

Memorial Day event set for Monday, May 29

10 names being added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The annual Memorial Day event at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus will be highlighted by Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno, a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran, reading the 10 names being added to the four black granite pillars that represent the major branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The event begins at noon with a meal served in the nearby Tribal Community Center.

The outdoors ceremony begins at 1 p.m. with Steve Bobb Sr., chairman of the Tribe's Veterans Special Event Board and also a Marine Corps veteran from the Vietnam War era, giving the invocation and serving as master of ceremonies.

Grand Ronde drummers will play a memorial song, Tribal youth JC Rogers will sing the national anthem as she did in 2016 and Grand Ronde Royalty and Veterans Royalty will perform "The Lord's Prayer."

The Grand Ronde Honor Guard will post the colors and speakers will include Polk County Veterans Service Officer Marie McCandless, Yamhill County Veterans Service Officer Jerry Wilson and Veterans Benefit Specialist Niki Volz.

Names being added to the West

If you go
15th Memorial Day ceremony
When: Noon Monday, May 29
Where: Tribal Community Center & West Valley Veterans Memorial, 9615 Grand Ronde Road
More info: 503-876-3118

Valley Veterans Memorial this year are Navy veterans Steven Rife Jr., Russell Talmadge, Dennis Kleffner and Ryan Jackman; Air Force veteran Walter Schmale; Army veterans Harold Hobbs, Dennis Ylitalo and Charles Parker; and Marine Corps veterans and Tribal members Toby Gerard Bolden and Dru Stromberg Jr.

Stromberg joined the Marine Corps in June 2001 and was stationed in Charleston, S.C., for five years as a corrections officer at the Naval Consolidated Brig. He was honorably discharged in 2016 and walked on Oct. 2, 2016, leaving behind a wife and two daughters.

The addition of 10 names brings the total number of veterans honored on the pillars to 2,335.

The ceremony will close with Bud Abbott reciting his traditional poem "Remember Me, America" and Robert Thornburg performing taps on the trumpet.

The West Valley Veterans Memo-



Smoke Signals file photo

The Grand Ronde Honor Guard brings in the flags during the 14th annual Memorial Day ceremony held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus last May.

rial, which was dedicated in 2003, was designed by Bobb and features a man and a woman dressed in traditional Native clothing standing side by side reaching to the sky.

Surrounding them are four black granite pillars, which feature the names of Tribal and community veterans from Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan. ■

Clothes Closet open Monday, Friday

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the first and third Fridays of the month and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. all other Fridays on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive.

The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances, small pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or large furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. Donations are accepted during regular business hours. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■



Grand Ronde Tribal members are invited to attend
the fifth annual

First Salmon Ceremony



Friday, May 5, 2017

1 p.m. Ceremonial arrival and blessing of the salmon on the banks of the Willamette River in West Linn

3 p.m. Community salmon dinner potluck style at **McLean House**
5350 River Street
West Linn, Oregon 97068

Please bring a dish to share,
dress for the outdoors, wear good walking shoes
Please bring your own chair.
We recommend using 99 E instead of I-205

We need an accurate head count to manage parking and food. Please RSVP to PublicAffairs@grandronde.org
Or call 503-879-1418

Hayu Masi

