

# Education Summit discusses Tribal curriculum

By Danielle Frost  
Smoke Signals staff writer

Approximately 110 educators from two different states filled the Tribal gym for the second annual Grand Ronde Education Summit held on Wednesday, June 27.

Teachers from all grade levels came to learn more about the Grand Ronde Tribe, how to create meaningful Native American curriculum and Oregon's Senate Bill 13.

Gifts were given to those who traveled more than 250 miles for the one-day conference, which opened with an invocation from Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George who expressed thanks for teachers and the stabilizing influence they provide youth.

Also in attendance were Tribal Council members Brenda Tuomi and Denise Harvey.

Education Department Manager Leslie Riggs, Cultural Resources Department Manager David Har-

relson, Recreation Specialist Harris Reibach and George led the singing and drumming.

Curriculum Specialist and Academic Adviser Mercedes Jones said she was happy to see high attendance for a summer conference.

"We have educators here today from all over Oregon and even Washington," she said. "Last year it was 90 people, and this year 130 registered and it looks like all of you made it."

Harrelson gave an overview of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's history.

"There was no Grand Ronde Tribe until (the government) put more than 30 Tribes and bands here," he said. "The amount of diversity that existed around here is often missed. When I went to school, we were taught that there were Plains



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Shadiin Garcia presents information on Senate Bill 13 Tribal History/Shared History during the 2018 Grand Ronde Education Summit held in the Tribal gym on Wednesday, June 27. Garcia is a leader in Indian education and special projects for Education Northwest in Portland. In the background is Leilani Sabzalian, an assistant professor of Indigenous Studies in Education at the University of Oregon, who also presented with Garcia.**

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# Candidates Forum scheduled for July 25

CANDIDATES continued  
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coordinator and previously worked at Spirit Mountain Casino. He was nominated by Amber George.

Peter Grout, 43, is a surveillance technician at Spirit Mountain Casino and was nominated by former Tribal Council member Val Grout.

Kristina Helfrich, 42, is assistant manager at Legends restaurant at Spirit Mountain Casino and was nominated by Tribal Elder Deitz Peters.

Cureton, 66, is a current member of the Tribe's Election Board and will be replaced by alternate Lori Sterling for the duration of the election season. He was nominated by Tribal Elder Ed Larsen.

Jonathan R. George, Grout, Helfrich and Cureton are all making their first runs for a Tribal Council seat.

### Election office opens July 23

Starting Monday, July 23, and running through Thursday, Aug. 30, the Election Office in the Tribal Community Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, will be open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a half-hour lunch from noon to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The office can be reached at 503-879-2271.

For eligible voters' convenience, blank signature verification forms will be placed in a hanging basket outside the Elections Office door. Completed forms with a notarized signature or legible copy of ID, including your signature, (driver's license, member ID card, passport, etc.) attached need to be mailed to the Election Board office for processing. The form will not be processed unless it has been notarized or includes a legible copy of ID and your signature attached.

Ballots will be mailed to voters with verified signatures on Wednesday, July 25. Tribal members may create a verified signature card at any time up to and including Elec-

tion Day on Saturday, Sept. 8.

The Grand Ronde post office is no longer open to accept your ballots on Saturday, Sept. 8. For those members intending to walk into the post office with your ballot, you will have ensure that you turn it in before the post office closes at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7.

Candidate statements are due to the Publications office by 5 p.m. Friday, July 6, and will be featured in the next edition of *Tilixam Wawa*, scheduled to be mailed out the following week.

Candidates are limited to 600-word statements and candidates must submit their statements via e-mail to dean.rhodes@grandronde.org or on a compact disk or memory drive. Hand-written statements are

not allowed to avoid transcription errors. Late statements will not be accepted for any reason.

Candidate statements run "as is," meaning the Tribe's Publications staff will not edit the submissions in any way other than to ensure they do not exceed 600 words in length.

Candidates also can contact *Smoke Signals* photojournalist Michelle Alaimo at 503-879-1961 or michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org to schedule a time to have a portrait taken for *Tilixam Wawa*, or candidates can submit their own photo. Deadline for photos is also 5 p.m. Friday, July 6.

2018 also marks the second year in a row that political ads will be allowed in *Smoke Signals*. Candi-

dates can buy up to a cumulative full page of advertising in the July 15 through Sept. 1 editions of the Tribe's independent newspaper with the largest permissible ad restricted to a half-page in any one issue.

A Candidates Forum is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, in the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Questions for Tribal Council candidates may be e-mailed to candidatequestion@grandronde.org. Please include your name and roll number.

Ballots will be counted at the Community Center on Saturday, Sept. 8, and election results will be posted that evening on the Community Center's front doors.

At the end of the special meeting, Bob Duncan, Kaileighann Taylor and Garry Williams won \$100 door prizes and Julie Duncan, Joyce Kirk, Dorothy Shortt, Kalene Contreras and Bobb won the \$50 door prizes. Bobb donated his winnings back to the veterans.

### Advisory votes determined

An educational meeting to discuss this year's advisory votes that will appear on the September Tribal Council ballot will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, following the Tribal Council meeting.

This is the second year that advisory votes are being placed on the Tribal Council ballot. Last year, Tribal members were asked their collective opinion on enrollment requirements, possible entry into the marijuana market and creating market-rate housing for Elders.

Tribal members were asked for advisory vote topics after General Council meetings held in Portland, Eugene and Grand Ronde earlier this year.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said during the Tuesday, June 26, Legislative Action Committee meeting that Tribal Council was still trying to decide between putting three or five advisory votes on the ballot. ■

## 2018 Tribal Council Nominees

| Nominees           | Nominators     |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Victor Cureton     | Ed Larsen      |
| Brenda Tuomi       | Chris Mercier  |
| Kristina Helfrich  | Deitz Peters   |
| Brent Merrill      | Joyce Kirk     |
| Peter Grout        | Val Grout      |
| Jonathan R. George | Amber George   |
| Jon A. George      | Jerry George   |
| Cheryle A. Kennedy | Logan Kneeland |
| Steve Bobb Sr.     | Reyn Leno      |

Graphic created by George Valdez