

Walking On...

Julius Kurt Hill II

Aug. 7, 1984 – Oct. 7, 2022

Julius “BJ” Kurt Hill II was born Aug. 7, 1984, weighing in at just four pounds. On Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, BJ was greeted in Heaven by his mother.

BJ was many things: a son, brother, nephew, uncle, father and friend. BJ was born and raised on the Yakama Indian Reservation. He graduated from the Yakama Tribal School where he was a class clown and made lasting friendships. He played basketball and cared deeply for his teammates.

BJ loved so hard and unconditionally. He had the most charismatic smile, truly one that could get you to smile along with him. He could get you to smile even when he was the reason you were mad in the first place.

BJ had a passion for basketball. It literally was life for him. He played ball since he was a little guy. It wasn't long before he became over 6 feet. There was a time when you could most definitely find him at open gym or balling it up at any empty basket court with his brothers.

BJ became a forest firefighter right after high school. BJ was a Mr. Fix. He learned a trade in construction and used that to help so many people and Elders. He would stroll in with minimal tools and somehow get things fixed.

The laughter, the hugs, the handshakes, clowning around on the court and silly times, picking at cooking food in the kitchen, and dancing in the clubs will be greatly missed. BJ had a light that illuminated strong within his heart.

Julius was preceded in death by his mother, Carmanita Pimms, and his maternal grandparents, Frank and Reta Stevens. He leaves behind his son, Jay-Dee, and daughter, Neiamonie; father, Julius Sims; birth father, Julius Hill Sr.; siblings, Jamaal Pimms, Donna (Peter) Bennett, Charity Sims (Maarqquus) and Jamisha Sims (Robert); nieces and nephews, “Auntie” Moms and his gram Anita Swan (grandpa Norm) and grandmom Mary Sims.

A Mass was held Oct. 13 at McKinley Indian Mission Church of Christ in Toppenish, Wash., and burial occurred at Satus Point Cemetery in Toppenish.



Jason Todd Norwood

Aug. 26, 1998 – Oct. 7, 2022

Tribal member Jason Todd “J.T.” Norwood of Willamina, Ore., passed away on Friday, Oct. 7, 2022, at the age of 24.

J.T. was born on Aug. 26, 1998, to Leanna and Jason Norwood of Salem, Ore. He attended Willamina elementary and middle schools and graduated in 2017 from Sheridan High School. J.T. had the most genuine soul and one of the biggest hearts. He loved all sports, but had a passion for baseball. His favorite teams were the Kansas City Royals and Chiefs, and the Oregon Ducks. He also enjoyed golfing, riding his dirt bike and spending his free time adventuring with his friends and family.

After graduation, J.T. worked at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as a teacher's aide at the preschool and later as a security guard. He also worked as a guard for Loomis and most recently was employed at Farnham Electric and was an apprentice to become an electrician.

He is survived by his mother, Leanna VanScoyk; stepfather, Craig VanScoyk; biological father, Jason Norwood; siblings, Corey, Caden and Imari VanScoyk; grandparents, Richard and Vivian (Grams) McKnight and Karen Larsen; and aunts, uncles and cousins along with “his people” as he would refer to his close friends who became family over his lifetime.

A service was held Saturday, Oct. 22, in the Grand Ronde Tribal gym.

If you or someone you love is struggling with mental health, please reach out to someone and talk. National Suicide Hotline: 988.

Charles Gordon Haller II

July 31, 1972 – Oct. 8, 2022

It is with deep sorrow and heavy hearts we announce that Charles Gordon “Chuck” Haller II passed away on Oct. 8, 2022, at the age of 50 after suffering complications of the heart.

He was born on July 31, 1972, in San Jose, Calif. He is a descendant of Louis Shanagrate and Therese Calapooia-Long Toms Tribe, a descendant of Chief Joseph Shangaretti and Nancy Pisk, and was a member of the Kalapuya Tribe which confederated with the Tribes that make up Grand Ronde.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Gordon “Two Feathers” Haller and Sherlyn Yvonne “Sis” Hensley. He is survived by his sisters, Rebecca Sigler, Talease Haller, Wendy Bowers-Drumheiser and Tomika Haller; brother, Robert Hansen Haller; children, Dane Haller, Bella Orner, Levi Englund, Brandon Englund and Cole Williams; nieces, Mhya Pearson and Tia Blaize; and nephews, Matthew Englund, Jacob Gonet, Michael Sigler, Samuel Sigler, Johnathan Pierce, Connor Hansen and Hayden Drumheiser. He is also survived and preceded by countless aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Charles – or Bub or Chuck or Bubbles or Brother – was a passionate music aficionado, a gifted and profound poet and conversationalist who loved to share his knowledge and experiences of world travels with family and friends. Charles was a kind, authentic, brilliant and eloquent human being who discovered the wonder of travel at a young age, a lifelong obsession that would eventually take him to 33 countries. He had a keen wit and a sly sense of humor that could easily demand the attention of any room, and/or jukebox. From his cigarette flipping trick to knowing how to say cheers in several different languages, Charles was always the life of the party.

Always an advocate for advancing the underserved and the betterment of communities and individual lives, Charles was committed to serving in the nonprofit sector, starting at the World Assembly of Youth in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1992 at the age of 20. He returned to attend the University of Oregon where he earned a master's degree in Planning, Public Policy and Management. Throughout the years, he went on to work for several nonprofits stateside that included Beyond Toxics, The Child Center, Hope & Safety Alliance (formerly Womenspace Inc.) and Evergreen Treatment Services. For the last two decades, Charles has been involved with social causes and nonprofits. Grant writing and fundraising for nonprofit organizations was not a stint or job or even a career for him. It was a course of life.

A celebration of life event was held Thursday, Oct. 20. Tribute services started at the Grand Ronde Tribal gym and were followed by a gravesite burial at the Tribal Cemetery where he was laid to rest near his father.



FREE DANCE CLASSES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS!

YOUTH HIP-HOP/JAZZ CLASSES

Starting October 24th, free drop-in Jazz/Hip-Hop classes will be offered at the CTGR Gym for all community youth ages 5 and up. Any participant that isn't already signed up for the Youth Enrichment Program will need a parent/guardian signed waiver that can be obtained on site of the class or emailed personally upon request.

CLASSES:

MONDAYS 5PM-6PM:
6TH GRADE AND UP

WEDNESDAYS 3:30-4:30PM:
KINDERGARTEN-2ND GRADE

FRIDAYS 3:30-4:30PM:
3RD-5TH GRADE

What to bring/wear:
Movable clothing,
tennis shoes preferred

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT BRIANNA JONES
BRIANNA.JONES@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Clothes Closet open Fridays

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances, small pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items.

For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■