



## Watchlist: 'This Land'

*(Editor's note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those myriad videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)*

**By Kamiah Koch**

*Social media/digital journalist*

This edition of *Smoke Signals'* Watchlist recommendation is more of a listen-list.

"This Land" is a podcast series hosted by Rebecca Nagle of the Cherokee Nation and produced by Crooked Media. The podcast's second season started releasing Aug. 23 and investigates the Indian Child Welfare Act, which recently landed on the docket of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The latest season of the podcast pieces together years of ICWA legal battles and concludes that the attacks on ICWA are a front for a bigger legal challenge against Tribal rights and sovereignty.

Episode one starts by addressing the history of ICWA, explaining its origins stem from residential school assimilation practices. In summary, to stop the continued systemic removal of Native children from their families and Tribe, ICWA was put in place in 1978.

"The Indian adoption project fits into this era of federal policy when the government was literally trying to get rid of Tribes," Nagle says in the episode called "Behind the Curtain. "A tribe without children doesn't have a future."

Throughout the rest of the seven episodes, Nagle narrates and interviews lawyers, Tribal officials and Native Americans with firsthand experience in ICWA custody battles. She includes dialog from those involved in the case that snowballed the recent ICWA legal campaign, *Brackeen v. Haaland*.

Defenders of ICWA reiterate that the law protects Tribal culture and children by prioritizing finding foster homes within their family or Tribal community rather than placing them in a non-Native foster home, which

was the common practice before 1978.

Challengers say ICWA unconstitutionally discriminates against non-Native families wanting to foster and adopt Native children. They emphasize that with claims that ICWA actually harms Native children by providing them with a smaller pool of foster homes.

"This Land" supports that if the Supreme Court is to uphold the race-based discrimination claim, it would set a precedent that could be used to overturn other rights that Tribal sovereignty depends on.

What makes this podcast stand out in the reporting of ICWA is its investigation into the paper trail behind the *Brackeen v. Haaland* case and cases like it. In episode two, Nagle questions why Gibson Dunn, one of the most powerful corporate law firms in America known for representing billion dollar companies like Chevron and billionaires like Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, quickly started representing the Brackeen family in Texas family court. More importantly, it exposes who is funding the firm.

Later episodes examine private adoption agencies' hand in challenging ICWA and the programs that work to reconnect individuals to the Tribal culture they were adopted away from.

While we wait to see if the Supreme Court will address the *Brackeen v. Haaland* case, "This Land" has raised awareness about this issue with media attention and won a Webby Award in 2020.

ICWA a complex issue, but an important one for Indian Country. To listen to the podcast, look up "This Land" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or wherever you listen to podcasts. ■

## Health & Wellness now offering youth vaccinations

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center is now offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11 years old, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe announced on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

The vaccinations are available for Grand Ronde Tribal members, descendants, other Native American youth and established clients.

To schedule an appointment, call 503-879-2032. ■

## Baker Technical Institute



### Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde CDL Training for Construction Trades

Get your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) while learning to operate a semi-truck, loader, and dump truck in a Construction setting. Baker Technical Institute specializes in teaching the technical skills that industry needs. This training will prepare you for a great career!

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- To secure loads for construction needs and materials
- Construction traffic patterns and safety
- This is a 5-week, unpaid course

**Requirements:** Ability to pass a UA and an acceptable driving record to get your CDL

**Class Starts: January 10, 2022**

**Location: Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR**

**Space is Limited - Call Your TERO Office @ 503-879-2188 or email Tero@GrandRonde.org for your application**

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## Attention All Artisans

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is seeking bids for our 2022-23 crowns and medallions.

**Submit full design that includes:**

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde logo (including feathers)
- Court Year 2022-23
- Titles: Little Miss Grand Ronde  
Junior Miss Grand Ronde  
Senior Miss Grand Ronde
- Crowns and medallions must be completed and delivered by July 29, 2022



**Must submit photos of progress when requested**

Bid Deadline is Jan. 14, 2022  
(deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 p.m.)

Mail bids and designs to:  
CTGR Royalty c/o Public Affairs  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Chelsea at 503-879-1418 or email [chelsea.clark@grandronde.org](mailto:chelsea.clark@grandronde.org)

\*Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

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Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

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