

## Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority



### Opportunity for comment on GRTHA's 2013 Annual Performance Report (APR)

Under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide grants to Indian Tribes/Indian Housing Authorities for the development and operation of low-income housing in Indian areas. Grants are made to eligible recipients under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program.

To be eligible for the grants, respondents must submit an Indian Housing Plan that meets the minimum requirements of the Act, and also submit an Annual Performance Report to HUD, and maintain records for HUD monitoring. The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority (GRTHA) has received multiple grants under this program that were active during 2013.

Comments on the Annual Performance Report are welcome and copies of this report can be obtained at the GRTHA office or by calling 503-879-2401 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2401. Comments must be submitted in writing to GRTHA no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2014. All comments will be incorporated into the final report submitted to HUD.

### Home repair grants for Tribal homes

The Tribe, through the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority, offers Home Repair Grants to Tribally owned private homes for needed repairs, upgrades and maintenance. If you own a home in Oregon and it needs a little help with things like a worn-out roof or a tired heating system, get in touch with your Tribal Housing Authority and see if you and your home qualify. 503-879-2401.

## Mending Broken Hearts training set


The White Bison Mending Broken Hearts training will return to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on June 18-20 at the Tribal Education Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.

The purpose of the training is to offer a culturally based way of healing from grief, loss and intergenerational trauma, especially for Native American people in the United States and Canada.

The training is free, but attendees must register to attend. Attendees are asked for a three-day commitment and be there from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.


To register or for more information, contact Tribal Alcohol and Drug Counselor Karan Scharf at 503-879-2029.

The training is sponsored by the Tribe's Behavioral Health Program and funded through a Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative grant. ■



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## Governor signs new Native mascot bill

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber signed a new Native American mascot bill on Thursday, March 6, that will make the Oregon Board of Education develop rules that guide the use of the mascots and involve the state's nine federally recognized Tribes in the process.

The Board of Education passed a sweeping ban on Native American mascots in 2012 and the Legislature passed a bill in 2013 that would have allowed schools to keep their Native American mascots if they reached an agreement with a nearby Tribe.

Kitzhaber vetoed that bill because he said it created too broad of an exemption on the ban.

The new bill, SB 1509, sends the issue back to the Board of Education, which will develop rules allowing certain mascots, with an exemption likely similar to NCAA rules that permit universities to use the Native imagery and name of a certain Tribe with the Tribe's permission, such as the Florida State Seminoles.

Throughout the two-year process, Grand Ronde Tribal leaders, such as Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno and Tribal Council members Cheryl A. Kennedy and Kathleen Tom, have consistently testified that they do not deem Native American mascots as de facto derogatory. Team mascots are supposed to be inspirational and many Native chiefs and braves from Oregon deserve to be recognized in such a manner.

Grand Ronde Tribal leaders also chided the Board of Education



Oregon Gov.  
John Kitzhaber

for leaving them out of the decision-making process in 2012, ignoring the government-to-government relationship Oregon has established with its nine Tribal governments.

Leno also testified several times before legislative committees that the best way for Oregon to end discrimination against Native Americans is to include the history of the state's Tribes in its school's history curriculum instead of just teaching about the Apache, Sioux and other Plains Tribes.

The new mascot bill unanimously passed the Oregon Senate and was approved by the Oregon House in a 40-18 vote.

"Given that everyone impacted may not be party to the agreement process outlined," Kitzhaber said, "I want to encourage all parties who may be involved in the agreement process to consider the community impact of the use of these mascots and to develop agreements which promote inclusive and culturally appropriate practices."

The closest schools to the Grand Ronde Tribe that use Native American mascots are the Banks Braves, Amity Warriors and Molalla Indians. ■

*Includes information from The Oregonian.*

## Transition House tour



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom surveys the laundry room of the new Women's Transition House while Tribal Council tours the house on Thursday, Feb. 27. The house has eight bedrooms, three of which can accommodate women with children. A Naming and Blessing ceremony for the house is scheduled to take place at noon Tuesday, April 1.