

Willamina High
graduates 74 seniors
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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Indian boarding school report includes Grand Ronde location

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

A damning report on the federal government's 150-year effort to "civilize" Native American children through the Indian boarding school system released on Wednesday, May 11, identifies nine such schools that operated in Oregon and includes the Grand Ronde Boarding School.

The investigative report is the first comprehensive effort to address the legacy of federal Indian boarding school policies and was the result of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland implementing the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative in June 2021. Haaland is the first Native American to lead the Department of the Interior, which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education.

The initiative's investigation includes a 102-page report as well as a complementary list and individual profiles of the 408 federal Indian boarding schools that operated across 37 states or then-territories between 1819 and 1969. In the Pacific Northwest, Washington state had 15 Indian boarding schools and Idaho had six, the report states.

The most federal Indian boarding schools were located in Oklahoma, 76; Arizona, 47; and New Mexico, 43.

"The content of this document may be disturbing or distressing," the federal Indian boarding school list cautions prospective readers.

The Grand Ronde Boarding School opened on Oct. 1, 1862, and provided housing and education, and received federal support. Father Adrian Croquet also opened St. Michael's Catholic Church in Grand Ronde in 1862 and the Interior report examines the complicity of

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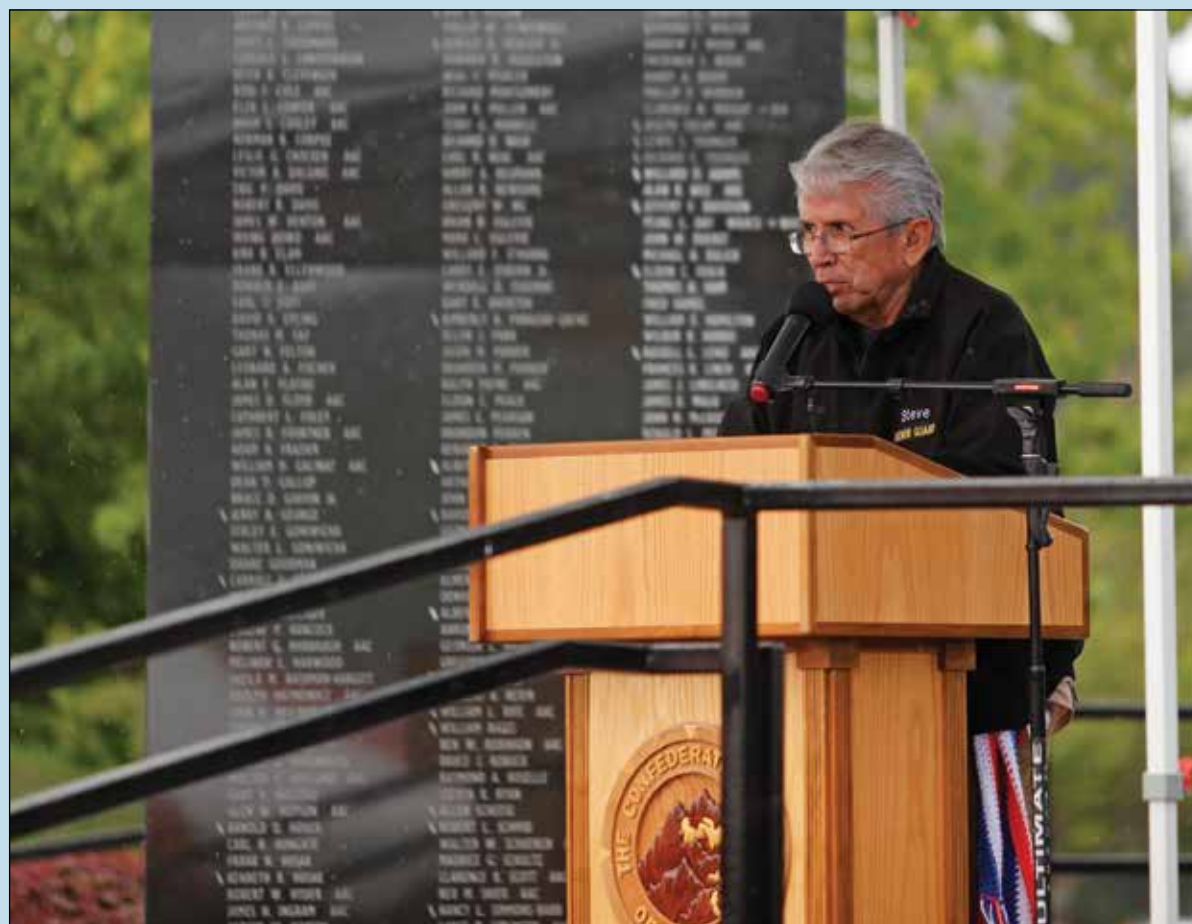


Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Steve Bobb Sr. speaks during the Memorial Day celebration held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 30. Four names were added to the four pillars, bring the total of names on the memorial to 2,378.

Honoring those who paid the ultimate price

West Valley Veterans Memorial hosts ceremony for the 19th time

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Memorial Day ceremony returned to Grand Ronde for the 19th time and included the addition of four names added to the four black granite pillars that represent the major branches of the U.S. military.

Held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial

on the Tribal campus on Monday, May 31, the event featured a boxed luncheon outdoors and guest speakers in addition to the reading of the names.

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., who

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Tribal member, daughter struggle with abuse, prison

Tribal member Courtney Perman listens to her mother, Tribal member Nichelle Perman, talk about her addiction to methamphetamine in Nichelle Perman's apartment in Portland on Thursday, May 19.

Photo by Kamiah Koch



(Editor's note: The U.S. criminal justice system disproportionately affects Native Americans, women in particular, who are overrepresented in the prison population with the highest incarceration rate of any racial group. This story is the third in a series that examines the effects of mass incarceration on Grand Ronde Tribal mothers and their children.)

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

By all accounts, Nichelle Perman and her daughter, Courtney, are a success story: Despite years of struggling with addiction, homelessness and the criminal justice system, they have

both emerged sober, employed full-time and have stable housing.

It was a hard-fought battle for the two Tribal members, who both dealt with physical and emotional

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