

## Cultural Trust Board seeking grant applicants

The Tribe's Cultural Trust Board received \$6,359 for the 2013 grant year and is now accepting grant applications through Dec. 15.

The board will finalize grant awards by Jan. 10 and applicants will receive notification of their grant application status by Jan. 15.

This is the earliest the board has ever opened the grant cycle to allow more time for grantees to complete their cultural projects since final reporting is due to the Oregon State Cultural Trust each year by Aug. 31.

Since 2009, when the Grand Ronde Cultural Trust Board started giving cultural grants, it has funded individuals' participation in Tribal Canoe Journey, sewing classes, moccasin making classes, an ethno botany project, a Chinuk Wawa project, research for a book about Tribal member families, camas digging, huckleberry picking, regalia making, wood carving and other cultural projects.

Grand Ronde Cultural Trust Board members include McDaniel, Contreras, Vice Chair Betty Bly, Secretary Stephanie Wood and board member Claudia Leno. ■

## Education offers Chinuk Wawa classes

The Tribe's Cultural Education Department offers adult Chinuk Wawa language classes from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday in Room 207 of the Tribal Education Building.

Language classes can be taken for college credit or fun.

For more information, call 503-879-2249 or 503-437-4599. ■

## Just a Memory Away

*I'm no longer by your side,  
but there's no need to weep;  
I've left sweet recollections  
I'm hoping you will keep.*

*Eternal joy and memories  
stay in our hearts forever,  
Strengthening our special bond  
that parting cannot sever.*

*Now it's time to journey on,  
so let your faith be strong,  
For I am in a better place...  
I'm home where I belong.*

*And if times of loneliness  
bring sorrow and dismay,  
Don't despair, for I am there...*

*Just a Memory Away*  
—Lisa S. Berr

Family and friends — Nora Kimsey went home Sept. 7, 2011. She was 102 years old. Nora was a quiet lady, never asking for anything. She cared about her family and friends. Nora planned her own funeral not wanting to burden us or by any memorial or hardship on anyone.

Nora wanted us just to remember her life with us.

~ Margaret Provost

# Williams co-founded Salmon Corps

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cil Andrus sought out Williams' priorities for national parks. Twelve of his 13 "wish list" items received National Parks System protection as a result.

Giving protection to these wish list items also cleared out the backlog of National Parks legislation, Williams says, "so that protection for other proposed parks, including the Columbia Gorge, could finally be considered."

It was also during this time that he determined to finish his college degree. In 1973, a month before he turned 30, he received a bachelor of arts degree in Expressive Arts from Sonoma State University in California.

While working on the Gorge book in the late 1970s, Williams co-founded the Columbia Gorge Coalition, the grass-roots group that began the campaign to save the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. After years of fighting, his idealism hit the hard edge of a longtime Oregon reality.

Protection for the Gorge ran head first into a Portland society class that from the beginning of the century had controlled virtually all environmental efforts, Williams says.

"They favored timber interests, utilities and moneyed interests," he says.

As a result, still today Oregon has fallen well behind neighboring states in protecting the flora and fauna.

"While 4.4 percent of Washington state and 5 percent of California are in the National Park System,



Photo courtesy of Chuck Williams

Asian-American drumming ensemble Portland Taiko performs at the Obonfest at the Oregon Buddhist Temple in Portland.

only 0.3 percent of Oregon is," Williams says.

It wasn't long before development began in the Columbia Gorge Na-

tional Scenic Area.

"Instead of a real park," he says, "we got a zoning bill based on Oregon's land-use planning. So the

wealthy are still able to move to the Gorge and build their McMansions."

In 1986, in debt after fighting the Gorge battle, Williams went to work for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, where he first began to photograph people and celebrations. He notes, ruefully, that back in the day when he first started shooting, he had opportunities to photograph The Grateful Dead and Janis Joplin, among many cultural icons, but was still a nature photographer-purist.

In addition to his work protecting and restoring salmon runs at the fish commission, Williams co-founded Salmon Corps, an AmeriCorps program for Native American youth.

"Unfortunately, Salmon Corps no longer exists, but hundreds of Indian kids got to go to college because of it — and I'm probably more proud of setting it up than anything else I've done."

His political efforts in environmental issues have brought him into conflict with many of the best-known names in the environmental movement today.

"He is a determined and relentless activist for native rights, for environmental health and for the legacy of the Grand Ronde Tribe in the Columbia Gorge," says Lewis. "He has a wealth of experiences in all of these areas and has sacrificed his own economic well-being in defense of these ideals. Some of his books are self-financed and all of the proceeds have gone toward defending the lands of his people, the Cascades. Without his selfless activism, I don't know if we would have a scenic Columbia Gorge today." ■