



2009 – Tribal Elder Steve Rife repeated the Trail of Tears trek from Table Rock near Medford to Grand Ronde. It was his third commemorative walk honoring Tribal ancestors who were marched 263 miles in 33 days in 1856 to what would become the Grand Ronde Reservation.



File photo

2004 – Tribal member Jan Michael Reibach and his wife, Rhonda, renewed their wedding vows at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Jan told the audience that he wanted to renew his vows in front of his family and friends so they could help them celebrate their life together.

1999 – Grand Ronde Tribal officials and Sherwood community environmental activists gathered to name a recently discovered waterfall after 19th-century Grand Ronde Chief Ki-a-kuts. The 100-foot falls were nestled out of human sight on privately owned land ceded to the state Forestry Department.

1994 – Tribal member Rosetta Manangan and five other Oregon Native American women were invited by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to a rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square to kick off the president's proposed health reforms. "It was a thrilling experience," she said. "I'm so glad I was invited and could participate."

1989 – Tribal Royalty Court candidates were Jolene Poole, Stephanie Mercier, Tara Leno, Molly Rimer and E'Lisha Lane. The Royalty Pageant was set for Aug. 18 during the annual powwow.

1984 – The Grand Ronde Tribe will start receiving an allocation from New Tribes Money funding, but the amount was still unknown. The Tribe anticipated starting a few new programs with the funding.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Elders' phone numbers wanted

The Tribal Elders Committee is compiling a volunteer phone list of Elders. If you would like to submit your phone number and address to be available to other Elders, send it to elders.committee@grandronde.org or leave a message at 503-879-2231. ■

Meals were provided by the Tribe

SUMMIT continued from page 4

of support for veterans."

Smith said there are 320,000 veterans in Oregon and that the summit was an important part of "connecting our veterans to other veterans, and their benefits."

"If we can help one veteran," Bentley said, "then that's a success story."

Smith awarded a framed certificate to Leno for the Grand Ronde Tribe's contribution to the World War II Memorial in Salem that was dedicated on June 6. Tribal members also blessed the memorial.

Like the inaugural event in 2013, all Veterans Summit meals were provided by the Tribe and an honor board allowed those in attendance to write the name of a deceased veteran on a sticky note and place it under the conflict in which they lost their lives.

A carved, wooden memorial of the iconic Iwo Jima flag raising honored Howard Brandon, who was killed in action in March 1945. He was the brother of Gunny Brandon.

On Thursday evening, the Grand Ronde Canoe Family sang and drummed in the nearby plank-

house, Achaf-hammi.

Each day started with a somber ceremony to honor and remember those warriors still held captive or missing in action.

Throughout the summit during breaks, veterans participated in talking circles and spouses and relatives made crafts, such as beaded necklaces.

On Friday, attendees listened to Linda Woods (Ojibwe), an Air Force veteran, talk about warrior women and her experiences serving in the military in the 1960s. After her speech, she gifted U.S. flag and eagle blankets to Leno and Bobb, respectively.

The Friday afternoon listening session involved Krumberger and Chris Marshall, director of the Portland Veterans Affairs regional office.

Krumberger said the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center is one of the fastest growing in the country, seeing 200 to 300 new veterans every week. She said the 3,500 employees at the Medical Center serve more than 8,200 veterans. Forty percent of the employees are themselves veterans, she added.

Krumberger said that since she

Tribal Council amends Burial Fund Ordinance

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The Tribe's assistance when a family member walks on improved after amendments to the Burial Fund Ordinance were approved by Tribal Council on Wednesday, July 9.

Among the approved amendments, the burial benefit is increasing from \$3,500 to \$5,500 and the reception benefit is increasing from \$150 to \$300.

The amendments also clarify that the burial benefit does not include reimbursement for prepaid funeral expenses before death and defines a child as a person who is 25 years of age or younger and a natural, adoptive or stepchild of the Tribal member.

The amended ordinance also defines spouse as a legally married spouse under the applicable Tribal, state or foreign law in which the marriage was entered, which could include same-sex marriages.

Families also can use a portion of the burial benefit to purchase a Tribal blanket or a carved wooden urn from the Tribe for the funeral service.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe;
 - Corrected two roll numbers assigned in error;
 - Approved a supplemental budget appropriation increase to the 2014 budget that will account for the \$2.7 million Employment Services building to be constructed next to the Tribal Community Center;

- Appointed Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom to the Governor's Regional Solutions Advisory Committee;

- Authorized Titu Asghar, director of Economic Development, to file the necessary documents with the state to form Dakta II, LLC, for the purpose of investing in a proposed health industry business opportunity;

- Remanded 86 disenrollment cases back to the Enrollment Committee for final decision per the rules under the Enrollment Ordinance, which was amended on July 2 with an emergency clause to remove Tribal Council review from the involuntary loss of membership process.

Also included in the July 9 Tribal Council packet was an authorization to proceed that permits the Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Program to go ahead with a project designed to re-establish Pacific lamprey above the Fall Creek reservoir. The project will monitor for adult survival, spawning success, and distribution and abundance above and below the reservoir for approximately one life span of the lamprey.

Education Department Manager Eirik Thorsgard, Land and Culture employees Mike Karnosh and Jan Looking Wolf Reibach, Tribal Council member Jon A. George and Tribal member Eric Bernando opened the meeting with cultural drumming and singing.

The July 9 meeting can be viewed on the Tribal website, www.grandronde.org, under the Video tab. ■



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Darlene Aaron, left, a health promotion specialist for the Tribe's Community Health Program, takes William Beaver's blood sugar reading during the second annual "Veterans Summit: Gathering of Warriors" at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Thursday, July 10.

arrived six weeks ago, the number of veterans waiting longer than needed for appointments has decreased from 1,800 to 140.

"Because of our astronomical growth, we've been challenged with access," Krumberger said.

Marshall also reported good news. His office is switching to an electronic records system and is now 95 percent paperless. This has helped a backlog of veterans' cases drop from 9,000 to 4,440. "By 2015, we hope to be down to zero,"

he said.

Later that afternoon, Portland Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist Alan Edwards addressed the gathering.

Navy veteran Nick Sixkiller was master of ceremonies throughout the summit.

"We want you to leave here as a stronger person than when you came," said Jillene Joseph (Gros Ventre), executive director of the Native Wellness Institute. "This is an informal healing ceremony." ■