

Elder Honor
Day — pg. 9



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Poignant powwow

Veterans' event remembers passing of Soderberg, Merrill

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The recent walking on of two high-profile Grand Ronde community members and veterans – Wink Soderberg and Norris Merrill – instilled poignancy to the annual Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held Friday through Sunday, July 6-8, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds.

Soderberg, a Navy veteran from the Korean War era, walked on June 25 at the age of 84. He was active in the Tribe's Restoration efforts in the late 1970s and early '80s, and served two terms on Tribal Council from 2005 to '11.

Merrill, an Army veteran who served from 1958 to '64, walked on June 26 at the age of 82. He was an active member of the community, having served on the Tribe's Veterans Special Event Board, in the Honor Guard and on the Rodeo



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Reyn Leno, left, and Tribal Elder and Army veteran Raymond Petite, right, gift Army veteran Ken Kraft with a Wounded Warrior Project blanket during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 7. Kraft lost a leg during a mortar attack in Baghdad in 2005. He was also gifted a pillow and both were created by Tribal Elder Evelyn Seidel and her husband, Leo.

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Lamprey harvest



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

From left, Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr., Tribal Fish & Wildlife Manager Kelly Dirksen and Tribal member Matt Zimbrick load lamprey into a bucket while harvesting them at Willamette Falls on Monday, July 2. The state Department of Fish & Wildlife designated lamprey harvesting season as running from June 1 through the end of July. Tribal members and staff harvested about 125 lamprey, which will be stored at Natural Resources and served at future cultural events. Lamprey are an important first food of Pacific Northwest Native peoples, providing a source of protein and fat in their diets.

September ballot to include three advisory vote questions

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

For the second year in a row, Tribal voters will be asked their opinions on three topics when they cast their ballots for Tribal Council during the Sept. 8 election.

Tribal voters will be asked the following three questions:

- Should the Tribal Constitution be amended to allow the enrollment of applicants who have enrolled brothers or sisters by the same Tribal parent(s) and who meet the pre-1999 constitutional enrollment requirements?
- Should Spirit Mountain Casino offer additional amenities to make it more of a destination resort?
- Should the Tribe look into offering financial assistance for education/training in areas not covered by existing programs?

Although the results of the advisory votes are not binding on Tribal Council, they do influence council decision-making.

For instance, in 2017's advisory votes the only question that received overwhelming Tribal support was creating market-rate housing for Elders, which was supported 792-408. Since then, Tribal Housing staff have worked on making market-rate housing

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