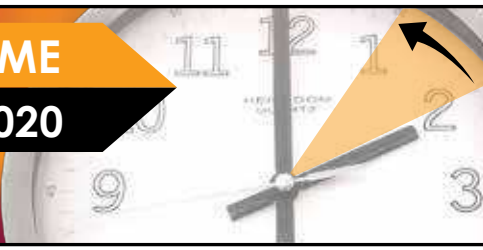


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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Restoration Celebration moves to online format

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

For the first time since 1984, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will not be hosting an in-person Restoration Celebration.

This year's commemoration of the 37th anniversary will be held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and state restrictions on indoor gatherings. With the arrival of fall, coronavirus cases have been surging nationally and in Oregon.

The Tribe announced its decision in a Facebook post on Friday, Oct. 23.

"On Nov. 22, 1983, Grand Ronde's federal

recognition as a Tribal government was restored when the Grand Ronde Restoration Act was signed into law," the Tribe's Facebook post stated. "Every year since then, we have gathered as a Tribe, a community and a family to celebrate our Restoration. Unfortunately, 2020 has left us in unprecedented times and we can't gather in person this year. Restoration will still be celebrated, but the celebration will look a little different because we're moving it online."

There are no details yet as to what the online event will include. It will be held on Sunday, Nov. 22. To see updates, visit the Confederated

Tribes of Grand Ronde Facebook page.

On Nov. 22, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed House Resolution 3885 restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe, which had been terminated 29 years earlier, to federal recognition. His signature on the bill officially ended the dark time of Termination.

Every year since, the Tribe has held a celebration that includes a meal, giveaways, speeches, dancing, drumming, singing and a Restoration Powwow. Approximately 200 Tribal members, family, friends and elected officials traveled to Grand Ronde in 2019 for the event, which was held in the Tribal gym. ■

Project chief



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

The Tribe has hired Englishman Ryan Webb as a project manager to oversee various ventures in Oregon City and Wood Village, as well as projects closer to home such as the Elder housing expansion and the home ownership program.

Tribe hires Ryan Webb to oversee large developments

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe has hired a project manager to oversee various ventures in Oregon City and Wood Village, as well as projects closer to home such as the Elder housing expansion and the home ownership program.

Ryan Webb, 34, began his new job last month.

"I'm really excited to be here and be a part of the Tribe's future," he says. "I'm ready to really dive in,

and start working and contributing."

Webb is the husband of Tribal member Ashlee Webb and the father of Tribal descendants Violet and Amelia, 5; and Andrew, 3.

He grew up in Gloucester, approximately two hours away from London, England, and attended college and graduate school at the University of

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On-time graduation rates increase for Native students

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The number of Native American students graduating high school within four years continues to increase in the Willamina School District despite the COVID-19 pandemic that has left schools shuttered since March.

Willamina saw a 6 percent increase, from 82 percent in 2019 to 88 percent in 2020. Approximately 35 percent of the Willamina student population identifies as Native American/Alaska Native.

In Sheridan, the statistics were unavailable due to the small number of students. If the number is 10 or fewer, the state doesn't report the numbers.

Overall, the Sheridan district has 5 percent Native American/Alaska Native students.

The graduation information was part of Oregon's annual school report card, which provides a snapshot of the state's educational system and includes data about students, teachers and schools.

This year's profiles do not include statewide assessment data, class sizes or attendance as a result of the school closures that started in March.

Overall, the four-year graduation rate for all students in Oregon is 80 percent.

"This annual data release comes roughly seven months after our students, families and educators started overcoming the toughest education challenge our state has ever faced," Oregon Department of

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