

Reibach appointed to BLM Surveyor Certification Panel

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach, who has worked as the Tribe's Lands Manager for the past 15 years, has been appointed by the Department of Interior to the Bureau of Land Management's Certified Federal Surveyor Certification Panel.

Don Buhler, chief cadastral surveyor with the bureau, said Reibach was appointed because the Grand Ronde Tribe was the first in the Pacific Northwest to begin working with the Branch of Cadastral Surveys to ensure Tribal land boundaries were accurately located and free of conflict.

"You immediately recognized the significance of the Certified Federal Survey program and the standards for Indian Trust Lands boundary evidence," Buhler said. "So it seems fitting that the Grand Ronde Tribe should continue to lead through Mr. Reibach's participation on the panel.

"(Reibach) was instrumental in the implementation of the Certified Federal Survey program as an internal required part of the fee to trust conversion process and has direct experience regarding how the program can benefit Tribal organizations."

The panel includes two members of the Certified Federal Survey program, one Tribal representative and one representative from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping.

"It should be noted that this is a very prestigious and honorable appointment," said Certified Federal Surveyor Lee MacDonald. "Out of the entire nation, there is only one panel seat for a Tribal representative and due to Jan's expertise in federal realty, this was offered to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde."

By serving on the panel, Reibach will help train, test, administer, consider and determine matters within the jurisdiction of the Certified Federal Surveyor program. Buhler said most of the panel's business will be carried out via e-mail and conference calls, but if travel is required, the cost will be paid by the program. Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy and Reibach both accepted the appointment on Feb. 21.

"The appointment relates to a process that I adopted that is partially responsible for our trust applications processing much faster," Reibach said. "According to the Department of Interior Office of the Special Trustee, the average time for an on-reservation trust application can exceed three years and we are now completing most of ours in well under a year." ■



Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach

Quilt winner

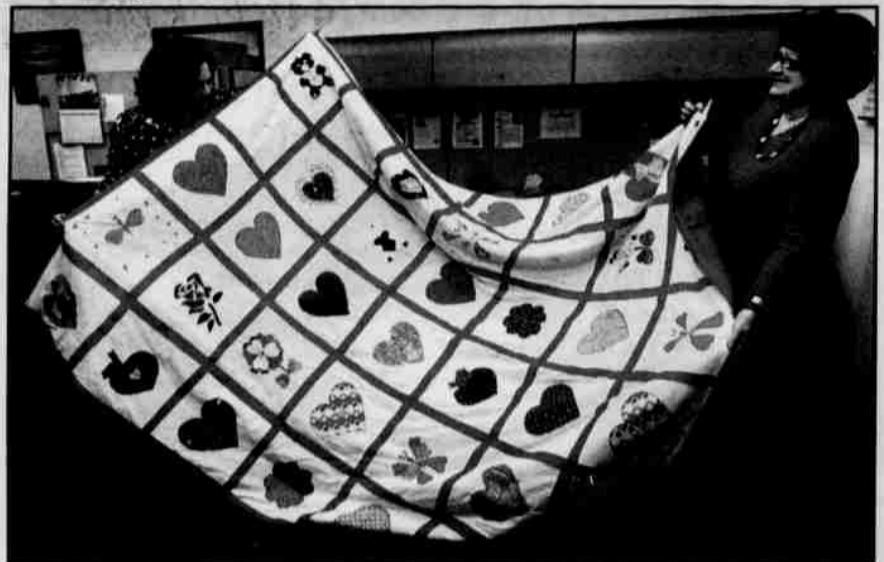


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Connie Holmes, left, Human Resources generalist and Tribal member, checks out the Valentine's Day quilt she won in a raffle after she was given it by Tribal Elder Louise Medeiros, right, in the Tribe's Human Resources Department on Thursday, Feb. 16. The quilt was made by The Crafty Ladies, a club recently formed by Tribal Elders, including Medeiros, and the winning ticket was picked at the General Council meeting on Sunday, Feb. 12. The idea behind the club is to offer craft projects, such as quilt and birdhouse making, that anyone can participate in, not just Elders. The club would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets in support of their first project. For more information about the club, contact Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233.

Elder Honor Day T-shirt design sought

Tribal Elders are seeking help in the form of suggested designs for a T-shirt to be worn during Elder Honor Day in July.

T-shirt design submissions should be sent to Julie Duncan at the Tribal Elders' Activity Center by Friday, March 16.

For more information, call Elders Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233. ■

Zumba held in gym

Zumba, an easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired and calorie-burning dance fitness party, is held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in the Tribal gymnasium.

The first class is free and \$6 thereafter for drop-ins, or \$5 if participants purchase a punch card.

For more information, contact Tribal Recreation Coordinator Alton Butler at 503-879-1369 or alton.butler@grandronde.org. ■

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Sacred Hoop Ceremony

Friday, March 9

Tribal gym

The four gifts of the Sacred Hoop are the power to forgive, healing, hope and unity. The hoop brings healing for all recovering from different kinds of trauma and also helps strengthen sobriety and Wellbriety in the community. The ceremony is open to all.

People planning on attending need to RSVP to Cristina Lara at 503-879-2040 by Friday, March 2.

Behavioral Health and Preventions Program

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