

# Leno wins horseshoe pitching championship

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Groundskeeping Supervisor Greg Leno won the Mens D1 horseshoe pitching championship on Saturday, July 24, during the annual World Horseshoe Pitching Championships put on by the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association in Winnemucca, Nev.

Leno, 53, competed against 15 other men whose ringer percentage average was between 30.92 and 28.89. Leno's average entering the competition was 29.76.

For comparison, men who competed in the A1 division boasted ringer averages of between 90 percent and 62.5 percent.

Competitors played five games daily between Thursday, July 22, and Saturday, July 24, tossing horseshoes that weigh 2 pounds, 10 ounces 40 feet into a clay-filled pit. A ringer, worth three points, is when the horseshoe lands around the spike sticking out of clay.

Leno finished with a 13-2 record, said association Fourth Vice President Barbara Carson, who was in charge of keeping the statistics.

Leno then faced off against Ronnie Miller of Georgia, who also finished the tournament with a 13-2 record.

Leno said he and Miller met earlier on Saturday. Miller was undefeated at 10-0 and Leno was 9-1. Leno won and went 4-1 on the final day of competition while Miller lost once again to finish with two losses.

Leno won the championship game 44-9 and finished the tournament with a 34.69 ringer average, tossing 640 horseshoes and racking up 222 ringers.

"I had one of my better games," Leno said about the final match. "He (Miller) was pretty much worn out by then. I had 14 ringers and he only had three."

Leno received a trophy in what was his first appearance in the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association event.

Leno is a three-time Oregon state champ, which qualified him for the national event. He decided to attend because the drive to Winnemucca is only about nine hours from Grand Ronde.

Leno is well-known around the Grand Ronde Tribal campus, often practicing horseshoe throwing during lunch at the pit in the southeast corner of the campus. He also competed often in the annual Monte "Mouse" George Memorial Horseshoe Tournament formerly hosted by Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. and at myriad horseshoe competitions held in the West Valley.



Contributed photos courtesy of Kelly Leno

**Greg Leno prepares to toss a horseshoe 40 feet during the 2021 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships held in Winnemucca, Nev. Leno won the Men D1 competition with a 14-2 record.**



**On Saturday, July 24, Grand Ronde Tribal member Greg Leno won a horseshoe pitching title at the 2021 World Horseshoe Pitching Championships.**

He said he started playing more than 40 years ago with family and friends while growing up in Grand Ronde.

His secret? "I just try to stay focused in the moment and I don't like to lose," he said. "I just want to thank everyone for the support ... I really do appreciate it." Leno also thanked Bobby Mercier for designing the shirts worn by Leno and fellow horseshoe pitcher Anthony Henry and Tribal Council for supporting them.

Next up for Leno is the Oregon state singles competition being held Sept. 4-5 in Oregon City. ■

## Interior updating Graves Protection Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Interior announced Thursday, July 15, that it will conduct consultations with Native American and Native Hawaiian community leaders as part of an effort to update the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act's regulations.

Enacted in 1990, the act provides a systemic process for the disposition and repatriation of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony back to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

"I'm hopeful this process will eliminate unnecessary burdens to the repatriation process and allow Indigenous peoples greater access to their ancestors' remains and sacred items," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said.

Since 2010, the Department of the Interior has received repeated requests for updates to the regulations. Based on community input and previous consultations, the department prepared a draft proposal that seeks to simplify and improve the regulatory process for repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items, rectify provisions that inhibit and prevent the respectful repatriation of human remains and cultural items, remove the burden on Indigenous entities to initiate the process and streamline existing requirements by eliminating ambiguities, correcting inaccuracies and removing offensive terminology.

Both the draft proposed text and current regulations can be found at the National Park Service's website. Following consultations, the department plans to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in October. ■

## Police Department has nonemergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. "When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911.

For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

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