

Mural honors missing, murdered Indigenous women

By Danielle Frost

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member Trevor Braden and his brother, Garrett Mesplie (Umatilla), have created a mural honoring missing and murdered Indigenous women on the Yakama Reservation.

Titled “No More Stolen Sisters,” the four murals are wrapped around an outbuilding located at the Yakamart gas station and convenience store in Toppenish, Wash.

“Garrett and I were honored to take on this project,” Braden says. “We know it is a very important movement to our Native and Indigenous people. ... We were very happy with the outcome and received a lot of good feedback from the community.”

Manager Joel John proposed the idea of a mural to the brothers and asked for design ideas. After store ownership reviewed these, Braden, 33, and Mesplie, 32, began working on their creation. Painting was done during the winter, so it took five weekends to complete the project as drying time takes longer in colder weather.

The brothers chose bright colors and images for their mural design to catch the attention of those passing by, and used red because it is the official color of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women awareness campaign.

Braden and Mesplie, who live in Toppenish and Wapato, respectively, work primarily with spray paint. They intertwine graffiti-style techniques and incorporate them into Native American designs. They have completed large, colorful murals throughout Yakima County.

The brothers have had artistic



Contributed photos

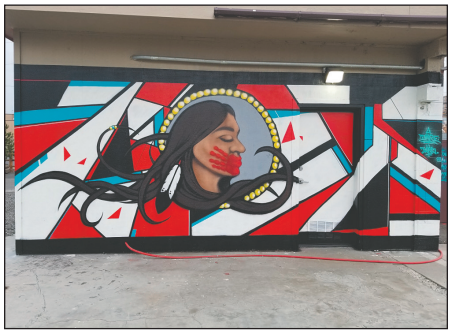
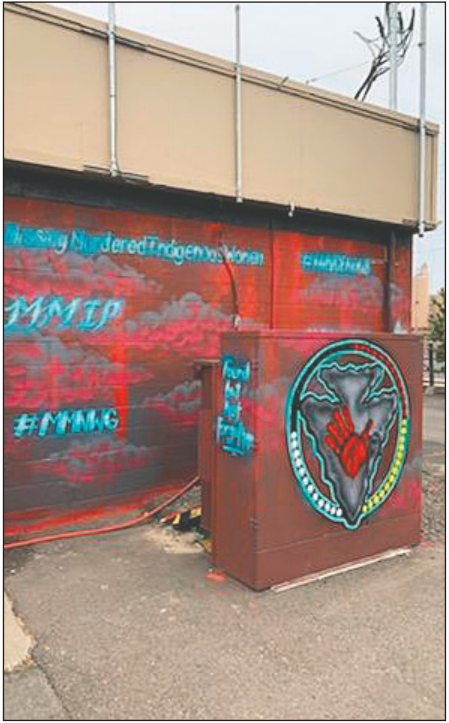


Grand Ronde Tribal member Trevor Braden, left, and his brother, Garrett Mesplie (Umatilla), created four murals titled “No More Stolen Sisters” that wrap around an outbuilding at the Yakamart gas station and convenience store in Toppenish, Wash.

work featured at the Yakamart store, which is a central fixture for many in the community.

“(The Yakamart store) is one of the most popular pathways through our small community,” Braden says. “It is right near our main highway and intersection. So, we wanted people to see it, stop and see what it is all about.”

“We included popular hashtags on our mural so that those who are not familiar with the movement can look it up. It is sad that our people go missing and no one seems to care other than those who lost a loved one.” ■



Peacemaker Program



What is the Peacemaker Program?

The Tribal Court Peacemaker Program aims to reflect the Tribe’s tradition of using respected members of the community to heal conflicts.

This is a free, voluntary program that allows parties to discuss their conflict or dispute in a safe, non-threatening environment. The goal is to re-establish communication and come to an amicable and agreeable solution.

(This program is open to Grand Ronde and the surrounding communities.)

What can the Peacemaker Program assist me with?

- Grievances with neighbors
- Disputes between co-workers
- Employment disputes
- Domestic relations
- Landlord / Tenant relations
- Name change disputes
- And, more!

Both parties must agree to participate in the Peacemaking process

How do I obtain Peacemaker assistance?

- 1) Download a request form from the Court Programs website, or
- 2) Come to Tribal Court, or
- 3) Email / call Tribal Court Programs for more information

Court Programs Website
<https://www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-court/court-programs/>

Ramona Cuenelle
Tribal Court Programs Coordinator
CourtPrograms@grandronde.org
(503) 879-4623

TRIBAL COURT PROGRAMS
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

Mind, Body & Soul Therapeutic Massage started at the Health & Wellness Clinic last year. **Remember:** Appointments for massage are not managed by the Health & Wellness Center staff. To schedule an appointment, call 971-237-2561. ■

Grand Ronde Housing Department

Opportunity for comment

Under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, (NAHASDA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide grants to eligible Indian Tribes/Indian Housing Authorities for the development and operation of low-income housing in Indian areas. To be eligible for the grants, respondents must submit an Indian Housing Plan that meets the minimum requirements of the Act, and also submit an Annual Performance Report to HUD and maintain records for HUD monitoring. The Tribe, through the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department (GRHD), received multiple grants under this program that were active during 2019. Comments on the Annual Performance Report are welcome and copies of this report can be obtained at the Housing Department office or by calling 503-879-2401, or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2401. Comments must be submitted in writing to GRHD no later than 5 p.m. Monday, March 9. All comments will be incorporated into the final report submitted to HUD. ■