



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy talks to a variety of state employees about Native American history in Oregon and Tribal sovereignty during Oregon Tribal Governments Legislative Day held at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem last February. This year's day will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Tribal Governments Legislative Day set for Thursday, Feb. 13

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

SALEM — Tribal Governments Legislative Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, in the State Capitol's Galleria.

The Oregon Legislature only meets for a one-month session in 2014 beginning in early February.

In order to take advantage of Tribal-state interactions that can occur during a legislative session, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services reserved the Galleria to give Tribal governments an opportunity to provide information about their Tribes while the Legislature is in session.

"Members of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services indicated at their retreat last summer that educating Oregonians, including Oregon's policymakers, about Tribes is a high priority," said Karen Quigley, executive director of the LCIS. "One of the functions of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services is to arrange a variety of meetings and events throughout the year that address this core priority. It will be a time for Tribes to showcase who they are and what is important to Tribes, and to get that message across to state policymakers while legislators are at the Capitol and involved in taking action that may affect Tribal interests."

The Legislative Commission on Indian Services was created by statute in 1975 to improve services to Indians in Oregon. Its 13 members are appointed jointly by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House to a two-year term. Members select their own officers to serve one-year terms of office.

Quigley said the goal of the Legislative Day is to encourage legislators, legislative staff, state agency employees, Capitol building staff and the public to visit Tribal government information tables and to visit with Tribal leaders and Tribal staff to talk about their Tribe, Tribal priorities and programs, and culture.

"It is also an opportunity for Tribal representatives to visit legislators, sit in on committee hearings and visit with each other," Quigley said.

Grand Ronde's representative on the Legislative Commission on Indian Services is Tribal Council member Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Grand Ronde Public Affairs staff members will be present with Tribal informational material, Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor said.

Quigley added that American Indian Week in Oregon is May 17-24. A proclamation signing is being planned with details to be released at a later date. ■

Helping Hand Award



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Jacki Ward, Education and Outreach manager for The Circus Project in Portland, looks at the Ye?lan Lima (Helping Hand) Award she received from Spirit Mountain Community Fund in the Tribe's Portland office on Thursday, Jan. 16. On the right, Jenn Cohen, The Circus Project's artistic director, takes photos of Ward who was honored in the paid staff category of the award.

Help needed identifying plots

The Facilities Department is asking for help identifying veteran's plots.

If your family member's or friend's plot is a veteran and we do not have a veteran's flag present on holidays, please inform us.

We will do our best to mark all plots of veterans. Contact Adam Leno at 503-879-5525 or adam.leno@grandronde.org. ■

Cover Oregon: Open for business and ready to serve you

Jan. 1 marks not just the beginning of a new year. For many Tribal members, it also marks the beginning of insurance coverage they can get through Cover Oregon, our state's health insurance marketplace.

Cover Oregon is the place for Tribal communities and others to find health insurance and get financial help to pay for it.

Even if you receive services from your Tribal or urban Indian clinic, Cover Oregon will work for you.

This is because health insurance helps cover the cost of services received *outside* your Tribal or urban Indian clinic, like emergency room visits, hospital stays or specialty care.

Despite challenges in the marketplace's early months, thousands of Oregonians are now covered by plans they signed up for through Cover Oregon.

Many choices are available through Cover Oregon, including private plans, Oregon Health Plan and Healthy Kids.

If you are an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe and sign up for insurance through Cover Oregon, you can expect:

- **To help your Tribal community.** Getting health insurance helps fund Tribal or urban Indian clinics.
- **Consistent care.** You can continue to see your doctor at your Tribal or urban Indian clinic.
- **No cost for doctor visits.** You won't pay for any service you receive from a Tribal or urban Indian clinic. Also, you might qualify for no-cost or low-cost health coverage at any doctor or provider if you meet certain income requirements.
- **Flexible enrollment.** Special enrollment periods allow you to sign up or change plans every month.

For more information on benefits to you and your Tribal community, contact Loretta Meneley at 503-879-1359 or 800-775-0095 at the Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center.

We are ready to help answer your questions and help you sign up. Assistance is free.

You can also contact Cover Oregon by calling 1-855-CoverOR (1-855-268-3767) or visit CoverOregon.com. ■

Freedom Through Fitness begins Feb. 24

Freedom Through Fitness Forever, a 12-week fitness program, will begin Monday, Feb. 24, in the Tribal gym.

The program concentrates on cardio, strength and flexibility and costs \$40. It will meet from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

An informational meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, in the Tribal Education Building. At least 40 people have to sign up to start the fitness group activity.

Nutrition planning may be available for an additional fee. There is a zero refund policy. ■