



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal member Ashlee Webb receives a canoe paddle from Education Department Manager Angela Fasana during the 2022 Honor and Recognition event held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, July 7. Webb was one of 85 Tribal members honored during the event, which recognized students from eighth grade through doctorate level.

85 Tribal graduates honored

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Tribe’s Education Department honored 85 Tribal members who graduated from eighth grade through earning doctorate degrees during a graduation celebration held Thursday, July 7, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Education Department Director Angela Fasana welcomed attendees and Tribal Council Secretary Michael Langley gave the invocation.

Following a dinner, University of Oregon graduate Kayla Kneeland gave the keynote speech before graduates were honor.

Those honored included:

Eighth grade promotions: Gracee Allen, Lilly Bigelow, Aiden Campbell, Ayianna Haller, Ezra Haller, Shaiyla Krebs, Rosenda Lachelle Soto, John Marrufo, Tyler Mercier, Sophia Ortiz, Juliana Peters, Alex Pittman, Orrin Reid, Adriana Sanchez, Dominic Shaw, Clara West and Jerome Williams.

High school graduates: Zachary Allen, Eli Davis, Daysia Duran, Cameron Fugate, Noah Gerbrandt, Kylie Gonzalez, Stormy Griffin, Dane Haller, Aiden House, Talia Marrufo, Audrey Mercier, Mason Mercier, James Pena, Nakai Rock, Noey Sanchez, Brooklyn Schweitze, Jacey Smith, John Stryker, Jaysson Swirtz Ferdig, Zachary Tasa, Braxton Tucker, Madalyn Volz and Mckenzie West.

Certificates: Joseph Suderman and Jamie Upton.

Associate degrees: Joshua Biery, Teresa Henry, Amanda Langley, Tara Leno, Reschele Markey and Dakota Zimmer.

Bachelor’s degrees: Noah Bean, Justine Cooney, Justin Fasana, Brooke Flores, Izayah Hall, Evan Harvey, Tayler Hill, Sacheen Lampert, Brayden Langley, Faith Leas, Julie Lomboy, Jordan Montgomery, Ryan Ness, Brooke Reibach, Emily Reibach, Sabrina Shandy, Allegra Simmons, Carolyn Smith, Jonathan Tasa, Star Weatherall and Travis Wilson.

Master’s degrees: Hailey Biagi, Kara Bonham, Christopher Dickie, Shawn Haggerty, David Holmes, Kayla Kneeland, Jesse Lippold, Jennifer Murphy, Luke Parazoo, Heather Rasmussen, Angelina Speltz, Jillian Terry, Gracen Tichelaar and Ashlee Webb.

Doctorate degrees: Maya Frost and Lenae Rose.

Fasana also gave the closing remarks and program gave special thanks to the current members of the Education Committee – Valeria Atanacio, Tammy Cook, Christopher Mansayon, Peter Grout, Michael Herrin, Tyla Lagoy and Shelby Maerz. ■

Merkley accepting Page applications

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley is accepting applications for the U.S. Senate Page Program for spring 2023 through Sept. 5.

Oregon students entering their junior year of high school during the upcoming school year are eligible to apply. Only 30 Page positions are available and Pages play a critical role in the daily work of the Senate by delivering correspondence, legislative materials, amendments and bills around the congressional complex and during proceedings.

Unlike interns, Pages work for the Senate as a whole and spend much of their day on the Senate floor. Pages receive a stipend, live in a dorm near the Capitol and attend classes in addition to their Page duties.

To be eligible, you must be a high school junior between 16 and 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

To apply online at <https://oampublic.senate.gov/constituent/login/96fb2592-442a-42f4-9308-29f266599a62/>, applicants must upload an official high school transcript, current resume, cover letter, letter of recommendation from a teacher and a supervisor familiar with your work on a job or in volunteer service, and a 250- to 500-word essay responding to the question, “Describe one major problem that the United States is currently facing and how you would try to fix that problem if you were a U.S. senator from Oregon.”

Call Merkley’s office at 202-224-3753 for more information or assistance. ■

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Veterans! Thursday Meetups

Contact the TVSO at (503) 879-1484 or CTGRTRibalVSO@GrandRonde.Org to sign up. You may bring one guest. Limited to 30 spots for each meet up.

July 14, 2022
10 a.m to 12 p.m.

Come enjoy
coffee and a
hot meal

September 8,
2022
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit with your
fellow veterans

November 10,
2022
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Learn about
various veteran
benefits

At 25500 SW Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR
97347 ~ The “Q” Building



CULTURAL EDUCATION

Are you missing out on what Cultural Education has to offer? Follow us on Facebook to get detailed class information, photos from events, and updates.

Plus, check out the tribal calendar for a quick glance of upcoming events and classes.

Open to Tribal and Community members. Join us!

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