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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Tribal Council ends relationship with Wells Fargo

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

With the approval of two agreements during its Wednesday, Aug. 8, meeting, Tribal Council officially ended the Tribal government's banking relationship with Wells Fargo.

Tribal Council voted in October 2017 to end the Tribal government's financial relationship with the bank and Tribal staff in the Finance and Legal departments have been negotiating agreements with Columbia Bank ever since.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy cited three reasons for the Tribal government ending its financial relationship with the bank, including Wells Fargo's involvement in the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline project in North Dakota, creating millions of fake bank and credit card accounts for customers and forcing unnecessary auto collision insurance on more than 800,000 clients.

Columbia Bank, based in Tacoma, Wash., with more than 150 branches in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, becomes the Tribal government's new banking partner with the approval of the banking services and depository pledge agreements.

The Tribal government's accounts with Wells Fargo were used to hold money only for short periods of time, Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno said.

The Tribal government first employed Wells Fargo for banking services from 1996 to 2005 and then rehired the bank starting in 2013. The Tribe started re-assessing its relationship with Wells Fargo in early 2017 when the Finance Department issued a request for proposals for banking services and Tribal members complained about the bank's involvement in the pipeline project.

The loss of Tribal business will cost Wells Far-

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Food as medicine

Farm Share Rx program aims to heal people through better diets

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

In traditional Tribal culture, food is more than nourishment: It is medicine and can help prevent a plethora of ailments.

However, with the nearest grocery store to Grand Ronde more than 10 miles away, regular access to fresh fruits and vegetables that can help people heal themselves is difficult.

Enter Food Share Rx, a pilot program at the Grand Ronde Food Bank — *iskam məkʰm-ək haws* — that matches Health & Wellness Center clients with weekly fresh fruits and vegetables in an effort to begin healing through healthy eating.

Clients are referred by the Health & Wellness Center and receive a free, weekly distribution of seasonal produce from Osprey Farm in Willamina for 14 weeks between June and September.

"Fresh fruit and vegetables are a huge benefit out here," Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose says. "Meat is our number one request at the Food Bank, followed by fresh fruit and vegetables. The local corner stores don't usually offer those and if they do, it is at a high cost. We don't have a farmer's market yet, so this is the cornerstone to building clientele who will use it."

Additionally, Oregon State University Extension Service's Food Hero program offers on-site weekly recipe ideas and tastings that feature vegetables in the distribution, as well as a series of cooking classes.

Ethel Taylor, a Shawnee Tribal member,

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Graphic created by George Valdez

Canoe Journey brings Tribes together in Puyallup

Tribal Cultural Collections Specialist and Grand Ronde Canoe Family member Nick

LaBonte plays ball with his son Oliver at Canoe Family's camp at the 2018 Canoe Journey "Power Paddle to Puyallup" on Tuesday, July 31.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

PUYALLUP, Wash. — Days spent out in a canoe, paddling for nine hours at a time and camping together can bring people closer or amplify personality differences.

Sometimes it does both, but through it all Grand Ronde Canoe Family members strengthen their bonds.

For the approximately 115 Grand Ronde Tribal members, staff, family and friends who participated in Canoe Journey, a mix of emotions accompanied the end of the journey and subsequent week of protocol from

different U.S. Tribes and Canadian First Nations, who paddled more than 100 canoes to the event.

This year's "Power Paddle to Puyallup" was hosted by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and marks the 20th journey. This year's theme was "Honoring Our Medicine." It is the second time the Puyallup Tribe has hosted a canoe journey, which involves months of preparation, coordination and thousands of volunteers.

"My favorite part of being on the wa-

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