

# Nature Area visit



Contributed photo

**The Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Program hosted the Chihuk Skul at the Tye Nature Area near Tribal Housing on Monday, May 23. The children learned about the variety of Native plants grown in the area, as well as some of their uses. The Tye Nature Area kiosk and trail were constructed and opened in 2011. The area is used as a habitat for threatened plants to grow. Plants in the area include camas, wild rose, bare steam biscuit root and a variety of other plants that will be open for gathering once a sustainable community of them is established.**

# Journey visiting Tribe

The quadrennial Peace and Dignity Journey will be stopping in Grand Ronde on Friday, June 17, for an overnight stay.

The journey has been run every four years since 1992. This year, one group started May 1 in Alaska and another group started in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, and they will meet up after seven months of running in Panama.

The 2016 run is dedicated to the seeds and traditional foods that are threatened by industrial agriculture. Participants are handing out seeds for a Three Sisters Garden – corn, beans and squash – for a \$5 donation. Peace and Dignity Journeys were inspired by an ancient prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor coming together, symbolizing the unification of indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere.

The local contact for the runners' visit is Kathy Provost, 503-857-8440. Tribal and community members are invited to meet and greet runners from 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, June 17. Runners will arrive at the Tribal Education building in the afternoon and there will be an evening potluck dinner.

For more information, visit [PeaceandDignity.org](http://PeaceandDignity.org) on the Internet or contact Mel Huey, 11448 Feters Loop, Eugene, Ore. 97402, call 541-915-0788 or send an e-mail to [mel97402@gmail.com](mailto:mel97402@gmail.com). ■



# 1,546 register for BIA election

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

More than 1,500 Tribal members registered with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to vote in the July 8 constitutional amendment election.

According to the voter list released by the BIA, 1,546 Tribal members registered, surpassing the 1,491 Tribal members who registered to vote in the February 2008 constitutional election. About 40 percent of eligible Tribal members registered to vote.

Other recent constitutional amendment elections have seen about 1,100 Tribal members register to vote in 2012 and 2015, but those elections did not concern enrollment requirements.

The July 8 election will mark the sixth time Tribal members vote on proposed changes to the Tribal Constitution and the fourth time the proposals involve enrollment criteria.

Three educational sessions regarding the two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution were held in May in Portland, Grand Ronde and Eugene, respectively. A video of the Grand Ronde session can be viewed on the Tribal website, [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org). In addition, a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Tribal staff was mailed first class to all adult Tribal members at the end of May.

Tribal Council decided in identical 5-2 votes to send the proposed amendments to voters during its April 6 meeting.

The first amendment would, if approved by voters, remove the parent on the roll at time of birth and time of application requirements and add language defining "Grand Ronde blood."

The new definition, with new wording in italics, would read: "Grand Ronde blood is defined as all Indian blood derived from a direct ancestor whose name validly appears on the official Tribal membership roll prepared under the Grand Ronde Restoration Act; provided, that such roll may be corrected by Tribal Council with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior *or the official Tribal membership roll prepared by the Tribe between Nov. 30, 1984, and Sept. 14, 1999; provided that such roll may be corrected by the Tribal Council in accordance with the Tribal Enrollment Ordinance.*"

The second proposed amendment would reduce General Council participation requirements for initiatives, referendums and the calling of special General Council meetings.

Currently, the Tribal Constitution requires at least one-third of the adult membership – more than 1,300 people – to sign a petition for an initiative, referendum, recall effort or membership-proposed constitutional amendment to proceed.

Tribal members were required to register to vote with the BIA for the special election. Thirty percent of those who registered to vote must cast a ballot – 464 – and two-thirds of those voting must approve of the proposal for an amendment to be adopted.

Ballots were scheduled to be sent to all registered voters on Monday, June 13, and they must be returned to the Grand Ronde post office by Friday, July 8, to count.

The list of registered voters can be viewed at the Tribal website. ■

**2016 Canoe Journey/ Gift making Potluck**  
 Thursdays starting April 28  
 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 at Portland Office  
 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd., Suite 101  
 for more info contact  
 503-879-1881

Ad created by George Valdez

**Canoe Journey Necklaces**  
 Join us for a fun afternoon beading necklaces for the Canoe Journey  
 Tuesday, June 28  
 Noon - 5 p.m.  
 Adult Education Building  
 Culture Staff will be teaching Canoe Journey necklace patterns.  
 Lunch will be provided.  
 You can come for the whole time or just stay for an hour. Any amount of time you have to volunteer is greatly appreciated.  
 For more information contact  
 Tracy Biery at 503-879-1345 or Audra Sherwood at 503-879-2069

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