



Merry Christmas to All! From Warm Springs artist Travis Bobb.

Around Indian Country

# Appeals in rail expansion at Gorge

Union Pacific appealed Wasco County's denial of its rail expansion proposal near Mosier in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

In November the Wasco County Board of Commissioners unanimously denied the proposed rail expansion based on adverse effects to the Yakama Nation's tribal treaty rights and violations of the National Scenic Area land use ordinance.

The Union Pacific appeal was filed before the Columbia River Gorge Commission, which has review authority over all final county decisions within the National Scenic Area.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Physicians for Social Responsibility support the denial of the project based on treaty rights violations, but have also appealed the decision based on threats to fish and wildlife habitat, parks and recreation, scenic resources, and Gorge communities like Mosier.

Friends of the Gorge attorney Steve McCoy explained:

"We and our allies support the denial of the project to protect the Yakama Nation's tribal treaty rights.

"The recent Mosier oil train derailment and explosion demonstrate the dangers to public safety and the National Scenic Area from Union Pacific's plans to significantly increase rail traffic.

"This is why we're asking the Columbia Gorge Commission to deny the project on multiple grounds, and ensure Union Pacific doesn't imperil public safety and trample over a national treasure."

Meanwhile, the City of Mosier is still recovering from the Union Pacific oil train derailment, spill and fire in June that leaked 42,000 gallons of crude oil and contaminated groundwater in the small town.

The derailment occurred within a quarter-mile of an elementary school. Mosier was only saved from a large fire due to an uncharacteristically calm day for the Gorge, with wind speeds below 5 mph.

Tribal leaders from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs visited the site, and voiced opposition to oil rail transport as a potential threat to fishing rights.

The Federal Railroad Administration then released a report finding that Union Pacific was at fault for the accident because it failed to follow safety and rail inspection requirements. Nationally, Union Pacific has a poor safety record compared to the industry average.

A rail traffic report released by the Friends of the Gorge found that increases in rail capacity from this expansion could be far greater than Union Pacific has claimed, potentially increasing rail capacity from about 35 trains a day to as much as 100 trains a day.

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# Museum grant for archives

The Oregon Community Foundation Board of Directors approved \$33,000 in grants to Warm Springs nonprofit causes. Grants awarded include the following:

The Museum At Warm Springs received \$23,000. The funding will be used to help hire a trained archivist to digitize archives and collections.

This in turn will help preserve and facilitate access to key tribal information, including language and cultural traditions.

"The Oregon Community Foundation team of staff members and volunteers are excited to see the progress with projects that preserve and enrich the culture of the Warm Springs community," said Cheryl Puddy, associate program officer and regional coordinator for the Foundation in Central and Eastern Oregon.

"The valuable services this non-

profit provides in their communities is a true reflection of the Foundation's goal to improve lives across Oregon, and we are proud to partner with the museum," Cheryl said.

The Foundation this fall made more than \$3.6 million in grant awards statewide.

The mission of the Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life for all Oregonians through the power of philanthropy.

The Foundation works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about.

Through these funds, the Foundation awarded more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships since 2015. In other news from the Museum at Warm Springs:

The Tribal Member Art Show is on display through January 7.

## KNT horse stable operator

Kah-Nee-Ta Resort and Spa is taking requests for proposals for horse stable operator/concessionaire for the 2017 season.

Contact the resort's general manager for agreement details.

Proposals should be submitted in writing by December 30. Call 541-553-1112 extension 3469 for more information.



JAIHLINE RAMIREZ  
"CHA CHA"

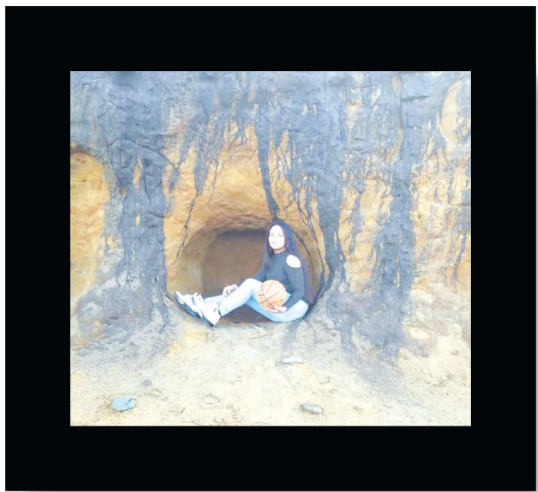
I am a candidate for the 2017 Lincolns Birthday Powwow Queen

My given Indian name is "Smalahne".

