



Watchlist: ‘Oregon Experience — ‘Broken Treaties’ documentary’

(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

Oregon Public Radio’s award-winning television series “Oregon Experience” shares the histories and issues that shaped the Oregon we live in today.

One aspect of Oregon’s story is the continued presence of its Native American peoples. In November 2020, OPB published an hour-long documentary to YouTube called “Broken Treaties.”

Following the Tribal histories of Oregon, “Broken Treaties” starts by showing black-and-white photos of Tribal ancestors and how Tribal people lived before settler contact. The episode pays particular attention to the different food sources for the various Tribes across Oregon, noting that their main resources were used to name and differentiate the different bands of Tribal people.

The narrator says that seasonal mobility meant that Native peoples were away often to gather and harvest food. While they were away, settlers arrived. Since Native peoples were unable to defend the ancestral lands, the settlers claimed it as their own.

This is the start of the brutal attack on Native people and their way of life. The narrator and the Native people OPB interviewed for the video explain the different ways Oregon began its attempt to exterminate indigenous culture: by either moving Native Americans away from the resources they relied on and by bloodshed.

Grand Ronde Tribal member and anthropologist/historian David Lewis was interviewed for this episode.

“If you were involved in some sort of effort to kill Indians, then you were allowed to make an invoice of your expenses for using, you know, your rounds of ammunition and food and travel costs,” Lewis says in the video.

The video states that Oregon saw a lot of massacres and disease in the 19th century. Tribal people saw this devastation and began to sign treaties with the U.S. government. However, these treaties left out reserved rights to hunt and fish, which was significant to the Native way of life.

“They saw signing the treaty as a way to take care of themselves for a few years,” David Harrelson, Grand Ronde Tribal member and Cultural Resources Department manager, says in the video. “But you have to understand that most of them thought they were going to die.”

As the video progresses, a map of Oregon shows boundaries created to forcefully move Tribal people on to Reservation lands. Residential schools and assimilation are addressed, including Chemawa Indian School in Salem, which is still open today.

Relocation and displacement broke the connection to places and resources Tribal people held as their identity. But it was still able to get worse. At the 45-minute mark in the video, the Termination Era of the 1950s is introduced as the final blow in an attempt to exterminate Tribal people.

However, Tribes proved to be resilient against murder, ignored treaties and assimilation tactics. The narrator explains that most of the terminated Tribes were restored and they celebrate that restoration still to this day. The video explores the art and language revitalization in Native cultures. Most importantly, Tribal sovereignty and financial independence through casinos is addressed.

“These days, many Indians are well versed in the details of those treaties of the 1850s and ’60s,” the video narrator concludes at the end of the video. “Most other Oregonians know little or nothing about them.”

If you would like to watch this documentary for yourself, you can find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHq6ncJJ35w or in the *Smoke Signals* Watchlist playlist on our YouTube channel. ■

Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2022-23 Hatfield Fellowship are being accepted through May 16 by Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in a congressional office. Placement of the Fellow rotates through the Oregon congressional delegation to enhance the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

The Hatfield Fellow begins his or her Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association. It is then followed by an eight-month term in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend, as well as relocation and travel expenses.

Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon are eligible to apply, as well as members of Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. However, preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or be graduating in June, and be at least 21 years of age.

The Hatfield Fellowship was created in 1998 to honor Sen. Mark Hatfield’s public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. For more information or to apply, go to thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/ or visit youtu.be/7T0nNoFgUYS to watch an informational video. ■

Tribe seeking advisory vote input in September

The Tribe is currently seeking ideas for advisory votes that will appear on the September Tribal Council ballot.

The Tribe’s General Council Ordinance establishes the process for advisory votes and an online survey is available to gather advisory vote suggestions.

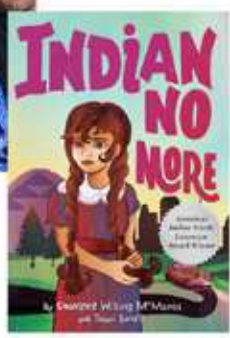
After receiving advisory vote suggestions, Tribal Council will review and evaluate the suggestions for possible inclusion on the ballot.

Previous examples of advisory votes have included whether the Tribe should increase its investment in environmental stewardship and should the Tribe build a child care center in Grand Ronde.

Tribal members can participate in the online survey via Survey Monkey by visiting www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government dropdown tab and then clicking on 2022 Advisory Votes. The 2021 Tribal Council ballot included four advisory vote questions.

A final input session will be held after the 11 a.m. Sunday, April 3, General Council meeting, which will be a hybrid meeting with limited in-person attendance.

For more information, contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde.org. ■



Author Visit

Traci Sorell

Thursday, April 7th
5:30 pm
Tribal Gym
All Ages Welcome

Copies available for checkout at the Tribal Library

Traci is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Traci’s middle-grade historical fiction novel, *Indian No More* with Charlene Willing McManis (1953-2018), a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde explores the impact of federal termination and relocation policies on an Umpqua family in the 1950s. It won the 2020 AIYLA for Middle School Book

