

Culture and Heritage Teacher Highlight – Roxanne Kelly ~

by Gina Ricketts, Career Counselor, Confederated Tribes, Education

Roxanne Kelly has been in Culture and Heritage since 2016, teaching Numu in the Warm Springs k-8 Academy, Early Childhood Education Center, and now at the Madras High School.

She has been in the Numu language since she was growing up just listening to her family in Nevada and Oregon, and everywhere with her relatives.

She never thought she was going to be a teacher until she met Pamela (Smith) Cardenas, who introduced her to Shirley Tufti, a teacher at Culture and Heritage.

She was the one who persuaded her to be a teacher of the Numu language and to never let it go.

When Roxanne started she was happy to see there was writing already being done, and that she was able to read and understand the things that were once written. At the time, she didn't even know it could be written! As a teacher she gets to carry it on with new learnings and lessons.

She believes that anyone can learn the language if they are eager to learn or try.

"Study when possible or ask people who do know," Roxanne says. "Never be scared, because it's our identity, our culture.

"It has preserved our ways of

life. There are meanings in our songs, our churches and our health with prayers."

Roxanne believes that the connection between language and well-being is our cultural identity, our health, our community belonging, and ancestry knowledge of what was passed down.

She continues to stay connected with her current teaching practices by talking with family, attending teacher trainings on using technology in her classes with the Warm Springs Academy and Madras High School; as well as language conferences or gatherings at certain places like the Native Indian Language Institute in Eugene.

"Never be scared, because it's our identity, our culture. It has preserved our ways of life. There are meanings in our songs, our churches and our health with prayers."

She also does a lot of research on Numu to continue with what she wants to know to pass on to her students.

Zipline drone test site meetings

The tribal community is invited to attend a meeting regarding the Warm Springs Zipline Drone Testing Site opportunity. The proposed project is presented by Warm Springs Economic Development.

The meetings are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. as follows:

This **Wednesday, February 18:** The Warm Springs Agency Longhouse. **Thursday, February 19:** The Simnasho Longhouse. The Seekseequa meeting was for Tuesday of this week.

The agenda for the meetings includes a light dinner, followed by introductions, project overview, and community discussion.

Hosted by Warm Springs Economic Development and Zipline, the presenters are seeking input on the project proposal, and invite the community to participate as part of the tribes' Resource Management Interdisciplinary Team review process.

You can learn more about Zipline at the website: zipline.com

You may RSVP for a meeting at: wsed.info@wstribes.org

Film about Commissary business center to tell tribes' story

The Warm Springs Community Action Team received a grant that will support the production of *A Bridge to the Future*, the first-ever film to tell the story of the Warm Springs Reservation and its people into the present.

The film is written, filmed and edited by and with tribal members. The story uses the Community Action Team Commissary small business development center project as a central metaphor.

Through the history, present and future of the Commissary, the film explores how the Warm Spring people use the tools of the colonizer to dismantle oppression and build something new and powerful, shaped by tribal hands and invested in a tribal future.

The recent grant funding, totaling \$75,000, comes from the America 250 Oregon Commission, celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States.

For the grant project, the commission worked in partnership with Oregon Heritage and the Oregon Historical Society. The Commissary history film is one of 25 funded during the recent commission award round.

All of the projects help com-



Conceptual rendering of the Commissary small business center. Crews are currently working at the site, that will include the business center itself, and outside food court area.

memorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. With the Community Action Team, two other Central Oregon organizations are recipients: ClearPath Healthcare of Redmond, and the High Desert Museum in Bend.

Details of their plans for the funding are in the list below.

These grants are in addition to an initial \$50,000 in total

funding awarded to 13 organizations last October.

"From highlighting Indigenous histories to honoring the sacrifice of Oregon's veterans to instilling a love of history in our youth, these initiatives provide an opportunity for Oregonians to engage in our shared story," said America 250 Oregon Commission Chair Kerry Tymchuk. "We are grateful to the

Oregon State Legislature for providing the funds that made these grants possible."

A third funding cycle will open at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible projects. More information about the Oregon 250 Grant Program can be found at: oregon250.org

Summaries of Tribal Council

December 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dennis White III. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Chief Jefferson Greene, Raymond 'Captain' Moody, Alvis Smith III, Vice Chairman Carlos Calica, Jonathan Smith Sr., Lonnie Rosie Tom, Brigitte McConville, Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Captain.

Bureau of Indian Affairs update with Ken Brochert, acting superintendent.

Other business: Discussed the request from the Cannabis Project, to be scheduled.

Federal and legislative updates by phone calls.

Tribal attorney update with Howard Arnett, Josh Newton and Ellen Grover:

Letter to Land Conservation and Development Commission. Consensus approving the Chairman to sign the letter, with corrections.

Executive session, 2:54-4:40 p.m.