I am 12 years old and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. My favorite things to do are play basketball, soccer, bake, bead and attend as many powwows with my family as I can.

My parents are Joy and Jose Ramirez. My grandmother is Yvonne Arthur. I come from the Mckinley and Jessie Arthur Family. I have one sister Soraya and three brothers Carlos, Damian, and Izraii.

I will be out and about in the community selling raffle tickets and introducing myself. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement.\*Contact info:541-777-9220 or Joy Ramirez on Facebook



# New federal laws benefit Siletz and Grand Ronde

President Obama last week signed land bills for two Oregon tribes. Congress had approved the bills earlier this month.

The bills, called S.817 and S.818, help Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde restore their homelands.

"Congress is working on behalf of tribes," Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyoming), the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said in a press release. "These pieces of legislation, along with the others we have passed during the 114th Congress, demonstrate our continued commitment to increased tribal self-determination and sovereignty."

The signing of S.817 means any land acquired by the Siletz Tribes within the original 1855 Coast Res-

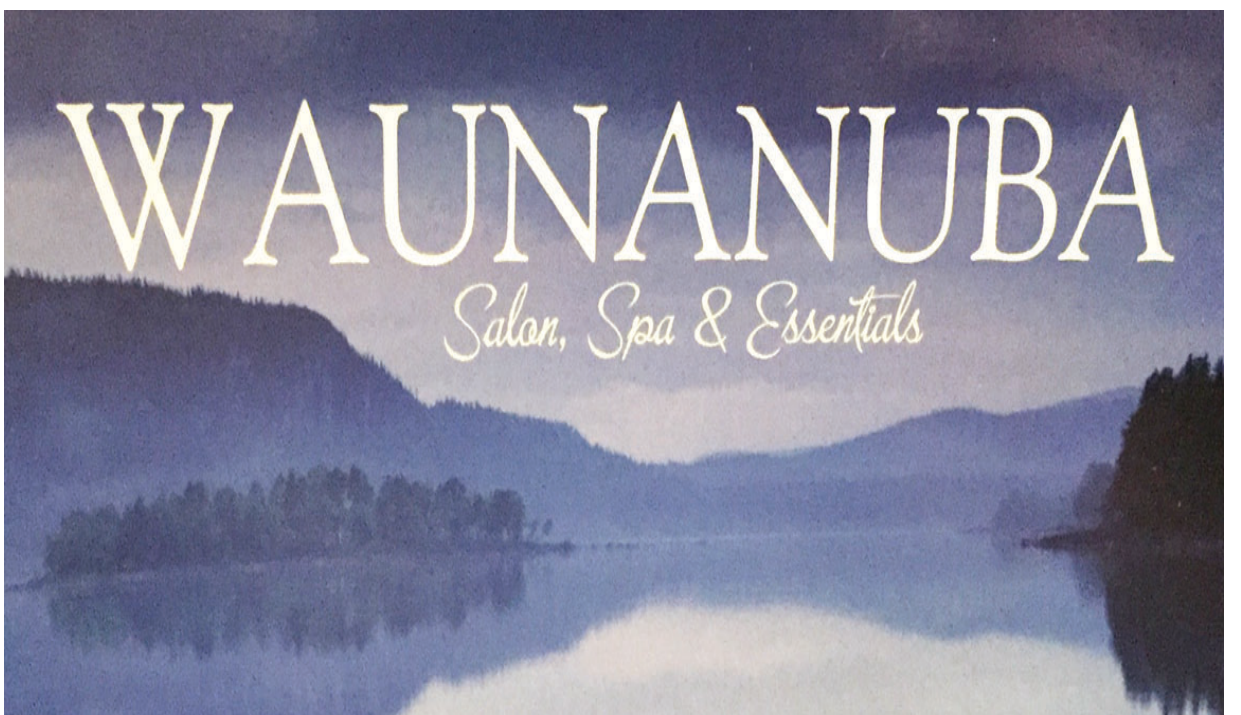
ervation will be considered a part of the current reservation.

For Grande Ronde, S.818 reduces the number of steps required for land to be acquired in trust and declared a part of its reservation.

"This legislation will enable the tribe to more efficiently move the land it owns into reservation status, which is historically a very complex and time-consuming process," Chairman Reyn Leno said in a story posted by *Smoke Signals*.

The Siletz and Grand Ronde have been lobbying for the legislation for years. They could be the last significant Indian bills to clear the 114th Congress before lawmakers head home for the holiday break.

The 115th Congress will convene in January 2017, starting a whole new legislative process.



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