

# Tribe honors 82 graduates during virtual celebration

By Danielle Frost

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde honored 82 graduates earning eighth-grade promotion certificates through doctoral degrees during the Honors and Recognition Graduation Celebration held Friday, June 19.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony was held virtually. Two videos, one featuring GED and college graduates, and another featuring high school graduates and eighth-grade promotions were streamed on the Grand Ronde Education Programs Facebook page.

The college graduates video began with Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George offering his congratulations.

"You've reached a milestone in your life and you should be proud to say, 'I did it. I accomplished it.' Today, graduates of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, you are being honored because you did it, and stuck with it. We can say to you, well done. You gave your all and became an example for your younger siblings and family members, and should be proud of yourself."

Education Department Manager Angela Fasana welcomed graduates and their families to both virtual celebrations.

"I want to congratulate you on reaching this milestone," she said. "I want you to know that this



*Smoke Signals screenshot*

**Education Committee member Michael Cherry congratulated 2020 graduates during an online Graduation Celebration held on Friday, June 19.**

department and the Tribe are extremely proud of your success."

Education Committee Chair Tammy Cook and members Michael Cherry, Shelby Maerz, Chris Mansayon and Michael Herrin also congratulated all of the graduates, along with Education Department staff.

Youth Education Manager Tim Barry said he was proud of all of the students and is looking forward to their next steps.

All graduates' names will be added to plaques with other graduates that line the wall in the Adult Education Building.

Tribal graduates honored this year were:

**Eighth grade:** Kaileighann Taylor, Leo Norwest, Jaiden-Sky Quintero, Kihya Ann Bailey, Se-

quoia Ream, Tasina Bluehorse, Addie Moreland, Benjamin Powley, Thunder Hurtado, Dameion Trump-Torres, Elisabeth Becker, Cohen Haller, Ethan Sabin, Jacob Holmes, Kazsia Connelly, Quentin McCormick, Anavey Smith, Seq'hiya "Pippy" Simmons, Kaiya Pearsall, Natalie Martinez, Daneyella Davis and Anne Page.

**High school:** Ce'c West, Madison Davidson, Hunter Brewer, Ethan Leno, Jacob Shandy, Jaclyn Markey, Tori Hirata, Genevieve Hughes, Edi Larsen, Payton Leno, Christopher Tarring, Aundrea Cooney, Sedona Williams, Iyana Holmes, KC Volz, Alexis Simpson, Alex Ventriglia, Dylan Larson, Elizabeth Watson-Croy, Frankin Norwest, Keetzon Walker, Madison Ross, Nakoia Mercier, Tabor Cain, Risa Plummer, Joshua Henry and Benjamin Halo Ankeney.

**GED:** Hunter Campbell, Christopher Cureton, Isaiah Holmes, Skyler Hunt, Julian Lane, Rebecca Marr, Nikkali Reichlein, Cody Watson and Jennie Young.

**Certificates:** Amy Valentine.

**Associate degrees:** Rayna Hut-

ton, Nick LaBonte, Bethany McKnight, Hope Pichette, Stephanie Rosas, Jamie Schlosser and Astashia Trevino.

**Bachelor's degrees:** Alejandrina Aguilar, Tyler Bassett, Myranda Bradshaw, Shane Cooney, Todd Gregg, Brandon Grout, Kamiah Koch, Cassandra Korn, Rylie Lawrence, Joshua McCool, Christina Morgan, Olivia Morrow, Debbie Ream, ChyAnn Schlappie, Merri StanCliffe, Eli Steadman, Shane Thomas, Tajia Ulestad and Sharon Williams.

**Master's degrees:** Synon Allen, Cheyanne Fasana-Heidt, Meagan Flier, Justine Flynn, Kerriana Freeney, Shawn Haggerty, Michael Herrin, Nakoosa Moreland, Melissa Palanuk-Mercier and Natalie Thomas.

