

State bans Native mascots

Grand Ronde Tribe unhappy that Tribal education ignored

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Oregon Board of Education voted 5-1 on Thursday, May 17, to ban Native American-themed mascots by 2017 or schools risk losing state funding.

The decision, which runs contrary to the stated wishes of some of the state's nine federally recognized Tribes, requires Oregon public schools eliminate names, such as "Indians," "Chiefs" and "Braves." "Warriors" can still be used, but school logos cannot reference Tribal customs or traditions.

The Board of Education reportedly received about 750 comments on the new policy and about 400 of

them were in favor of the ban.

The high schools directly affected by the decision are Banks, Mohawk, Molalla, Reedsport, Rogue River, Roseburg, Scappoose and Dalles-Wahtonka.

The seven high schools that use "Warriors" as their mascot that will have to drop logos and mascots depicting Native Americans are Amity, Lebanon, North Douglas, Oakridge, Philomath, Siletz Valley and Warrenton.

Chemawa Indian School, which is operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and uses "Braves" as its mascot, will not be affected by the new state rule.

The Grand Ronde Tribe's stand on the Native American mascots issue was that the mascots actually were compliments to Native Tribes and that their use should be settled on a case-by-case basis between individual schools and their nearest Native American Tribe.

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy recently said that mascots are supposed to be inspirational and, therefore, it was a compliment that schools would use a Native American mascot.

The Tribe also opposed a one-size-fits-all solution to the issue.

Vice Chair Reyn Leno said he was disappointed that the Board of Education missed the entire point that the Grand Ronde Tribe supported — teaching Oregon children about Tribal history is a more important issue than the use of Native mascots by high schools.

Leno said he also was disappointed that the government-to-government process created by Gov. John Kitzhaber was overlooked in the process that brought about the Native mascot ban.

"The Tribe is very disappointed that they've trampled our sovereignty and have ignored something

that our Tribes in Oregon have been calling for for years, which is curriculum that accurately describes Oregon's Native history," said Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor.

The Grand Ronde Tribe has consistently pushed for a proactive solution: Inclusion of Oregon Tribal history in state curriculum requirements as a way to honor Oregon Native American Tribes and educate Oregonians about Tribal history in the state.

"Why are our children going to school and teaching their teachers about Oregon Tribal history?" Leno has consistently asked in meetings.

Tribes should have been able "to address these issues within their territories," Taylor said.

"Instead, they moved ahead with a policy that really is a mandate without any funding," she said. ■

Trout limit increased

Anglers will be allowed to keep up to five trout a day on the South Yamhill River, a rule that started on May 26 when the late trout season opened in many streams and lakes throughout Oregon.

The Yamhill River is one of the few in the state stocked with hatchery trout because of a program now in its fourth year. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife released 1,900 hatchery trout in a three-mile stretch of the Yamhill in preparation for the season opening, according to Tom Murtagh, district fish biologist for the department's North Willamette Watershed. The fish range in length from 8 to 14 inches.

"There's going to be a lot of hungry trout in a short stretch of river and you'll be able to keep up to five of them," he said. The first were released along Yamhill River Road from Gold Creek Road Bridge crossing downstream to Willamina Creek. There are multiple access points and places to park along the road in this location. However, anglers are advised to respect private property adjacent to the river in some locations.

The South Yamhill River is open to trout fishing — fin clipped rainbow trout and non-fin clipped cutthroat trout — through Oct. 31. Anglers can keep five trout per day, of which no more than two may be non-fin clipped cutthroat trout, 8-inch minimum length for all trout. In addition, bait is not allowed. Anglers must use lures and flies only. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- **Ceremonial Hunt Board** meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- **Cultural Trust Board** meets at 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Modular No. 2. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: TBD.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Jon George.
- **Elders' Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **Rodeo Special Event Board** meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Social Services Committee** meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Jenny Sanchez.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 4 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dakota Whitecloud.

Bernando teaches Wawa in Portland office

Tribal member Eric Bernando teaches weekly Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5:30 to 8:20 p.m. Wednesdays at the Portland office, 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Suite 101.

For more information, contact Bernando at ChinukWawa@gmail.com or at 503-709-3017. ■

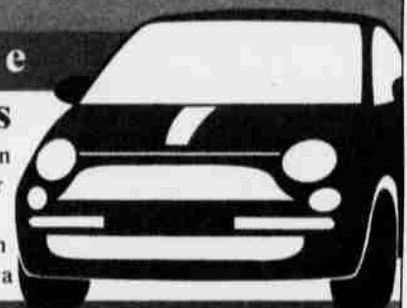
Transportation to Grand Ronde for Tribal members

The Portland Office has transportation day to Grand Ronde once a month for medical, dental appointments or enrollment cards. We need a minimum of 3 people to sign up. Please call Lisa

503-235-4230

We will leave at the Portland Office at 8 a.m.

Please call in advance for the scheduled monthly date



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