

Grand Rondes Bid For Inclusion in Gorge National Scenic Act

■ Gorge Tribal members speak up for the Tribe and for their own heritage.

By Ron Karten

"Grand Ronde seeks to be consulted and involved in the protection and management of the Gorge in the same manner as the other Columbia River Tribes."

With these words, the Grand Rondes aim to have a bill introduced into the 110th Congress to accomplish that goal.

In support of that bill, the Grand Rondes have produced an eight-minute DVD "to demonstrate to state and federal authorities that members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Rondes have always had ties to the Columbia River Gorge area," according to Siobhan Taylor, Director

of Public Affairs for the Tribe.

"We have Tribal members who trace their heritage to Chief Tumulth, signer of the 1855 Willamette Valley Treaty, and that tie has never been broken," she said.

Tribal Elders Valerie Alexander, her sister Marilyn Portwood and their cousin Chuck Williams, all lifelong residents of the Gorge area, participated in the production. [See related story on Alexander on page 4]

"As a result of Termination, the Grand Rondes were ignored when the scenic act first was passed," said Taylor.

Now, the Tribe is speaking up for its right to be heard. ■

Grand Ronde Community Rallies to Raise Money for Tribal Member

■ Benefit Concert with Silent Auction and BBQ Dinner to be held Saturday, June 30.

By Angie Sears

A group of Grand Ronde community members have rallied together to raise money for Tribal member Jackie Whisler, who is suffering from a life threatening illness.

Whisler, a long-time resident of Lincoln City, OR, has been battling cancer for more than a year. She has been an active member of the Grand Ronde community most of her life; in fact, she played a key role in the restoration of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Last July, her illness forced her to leave her position as a language specialist with the Tribe.

A group of her friends, family, co-workers and community members have come together to hold a series of fundraisers to help with the cost of treatment and travel expenses. She is currently undergoing rigorous chemotherapy treatments in Lincoln City, but there is a chance the family will be considering alternative treatment at a facility in Washington State.

On Saturday, June 30, at 3 p.m. the group will hold a silent auction, with a benefit concert and BBQ dinner at the Tribal gym. The concert will feature performances from Native American flutist and Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf and Native American flutist/guitarist Tim Yett.

The doors will open at 3 p.m. and bidding will begin at 3:30 p.m., with dinner and concert to follow at 4:30 p.m. There is a minimum donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under. Tickets are on sale now. To purchase tickets please contact Angela Sears at 503-879-1961 or inquire via e-mail at angela.sears@grandronde.org. Tickets will be available at the door, but it is requested that people purchase them in advance if possible.

There will be a lot of fun items to bid on, including a massage package, hotel and casino packages, dinner packages, white water rafting, baseball or soccer tickets, Pendleton items, bead work, Native arts and crafts, and much more.

For anyone who can not attend the silent auction / benefit concert but would like to make a donation you can do so at any Bank of America branch. An account has been set up under the "Jackie Whisler Medical Fund." ■

JW Benefit Concert
Silent Auction
and BBQ Dinner

Tribal Gym

Jan Michael Looking Wolf
& Tim Yett

Saturday June 30, 2007

3:00 pm

\$10 for adults
\$5 for children 10 and under

for more information contact

Angie Sears
503 879 1961

Ad created by George Valdez

Pre-Apprenticeship Program Invites Community To "Appreciation BBQ"

By Angie Sears

On April 9, 2007, the Tribe began a pre-apprenticeship program for Tribal members that also included other Native Americans and community members. The program, called G.R.O.W. (Grand Ronde Occupational Workshop), stemmed from the Tribe's Workforce Development Program, run by Tribal member Denise Harvey.

G.R.O.W. began with 17 students, and now has 12, the majority of them being Grand Ronde Tribal members.

The program does not pay students but is designed to give them skills needed to gain employment in the construction trade. They are learning the importance of safety in the workplace, CPR training and the fundamentals of mathematics in construction, as well as the skills of framing, concrete form, layout, roofing, etc.

Currently, the group is working on the construction of the Elders' seating area at the new pow-wow grounds.

"The students have a lot of pride in building the Elders'

seating area. They have donated 275 hours of their personal time to complete the project," said Harvey. The students have also agreed to extend the duration of their class time by four weeks to complete the project.

The class is taught by Doug McCarver of Willamette Carpenters Training Center, and Thomas Ainsworth, a member of the community and Karuk Tribal member. Both instructors have an extensive background and experience in the construction and carpentry industry.

Upon completion of the program, the students will receive a certificate of completion documenting what they learned and the total number



Tribal members from the Tribe's pre-apprenticeship program work on the Elders' seating area at the new pow-wow grounds.

Photo courtesy of Denise Harvey

of hours in training.

"This training will be beneficial to the students by providing experience in the industry," said Harvey. "It will give them the qualifications needed to gain employment in entry-level positions and apprenticeship programs. It also gives them exposure to the industry allowing them to

determine if this field is a good fit for them."

G.R.O.W. has received multiple donations from businesses and would like to give a special thanks to Hampton Lumber for their donation of lumber; to S.D. Deacon Construction for their donation of concrete; to Round Valley for the use of their warehouse, as well as for their support and cooperation with the program; to the CTGR Natural Resources department for the donation of tools and equipment; and to United Rental, that has been very helpful and has sponsored the "Appreciation BBQ" for the students.

The pre-apprenticeship program will hold the BBQ on Tuesday, June 19 from 12-1:30 p.m. at Fort Yamhill Park. The program invites all Tribal and community members to join them in showing their appreciation to the students for their dedication and hard work.

For information about the pre-apprenticeship program contact Denise Harvey at 503-879-2112. ■