

# Powwow meeting unites Tribal teens

## Tualatin grads share Native ancestry, if not the same Tribal affiliation

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Jared Ripley remembers when he and Siletz Tribal member Anthony Cook would pass each other in the hallways of Tualatin High School and compete on the same football and track teams together.

They also were both members of the school's Outdoor Club.

Little did they know that they were both enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes in Oregon and, somewhere back in time, might have a common relative.

But then the Grand Ronde Tribe's 2007 Competition Powwow occurred.

Ripley attended and recognized his classmate, Cook, who attended to support his cousin, who dances.

"I saw him at the powwow and it kind of took me off-guard," Cook, 18, recalls. "I had no idea he was a Tribal member."

"We just became close friends, and then through other friends on the track team, we all just started hanging out a lot, and have become closer friends since then," Ripley says.

"It's pretty funny at first, because we didn't know each other until football came around and just ran into each other at the powwow."

Since their junior year, they've been fast friends who, despite being

from different Tribes, have found a common, sublime bond in their Native ancestry.

"It's actually pretty cool," Cook says about becoming friends with another Native American. "I would talk about powwows and stuff in some of my classes, and my experiences and whatnot, and everybody was always like, 'What's a powwow?' With Jared, we could actually talk about what went on at the powwow instead of just trying to explain what one is."

"In 2008, Jared and Anthony brought eight Tualatin High seniors to the powwow and camped out for three days to teach them about Native culture," says Ripley's mother, Tribal member and Mentorship & Workforce Development Coordinator Denise Harvey.

"None of these students or their parents had ever been to a powwow before. All of them really enjoyed the experience."

Ripley and Cook graduated together from Tualatin High on June 3, participated together in the Grand Ronde Tribe's Graduation Celebration on June 19 and plan on attending Chemeketa Community College in Salem together this fall, living together as roommates.

Ripley says he is seeking to get into the fire program at Chemeketa while Cook says he is interested in law enforcement.

Ripley, 17, says his Native ancestry has sparked interest from his classmates while attending Tualatin High School.

"People think it's kind of interesting and ask me questions about it," Ripley says.

Ripley says that he and Cook have not let any issues between the two Tribes trickle down to their friendship. Actually, the biggest differences between the two Tribes, they've found with their teenage perspectives, is in what they individually receive in assistance to continue their education.

"Tribal differences don't really come between us at all," Ripley says. "We just compare stuff. We're going to be roommates next year in college so we talk about getting financial aid from the Tribes and how much aid our Tribe is going to give us."

Who's getting the better deal? "Moneywise, I think it's me," Ripley says. "But Siletz gives him a free laptop and stuff. But I think as far as money goes, I get more money."

"We joke about that all the time," Cook says. "Both of the Tribes take care of us pretty well, so it's hard to complain."

Ripley says he has researched his



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal member Jared Ripley, left, and Siletz Tribal member Anthony Cook became friends their junior year while attending Tualatin High School. They graduated together from Tualatin High on June 3 and attended Grand Ronde's Graduation Celebration on June 19.**

heritage, participating in sweats and attending powwows, but hasn't gone as far back as necessary to determine if he and Cook are distant cousins.

After Chemeketa, Ripley says he and Cook also might continue on their educational journeys together to Western Oregon University.

Will they be lifelong friends after their chance meeting at the powwow?

"Yeah, I think so," Ripley says. "I'd like to say so," Cook says. "We're rooming together in college. After that, I'm sure we're not going to be too far away." ■

## Cultural Corner

### Intermediate Twining Basketry Class

**Grand Ronde**  
July 11  
Education Room 207  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**Eugene**  
July 18  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

**Portland**  
Aug. 1  
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Bring a sack lunch and good scissors  
Limit to 15 people per office.  
RSVP to Misty Thorsgard 503-879-2320

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### Wing Dress Class

students need to contact Misty Thorsgard for supply list

**Portland**  
July 6, 13, 20, 27  
6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

**Grand Ronde**  
July 19, 26  
11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**Eugene**  
Aug. 2, 9  
11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

### Eugene Wetlands Class

**July 23, Aug. 13, Sept. 24**

for information contact Greg Archuleta  
503-863-0927  
or gregarchuleta@verizon.net

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### Parfleche Class

**Grand Ronde**  
July 16, 17  
Education Room 207  
6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

**Portland**  
Aug. 1  
11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

**Eugene**  
Aug. 8  
11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

All materials provided  
Limit to 10 people per office.  
RSVP to Misty Thorsgard 503-879-2320

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### Gathering Class

**Eugene**  
July 23  
11 A.M.

**Portland**  
July 18  
11 A.M.

for information contact Greg Archuleta  
503-863-0927  
or gregarchuleta@verizon.net

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