Grants make memories for Tribal members

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Elders and Culture Committee members are among recipients of $12,000 in grants from the Cultural Trust of Oregon.

After seven years of crossing Ts and dotting Is, the Grand Ronde Cultural Trust Board became eligible this year for funds disbursed by the state's arts, heritage and humanities grantor. Making up for lost time, Tribal members received two year's worth of funds this summer.

The money comes from the Oregon State Cultural Trust that since 1999 has distributed funds through Oregon counties. Tribes sought consideration for the funds back in 2003, and this year the money includes $5,499 for 2009 and $6,525 for 2010.

"This helps to seed cultural activities in the community," said Tribal member Perri McDaniel, chair of the Grand Ronde Cultural Trust Board.

"The unique thing about this program is that you can be an individual and get a grant. For somebody working on regalia, or for a professional photographer like (Tribal Elder) Chuck Williams who is cataloguing years and years of his photographs, this is perfect."

It also meant that groups, like Tribal Elders, received support to travel to Neah Bay, Wash., the destination in this year's annual Canoe Journey. They shared in the week-long gathering as honored guests.

"I just love the Canoe Family," said Tribal Elder Linda Brandon. She sent out a special thank you to Tribal member Bobby Mercier "who always makes sure that Elders are taken care of. Thank you to Shannon Stanton and Lisa Leno also. They're so good to us. They made a special place for us, so we always had somewhere to sit. We were never hungry, and never had to wait for anything. As always, I enjoyed this journey."

"The trip was fun," said Tribal Elder Claudia Leno. "People were considerate, and we would like to say thank you to Rose Jimicum (Makah) who let us stay at her house."

"I loved it when they called it, 'The Indian Woodstock,' " said Tribal Elder Laura Gleason, referring to the headline of a story about the celebration in the Peninsula Daily News. "There were thousands of tents and people."

Also with the help of these grants, Culture Committee members including Tribal Elder Kathleen Provost joined about 20 other Tribal members digging for camas root near Cascadia Park in the Sweet Home Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

Provost remembered the white roots from her childhood, she said, "but I didn't have the spiritual connection I had this time, praying and making an offering and blessings and giving thanks."

"Tribal Elder Cordelia Kneeland prayed for us, for the land and the camas," said Provost. "We had a wonderful time. It was really easy digging, surprisingly. I thought it would be difficult, but it wasn't."

The camas bulbs were down 8 to 10 inches, she said, but the ground was soft and "once you dug a root up, you could kind of see other roots and get them."

The group came home with about three gallon containers worth of root. Some will be dried and some frozen. The Culture Committee will use them for the annual First Foods Ceremony next spring.

And when it comes time to prepare them, Provost said some will be boiled and some will be baked.

"I'm happy that we got the program going," said Tribal member David Lewis, vice chair of the Grand Ronde Cultural Trust Board and Cultural Resources Department manager. "It took awhile to get all the documents in order and convene a board."

Cultural Trust Board members include McDaniel and Lewis along with Tribal Elder Linda Olson, serving as secretary, and Tribal Elder Betty Bly, who represents the Culture Committee on the board. The fifth seat is vacant.

Tribal members interested in serving on the board should contact a board member or Tribal member and Tribal Council Relations Coordinator Dakota Whitecloud. Each board member serves a two-year term and the board meets monthly.

The Oregon Cultural Trust was authorized in 1999 to increase public and private support for Oregon's arts, heritage and humanities, according to the trust's Web site. Its goal is to create a sustainable $200 million permanent endowment for culture.

Since 2002, Oregonians have contributed more than $17 million and the trust has awarded more than $8 million in grants across the state. Cultural license plates now numbering 31,000 help fund the trust. ■

GED Classes

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4 p.m.
Tribal Education Building
Contact Joanne Carr at 503-879-2282
or joanne.carr@grandronde.org ■

Sad farewell

Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Connie Holmes, middle, is presented a Pendleton blanket by Tribal Council member June Sell-Sherer and Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno on behalf of Tribal Council and the Tribe on her last day of work on Wednesday, Aug. 11. Holmes, who worked for the Tribe for 21 years, resigned as senior human resources generalist and took a new job as a human resources analyst for Benton County.

CTGR Annual fish distribution

Natural Resources Division Fish Lab

ELDER DAY
Must be an ELDER or picking up for other ELDERS ONLY.
Thursday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

All MEMBERSHIP
Friday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 a.m. – Noon

Must show Tribal I.D.
If picking up for others, a signed note with copy of Tribal I.D. is required
No early or late pick up.
Questions? Contact Angella McCallister at 503-879-2376.

2010 SUBSISTANCE - RELEASE FORM

I agree to take full responsibility for picking up salmon for my family. I have obtained Tribal ID and notes from each member. Listed below are the names and roll numbers I will be picking up for today.

NAME	ROLL #	NAME	ROLL #

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Social Services 2010 School Clothes Program

This is a first-come, first-served program.
Child must be an enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member.
Child must be of school age and enrolled in school (preschool, elementary, middle or high school).
Income criteria applies.
Please contact Social Services at 1-800-242-8196 or 503-879-2034 for an application.
Deadline for all applications is Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010. ■