

'Water is life'

PROTEST continued
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agreed that the Grand Ronde Tribe should support the Standing Rock people.

"I feel it is imperative as a Tribe to stand behind other Tribes when it comes to the federal government," said Llaneza in a Facebook Messenger interview. "The pipeline threatens their way of life. It threatens their water. It threatens the people and the land. I believe the pipeline could be disastrous to their community."

Tribal Elder Tracie Meyer also weighed in on Facebook to say that she believes every step on Mother Earth is sacred and that every person's walk is their prayer.

Tribal members Logan Kneeland, Joseph Dowd, Nakoosa Moreland, Dustin Hawks and Stan Kneeland were gathering supplies and donations for a planned two-car trip to the North Dakota encampment sites leaving on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Logan credited the idea for the trip to Dowd.

"We're just gathering the last of the supplies that we are going to be taking over," said Logan. "We have warm weather clothes and some first aid supplies, whatever we could gather. Tracie Meyer and Shayla Murphy have been doing a great job of gathering supplies."

"It was Joseph's plan to go and I was looking to go with him and support the rest of our brothers and sisters out there."

Logan said the protection of Mother Earth and the fight to preserve treaty rights are reasons he is motivated to make the trip. Kneeland said Tribal member Monty Herron and Tribal descendant Cindy Gullede also are planning a trip to North Dakota with supplies.

"Please be sure to thank the Tribal Council and the membership for all of the support as well," said Logan.

"A short time ago Grand Ronde had an emergency preparedness training for a natural disaster and today we are looking at a way to build a man-made disaster of proportions incalculable," said Meyer. "How do you prepare for a poisoning of life for hundreds of miles for hundreds of years? One indisputable fact is we need water to survive. Trusting that these pipes will never leak and our Earth Mother will never change her ways with an earthquake or a tornado is hard for a human to wrap their minds around. As an Indian women, it is impossible."

Meyer said Grand Ronde is part of a Native consortium with a responsibility to stand up for the treaty rights of Indian people.

"Water is life," said Meyer. "Sacred precious life." ■

Grand Ronde Housing Department



Housing Board seeks community input

The Grand Ronde Housing Board is inviting Tribal members and Tribal housing residents to provide input to assist its members in carrying out its advisory role to the Housing Department and Tribal Council regarding policy guidance. The Housing Board meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the Housing Department conference room, 28450 Tyee Road. Its chair is Matt Thomas. For more information, contact the Housing Department at 503-879-2401. ■

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