

# OSU helps Tribes archive their history

By Theresa Hogue

Oregon State University

CORVALLIS — Oregon State University Libraries is helping Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes preserve some of their most important historical records.

In August, OSU Libraries hosted the Oregon Tribal Archives Institute, a project created through a two-year grant from the Oregon State Library that focused on providing in-depth archives and records management training for Oregon's nine Tribal nations.

The institute was designed to help the Tribes establish an archives and records management program, or further an existing program. It also provided Tribal representatives with a chance to collaborate and identify ways to work together as they move to organize, preserve and make accessible to their Tribal communities key parts of their history.

David Lewis, Tribal Museum curator for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, participated in the five-day workshop. He said the Grand Ronde community is intimately involved in preserving its history, and many Tribal Elders assist by identify people in archival photographs or donate family papers for archiving. The archives are

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~ David Lewis, Tribal Museum curator

maintained by Tribal employees who are motivated by an interest in maintaining the Tribe's history.

"The training was a way that we at Grand Ronde could increase the skills of the staff and help them do their work better and more efficiently," Lewis said. "The institute gave them ideas and introduced them to a network of similar people and we will need these as we move into developing a museum at the Tribe. The training was amazing, better than I had hoped."

Oregon State already has a history of working with the preservation of multicultural archives from around the state. OSU Libraries houses the Oregon Multicultural Archives, which assists in preserving the histories and sharing the stories that document Oregon's African American, Asian American, Latino and Native American communities, as well as advancing scholarship in ethnic studies and racial diversity both on the Oregon State campus as well as statewide and regionally.

"This institute was a unique op-

portunity to bring together Tribal culture keepers from both records management and archival programs," said Natalia Fernandez, Oregon Multicultural Librarian with OSU Libraries. "While one of the main goals of the institute was to provide an opportunity for professional development, our other, and perhaps more important goal was to provide an opportunity for networking and community building."

The training included archival facility planning; disaster preparedness planning and recovery; best practices for proper care and storage of archival materials; audio/visual collections; electronic

records management; records retention and collection development policies, access levels to Tribal records available online; grant writing; social media; professional development networks and project collaboration.

The group also took field trips to the Siletz and Grand Ronde communities and the Benton County Museum to look at their archival and museum facilities.

"To have participants from all nine Tribes in Oregon really tells me that there is a need," Lewis said, "and we have done the right thing to pursue this project."

Oregon State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen said she appreciated the collaborative effort of the institute. "I was delighted with the level of excitement and commitment I got from the group after a very full week of intense work," she said. ■

## Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program:

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The Tribal Court is looking for committed, caring adults who have an interest in helping one of the nearly 90 Grand Ronde children currently in foster care by becoming a CASA volunteer. As a volunteer, you will be trained to help give children a voice during a difficult time by appearing at Court, attending meetings involving the child, and advocating for the child's best interest.

For more information or to apply, contact Adrea Korthase, Tribal Court Program Specialist at 503-879-4623 or email [adrea.korthase@grandronde.org](mailto:adrea.korthase@grandronde.org)

If you would like more information on how to volunteer and better serve our Tribal Children, please detach and complete this form and return it to: Tribal Court Programs Specialist, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. For additional information, call 503-879-4623 or email [adrea.korthase@grandronde.org](mailto:adrea.korthase@grandronde.org).



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## Academic visit



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Mel Netzhammer, chancellor of Washington State University Vancouver and Jane Cote, College of Business academic director at WSU Vancouver, made a trip to Grand Ronde to visit with Tribal Council on Thursday, Sept. 20. Tribal Chairman Reyn Leno, left, educated them on the Tribe's history, as well as its health care and education programs. Netzhammer and Cote gave Tribal Council a short overview of the business programs the university offers and said that they hope to explore opportunities for future partnerships.**

## Elders' garage sale seeking donations

Tribal Elders are regularly seeking donations for fundraising garage sales.

To donate an item or items, contact Tribal Elders Linda Brandon at 971-267-0918 or Duane Wheeler at 541-992-3254. ■

## 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

Ad created by George Valdez