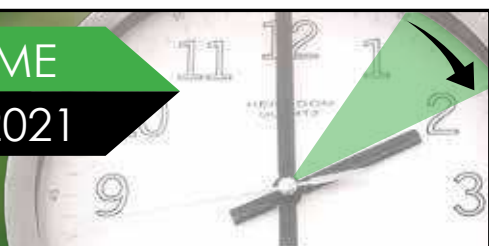


DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
BEGINS MARCH 14, 2021

Turn clocks forward one
hour at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 14



MARCH 1, 2021

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

Willamina schools will soon offer in-person learning for all students

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

WILLAMINA — After almost a year of online classes, the Willamina School District expects to re-open to all students by Tuesday, March 16.

The COVID-19 pandemic left most Oregon schools shuttered starting in March 2020, but with vaccinations on the rise and positive cases falling, in-person learning is now possible.

Willamina School District first- and second-graders returned to the Oaken Hills campus under a hybrid model on Tuesday, Feb. 9, joining kindergarteners who had been attending half-time since September. Later that week, northwestern Oregon was pummeled with an ice storm that left many without power.

“Despite the crazy weather, the return of first and second grade went well, (both) teachers and kids were happy to see each other,” Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick said.

Most Tribal and descendant students in Grand Ronde attend school in Willamina.

The return to the classroom has been a slow and arduous journey at times, but district officials have met regularly with their leadership team to discuss evolving state guidance on how to best re-open schools safely.

The Oregon Department of Education, in partnership with the state Health Authority, authored a “Ready Schools, Safe Learners” guide for in-person instruction last summer. The guide has undergone several revisions, including in January to allow counties with higher COVID-19 case counts to return if they followed certain safety restrictions.

Beginning on Jan. 1, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s instructions for returning to school became “advisory rather than mandatory,” according to a letter sent to the Oregon Department

See **SCHOOLS**
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Absence to presence



Contributed photo by Luke Schneider

University of Washington archaeology student Ian Kretzler recently received the Society for American Archaeology’s 2021 Dissertation Award for outstanding contributions to the discipline for “An Archaeology of Survivance on the Grand Ronde Reservation: Telling Stories of Enduring Native Presence.” He worked for five years on the Grand Ronde Reservation, including during the summer of 2018 on the Molalla encampment when the above picture was taken.

Grand Ronde-based dissertation wins national recognition

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

For five summers, University of Washington archaeology student Ian Kretzler was digging in the dirt of Grand Ronde.

During the summer of 2015, he was helping excavate the Umpqua encampment of the original Grand Ronde Reservation.

For the next four summers, he was working in the Molalla encampment.

All of his work is encapsulated in a dissertation, “An Archaeology of Survivance on the Grand Ronde Reservation: Telling Stories of Enduring Native Presence,” which was recently awarded the Society for American Archaeology’s 2021 Dissertation Award for the outstanding contributions it makes to the discipline.

The society is the largest professional archaeology organization in the United States. It recognizes one dissertation annually and Kretzler received a plaque and three years’ worth of free membership in the organization.

“Ian is the first archaeology graduate recognized for this honor who has conducted community-based research with a Tribal nation,” says Dr. Sara Gonzalez, an associate professor with the University of Washington’s Department of Anthropology. “For a field whose history of relations with Indigenous communities can be best characterized as extractive, Ian’s Tribally led approach to conducting heritage research with the Confederated Tribes of

See **DISSERTATION**
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Winter storm affects Grand Ronde area



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Awinter storm that dumped freezing rain and snow on most of northwestern Oregon over the Valentine’s Day weekend forced the closure of two state highways at Grand Ronde Road and Portland General Electric reported power outages in the Grand Ronde area.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Trip

Check site, both Highway 18 and Hebo Road (Highway 22) were closed westbound at their intersections with Grand Ronde Road.

Highway 18 closed at 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, from milepost 20 to milepost 6 and Hebo Road closed from milepost 21 to milepost 11.

Ice caused many trees lining the highways to either topple or lose

See **STORM**
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An Oregon Department of Transportation employee works on cleaning up fallen tree branches along Hebo Road on Friday, Feb. 19, in the aftermath of the Valentine’s Day weekend snow and ice storm. The employee declined to give *Smoke Signals* his name.