

Resource event will kick off weekend

POWWOW continued from front page

not be the organizer. He walked on in August 2022. That role has been filled by Tribal and Veterans Special Event Board member Molly Leno.

The powwow will begin at úyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road with a Veterans Royalty pageant at 11 a.m. Friday, July 7, and conclude with a grand entry at noon Sunday, July 9.

This year's host drum will be Bad Eagle of Vancouver, Canada. The master of ceremonies is Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) with Carlos Calica (Wasco, Paiute and Yakama) serving as arena director.

Dance specials will include men's traditional with prizes of \$800, \$600, \$400 and \$200 for first-through fourth-place winners, sponsored by the Liebelt Family and Veterans Board. There is also an outgoing queen special jingle dance for all ages with prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for first-through third-place winners, sponsored by Tasina Bluehorse and her family.

Continuing with last year's change, there won't be an official Veterans Summit, but instead a



Smoke Signals file photo

The Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard leads a grand entry of the 2022 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at úyxat Powwow Grounds last July.

resource fair with a more casual format held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, July 7.

The resource fair will include breakfast snacks, lunch, informa-

tion and speakers from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, Native Wellness Institute, VA Roseburg Health Care System and Lines for Life. A closing ceremony will be held at the Tribal plankhouse, achaf-hammi, at 3 p.m.

Navy Veteran Ramona Quenelle (Pit River), who serves as the Tribe's Veterans Service Officer, will have a booth at the event.

"One of my main goals this year is to inform veterans about the changes that came about because of the approval of the PACT Act legislation in August 2022," she said. "This legislation opens up two new

presumptive illnesses that Vietnam veterans can apply for if they were exposed to Agent Orange as well as more locations of service. This legislation also opened up myriad new presumptive illnesses and locations for Gulf War and post-9-11 era veterans as well. My goal is to reach veterans to inform them of these changes as well as educate them about filing claims that can be successful."

Quenelle added that successful claims require a current medical diagnosis, an in-service event and a link between the two.

"It sounds formidable, but my role is to walk veterans through this process and help them throughout this process," she said. "I especially want to reach those who have never filed for service-connection ever. I also want to reach those who have a lower-rated disability percentage and see if they can be increased. Being service-connected brings many benefits to veterans including a monthly tax-free payment from the Veterans Administration (based on the percentage (it) deems the veteran disabled), access to health care, and many state/federal benefits."

Quenelle also encourages all veterans to visit their nearest veterans service officer to explore filing for service-connection benefits.

"It doesn't matter what era, how old you are, whether you were combat or non-combat, or anything else," she said. "If you are a qualified veteran, look into service-connection."

She added that every veteran who visits her booth will be entered into a drawing for gift cards. ■

Tribal nonemergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. "When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911.

For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

MY FATHER'S April 20
FATHER'S SISTER: OUR Sept. 30
ANCESTOR SHIMKHIN 2023

Celebrating Oregon's queer Indigenous history, focusing on the respected 19th-century Aifalati Kalapuya healer Shimkhin (pronounced "Shim-hen" or "Shum-hin") and highlighting contemporary Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer contributions to our communities.

ROAD TO SAFER TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

PROTECT OUR FUTURE

CAR SEAT CLINIC

Please bring your child and get help finding the right car seat for their height, weight and age. Get help installing your car seat from a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Each car seat installation and inspection will take about 30 minutes.

This event is brought to you by Early Childhood Education, working in partnership with several local Child Passenger Safety programs. Parents who participate in car seat education may qualify for a new car seat, ranging from free to a \$30 co-pay, depending on grant qualifications.

Friday, June 23, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
CTGR Day Use Park

Please be patient with our community volunteers.

Please RSVP using the link or QR code provided.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/623CarSeat>

Use car seats and booster seats on every ride.