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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Rose to the occasion

Casino float wins Queen's Award at Grand Floral Parade

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — Spirit Mountain Casino's Grand Floral Parade float, "Bloom'n the Beauty Within," received the Queen's Award for outstanding non-animated float on Saturday, June 6.

This year's Portland Rose Festival was themed "Bloomin' Good Time" and the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade was the highlight of the festival.

Spirit Mountain Casino was the parade's presenting sponsor for the fifth straight year and Tribal member Steve Bobb Sr. once again designed the casino's float.

The parade, which is more than 100 years old, starts in the parking garage at Portland's Memorial Coliseum and travels through the streets of downtown Portland to Lincoln High School — about a four-mile journey from start to finish.

The ninth entry in this year's parade was Spirit Mountain Casino's float. The "elegant" float featured three Tribal youth at different stages of life. The design was a celebration of the future and featured the progression of beauty from within. Each of the three characters appeared to "bloom" from the center of a Nootka rose.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The Spirit Mountain Casino float "Bloom'n the Beauty Within" rolls down Northwest Weidler Street in Portland during the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 6. The float, designed by Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., won the Queen's Award for the most outstanding non-animated float in the parade.

The first rose featured Spirit Mountain Casino Sponsorship Administrator Jocelyn Huffman's daughter, Shelby, as the infant model. In the second phase, Bobb used his granddaughter, 9-year-old Keira, as the mod-

el and 21-year-old Gabrielle Colton, daughter of Carol Colton and granddaughter of Jo Ann

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Board to consider policy that would allow Tribal flag

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

WILLAMINA — The Willamina School Board will consider a revised policy regarding flag displays and salutes at its Tuesday, June 23, meeting that would accommodate a parent's request to place the Grand Ronde Tribal flag in the high school gym.

The revised policy, developed by Willamina School District administrators, would allow the display of flags other than the U.S. and Oregon flag "from a federally recognized sovereign nation located within district boundaries if the sovereign nation requests and provides an appropriately sized flag."

The policy also states that the district will determine the location of the flag — gymnasium only — and the appropriate size of the flag.

Willamina School District Superintendent Gus Forster said the revised policy will protect the district from receiving requests "from everywhere" to hang a flag inside school facilities.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is the only federally recognized sovereign nation within the school district's boundaries.

The original request to hang the Tribal flag did not officially come from the Tribe, but from Tribal member Angela Fasana, who is a graduate of Willamina High School and has sent both of her children to Willamina schools.

Fasana's original request was inspired by her visit to Pendleton, where she saw the

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Summit returns in effort to help veterans

By Brent Merrill

Smoke Signals staff writer

The theme for this year's Native Veterans Summit is "Honoring Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans."

The third annual "gathering of warriors" will be held in conjunction with the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow in Grand Ronde on Thursday and Friday, July 9-10, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9390 Highway 22.

The powwow runs Friday, July 10, through Sunday, July 12.

Veterans are welcome to attend the free summit, which is being hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Native Wellness Institute and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Tribal Government Relations.

The summit's goal since it started in 2013 is to connect veterans with services.

A recent analysis that appeared

If you go

Third annual Native Veterans Summit: Honoring Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans

When: Thursday and Friday, July 9-10

Where: Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9390 Highway 22

What: Listening session from 3-5 p.m. Thursday; speakers beginning at 9 a.m. Friday.

More information: 503-879-2036

in the February issue of the Annals of Epidemiology found an annual suicide rate of 29.5 per 100,000 veterans, approximately 50 percent higher than the rate among other civilians with similar demographic

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