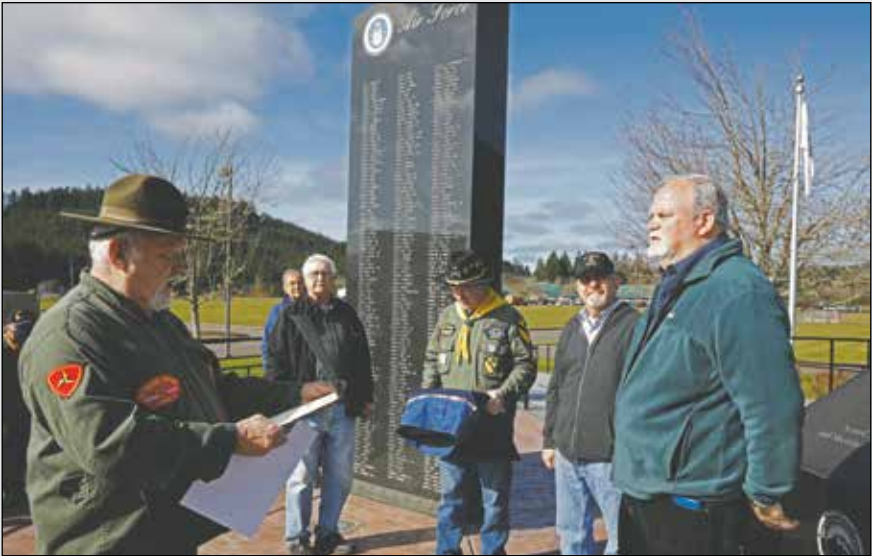


Veterans honored



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Grand Ronde Veterans Special Event Board Chairman Rich VanAtta, center, stands with his Quilt of Valor with, from left, Gary Dulley, Al Miller, Albert Moody and Willamina resident Joseph Gaines during a presentation by the Quilt of Valor Foundation at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on Thursday, Feb. 17. Recipients of the quilts have been affected by war. VanAtta served in Okinawa during 1972-73 as a member of the Marine Corps. Gaines, an Air Force veteran, also received a Quilt of Valor for serving in Iraq and Afghanistan from 1999 through 2006.



Quilt of Valor Foundation volunteer Jerry Morgan, left, reads a citation during the presentation of the quilt to Grand Ronde Veterans Special Event Board Chairman Rich VanAtta.

Interior moves to eliminate ‘sq---’ from federal lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Interior announced on Tuesday, Feb. 22, a list of candidate replacement names for more than 660 geographic features with the name “sq---,” which was officially declared a derogatory term as a result of Secretary’s Order 3404.

The order establishes a 13-member Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, which will finalize a decision to replace a full spelling of the derogatory term with “sq---” for all official related communications.

“Words matter, particularly in our nation’s public lands and waters accessible and welcoming to people of all backgrounds,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said. “Consideration of these replacements is a big step forward in our efforts to remove derogatory terms whose expiration dates are long overdue.”

Previous to implementation of the Task Force, changes to derogatory names for geographic features were submitted as a proposal to the Board of Geographic Names, which then worked through its deliberative process. The board received 261 proposals to replace geographic features with “sq---” in the name in the past 20 years. ■

Native language symposium set for April 13 in La Pine

LA PINE – Celebrating Traditions: Native American Arts and Cultures will host a language symposium and Oregon Native American Language Youth Fair at the Newberry Station Best Western Motel in La Pine on Wednesday, April 13.

The symposium will provide teachers, parents and Elders an opportunity to express their concerns, ideas and hopes for the preservation of Pacific Northwest and California native languages.

Guest speakers will include Grand Ronde Tribal member David Lewis, who specializes in ethno-history, anthropology and the connections between languages and cultures in the region.

Registration opened Feb. 15 and will remain open until 30 seats have been booked or until the deadline of March 30. For more information or to request registration, send an e-mail to ctnac87@gmail.com. ■

Grand Ronde Station now offering gas discount

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store starting on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount.

Tribal employees started receiving the discount on Jan. 1.

“Your service to keeping the Tribe and casino operational have been invaluable,” General Manager David Fullerton said via e-mail in announcing the discount to governmental employees. “The Tribe wants to reward that commitment by helping you ease the burden of rising gas prices. ... We know that we have a number of employees commuting to and from Grand Ronde for work, and we are aware that rising gas prices create an additional hardship. We hope that this new system will make life a little easier.” ■

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