

Author! Author!



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Writer Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation) speaks about her middle-grade historical fiction books during an event held in the Tribal gym on Thursday, April 7. One of her titles, “Indian No More,” was written with Grand Ronde Tribal member Charlene Willing McManis and is about how federal Termination and relocation policies affected an Umpqua family in the 1950s. Her other books include “Powwow Day,” “We Are Still Here” and “Wilma Mankiller.” McManis walked on in May 2018.

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Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison listens while author Traci Sorell (Cherokee Nation) speaks about her middle-grade historical fiction books during an event held in the Tribal gym on Thursday, April 7.

Linfield University slates May 6 Camas Festival

MCMINNVILLE – Linfield University will hold an inaugural Camas Festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 6, at its McMinnville campus at 900 S.E. Baker St.

The festival is a collaborative project of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Linfield University and the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council.

The festival will include tours of camas growth in the Cozine Creek area located in the northwest corner of the university’s campus. Booths at the festival will include artifact displays and information about the history of camas in Tribal traditions and foodways.

“This event will honor the living legacy of the Kalapuya through activities and engagement that center on one of our most important foods,” said Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Manager David Harrelson.

Plans to create the festival started in November 2020 when the university began investigating a new name for a two-block street on its campus. After consultation with the Grand Ronde Tribe, the two entities chose Lakamas, which is the word for camas in the Chinuk Wawa language.

In 2016, members of the Watershed Council began working with Linfield students to rid Cozine Creek of invasive species. In 2018, the project received a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to fund weed control and planting.

Camas bulbs can be harvested April through July when the flowers or dried flower petals are visible. They can be boiled, baked or slow roasted. When cooked for a short time, camas can be fairly tasteless, but when slow roasted for 24 to 48 hours, it turns dark and sweet. Fresh bulbs also can be dried or frozen for later use in soups.

A limited amount of camas seeds will be available for attendees to take home at the festival, which organizers hope becomes an annual event. ■

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