12 JUNE 1, 2018 SMOKE SIGNALS

'To live in this community is a blessing'

GRADUATION continued from front page

term Tribal Council member and designer of the West Valley Veterans Memorial that greets visitors to the Tribal campus in Grand Ronde.

In early March, Bobb was being interviewed for a feature story by *Smoke Signals* staff writer Danielle Frost, who asked him to reveal something about himself that very few, if any, people know about him.

Bobb related the fire alarm story and the fact that he never officially graduated from high school.

"It hasn't affected anything I wanted to do in my life," he said, "but I don't know that you could do that today. You really can't get away with stuff like that."

During the editing of Frost's story, *Smoke Signals* Editor Dean Rhodes sent an e-mail to Willamina School District Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick, informing her that Bobb had never received a high school diploma despite being a long-time member of the community and performing community service for the district. He recently repainted the Bulldog logo in the high school gym, for instance.

"I did not know that," Zimbrick replied via e-mail. "We could present him with a high school diploma at graduation. It would be an honor! As a veteran, it is allowable."

"Thank you, Carrie. Working out just as I hoped," Rhodes replied.

Since that mid-March e-mail exchange, Willamina High School staff worked with Bobb's wife of more than 50 years, Connie, to surprise him.

At Willamina High's graduation ceremony held on the football field on the Oaken Hills Drive campus,

Willamina High graduates 66 seniors on May 26

WILLAMINA – Sixty-six seniors, including Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., graduated from Willamina High School during an afternoon commencement exercise held on Saturday, May 26, at the Oaken Hills campus football field.

It was the 105th graduation ceremony held at Willamina High.

Graduating seniors were Uriah Shiloh Aaron, Damian Lee Anderson, Kylie Marie Anderson, Lily Marie Baker, Kaylene Raelynn Barry, Ashley Mariah Beck, Courtney Anne Brown, Ian Scott Bruckner, Kyle James Larue Buczynski, Angelica Maria Campos, Tanner Lester Cavan, Dalton Millard Childs, Haven Lee Collins, Keegan Michael Cook, Makayla Emma Rose Creel, Nicholas Austin Crook, Kelly Michael Davis, Asia Marie DeMars, Lydia June Doughty, David Lee Elwood, Brooke Pauline France, Adreianna Stacie Franklin, True Gibbons, Kayla Marie Gilbert, Jaimi Lin Gravley, Daisy Jean Gray, Megan Aliya Gunn, Nathan James Hogue Jr., Raven Trinity Holt, John Price Howard Jr., Ethan Sky Howard, Kyler Jordan Huber, Anna May Hubert, Ty Michael Janes, Savannah Hope Smiles Jones, Colton Samuel Keightley, Alyssa Kaye Kennett, Alexander Blake Klass, Madison Elaine Konovalov, Hunter Kenneth Latham, Rhys Griffin Mahurin, Hannah Renee McCallister, Bethany Nichol McKnight, Kyisha Marie Mezick, Brand Lee Milton, Brandon Adam Murphy-Phillips, Samantha Devine Nelson, Adam Lee Noble, Anna Britt Nolan, Jacob Kristoffer Olson, Tanner James Onstot, Andrea McKenzie Otter, Brittney Nikole Pratt, Kyle Nathaniel Revolinski, Joshua Gene Royse, Allyssa Marryssa Sheker, Jacob Allen Skjei, William Kavika Soderberg, Haydin Daniel Stacey, Emily Rose Sterling, Jillian Layn Thomas, Cameron Eric Vanderberg, Abel Nathaniel Vanecek, Madison Ann Whitmore and Vyktoria Ivonnava Widrig.

Nolan was the valedictorian of the class and Onstot was the salutatorian. ■

High School Principal Tim France surprised Bobb with a black cap and gown just before the 65 seniors were ready

to march in during the processional. Bobb joined France and English teacher Amy Korst, the graduation

exercise's guest speaker, in leading

the Class of 2018 on to the football field.

France announced that Bobb had just been in-

formed that he was joining the graduating class. "He has done so much for our school and communi-

ty," France said.

Bobb stood for the national anthem and sat through a welcoming address and three speeches before Zimbrick called him to receive his belated diploma.

"It is a distinct privilege to include Steve Bobb in the graduating Class of 2018," Zimbrick said. "Steve, a lifelong member of the Grand Ronde-Willamina community, cut his high school career just short of graduating in 1967. ... He identifies himself as a 'lucky man.' We know better, and consider ourselves lucky to know him.

"We are honored to have Steve join us today to receive his Willamina High School diploma and ask that you join us in congratulating him."

Bobb received a standing ovation from the audience.

Bobb said that he "squandered" his high school education, concentrating too much on cars and girls, but that he was truly lucky to live in Willamina.

"To live in this community is a blessing," he said, adding that his wife does not send him on errands to the store because he will be gone for two hours, waylaid by conversations with people he knows.

"I never thought that I would be wearing a cap and gown after 50 years," Bobb said, adding that he was wondering why his wife was so insistent that he attend the graduation ceremony. "I'm glad I didn't miss it."

Editor's note: In the interest of full disclosure, Editor Dean Rhodes' wife is a teacher at the Willamina School District.







There is a \$25:00 registration fee which is included with the cost of the class

This fee is for the training materials that you will receive at the beginning of the class

Please register by sending an email to: juansifuentez1964@gmail.com

You will receive a reply with information on payment options

Registration fees are due by Friday, June 08



Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018
Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm
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Tribal Court provides both minor and adult name changes to enrolled members for a filing fee of only \$30. If you have any questions or would like to request a packet, contact Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

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Starting July 1, 2018, the Tribal Court will offer Court Facilitation Services. Court staff will be offering help to people who do not have an attorney and who would like assistance with court-related paperwork. Court staff are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice or assistance. This service is open to the community and will be offered by appointment only from 9 a.m. to noon every Friday. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303 or by email at court@grandronde.org.

Court Staff May Not	Court Staff May
Apply rules and laws to the facts of a specific	Provide basic information applicable to all parties
case.	about court procedures, rules and practices.
Interpret the meaning of ordinances, statutes or	Refer people to specific statutes or court rules
rules in an attempt to explain how those rules	that govern routine court practice or procedures.
may apply to particular situations.	
Recommend one procedure or form over	Provide instructions and forms developed by the
another.	Tribal Court.
Substitute their own words for a customer's	Indicate where to provide information on a form.
words on a form or draft a legal document of	Fill in blanks under the direction of a customer on
their own.	forms selected by the customer.
Take sides, recommend the services of a specific	Provide court schedules and information on how
attorney and offer opinions about possible	to get matters scheduled or refer to Oregon State
outcomes of court matters.	Bar or local legal aid offices for legal assistance.