

Tribal members participate in annual Eagle Feather ceremony

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

SALEM – Two Grand Ronde Tribal members were among 56 Native American seniors who participated in the 2017 Eagle Feather ceremony held by Salem-Keizer Public Schools at North Salem High School.

Jordan Harvey and Nicole Upton received feathers, Pendleton stoles and award certificates during the 21st annual ceremony held on Wednesday, May 24.

Two other Grand Ronde Tribal members – Justin Howerton and Cassandra Hughes – who are graduating this year did not attend the event.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Mychal Cherry and Employment and Employee Relations Manager Sarah Harvey sit on the Salem-Keizer Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee and Education Department Manager Leslie Riggs is the Grand Ronde liaison with the district.

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George delivered the invocation at the event and the Grand Ronde Color Guard posted the colors. Cherry, who is president of the Parents Advisory Committee, gave the welcome speech and Tribal member Harris Reibach performed a blessing song on Native American flute.

“Our graduates have reached a milestone in their lives where they



Photo courtesy of Cherry Photography

Tribal member Jordan Harvey participates in the 21st annual 2017 Eagle Feather ceremony held by the Salem-Keizer Public Schools at North Salem High School in Salem on Wednesday, May 24. Harvey graduated from McNary High School in Keizer.

will make a leap from adolescence to adulthood,” Cherry said. “The important goals and paths they choose in the next few years will impact the rest of their lives.

“Because we are honoring the students, we need to also honor and thank the people who were instrumental in helping the students reach this point. Parents, we thank you for your support for your children in all their academic

endeavors. Elders, we thank you all for being here and supporting our program. You are needed to provide guidance from all the wisdom you have gained in your lives.”

Shelby Maerz, a Grand Ronde Tribal member and Indian Education Program assistant with Salem-Keizer Public Schools, presented the Native American seniors.

Keynote addresses were given by McNary High School senior Miguel Araiza (Squaxin Island) and Chemeketa Community College professor Johnny Neal Jr. (Choctaw).

The Ahnii Nijii Signers were the host drum for the night and the Lakota Oyate Ki volunteers created custom-made Pendleton wool

graduation stoles for the graduates.

Harvey graduated from McNary High School, Howerton from Roberts High, and Hughes and Upton from Sprague High.

Harvey plans to attend Chemeketa and Oregon State and study kinesiology while Hughes plans on attending Corban University to study elementary education and Upton plans on attending Chemeketa and Linfield College and study elementary education as well. Howerton did not list his post-high school plans.

“This event is only one of many great services that Indian Education provides,” Sarah Harvey said. “There is also summer school, tutors and education support nights and cultural activities.” ■

Tribe hosting Youth Wellness Warrior Camp

The Native Wellness Institute based in Gresham will be holding a Native Youth Wellness Warrior Camp Monday, June 26, through Thursday, June 29, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road.

Native youth 12 to 18 years of age and their adult chaperones will camp in a teepee or plankhouse or stay at Spirit Mountain Lodge.

The purposes of the Warrior Camp is to bring together youth and teach them skills and provide them with tools to help them live in balance in the often hectic world.

“Through ceremony, workshops, activities, movement, traditional games and crafts, horse therapy and more, the young people will experience healing, growth, maturity, a sense of purpose and belonging and tools to help them along their life’s journey,” said a Native Wellness Institute flier.

Other activities will include a trip to Nike’s world headquarters in Beaverton, as well as song and dance performed by the Grand Ronde Canoe Family in achaf-hammi.

Scheduled trainers include Thosh Collins, Robert Johnston, Jilene Joseph, Shalene Joseph, LoVina Louie, Wade McGee, Martin Sensmeier, Charles Tailfeathers and Jim Warne.

Early bird registration is \$375. For more information, visit www.native-wellness.com on the Internet. ■

Board seeking younger veterans

The Tribal Veterans Special Event Board is recruiting younger veterans – Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans – to join.

“Our committee is getting older,” said Veterans SEB Chairman Steve Bobb Sr., who is a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran.

Members of the Special Event Board attend events as flag carriers and represent the Tribe and their branch of service. Veterans interested in volunteering should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at 503-879-2304 or stacia.martin@grandronde.org. ■

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To Learn More: 503-879-2161



Handgun Safety Course

Saturday, July 15, 2017

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

CTGR Community Service Center - Bld. B

9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347

Limit: 25 participants per class

\$ 25.00 Per Person

Payment to be made day of class
Please bring your own lunch

No firearms or live ammunition will be allowed in the facility

NOTE:

- This course meets one of the prerequisites set forth by the County Sheriff in order to apply for a concealed handgun license.
- There are further conditions that must be met in order to obtain a concealed handgun license.
- Successful completion of this course does not guarantee issuance of a concealed handgun license.

For further information please contact: Juan Sifuentez (after 4 PM) at 503-798-3521 or juansifuentez1964@gmail.com