

C-SPAN bus coming to Grand Ronde

Visit part of Oregon Council for Social Studies conference

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A big blue bus will be on the Tribal campus on Saturday, April 4.

One of two C-Span Civic Buses — 45-foot mobile production studios and demonstration centers — will be parked on the Tribal campus near the Tribal gymnasium as the Oregon Council for Social Studies holds its spring conference, "Oregon's First People: A Workshop for Educators."

The Oregon Council for Social Studies represents social studies at all levels and has hundreds of members.

According to its Web site, www.oregonsocialstudies.org, the council "represents a diverse spectrum of professionals concerned and involved in social studies education. OCSS is an organization that seeks to foster professional growth and articulate positions for the social studies profession on



Photo courtesy of sarahcostello.files.wordpress.com

relevant issues for educators and the public."

The Saturday conference will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Tribal gymnasium with breakout sessions being held in the Tribal Education Building. It will discuss Native issues for kindergarten through 12th-grade educators.

Among presenters will be Tribal members David Lewis and Kathryn

Harrison on "Grand Ronde Tribal Perspectives on Termination" and Tribal member and Education Division Manager April Campbell on "Indians in Oregon Today."

Cultural Resources Secretary Angella McCallister will display the Tribe's virtual story "Ntsayka Ikanum" in the Education Building Computer Lab.

"The spring conference hopes to inform educators and interested people from across the state of Oregon about Oregon's First People so that information is taught in our classrooms," says Lisa Iverson, president-elect of the OCSS and a teacher at Cascade High School in Turner.

"I have lived in Oregon for 10 years and have seen very little for educators about Oregon's First People. It is not to say there are not resources available, but I thought it was time for this to be a conference theme so all educators, not just educators working with Tribes, have the information from Tribal experts they need.

"Textbooks hardly give any information on this topic. In fact, my U.S. history textbook, which is new, gives less than a paragraph to the topic of Termination. It states it

was a disaster, but gives no details. That is not good enough."

Turner said that the conference was originally going to be held at Cascade High School, but that after meeting with Campbell, who volunteered use of the Tribe's facilities, it was moved.

"It is a much more appropriate place given the topic," Iverson says.

The C-SPAN bus, part of the cable channel's Bus Program launched in 1993, seeks to bring public affairs into schools and communities nationwide. It is equipped with TV production units that can be used as studios during live programs, such as C-SPAN's "Washington Journal."

Students, authors, journalists and national leaders have been interviewed aboard the buses.

Currently, the two Civic Buses are on a dual "100 Days, 100 Schools" Tour in honor of President Barack Obama's first 100 days in office. They are visiting 100 middle and high schools from Jan. 21 through April 30.

Iverson said the bus will be open to the public to tour and the conference's two featured authors, Lewis & Clark College professors Stephen Beckham and Robert Miller, will be interviewed.

The bus is scheduled to arrive around 10:30 a.m.

Iverson said about 100 educators are expected to attend the conference and that Grand Ronde Tribal members who want to attend will receive a special rate: two-for-one for \$30, which includes lunch.

"There is truly something for everyone at this conference," Iverson said. "History, uses of Native plants, published authors, internationally known storyteller just back from a world tour (Jack Dalton), basket weaver (Tribal Elder Connie Graves) and more."

The Oregon Council for Social Studies spring conference is funded through a \$4,000 grant from the Tribe's Spirit Mountain Community Fund. ■

Getting well



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Travis Mercier, Tribal member and the Tribe's Youth Education Culture Specialist, holds a screen as Tribal member Amanda Grijalva pulls ink over it to make a print on a T-shirt during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Native Youth Wellness Day held on the Tribal campus on Friday, March 20. The event was for Native youth in grades 6-12. Below, Tribal members Anthony Cook, left, and Jordan Thornbrough fill out surveys. The survey was voluntary and its purpose is to help identify the strengths and needs of youth in the community and develop strategies for working with Native youth.



Dehydrators wanted

The Grand Ronde Community Resource Center is seeking donations of food dehydrators for its food preservation program.

If you would like to donate, contact Patrice at 503-879-5731. Any and all donations of food, food preservation supplies and money are welcome. ■

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(taking applications until unit filled)

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