Motion by Alvis to adjourn at 4:55. Second by Captain.

December 2

The meeting was called to order by Chairman White. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond Captain Moody, Alvis Smith III, Chief Jefferson Greene, Brigitte McConville, Vice Chairman Carlos Calica, Lonnie Rosie Tom, Jonathan Smith Sr. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Chief Greene.

Introduction to Lonny Macy, Planner.

Kah-Nee-Ta storm damage claim with Jim Souers:

Motion by Jefferson approving the request of \$1.2 million insurance claim. Second by Joe. Question: Rosie/abstain, Joe/yes, Captain/no, Jay/no, Alvis/no, Jefferson/yes, Brigitte/yes, Carlos/yes, Jonathan/yes, 5/3/1, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Tribal member concerns: Off the record, 4:27 p.m.

Associate Judge resolution discussion with Edward Henderson:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,290A, that Anita L. Jackson be appointed as Associate Judge to term as noted, beginning November 19, 2025. This resolution rescinds Resolution No. 13,287, approved November 18, 2025, appointing Anita L. Jackson as Judge Pro Tempore for 2026. Second by Carlos. Question: Rosie/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Alvis/yes, Jefferson/yes, Brigitte/yes, Carlos/yes, Jonathan/yes, 8/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Other business: Discussed follow up on the tribal member concerns.

Motion by Brigitte to adjourn at 4:59. Second by Carlos.

December 15

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Carlos Calica. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond Captain Moody, Alvis Smith III, Brigitte McConville, Lonnie Rosie Tom, Vice Chairman Carlos Calica, Chief Jefferson Greene, Jonathan Smith

Sr., Chief Joseph Moses. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Joint Health Commission update with Caroline Cruz and Tammy Wilson.

Indian Health Services update with Tammy Wilson.

Health insurance plan, 2027 prices, discussion with William Sam and Tyler Moore.

Motion by Captain to adjourn at 11:55. Second by Brigitte.

December 16

The meeting was called to order by Chairman White. Roll call: Lincoln Jay Suppah, Raymond Captain Moody, Chairman Dennis White III, Alvis Smith III, Lonnie Rosie Tom, Chief Jefferson Greene, Chief Joseph Moses, Jonathan Smith Sr. Minnie Yahtin, Recorder.

Invocation given by Chief Greene.

Secretary-Treasurer update with Edward Henderson.

January agenda with Edward Henderson:

Motion by Alvis approving the January 2026 agenda. Second by Brigitte. Question: Joe/yes, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Jonathan/yes, Alvis/yes, Jefferson/yes, Brigitte/yes, Rosie/yes, 8/0/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Draft resolutions with Pam Douglas, acting Secretary-Treasurer:

Opioid settlement discussion with Sarah Monkton:

Motion by Captain adopting Resolution No. 13,295, that the Tribal Council, in order to obtain, and in consideration for, the benefits provided to the Tribe pursuant to the Direct Action Settlement and

the Bankruptcy Plan, and acting through the authorized law firm, SKIKOS CRAWFORD SKIKOS & JOSEPH, LLP, hereby elects to become a participating Tribe as defined therein, and release all Released Claims against all Released Entities as defined therein; that the Tribal Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer/CEO are authorized to submit the Conflict Waiver attached as Exhibit "C" to this Resolution on behalf of the Tribe, signifying that the Tribe understands and waives the conflict of interest created by the SOR; that SKIKOS CRAWFORD & JOSEPH, LLP is authorized to submit on behalf of the Tribe the Tribal Participation Form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "D"; the Authorized Representatives are hereby directed and authorized to take any reasonable and necessary actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution.

Second by Alvis. Question: Rosie/yes, Joe/abstain, Captain/yes, Jay/yes, Jonathan/yes, Alvis/yes, Jefferson/yes, Brigitte/yes, 7/0/1, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Joint Health board appointments with Taw Foltz:

Motion by Alvis adopting Resolution No. 13,296, that the Chairman of the Tribal Council is authorized to confirm Heather Crow-Martinez to continue to serve an additional three-year term, Deborah Jackson continue with two-year term and Caroline M. Cruz to continue with one year term on the Joint Health Commission. Second by Jonathan. Question: Rosie/yes, Joe/yes, Captain/no, Jay/yes, Jonathan/yes, Alvis/yes, Jefferson/yes, 5/2/0, Chairman not voting. Motion carried.

Summaries continue on 3

Pioneer Rock & Monument
201 Crafton Rd - PO Box 348 509-773-4702
GOLDENDALE, WA 98620



Specializing in Native Design

Family owned business, making custom HEADSTONES for the people of Warm Springs for 35 years

We carve them right in our shop NO MIDDLE-MAN

Check out our work in the GALLERY at www.pioneerrock.com

Check our prices

Something for every budget