

Native American-themed books given to all Willamina students

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

WILLAMINA — Every Willamina School District student has access to a Native American book collection this summer thanks to extra funds from an Oregon Department of Education grant.

Rebecca Arredondo is the school district's Tribal Attendance Promising Practices Program advocate. Typically, the program provides different incentives and celebrations to support Tribal families within the district and encourage regular school attendance for elementary-aged students.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the program's grant money wasn't spent because in-person events and programs were canceled.

"That left some unused funds and the ODE was able to pass along that money to TAPP sites across Oregon," Arredondo said. "We were thrilled to get additional money to spend this year."

After brainstorming ideas with Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick, the district decided to put together a list of 10 Native American-focused books for kindergarten through 12th grade students, and distribute a set to each district family.

Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole, Chinuk

Wawa Education Program Manager Ali Holsclaw and Tribal Youth Education Academic Coach Cheyanne Heidt helped select the books.

The district received an extra \$51,000 in TAPP funds, which was used to purchase approximately 550 copies of each book.



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Willamina Elementary School Tribal Attendance Promising Practices Program Advocate Rebecca Arredondo is assisted by her son, Adrian, 9, on Wednesday, June 2, in packaging books that were distributed to students on Friday, June 4. The collection focuses on the Native American experience through a variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

"Kathy Cole also gave me a great list of books and helped with ordering 'Indian No More,' and Ali Holsclaw helped review the list," Arredondo said. "I was so excited about this because I love books. We had a big list and had to narrow it down to 10."

One of the titles that the Willamina Elementary School Tribal Attendance Promising Practices Program distributed to students.

The books titles are: "Frybread: A Native American Family Story," "When We Were Alone," "Coyote in Love: The Story of Crater Lake," "Indian No More," "Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-To-Be Best Friend," "In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse," "Powwow: A Celebration of Song and Dance," "Native Athletes in Action!" "Code Talkers" and "The

Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian."

The book collection also will support the district's efforts with Senate Bill 13, which requires Oregon schools to incorporate the Native American experience and perspectives into lessons throughout different subject areas.

In an effort to stay as local as possible, Arredondo ordered the materials from McMinnville's Third Street Books. She also used grant money to purchase "The First Oregonians," which will be given to all district teachers. It details the Native American experience in Oregon, much of which is written by representatives from the state's nine federally recognized Tribes.

The books were sent home with the youngest child in each district family on Friday, June 4. Students who are in the comprehensive distance learning program were given pickup times. Any extra books will be added to the library collection, given to new families as gifts or distributed to teachers for their classrooms.

"We are so excited to give you this collection of books and hope you enjoy reading these with your family as much as we have," Zimbrick and Arredondo stated in a letter sent home to district families. ■

Tribe has not announced plans on how it will spend American Rescue Plan funds

RESCUE PLAN continued from front page

an Tribe, 6.9 million; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, \$10.355 million; the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw, 7.6 million; and the Burns Paiute Tribe, 3.6 million.

The U.S. Department of Treasury held five Tribal consultations with 85 Tribal leaders in late March and early April to accept input on how to improve the allocation of funds for pandemic and economic relief.

Tribal governments used the Treasury Submission Portal and completed various requirements to receive the two payments.

In 2020, some Tribes had issues with the CARES Act methodology and sued the federal government. For instance, the Shawnee Tribe in Oklahoma and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians in Florida received the minimum \$100,000 because Housing & Urban Development data said they had enrollment totals of zero.

The Grand Ronde Tribe, as well as the other eight federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, fared well under the CARES Act. Grand

Ronde received more than \$45 million and dedicated a considerable portion to fund coronavirus relief payments to adult Tribal members who received a combined eight payments that totaled \$4,400 in 2020.

So far, the Grand Ronde Tribe has not announced any plans on how it will spend American Rescue Plan funds.

During the Tuesday, June 8, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Finance Officer Chris Leno said the Tribe is still prioritizing how it will spend the remainder of its CARES Act funds that must be spent by the end of 2021 and the new Rescue Plan monies, and that an announcement would be forthcoming.

Some of the expenditures permissible by the Treasury Department's guidance include responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic effects, providing premium pay for essential workers, investments in infrastructure like water, sewer and broadband, and replacing lost revenues to provide governmental services.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Joseph Biden on March 11, 2021. ■

2021 Grand Ronde

Education Summit

Thursday, June 24th via Zoom

Please join us for the 5th Annual Grand Ronde Education Summit from 9am to 3pm! Engage with other educators and join us virtually for a day of discussions around Grand Ronde history, Oregon Senate Bill 13, native based curriculum, ways to engage students in cultural based education, and more!

You will earn PDU credits, gain access to useful materials, and it is all free!

To register go to www.eventbrite.com and search 2021 Grand Ronde Education Summit

Contact Justine Flynn at (503)879-2282 or Justine.Flynn@grandronde.org for more information.