

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 Grand Ronde Honor Guard begins the day with its customary solemn ceremonies at the Tribal Cemetery at 8 a.m. followed by ceremonies in Willamina at 9, Buck Hollow at 10 and Sheridan at 11.

The main event begins at noon with a ceremonial 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" as sung by Aaron Neville.

The Grand Ronde Honor Guard

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

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

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 Memorial, which was dedicated in 2003, was designed by Bobb and features



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.

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. ■

Graduation set for June 23

The annual Grand Ronde Graduation Celebration will be held 6 p.m. Friday, June 23, in the Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.

The theme of this year's celebration is "What you plant now ... you will harvest later."

The ceremony recognizes the accomplishments of Tribal graduates from kindergarten through college-level degrees. Dinner will be provided.

If you graduated during the 2016-17 academic year, contact the Tribal Education Department at education@grandronde.org or by calling 503-879-2275 to be added to the list. ■

2017 FISH & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

ELDERS FISHING TRIP

JUNE 1, 2017

9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

The F& W Committee extends an invitation to ALL ELDERS to join in for a day filled with fun and fishing! Event held at Hebo Lake.

YOUR TRIBAL FISHING LICENSE IS REQUIRED!

No state fishing license is needed, but you will need a Tribal fishing license to fish. No fee to attend and the opportunity to fish from both land and boat will be available.

NEED YOUR TRIBAL FISHING LICENSE?
Contact: Natural Resources Division 503-879-2424

RAIN OR SHINE EVENT! DRESS APPROPRIATELY

A picnic lunch will be provided by the committee

- The trip is limited to the first 25 Tribal Elders and spouses who sign up at the Elders Activity Center or by calling 503-879-2233
- We encourage those riding in the vans to please arrive by 7:45 a.m. to load the vans and leave at 8 a.m.
- Join us even if you don't fish but would like to attend to enjoy the view and outing.

Sign up sheet at the Elders Activity Center 503-879-2233


