

Summer hoops



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Austin Carrasco, 11, tips the ball during a drill in the Grand Ronde basketball clinic held in the Tribal gym on Monday, July 1. The goal of the clinic is to provide children in the Youth Education Summer program with knowledge of nutrition, health and fitness.



Temporary Recreational Coordinator Leo Ayala leads participants in stretching exercises at the start of the Grand Ronde basketball clinic held in the Tribal gym on Monday, July 1.



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal member and New York City resident Charlotte Weiss, right, was joined by fellow New Yorker Mary Forman, left, and Chicago native Anne Marie Puma at the First Foods Celebration held at achaf-hammi on Saturday, June 29.



‘Helping out with cooking the food is my favorite’

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Mercier led a drum song to begin the event, assisted by Unger, Jon A. George, Tribal member Brian Krehbiel, Kathleen George and Ross.

Jon A. George welcomed everyone to the plankhouse.

“What a wonderful group of people we have here today and a wonderful group of Tribal members and Elders to work with,” he said. “This is a great committee.”

George recognized 95-year-old Elder and key Restoration figure Kathryn Harrison, who came to the plankhouse for the celebration.

“We are so blessed,” he said.

After a giveaway of ribbon shirts and skirts to Culture Committee members, lunch began with deer jerky, berries and nuts, followed by tables laden with food.

Tribal youth Tasina Bluehorse, 12, and Mabel Brisbois, 16, helped serve wild grains, bear meatballs and venison meatloaf. Bluehorse also helped Smith prepare the fry bread.

“Helping out with cooking the food is my favorite,” she said.

“I like getting to see the reaction

on people’s faces when they try new things,” Brisbois said. “The biscuit root is my favorite. It’s my candy.”

Ross prepared a variety of teas for the First Foods medicine table. Each had a singular purpose, from helping with relaxation to combatting seasonal allergies.

“It’s impossible to say which one is my favorite because they all have roles to play,” she said. “Each plant has its own life cycle and with climate change, you really need to learn to listen to them.”

After lunch, those in attendance headed to the plankhouse to hear Ross recite a story and give a demonstration of how to traditionally cook acorn soup.

“It warms my heart to see everyone making the time to come and learn about our foods,” she said.

The soup was cooked over a fire in the plankhouse using hot stones and a variety of cooking utensils.

“There is lots of training and planning that goes into this,” Ross said.

Holding up a spruce root basket she had been gifted, Ross added, “The most important piece is the cooking basket. These can take years to create.” ■

Grand Ronde Housing Department



Board seeks community input

The Grand Ronde Housing Board is inviting Tribal members and Tribal housing residents to provide input to assist its members in carrying out its advisory role to the Housing Department and Tribal Council regarding policy guidance. The Housing Board meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the Housing Department conference room, 28450 Tyee Road. Its chair is Kristy Criss-Lawson. For more information, contact the Housing Department at 503-879-2401. ■



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