

**Leno seeks law enforcement funds for Terminated Tribes — pg. 11**



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# Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

## 10 names added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

For U.S. Navy veteran Dennis Kleffner, who also is a member of the Grand Ronde Honor Guard, seeing his name etched on the Navy pillar of the West Valley Veterans Memorial elicited ambivalent feelings on Monday, May 29.

“I wish my mom could see it,” Kleffner said before the annual Memorial Day event held on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus. His mother walked on two years ago. “She would be very proud of her son, but it makes me feel good being up on the wall.”

Kleffner served 10 years in the Navy from 1980 to 1990 as an interior communications technician.

For Tribal descendant Steven Rife Jr., who served in the Navy from 2000 to 2006 as a gas turbine systems technician and was stationed at Bremerton, Wash., and Pearl Harbor, seeing his name added to the Navy pillar was “exciting.”

“It’s kind of exciting that I will always have a place in this world,” Rife said after the ceremony. “I made a spot for myself.”

“You know I’m proud of him,” added his father, Tribal Elder and fellow veteran Steve Rife.

Kleffner and Rife were among the 10 veterans added to the West Valley Veterans Memorial during the annual Memorial Day observance held in Grand Ronde. The 10 new names bring the total number of veterans memorialized on the four granite pillars to 2,335.

Added this year were Navy veterans Rife Jr., Russell H. Talmadge, 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

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## Focus on youth



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Eva Rose Jurado leads a paddle dance as some of the Tribe’s youth perform during the Legislative Commission on Indian Services/Nine Tribes Spring Celebration held at the State Capitol in Salem on Thursday, May 18.**

## Tribal children take center stage at State Capitol

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

SALEM – Grand Ronde Tribal youth from kindergarteners through teenagers serving on the Youth Council took center stage during the 2017 Legislative Commission on Indian Services/Nine Tribes Spring Celebration held Thursday, May 18, in the State Capitol.

Tribal children in the K-3 and Lilo programs in Grand Ronde performed two dances and the song “Tumala (Tomorrow)” and five members of the Grand Ronde

Youth Council – Payton Smith, Madalyn Volz, Raven Harmon, Izaiah Fisher and Isabelle Grout – accompanied Tribal Council Vice Chair Cheryle A. Kennedy when she spoke to approximately 200 people gathered under the Capitol’s Rotunda.

The theme of the Spring Celebration was “Sharing Our Traditions: Teaching Our Children to Build Strong Tribal Nations.”

The event opened with a Grand Ronde drum

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## First Foods celebration set for June 3 at plankhouse

**Mabel Brisbois prepares jerky to serve at the Tribe’s annual First Foods celebration held at the Tribal Community Center in May 2016. This year’s event will be held in achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse.**



Smoke Signals file photo

By Brent Merrill  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The evolution of the Tribal Culture Committee’s annual First Foods celebration continues this year with a gathering component being added to the events schedule.

The theme for this year is a celebration of Tribal foods from pre-contact to post-Reservation.

“The best way for us to learn is to be active and doing it,” Tribal member and Culture Committee Chairperson Francene Ambrose said from her office at the Tribal Food Bank, iskam məkʰmək

haws. “We want it to become living, breathing again and part of everyday activities.”

This year’s First Foods event will be held at achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse, adjacent to Uyxat Powwow Grounds off of Hebo Road.

Ambrose said the event will begin at 10 a.m. with a traditional welcoming and guest speakers who will be talking about cultural practices around traditional foods.

“We’re going to open up a micro-

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