

Easter Egg Hunt
— pg. 11



Smoke Signals

An Independent Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Memorial Day event set for Monday, May 27

15 names being added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

The annual Memorial Day event at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus will be punctuated by 15 names being added to the four black granite pillars that represent the major branches of the U.S. armed forces.

Of those 15, four are Tribal members – Army veterans Mitchell Spohn and David Kurns II, Navy veteran Lonnie Riddle and Marine Corps veteran Rodney Smith.

The event begins at noon with a meal served in the nearby Tribal Community Center.

The outdoors ceremony begins at 1 p.m. with Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., a Marine Corps veteran from the Vietnam War era, giving the invocation and serving as master of ceremonies.

Grand Ronde drummers will play

See EVENT
continued on page 5

If you go

17th Memorial Day Ceremony

When: Noon Monday, May 27

Where: Tribal Community Center & West Valley Veterans Memorial, 9615 Grand Ronde Road

More info: 541-480-5932

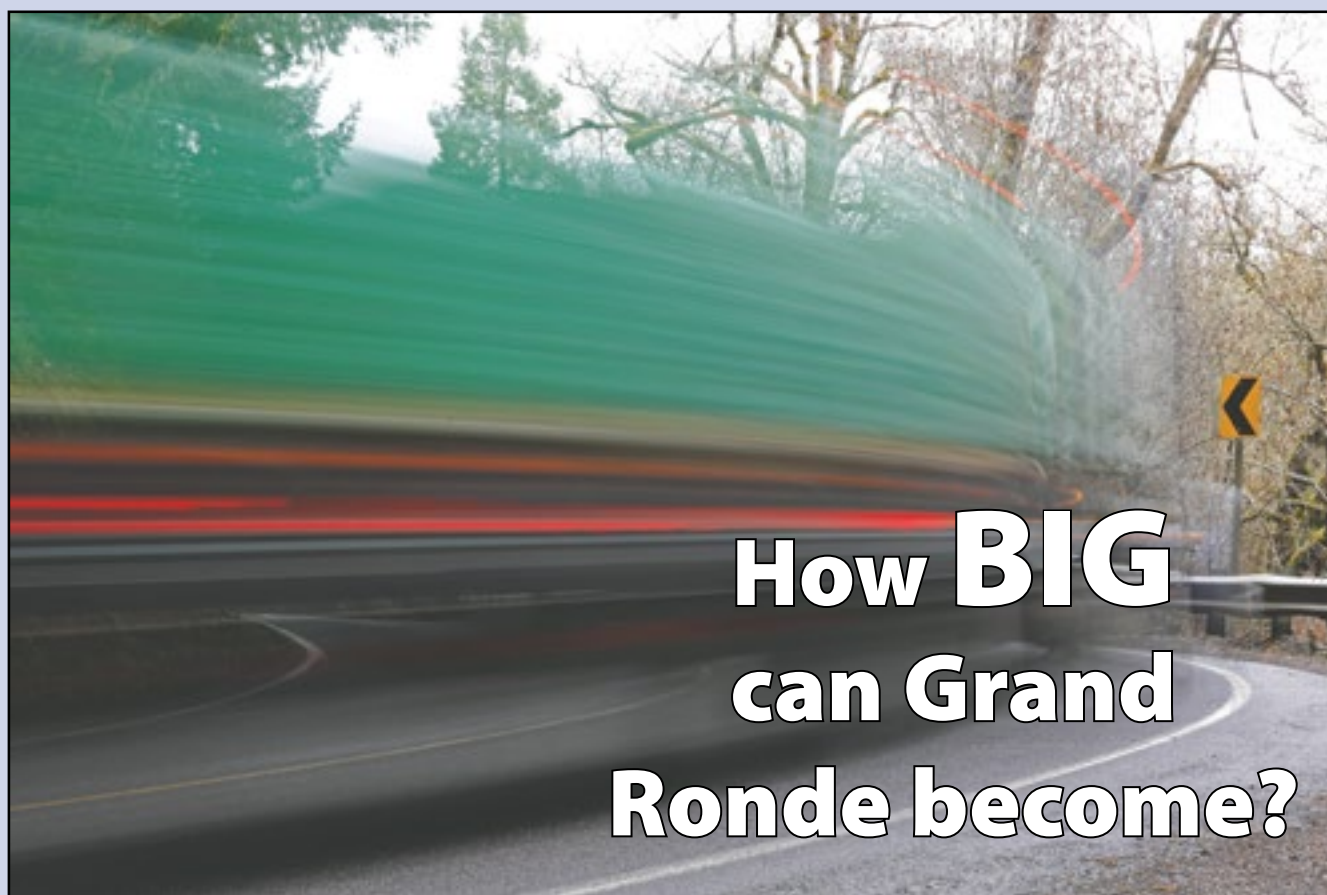


Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

A truck heads into the curves along Hebo Road, south of úyxat Powwow Grounds, on Wednesday, April 3.

How BIG can Grand Ronde become?

Roads, highways require upgrades to accommodate growth

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of Smoke Signals stories in 2019 that will examine the infrastructure of Grand Ronde and how many Tribal members could conceivably return to live in the community safely and comfortably.)

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

Go to the intersection of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18 on any given weeknight at 5 p.m. and you're likely to see a long line of cars.

Add in slow-moving semitrucks and traffic heading for the Oregon coast or Spirit Mountain Casino on the weekends, and you have a recipe for frustration

and potential hazards.

Bringing more Tribal members home to live in the community will mean an increased need to provide adequate transportation to government services, employment and schools, whether by foot, bicycle, private vehicle or bus.

With the Grand Ronde Tribe's Strategic Plan stated goal to "attract new Tribal members, diversify and grow the population, and promote a healthier, sustainable community," transportation plays a huge role in accomplishing it.

"We are very close to capacity as it is (on the roads)," Public Works Coordinator John Mercier

See GROWTH
continued on pages 12-13

WWII veteran Herman Hudson honored with Quilt of Valor



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

Seventy-four years ago, veteran Herman "Junior" Hudson concluded his military service after serving in the Navy from 1942 until World War II ended in 1945.

On Friday, April 19, the 94-year-old Tribal Elder was honored with a Quilt of Valor in the Governance Center Atrium in front of a large crowd of family, friends, fellow veterans and Tribal employees. He is one

of a few Native American World War II veterans still living and most likely is the Grand Ronde Tribe's last surviving World War II veteran.

Hudson, who still drives and is quick to smile, easily walked up to a podium to receive his quilt from fellow veterans and Quilts of Valor volunteers Bob Eldred and JV Torgerson.

See VALOR
continued on page 9

Tribal Elder and World War II veteran Herman Hudson received a Quilt of Valor from JV Torgerson and Bob Eldred during a ceremony held in the Governance Center on Friday, April 19. Hudson was nominated by Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. Hudson served in the Navy and was assigned to the USS Nevada in the South Pacific.