

# Tribal Council OKs government-to-government MOU with Salem

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Chalk up the state’s capital city as the latest governmental entity to agree to a government-to-government memorandum of understanding with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

At its Wednesday, Jan. 9, meeting, Tribal Council OK’d the memorandum with the city of Salem.

Salem joins myriad other governmental entities that have recently signed MOUs with the Tribe, including the city of Portland, University of Oregon, Oregon Department of Transportation, Willamette, Mount Hood and Siuslaw national forests, and Willamina and Sheridan school districts, among many others.

The agreement is designed to “strengthen the government-to-government relationship and facilitate communication and cooperation on matters of mutual interest.”

Salem is part of the area ceded during the 1855 Willamette Valley Treaty by several bands of the Kalapuya and other Willamette Valley Tribes.

The city also has proclaimed Jan. 22 as Willamette Valley Treaty Commemoration Day.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Accepted a \$249,850 Meyer Memorial Trust grant for the Portland Harbor cleanup effort. The funds will be used by the Tribe to compile information on the loss of natural resources that are culturally relevant as a result of the harbor’s environmental contamination;

- Approved two grant applications to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The first application is not to exceed \$250,000 to continue achieving habitat restoration goals at Rattlesnake Butte northwest of Junction City in Lane County and the second application is not to exceed \$120,000 and would support fishery monitoring for winter steelhead and Coho salmon on Tribal lands. During the Tuesday, Jan. 8, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen reported that 11 percent – 299 – of Coho salmon that returned to the Willamette Basin in 2018 were counted on Reservation waterways, such as Agency Creek;
- And approved the enrollment of three infants and 11 non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Enrollment Ordinance and Tribal Constitution.

The meeting opened with former Yamhill County Commissioner Stan Primozych thanking the Tribe for its work within the community during his term as an elected official. Tribal Council member Denise Harvey had previously presented Primozych, who also served many years on the McMinnville School District Board of Directors, with a Tribal Pendleton blanket to thank him for his years of public service.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■



**2014** – The U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment to the 1988 Grand Ronde Reservation Act that would streamline how the Tribe takes land into trust. Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno testified before the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs in support of the amendment in May 2013 and during the previous Congress in July 2012. The legislation was introduced by Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader and received bipartisan support from the Oregon congressional delegation.

**2009** – Tribal Elder Marcellus “Marce” Norwest, 79, was honored by the Grand Ronde and local veterans’ communities. The ceremony attracted more than 100 people and had been in the works for two months, according to Mark Weippert, commander for AMVETS Post 2000 in Willamina, who organized the event. “We



**2009** File photo

wanted to pay tribute to him while we still can,” Weippert said. After a long life of service to the Tribe, community and nation in the Korean War, Norwest was fighting pancreatic cancer. “I want to fight it and fight it to the end,” he said. “Life is short, but if you keep at it, you can accomplish a lot in a short time.”

**2004** – Almost \$10,000 had been raised for Tribal member Amanda Jones Schulte. The 19-year-old was in need of a heart and lung transplant. At the time, her physical condition remained “stable,” except in cold weather. A board of directors was set up to administer the fund, and one provision noted that should Schulte not use the money, it would be given to another young person who needed a transplant.

**1999** – Alaska Native Ted Mala was featured after being named the Tribe’s new executive officer. Mala, who spent his career working with Native Americans, was the first in his family to receive a college education, which included a master’s degree from Harvard University. Before accepting a position with the Grand Ronde Tribe, Mala worked as a Tribal planner, served as Alaska secretary of health, a professor of health sciences and was a member of the Association of American Indian Physicians.

**1994** – The Tree of Giving, sponsored by the Tribe’s Social Services Department and coordinated by Mychal Childers and April Howren, was deemed a success in its second year. More than 60 Tribal staff and community members participated so that children in need would receive Christmas gifts.

**1989** – Tribal Council began reviewing proposals for establishing a burial insurance policy for Tribal members. In addition to looking at proposals from insurance companies, Tribal Council was considering the feasibility of self-insurance. The policy benefit had not been determined, but would be paid for with Tribal timber revenues. Tribal Council also was formulating guidelines for burial standards at the Tribal cemetery.

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR TRADITIONAL  
ROUND DANCE TO CELEBRATE SOBRIETY,  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

17TH ANNUAL AGENCY CREEK ROUND DANCE

MARCH 8 AND 9, 2019  
7 P.M. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
GRAND RONDE, OR.  
@TRIBALGYM

Hosted by  
the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Youth Prevention Program

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
**Native Youth  
Wellness Day**  
Friday, March 8, 2019  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Tribal gymnasium

THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING GRAND RONDE'S TRIBAL COMMUNITY AND CULTURE BY NOT  
DISPLAYING GANG AFFILIATION OR BY BRINGING DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR WEAPONS TO THIS EVENT.

Ad created by George Valdez

## Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam

January 23, 2019  
Gymnasium  
10:00am to 3:00pm

A follow up gathering from the April 2018 Gathering of Grand Ronde Tillixam. A time to reflect, check-in with each other and discuss collective healing opportunities for the community in the new year!

Door Prizes      Lunch Provided

Sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Social Services Department and facilitation provided by the Native Wellness Institute.