorial located on the Tribal campus. The Tribe received a \$33,000 grant from Oregon State Parks to install the new slabs because the pillars for Navy and Army veterans are filling up.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo