

## Letters to the editor

### 509-J student success survey

The Jefferson County 509-J school district is seeking your ideas and priorities on how to best support the students of the district.

The Student Success Act marks a turning point for education in Oregon, and when fully implemented the state will see an additional \$1 billion investment each year.

This investment will provide new opportunities for every student in our state, particularly students who have been historically underserved.

Your voice does matter in how to move forward with helping our students grow: Jefferson County 509-J school district is hosting an online survey that will run through January 12.

You can take the survey by going to:

[jcsd.k12.or.us](http://jcsd.k12.or.us)

### Tribal scholarships

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Scholarship application deadline is July 1, annually.

The Tribal Council just approved the 2020 scholarship budget in late December. For information contact Carroll Dick at tribal Higher Education: PO Box C, Warm Springs, 97761.

Or stop by the Education building, 1110 Wasco Street. You can reach Carroll at 541-553-3311. Email: [carroll.dick@wstribes.org](mailto:carroll.dick@wstribes.org)

### Native Food Sovereignty grants

The First Nations Development Institute is now accepting grant proposals through the Gather Food Sovereignty Grant Program. First Nations will award up to eight grants of approximately \$32,000 each.

Grants will support community-driven food sovereignty work that advances local food system control by Native communities leading to improved economic, health or community policies and systems. This opportunity is targeting emerging projects that focus on developing tribal food sovereignty, but all programs can apply.

The Gather Food Sovereignty grant is made possible through the Indigenous People's Fund of Tides Foundation, accelerating the pace of social change, working with innovative partners to solve society's toughest

problems.

The request for proposals can be found at: [firstnations.org/rfps/6549/](http://firstnations.org/rfps/6549/)

The application deadline is Thursday, February 27. All applications must be submitted via the First Nations online grant application system.

First Nations recognizes that Native food systems are important assets to Native communities. As a result, First Nations has long supported Native communities as they fortify traditional food systems, seek to increase access healthy and fresh foods, increase awareness of and involvement with where food comes from; and expand knowledge of the linkages between foods, Native cultures and contribute to tribal economic growth and development of entrepreneurially related food ventures.

First Nations serves Native American communities throughout the United States. For more information, visit: [firstnations.org](http://firstnations.org)

For information call **Rana LaPine**, First Nations program officer, 303-774-7836 ext. 209. Or email: [rlapine@firstnations.org](mailto:rlapine@firstnations.org)

For more than 39 years—

### To family, friends

I would like to take the time to apologize to my family for letting them down 'again.' Although if it wasn't for the love of the Creator, and all the trials and tribulations that this human being has been through, and continue to go through, I would not know happiness, sadness, grief, joy, generosity, humility, strength, love and compassion. Today, I love my people of Warm Springs and Turtle Island. In a drug and alcohol coma I loved nothing.

I write this from the Deer Ridge Correctional Institute, the hole E146. In segregation you get a lot of time to pray, contemplate and change, and for me this is a change. To our young people, ask a trusted friend or family for help. The only dumb question is the one not asked. You are not alone. I too was that scared child, youth and adult with low self-esteem who ran from myself for 49 years. There is someone out there who understands.

I wouldn't say these things if I didn't care. You can even write to me. I love you all, even my enemy. Happy belated Thanksgiving, and Have a Merry Christmas! **Emiliano G. Williams**, 17963868, DRCI, 3920 East Ashwood Rd., Madras, 97741.

## A year in pictures with Indigenous voices of Confluence

What an incredibly eventful year it was at Confluence:

With support from the Friends of Confluence we were able to advance our mission in so many ways, connecting people with the history, living cultures and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices.

We strengthened our partnerships with tribes, Native artists and educators, schools and teachers, and the communities around the Confluence river sites.

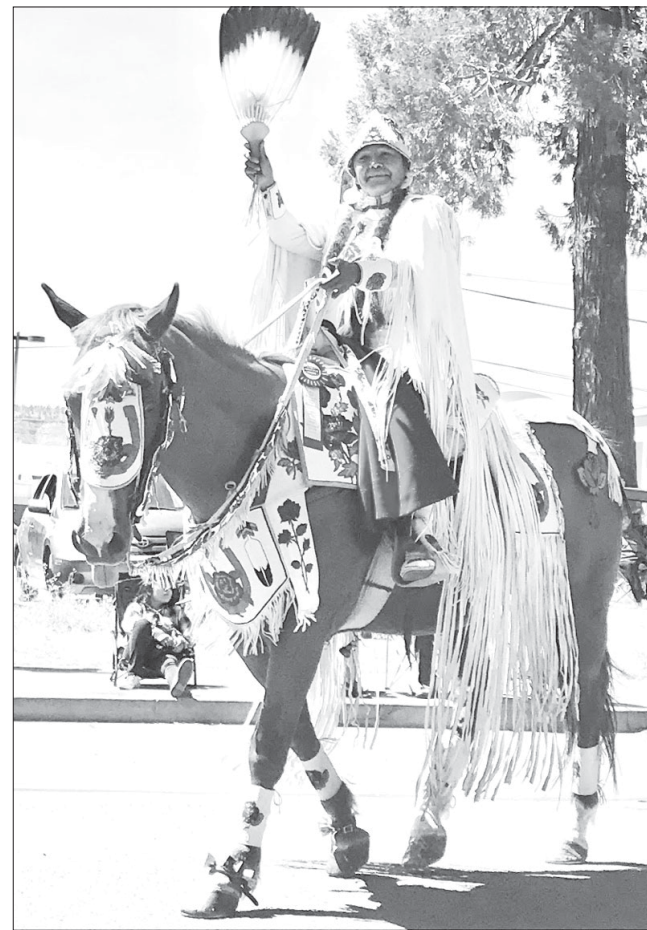
Presented here are images from the Confluence events of the past year. Stay tuned for rundown of the 2020 season of Confluence programs and events.

In the meantime, enjoy the highlights of 2019. Thank you for your support!

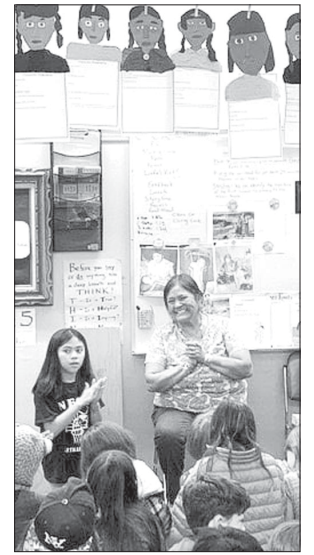
**Colin Fogarty and the Confluence community.**

The Confluence Project is a series of outdoor installations and interpretive artworks located in public parks along the Columbia River and its tributaries in Oregon and Washington.

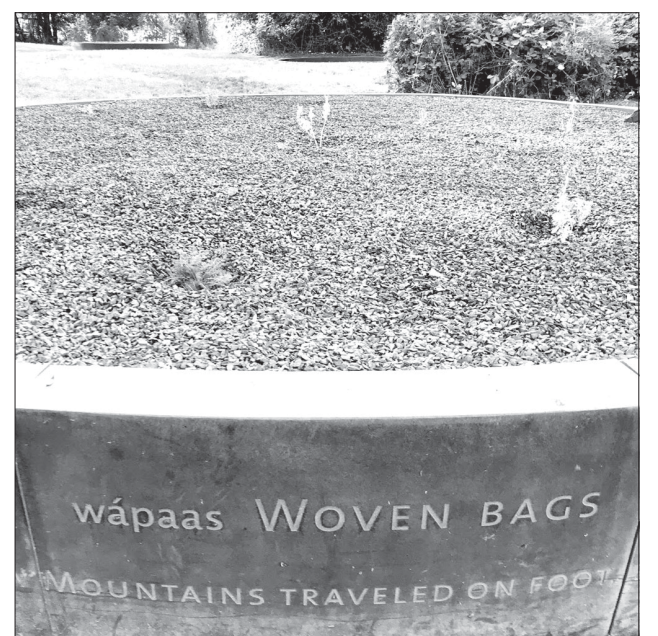
Each art installation explores the confluence of history, culture and



Photos courtesy Confluence



ecology of the Columbia River system, as seen through the Indigenous perspective.



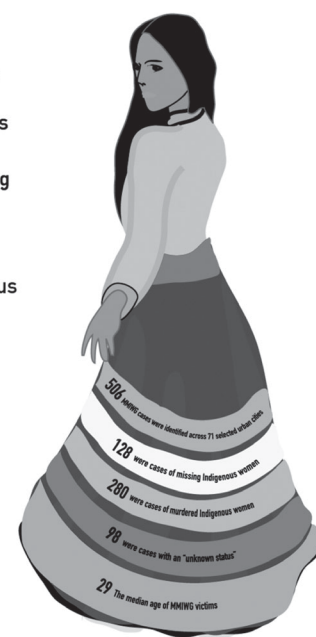
## Beadwork calls needed attention to the MMIWG cause

Beadwork by a Sagkeeng First Nation member was featured on talk show *The View*, helping call attention to the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, MMIWG.

Co-host Whoopi Goldberg wore the medallion beadwork, made by Sagkeeng First Nation's artist Mish Daniels.

Goldberg told viewers that the red jingle dress medallion commemorates the cause addressing murders and disappearances of indigenous

- 506** MMIWG cases were identified across 71 selected urban cities
- 128** were cases of missing Indigenous women
- 280** were cases of murdered Indigenous women
- 98** were cases with an "unknown status"
- 29** The median age of MMIWG victims



Statistics regarding missing and murdered indigenous women and girls (MMIWG).

women.

Ms. Daniels had originally made the necklace for activist Connie Greyyes, who met Goldberg and offered the necklace as a gift.

Daniels said the international attention garnered her roughly 1,500 commissions from customers ranging from a member of the House of Commons to Indigenous elders in New Zealand.

She may have to leave her regular job in order to meet the demand for beadwork, Ms. Daniels said.

## COCC Culinary puts food truck into gear

The Cascade Culinary Institute of Central Oregon Community College has unveiled its newest teaching tool: A food truck designed to show students how to succeed in one of the fastest growing segments of the restaurant industry.

Customized with Culinary Institute's specifications, the mobile kitchen will serve a range of cuisines to the community beginning in January. You can track its location at [cascadeculinary.com](http://cascadeculinary.com) or through the institute's social media channels.

The program purchased and customized the new truck with an earmarked donation made to the COCC Foundation by longtime culinary program supporter and Bend resident Shirley Ray.

Ms. Ray passed away earlier this year at age 91. The COCC Cascade Culinary Institute christened the truck with her name.

Ms. Ray's own history has deep connections to the local culinary scene: Her aunt co-founded Bend's Pine Tavern Restaurant in 1936, where as a young girl Shirley began working, shelling peas. Decades later, she helped manage the business.

The 'Shirley Ray' food truck features interior cameras so that instructors can observe from outside during training to offer input and feedback. A full range of kitchen equipment fits into the large-scale vehicle, meaning that students can prepare dishes that tap into their complete culinary curriculum, from French cuisine



Courtesy

The Shirley Ray food truck of the COCC Cascade Culinary Institute.

to fine pastries.

"The majority of our students want to work in or own this kind of business," said chef instructor Thor Erickson, chair of COCC's culinary department. "Our state-of-the-art truck will not only help train students how to launch their own mobile business, it will also give the community a better chance to taste that success, literally." Erickson noted that a number of former students have

gone on to successfully launch food truck businesses, such as the Jerk Kings, now a sauce enterprise, Sopa and We're the Wurst.

The food truck sector has been fast expanding nationwide over the past decade, due in part to a smaller upfront investment and ease of business liftoff. For more details contact Thor Erickson at 541-977-1286 or [terickson@coccc.edu](mailto:terickson@coccc.edu).

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