


Happy 55th Birthday, Shelly Staubes Cheers to your baby Elder status! With love from all your family



# ‘Everyone worked so hard for so long as we felt this was so important for our Tribe’

**CENSUS continued from front page**

and ideas for the future, including getting Tribal youth to understand why the census is important.

“It seems like our Tribe always has a high percentage for response rates and I appreciate your coordination, camaraderie and abilities,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George said. “It’s just a testament to your ability to work together and get this data.”

The U.S. Census Bureau faced additional obstacles this year with the COVID-19 pandemic cutting back on the ability to go door-to-door to obtain information from those who did not reply by mail, phone or Internet. The bureau asked for, and received, an extension of Oct. 31 to complete the count, but the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to cut the census short on Oct. 14.

As a result, census takers had to redouble their efforts to get people counted, especially in Tribal communities where response rates have historically been low and remained so during the pandemic as many Reservations took additional safety measures such as suspending door-knocking efforts.

With Grand Ronde Tribal offices closed for almost two months during the pandemic, and no door-to-door contact allowed, the committee had to rely on other methods to obtain responses: Multiple Tribal members were hired to phone direct to Tribal families all over the United States to conduct outreach; fliers were circulated at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, community bulletin boards and in Elder meal grab-and-go bags; and social media was utilized, virtual raffles were held for census completers and an outreach table was set up during Tribal Council elections.

Other efforts to get out the count included advertising through e-mail, *Smoke Signals* and Facebook, and working with state census representatives to narrow down the Grand Ronde Tribal members who had not yet completed their census forms.

The September wildfires that ravaged Oregon, closed Tribal offices for several days and displaced some

area residents further complicated counting efforts.

“Everyone worked so hard for so long as we felt this was so important for our Tribe,” Dugger said. “In spite of everything that was in our way, we refused to concede, give up or be discouraged. We just kept coming up with new ways to get Tribal members to respond. It was truly a great team. Everyone worked together to achieve this goal.”

Other Tribal response rates in Oregon include the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, 62.5 percent; Coquille Indian Tribe, 61.5 percent; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, 56.7 percent; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, 61.3 percent; Klamath Tribes, 46.2 percent; Burns Paiute Tribe, 46 percent; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, 45.6 percent; and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, 39.2 percent.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey thanked the committee for its efforts and recalled the challenges when she was tasked with leading the census effort in 2010.

“Your report is amazing,” she said. “In 2010, I was a one-man band. I really appreciate all of the efforts you guys made and helping people understand why it is important.”


Dugger has said each census response is worth approximately \$3,200 to Tribal grant-funded programs that benefit members.

Going forward, Dugger says it will be important to continue to utilize Tribal media for public outreach, develop a call team, hold raffles with an increased budget for prizes, create a role for Elders, and increase outreach to younger audiences about why it is important to participate in the census.

The U.S. Constitution requires that the federal government conduct a census every 10 years to determine how many people are living in the United States. Census numbers help determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and help directs where billions of dollars in federal funding go for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other services. ■

## PREVENTION CORNER

December 2020



### Wellness During the Holidays


Hello ALL! Youth Empowerment & Prevention (YEP) will be starting the Prevention Corner back up again, just in time for the Holidays. We wanted to remind everyone to take care of yourselves and each other! We know things look a lot different this year. That doesn't mean we can't see our loved ones. Give them a call, or if you can video call, set up a Zoom for the holidays with family. Think about some cultural activities you can do at home together. Listen to your favorite music, take walks or work on that unfinished art project. We miss all of you and are planning big things for the future! Can't wait to see you again.

**Coming up..**

- Be looking for fun things in December.
- Look for our flyer in Smoke Signals for ways to participate and win prizes!
- We are cooking again on the 17th ALL DAY!!!
- Follow us to win prizes and keep up to date on all the things!

Facebook: GrandRondeYouth  
Instagram: ctgryouthempowerment

As always USE the hashtag & post your pics!!!  
#CTGRWELLNESS WARRIORS



# MĒK<sup>h</sup> MĒK-MANIA



bit.ly/mekmekmaniaregistration

12/3/20 at 6pm

Join local food experts online for an open discussion on all things food related in the West Valley Area.

**Invited Speakers**

- OSU Extension Services
- OSU-ES Food Hero
- OSU-ES 4H
- OSU- ES Master Gardeners
- OSU-ES Master Food Preservers
- CTGR Youth Empowerment & Prevention
- CTGR NRD - Native Plant Propagation Program

Francene Ambrose  
Grand Ronde Program Manager  
503-879-3663




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## Let's Talk Education

Join us for a virtual community input meeting  
Wednesday, December 2nd @ 5:30 pm.

To join this meeting go to zoom.com and enter the meeting ID: 853 7893 3166 and passcode: 478203.

If you have any questions, contact Devin Boekhoff at 503-879-2275.