

Helping Hands awards

Spirit Mountain Community Fund annually selects two individuals to receive the Ye? lan Lima (Helping Hand) awards: One non-management staff member and one volunteer who are recognized for their outstanding service within the nonprofit community.



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

For 2018, Jim Landkamer received the Helping Hand Volunteer Award from Community Fund Executive Director Mychal Cherry on Monday, Dec. 17, in Corvallis. Landkamer has been volunteering for Dial-A-Bus for 31 years and has now volunteered for more years than he worked in his career as an engineer. He started volunteering for Dial-A-Bus in 1987 and completed his third decade of service earlier this year.



Hortensia Mandujano received the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Helping Hand Award for non-management from Community Fund Administrative Assistant Jesse Knight on Wednesday, Dec. 19, in Cornelius. Hortensia began as a participant in the Adelante Mujeres Adult Education Program. Originally from Michoacán, Mexico, she immigrated to Oregon at 23. It was difficult when she got to the United States because of the language barrier. Eventually, she decided that she wanted to go back to school, though she knew it would be a financial sacrifice. She took a leap of faith and enrolled. She did homework alongside her children in the evenings, and they helped her with her English. Soon, Hortensia passed her GED exams. Some years later, after some convincing from a friend, she applied for an opening in the Early Childhood Education Program and was offered a position. "I didn't have any experience. I had never been in a classroom, and they gave me that opportunity to be a teacher. So, it was like, if they believe in me, why don't I believe in myself, too. I can do it," she said. Adelante Mujeres helped Hortensia get training and her teacher certification.



2014 – Jan Looking Wolf Reibach released his new album, “Tamanawas,” with High Spirit Records based in Arizona. The multiple Native American Music Award recipient recorded melodies that he had stockpiled during his more than 10-year career, as well as a few new songs. This move allowed Reibach to return to the subdued, organic flute playing that launched his career in the early 2000s. “Because this was the last record with the label, I really wanted to put my heart into it,” he said. “My own heart and spirit more than ever, and have it represent me more personally than the other albums.”



2014 File photo

2009 – An arctic blast that moved into the Pacific Northwest the week before Christmas buried the Grand Ronde area beneath several blankets of snow and shut down the Tribal campus for a week. Several Elders were transported to Spirit Mountain Casino, where 30 rooms were set aside for emergency use. Some residents reported snow depths of almost three feet in their yards. “It was the worst snow event I’ve experienced,” Director of Tribal Operations John Mericer said.

2004 – Grand Ronde Station opened its doors with a dedication ceremony featuring Tribal leaders, staff and Tribal members. The station, which employed 35 people, featured a convenience store, gas and propane service, and a 24-hour car wash.

1999 – A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held during the grand opening of Spirit Mountain Lodge on Monday, Dec. 21. Community members and staff dropped by the new hotel to hear Spirit Mountain Board of Directors Chairman Mike Larsen dedicate the facility. Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno thanked all of the different groups of people who made building and opening the lodge possible. “Spirit Mountain Lodge will add to the success the Tribe has had here,” Leno said. “We have a very successful gaming operation and this will make it an even greater attraction.”

1994 – Tribal Council adopted stricter criteria for all individuals applying for enrollment. The change was in response to Tribal membership swelling from 862 to 3,393 members in the 10 years since Restoration. All members enrolled prior to Jan. 1, 1994, were not subject to the new regulations. The new eligibility requirements were that enrollees must be descended from a Grand Ronde Tribal member, possess at least 1/16th Indian blood of a federally recognized Tribe, and must be accepted as a Tribal member by demonstrating social and economic ties to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

1989 – The Grand Ronde Tribe signed a six-month lease agreement with Southwestern Washington Hospitals Inc. for the former TurnAround Treatment Center in Keizer. The Tribe planned to use the facility to operate the American Indian Residential Treatment Center to provide youth with substance abuse recovery services. The Tribe decided to set up a youth residential program after developing an action plan on alcohol and substance abuse. The planning process identified the need for such a program, according to Health Director Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Adult Members’ Trust and Minors’ Custodial & Rabbi Trust Funds

Investments in the Adult Members’ Trust Fund and the Minors’ Custodial and Rabbi Trust Funds are updated each business day.

If you are a trust participant and/or if you are the parent/guardian of a minor member, you can access and review your balance and your minor child’s balance by visiting www.401Save.com.

To log-in, the initial User ID is your (or your child’s) Social Security number, and the initial Password is “00” followed by your (or your child’s) membership number. Once logged in, you can customize your User ID and password for security purposes. If you have any trouble logging in to or using the system, contact the 401Save Call Center at 1-888-700-0808 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Friday. ■



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?
Do you have questions about diabetes?
Do you need help managing your diabetes?
If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment