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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Marilyn Portwood views her cousin Carroll Grenia's exhibit at Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville recently. Grenia enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and was designated for the Army Air Corps and trained as a B-17 pilot. He flew 35 missions during World War II without being hit. Grenia was a Grand Ronde Tribal member who walked on in 2002.

Grand Ronde hosting ATNI conference

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Space at the 254-room Spirit Mountain Lodge will be at a premium between Sunday, May 16, and Thursday, May 20, as the Grand Ronde Tribe hosts the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians' Mid-Year Conference.

ATNI Executive Director Cleora Hill-Scott (Crow) said about 400 representatives from 57 Northwest Tribal governments in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, southeast Alaska, northern California and western Montana will be attending.

The conference starts 11 a.m. Sunday, May 16, with a Committee Chair/Volunteer meeting and registration occurring between 4 and 6 p.m.

General sessions start at 8 a.m. Monday, May 17, with the posting of colors by the Grand Ronde Honor Guard and welcome speeches by Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader via video.

Tribal Canoe Family members and Royalty also will participate in the opening and closing ceremonies and will present special pins to veterans in the audience.

Tribal member and Tribal Lands Manager Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach, 2009 Artist of the Year at the Native American Music Awards, will perform at the welcoming ceremony on Monday.

The conference will feature general sessions in the morning, lunches sponsored by the Grand Ronde Tribe and Spirit Mountain Casino, and then committee meetings in the afternoons.

ATNI has 20 committees that range in expertise from Culture & Elders to Economic Development to Education, Gaming and Health.

"This year, our theme is 'United Since 1953 Strengthening Our Sovereignty,'" Hill-Scott said. "The general sessions will be keying in on initiatives of Northwest Tribes and the current administration.

"We are in the second phase of strategic planning. Tribal leaders will have open discussions in the morning and we will break into committees in the afternoons. This prepares us for the National Congress of American Indians."

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STILL FLYING

Tribal member and Air Force veteran Carroll Grenia lives on at museum

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

Memorial Day might be a good time to have a look at a permanent exhibit at McMinnville's Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville that salutes a late Tribal member.

The exhibit, which honors Air Force Capt. Carroll Grenia, was installed in mid-January.

Grenia served as a B-17 pilot based in England during World War II as part of the 410th Squadron, 3rd Division and

the 94th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force.

He led his men through 35 missions without being hit, enjoyed a long career in the Air Force, retired in the 1960s at the rank of lieutenant colonel and walked on in 2002.

After Grenia passed away, his



Tribal member Carroll Grenia

wife, Trudy, wanted his remembrances from the war displayed. Through the hospice chaplain at Colonial Gardens where Trudy lives, word got to Evergreen Aviation Museum curator Stu Bailey.

"This was a great story for us to tell," said Bailey.

The story included Grenia's jacket and flight suit, photographs and his carrying bag. His

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Tribal Honor Guard preps for Memorial Day

Grand Ronde event will feature Schrader speech, ceremonial meal

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

On Memorial Day — Monday, May 31 this year — the Grand Ronde Honor Guard will make the local rounds with services, salutes and remembrances in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for Tribe and country, those who served and those who supported them at home.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Tribal Cemetery on Grand Ronde Road, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard, including veterans Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte, Christian Tinney (Lower Eastern Cherokee), Wayne Chulik (Tlinget), Norris Merrill and Tribal

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