

Angela Ellis, Leonard Bergstein named to Spirit Mountain Community Fund posts

Grand Ronde Tribal member Angela Ellis has been named administrator of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and Leonard J. Bergstein of Portland has joined the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees.

As the Community Fund administrator, Ellis reviews and evaluates grant requests for the Tribal Council and the Community Fund Board of Trustees. She works closely with grant recipients and helps build public awareness of the Community Fund as a significant recourse to non-profit.

Ellis has worked in the marketing and other departments at Spirit Mountain Casino since it opened in 1995. She earned her bachelor's of science degree in public policy and administration from Western Oregon University in 1999. Ellis grew up in Grand Ronde and has three daughters.

"The Community Fund has become a valuable partner to community organizations that are making tremendous accomplishments in improving the lives of people in their communities," Ellis said. "As a Tribal member, I am proud of the way the Confederated Tribes are able to give back to their community and to Oregon. I'm delighted to be closely associated with that work."

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Bergstein was named to the seven-member Community Fund Board of Trustees by the Tribal Council. Bergstein is founder and president of Northwest Strategies Inc., a public-affairs consulting firm in Portland. For nearly 20 years, Northwest Strategies has advised companies on many of the regions most sensitive issues: environmental regulations, financial services, health care, business development, land use and transportation. Prior to starting his firm, Bergstein was a staff assistant to Governor Bob Straub and Neil Goldschmidt.

Bergstein serves on the Spirit Mountain Development Corp. and Spirit Mountain Gaming boards. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Children's Theater, sits on the Executive Committee of the Portland Sports Authority and for-

merly served on the Board of trustees for the Oregon Museum of Sciences and Industry. Bergstein and his wife, Betsy, live in Portland and have three children.

"It's an honor to be selected by the Grand Ronde Tribal Council to join their distinguished Board. The Community Fund helps organizations meet such basic needs as education and health care," Bergstein said. "It is helping to preserve Oregon's cultural history and its natural environment. In three short years, the Community Fund has established a solid reputation for making grants that truly make a difference in the quality of life in Portland, Salem, Eugene, and small communities throughout the West Valley. It is another effective way in which Grand Ronde Tribal members are turning lives around."

In addition to Bergstein, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees consists of the following:

- Kathryn Harrison, Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chair
- Ed Pearsall, Grand Ronde Tribal Council Secretary
- June Sell-Sherer, Grand Ronde Tribal Council member
- Kate Brown, State Senator
- Ron Dodge, Polk County Commissioner
- Sho Dozono, Portland businessman
- Kristine Olson, U.S. Attorney for Oregon

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde created the **Spirit Mountain Fund** in 1997 as a way to practice the Tribe's age-old tradition of giving back to the community. Each year, the Community Fund distributes 6% of the profits from Spirit Mountain Casino to worthy organizations and causes in the 11 Western Oregon counties that make up its ancestral areas. So far, nearly \$9 million has been distributed, making the Community Fund Oregon's eighth largest grant maker, based on annual distributions.

Salem Art Association receives contribution

The Salem Art Association (SAA), one of the largest non-profit arts organizations in Oregon, was recently the recipient of a large contribution from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The grant of \$37,600 will help fund two flourishing art-based programs at SAA: The Ceramics Education Program at the Marjorie T. Sherman Community Ceramics Center; and the Exhibition Series at the Bush Barn Art Center.

At the Ceramics Center, the monies from the Community Fund will provide weekly workshops for community non-profit organizations for one year; subsidize the Family Clay Sunday program, which is composed of workshops for parents and children to explore clay creations; and fund a series of opportunities for Grand Ronde Elementary School students to participate in special workshops by SAA's teachers. It is the second year that the Community Fund has supported programming at the Ceramics Center.

For the third consecutive year, a portion of the grant will be used for SAA's Exhibition Program, which features monthly exhibitions in the A.N. Bush Gallery of local regional national importance. The Gallery is one of the few professional venues in the Willamette Valley dedicated to promoting and presenting contemporary art.

The Salem Art Association manages and operates the Bush House, the Bush Barn Art Center, and the Marjorie T. Sherman Community Ceramics Center, as well as a wide range of arts education programs, and the annual Salem Art Fair and Festival.

Grand Ronde Tribe, Spirit Mountain Community Fund award grant to Willamina Fire Department

■ New ambulance, equipment will make responding quicker.

The Willamina Fire Department will add a new rescue unit to serve the Grand Ronde area as a result of a grant from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde through its Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

The \$110,000 rescue unit will allow the volunteer fire department to better respond to all kinds of emergencies in the Grand Ronde area faster and more effectively, said Fire Chief Ted Lake.

The \$244,500 grant also will provide a new ambulance, and purchasing additional Life-pak and suction units and new turnout gear, radios and pagers to outfit additional volunteer firefighters.

"This will allow us to more effectively answer emergency and fire calls in our coverage area," Lake said. "It's a major upgrade to equipment that

was in need of repair or replacement."

The added equipment will help the fire department respond to increasing medical calls.

"This equipment will significantly improve the ability of the fire department to save lives in the Grand Ronde community," said Ed Pearsall, secretary of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council and a member of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board. "This is an effective way for the Community Fund to give back and help West Valley communities."

The Community Fund has the Willamina, Newberg and Sheridan fire districts in the past by purchasing "jaws of life" equipment and a Highway 18 Incident Response Vehicle. The Community Fund recently made a \$431,319 grant to the Polk County

Sheriff's Office for enhanced law-enforcement coverage for the Grand Ronde area.

Willamina's new rescue unit will respond to medical calls, motor vehicle crashes and structure fires. In addition, it will provide assistance on high-angle rescue.

The rescue unit has a compressed-air foam unit which allows it to more effectively respond to motor vehicle accidents and car fires. It provides the fire department with increased stocks of compressed air, so the firefighters, adding to the department's ability to handle situations quickly.

The fire department provides service to 4,000 citizens of Polk County and Yamhill County and about 1,000 to 4000 visitors to the area per day. The department has 50 volunteer, part-time and full-time personnel.

Burns Paiute Tribe buys land lost to feds long ago

More than a century ago, the federal government dismantled the 1.7 million acre Malheur Reservation in Central Oregon, leaving its Paiute inhabitants scattered across the West.

Recently, Northern Paiute people from four states gathered at the foot of Strawberry Mountains with the Burns Paiute Tribe to celebrate its first big land acquisition on the former reservation.

"To me, its been a long time coming," said Lillian Maynard, a Burns Paiute Tribal Elder and member of the Tribal Council.

The purchase of the 1,760 acre ranch in Logan Valley was made possible through a \$2 million wildlife mitigation grant from the Bonneville Power Administration.

But for the Burns Paiute, it goes beyond wildlife. It is a way to reconnect the young members of the 300-member Tribe to their heritage, Maynard said.

The former cattle ranch, once part of the large Oxbow Ranch, now will be managed by the Tribe to enhance the fish and wildlife on the high meadows near the headwaters of the Malheur River, said Dan Gonzalez, fish and wildlife program manager for the Burns Paiute.