



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Bob Haller, 10, prepares to throw a dart as he plays atlatl during Indigenous Archaeology Day held at Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center.**

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## Camp aims to get people involved in archaeology

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in what once was downtown Grand Ronde, now home to Chachalu.

Cultural Protection Specialist Chris Bailey said the camp was designed to spark an interest in young Tribal members to become more engaged with their culture and perhaps consider archaeology as a future career.

“There aren’t enough Indigenous people involved in this career field, so getting kids excited about this may help them become more engaged with our program,” Bailey said. “I say this is my way of finding my future replacement. There’s a real demand for Indigenous archaeologists and it’s good to provide an opportunity for kids to explore this career.”

Several youth, ranging in ages from 11 to 14, spent the week digging holes, called archaeological test units, and then carefully sifting through the dirt, searching for different clues in the metal, glass and stone that could tell a story about the past.

The youths also spent time processing cedar bark and looking at historic photos of the areas, as well as developing presentations on obsidian, berries and fires for the public archaeology day.

“The kids will be available to talk to the public about their projects and it’s important to teach them how to do this,” Bailey said. “They’ll get to meet with archaeologists and

some of our collections staff will have tables set up, too.”

Tribal Archaeologist Jeremy Johnson has been helping the youths with techniques during the excavation process

“I’ve been training the kids on technique and methods of doing excavations in a scientific manner, and how to screen as well and what to do with things we may find,” he said.

So far, they’ve unearthed a number of historic bricks, nails and glass.

“All the kids have wanted to dig and screen, and get into the dirt and get into things,” Johnson said. “It’s been really good. We’re hoping we spark a passion in one or two of the kids because it’s very important to have the Tribal community continue the exploration of Tribal culture and history. I’m hoping we at least get them interested in these aspects, so we can continue Tribal learning through the generations.”

Aaron King, 12, said he enjoyed being outdoors and meeting others who were interested in exploring the past.

“I like finding the glass and nails, and sifting and screening,” he said. “It’s really fun, a great workout and everyone here is really great.”

Bailey said he is hoping the youth leave the camp having had a positive experience, even if they decide archaeology isn’t for them.

“Even if they don’t want to do it as a career, the hope is that this is something they will remember forever,” he said. ■

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## Community Fund awarded 3,222 grants in 26 years

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with disabilities that will be safely enclosed in Eugene, said Executive Director Pam Ring.

During the check distribution portion, the Community Fund awarded 13 small grants worth \$93,500 and 11 large grants worth \$559,456.

**Small grant recipients were:**

- Children’s Repertory of Oregon Workshops Inc. of Florence, \$7,500, for rebuilding youth arts;
- David’s Harp of Portland, \$7,500, for supporting individuals with severe mental illness;
- Devin’s Helping Hands of Grand Ronde, \$5,000, for its 2023 operating budget;
- Echo Theater Company of Portland, \$7,500, for its outreach program for underserved youth;
- Enlightened Theatrics of Salem, \$7,500, for Broadway Dreams and summer theater camps;
- Estacada Area Food Bank, \$7,500, for Feed Estacada 2023;
- Hosea Youth Services of Eugene, \$6,000, for classroom furnishings and equipment;
- Lane County Diaper Bank of Springfield, \$7,500, for its diaper program expansion project;
- Mt. Scott Park Center for Learning in Portland, \$7,500, for its attendance and engagement initiative;
- Parenting With Intent of Portland, \$7,500, for Next Level;
- Portland Playhouse, \$7,500, for creating space for black, Indigenous and people of color community reflection and repair;
- Portland Urban Debate League, \$7,500, for general operating support;
- Shelton-McMurphy-Johnson Associates of Eugene, \$7,500, for its multi-purpose outdoor education center.

**Large grant recipients were:**

- American Military Encouragement Network of Clackamas,

\$50,000, for food box distribution to military veterans, Tribes and hungry families;

- College Possible of Portland, \$25,000, for an intensive summer transition program to ensure college enrollment;
- Connected Lane County of Eugene, \$75,000, for its Spark at Booth-Kelly program;
- Luckiamute Valley Charter Schools, \$22,350, for outdoor science education;
- Oregon Food Bank of Portland, \$50,000, for its Rooted + Rising program;
- Pacific Communities Health District Foundation of Newport, \$100,000, for its substance use disorder residential and outpatient recovery center;
- Portland Audubon Society, \$47,106, for its Green Leaders Hacienda Collaborative program;
- Project 48 Inc. of Portland, \$20,000, for essential bags for foster youth;
- REACH Northwest of Newberg, \$25,000, for its foster family stability initiative;
- ARC of Lane County in Springfield, \$100,000, for its Community Village program.

Three beaded necklaces were raffled off to Parenting With Intent, Hosea Youth Services and Pacific Communities Health District Foundation. An Ikanum saddle blanket designed by Travis Stewart went to American Military Encouragement Network.

Cherry thanked attendees for attending the in-person event.

“I just want to celebrate your hard work and thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” Cherry said.

During the past 26 years, the Community Fund has awarded 3,222 grants totaling more than \$94.4 million.

Tuomi also attended the check presentation. ■

*Includes information from Smoke Signals Editor Dean Rhodes.*

## Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive.

The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and 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. ■