**Doctorate degree:** Kayla Spohn.

Those who earned a GED, certificate or associate degree will receive a Pendleton saddle blanket. Bachelor degree graduates will receive a Pendleton blanket and those with graduate degrees will receive a Pendleton logo blanket and carved paddle. ■

## Afterhours health line

Tribal members can contact the Afterhours Health Line for questions about health care concerns you may have when the clinic is not open. You can reach the Afterhours Health Line by calling 503-879-2002 and follow the prompts.

The Afterhours Health Line will coordinate care and communicate with Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center providers. ■

## Tribal government moves into second phase of re-opening

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

The Grand Ronde Tribal government moved into its second phase of re-opening on Monday, June 15, which now allows programs that provide direct services to the membership to increase onsite services or meeting opportunities if necessary.

In addition, General Manager David Fullerton announced via e-mail on Friday, June 12, that increased outdoor activities and gatherings will be allowed.

The incremental re-opening is buoyed by the fact that the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center has conducted 175 COVID-19 coronavirus tests as of Tuesday, June 30, and all have returned negative results.

The Tribal government went into a partial shutdown in mid-March in response to the spread of the coronavirus in Oregon. Only essential employees reported to work to keep providing services to the membership.

On Monday, May 18, the Tribal government started a cautious re-opening with employees required to wear masks while interacting in public or with others, no walk-in visitors allowed and employees were screened for possible fever before being allowed to work.

Most of those Phase 1 requirements remain in effect for employees as the Tribal government moves into Phase 2, Fullerton said.

"The employees have done a great job in Grand Ronde to prevent the spread of the virus and we are asking all to keep up the good work as we continue to move forward," Fullerton said.

Fullerton added that the increase in coronavirus cases in Yamhill and Polk counties is attributable to increased testing and better contact tracing in Oregon.

"While this is all good news, we still need to remain diligent at work and away from work to make sure we are not putting our co-workers or those we serve at risk," Fullerton added. ■

## Tribe receives \$99,998 federal transportation grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Confederated Tribes will receive almost \$100,000 to support the community's transportation needs amid the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, according to a press release from Oregon U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden that was issued on Tuesday, June 23.

The funding is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, which was passed by Congress in March.

The grant, which is being distributed by the Federal Transit Administration, totals \$99,998 and will support operating, administrative and preventive maintenance costs associated with responding to the public health emergency. Expenses can include personal protective equipment supplies for transit workers, driver salaries and benefits, and supplies and services needed to disinfect vehicles, transit centers and hubs.

"Tribes in Oregon have been hit hard by COVID-19's devastating public health and economic impacts, so these federal funds will help by supporting transit workers to safely continue providing essential transportation services for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," Wyden said. "I'm glad these resources are heading to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and I will keep battling to ensure all of our state's Tribes get the assistance they require during this crisis and beyond." ■

## Lamprey season runs through July 31

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife set the lamprey harvest season to run through July 31 with harvesting allowed 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Monday.

Harvesting is not allowed Tuesday through Thursday.

Harvesting is confined to the east side of Willamette Falls and does not include the horseshoe area at the peak of the falls. In addition, lamprey ramps are installed during the lamprey season to help lamprey make it over the falls. Harvesters should avoid the ramps.

Gear is restricted to hand or hand-powered tools only. A permit is required, but Tribal members are allowed to use their Tribal enrollment card in lieu of a state-issued permit. Tribal members also may harvest for distribution to other Tribal members as long as it is being done for free. Commercial sale of lamprey and use of lamprey as bait in fisheries is prohibited. Catches must be recorded on an ODFW harvest card available from the Natural Resources Department off Hebo Road or by contacting the Clackamas ODFW office at 17330 S.E. Evelyn St. Harvest cards must be returned by Aug. 31, 2020.

If you plan on harvesting lamprey, contact Natural Resources at 503-879-2424 to arrange for a packet. ■