

# Tribal Council approves new Banks School District mascot

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

The Banks School District is one step closer to retaining its Braves mascot name and adopting a more culturally appropriate Native American mascot image.

At its Wednesday, Jan. 25, meeting, Tribal Council approved an amended memorandum of understanding with the Banks School District that calls for ending usage of a Native warrior's profile as its mascot image and adopting a logo with mirrored Bs that form the shape of an arrowhead.

The Banks School District Board of Directors approved the original five-year agreement in June 2016 and held an image unveiling open house on Jan. 4. The amended agreement now goes to the State Board of Education for approval before it is formally adopted.

The new district logo was created by Nike after it received input on Oregon's Native American Tribes from Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson.

The agreement gives the Banks School District five years to phase out use of the current Brave profile on uniforms, signs and equipment.

It also requires the Banks School District to start using the Grand Ronde Tribe-created Native American fourth- and eighth-grade history curriculums no later than spring of 2017, as well as sponsor a Native Club for all students in sixth through 12th grades.

Banks Superintendent Jeff Leo said that approximately 3 percent of the district's 1,100 students identify as Native Americans.

The Oregon Board of Education originally banned the use of all Native mascots by Oregon public schools, but after sovereignty concerns were raised by several Oregon Tribes, including the Grand Ronde Tribe, it allowed exceptions to the rule in January 2016 if school districts using Native American mascots worked with a federally recognized Tribe to create culturally acceptable mascot representations and usage.

Banks is the first school district in Oregon to reach an agreement with an Oregon Tribe to retain its Native mascot.

Currently, the Grand Ronde Tribe is working with the Molalla and Scappoose school districts regarding their use of Native mascots.

At the Tuesday, Jan. 24, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George thanked the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department for working with Nike's marketing and design team to create a culturally appropriate mascot image.

"I think that is one point that is very important about us," George said. "When we go and sit on these boards, it is about educating the public about who we are."

In other action, Tribal Council:



- Appointed Claudia Leno to the Health Committee with a term ending in March 2018;
- Approved three grant applications – two to the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy and one to the state Department of Energy – that, if awarded, would help fund solar energy improvements to Tribal buildings and Spirit Mountain Casino;
- Approved a contract not to exceed \$166,000 with MacKenzie for project management services for assisting in planning for redevelopment of the former Multnomah Greyhound Park property in Wood Village that the Tribe purchased in late 2015;
- Approved a request to the Secretary of the Interior to remove one Tribal member from the Restoration Roll because submitted documents prove that the person had not met the requirements for inclusion and approved the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe because the child meets the requirements outlined in the Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance;
- Approved a 2017 crushed rock purchases and dump truck service contract that can exceed \$100,000 for the Natural Resources Department;
- And extended the contract of Tribal Court Chief Judge David Shaw through March 31. His contract was set to expire on Jan. 31, according to Tribal Court Administrator Angela Fasana.

Also included in the Jan. 25 Tribal Council packet were authorizations to proceed that OK'd the Tribe's matching fund commitment on the Tillamook County Transportation District's application to the Oregon Department of Transportation for Network-Intercity grant funds, approved submission of an application to the Oregon Rail and Public Transit Division for \$100,000 in rural transit funds and OK'd the Tribe's Records Department creating a new section in the Tribe's online archives for non-confidential directives, authorizations to proceed and records of instruction.

Tribal Cultural Resources Department employees Jordan and Bobby Mercier performed the cultural drumming and singing to open the meeting.

The meeting, it is entirety, can be viewed on the Tribal website, [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org), by clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■

## Walking On...

### Frank Eugene Kowing Jr.

April 1, 1944 – Sept. 24, 2016

Frank Eugene Kowing Jr., 72, walked on on Sept. 24, 2016. He was born April 1, 1944, in McMinnville, Ore., to Frank Sr. and Myrtle (Porter) Kowing.



He attended Sheridan and Ballston elementary schools. After graduating from McMinnville High School in 1962, he attended Linfield College, where he was the college's first art major, and participated in the Naval Reserves. Frank graduated from Linfield in 1966. He joined the Navy full-time, serving in the Pacific (stationed out of Japan) during the Vietnam War until 1968.

Frank studied painting at the Rieveld Academy in The Netherlands and subsequently obtained a Master of Fine Arts in painting at Pennsylvania State University (1973). He was involved for several years in New York with art galleries and his art. He served in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, teaching art and living skills to developmentally disabled students. He settled in Maryland for the remainder of his life, where he continued his lifelong career in art, painting and curating galleries and museums.

Frank was a painter whose work evolved from impressionist paintings early in his career to found-object sculpture/painting, political commentary artworks and abstract expressionist paintings throughout his adult life. His later works combine elements of all of these. He lived and traveled throughout the world, and his paintings are owned by individuals in many countries as well as throughout the United States.

Frank was divorced once and widowed twice. He was a proud member and Elder of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. He liked to travel and write about his adventures and thoughts, often working these into his works of art and stories. His book "Monuments, New and Selected Poems" was published in 2009.

Frank was pre-deceased by his father, Frank Sr., and his mother, Myrtle.

He is survived by his sisters, Judith Nesbit of Rose Valley, Wash., and Nancy Earl of Homedale, Idaho; brothers, Bradley Kowing of Prineville, Ore., and Terry Kowing of Middletown, Calif.; and son, Joel Siemienczuk of St. Helens, Ore. Frank had many friends, cousins, aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces.

Frank's advance directives included cremation with final interment and celebration of his life at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery on Saturday, April 1, which would have been his 73rd birthday. A gathering of friends and family will follow.

Frank has finally come full circle. He was loved by many and will be sorely missed.

## Bike helmets available

The Tribe's Social Services Department has bicycle helmets available for distribution. Those needing a helmet need to visit the department and sign a helmet application, as well as get fitted.

For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY



Native and Indigenous Student Union

15th Annual Social Pow wow

Saturday March 11, 2017

Grand Entry 4pm

Men's Fancy Dance Contest

Call 503.370.6265 for information