

Fire consumes Tribal Elder's mobile home

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

A Tribal Elder's Dallas area home was recently destroyed in a fire, along with cultural items such as baskets and beadwork.

Cordelia Kneeland, 92, is the mother of Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy. Kneeland's son carried her out of the flame-engulfed home. Their dog also survived the blaze, but the home is a total loss.

Units from the Southwestern Polk County Rural Fire Protection District and Dallas Fire & EMS were called to her mobile home in the 1500 block of East Ellendale Avenue in Dallas at 9:39 p.m. Wednesday, May 16.

Approximately 30 personnel were on scene with three fire engines and a water tender. The fire was extinguished by midnight and the road reopened to traffic. The cause was determined to be a cooking fire that began in the kitchen, according to the fire department.

At the Wednesday, May 23, Tribal Council meeting, Kennedy shared that Cultural Resources Department staff were talking about protection of family artifacts and heirlooms at the Tribal Emergency Preparedness Fair held in the gym, and how it made her a bit sad for her mother.

"She had a number of baskets that were lost in her fire," Kennedy said. "We have recovered a little of the beadwork that was in the far bedroom in a chest. It is really important for our Tribal members to think about that and find places of protection for our personal family artifacts." ■

Graduation Celebration set for June 22

The 2018 Graduation Celebration will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 22, in the Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.

If you are a graduate this year, send a picture and information to Part-Time College Program Coordinator John Harp at john.harp@grandronde.org.

To RSVP, call 503-879-2275. ■

Hepatitis C event



Photo by Dean Rhodes

Dr. Randy Blome discusses Hepatitis C during an educational event held in the Tribal Health & Wellness Center on Friday, May 18. Blome, a Family Practice physician, has spearheaded an effort to get Tribal and community



members tested for the disease since baby boomers and Native Americans have the highest rates of infection, and a person can have the disease for years without knowing it. Behind Blome are Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe, left, and Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, who also spoke during the event. Kennedy revealed that she contracted Hepatitis C through a blood transfusion before tests were developed to identify the disease in the blood supply. She has since been cured. The event also featured informational displays, a PowerPoint that explained the disease and Health Committee members handed out red T-shirts designed by Tribal member Jordan Smith. Tribal Elder Virginia Kimsey Roof also talked about being cured. After the presentations and speeches, about 30 attendees were treated to lunch served by clinic staff. To find out more about the disease, go to www.speaker.com and search for "Smoke Signals podcasts" to hear Blome talk in-depth about the effort to eradicate Hep C in Grand Ronde.

2018 Community Input Meeting

The Grand Ronde Tribe's annual Community Input meeting will be held in the gym on Wednesday, June, 13 starting with the meal at 5:30 PM (changed from 6 p.m.). We plan to order Hawaiian Time for this dinner. After a brief introduction the meeting mostly involves visiting open house tables with their posters, photos, and fliers on projects and programs. There also will be tables on Tribal plans under development. Open house tables will include:

- ~ Cultural Resources (e.g. Chachalu update)
- ~ Preschool Addition project (e.g. floor plans)
- ~ Behavioral Health Addition project (e.g. floor plans)
- ~ Housing Department
 - ~ Plans for Wind River Apartments Phase II
 - ~ Plans for Elder Housing Phase III (market rate & low-income)
- ~ Other Health & Wellness, Social Services, and Education programs
- ~ Police & Emergency Management
- ~ NRD Fish & Wildlife – Fish & Black-tailed Deer Project
- ~ Strategic Plan & Community Development Plan
- ~ Transit Services & new Transit Plan
- ~ General Transportation Plan (e.g. future road projects on the Reservation & in the community)

The meeting will end with door prizes (four \$25 gas cards & a Pendleton blanket)

This meeting is offered as an opportunity for members to provide comments and suggestions that will help guide Tribal plans, programs and grant applications (i.e. ANA, ICDBG, CCDF, Head Start, CSBG, and others). Those unable to attend can submit written comments and suggestions to: Mr. Kim Rogers, Planning & Grants Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. For additional information, contact Kim Rogers at 503-879-2250.

