

# Tribal Council approves Fish & Wildlife agreement

By Danielle Harrison  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council approved a 10-year agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program during its Wednesday, July 12, meeting.

The agreement will provide the Tribe access to additional resources for restoration of the Tribe’s 463-acre Enchanted Oaks property in Marion County, according to Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen.

“This property is the only one that isn’t in the program,” he said during a Legislative Action Committee meeting held on Tuesday, July 11. “They have helped us mow, provided grass seed and technical support on various conservation properties.”

Tribal Council also approved three sponsorship requests for the Oregon Native American Chamber, \$5,000; Cascade High School cheer program support, \$2,000; and Sheridan High School volleyball program support, \$2,000.

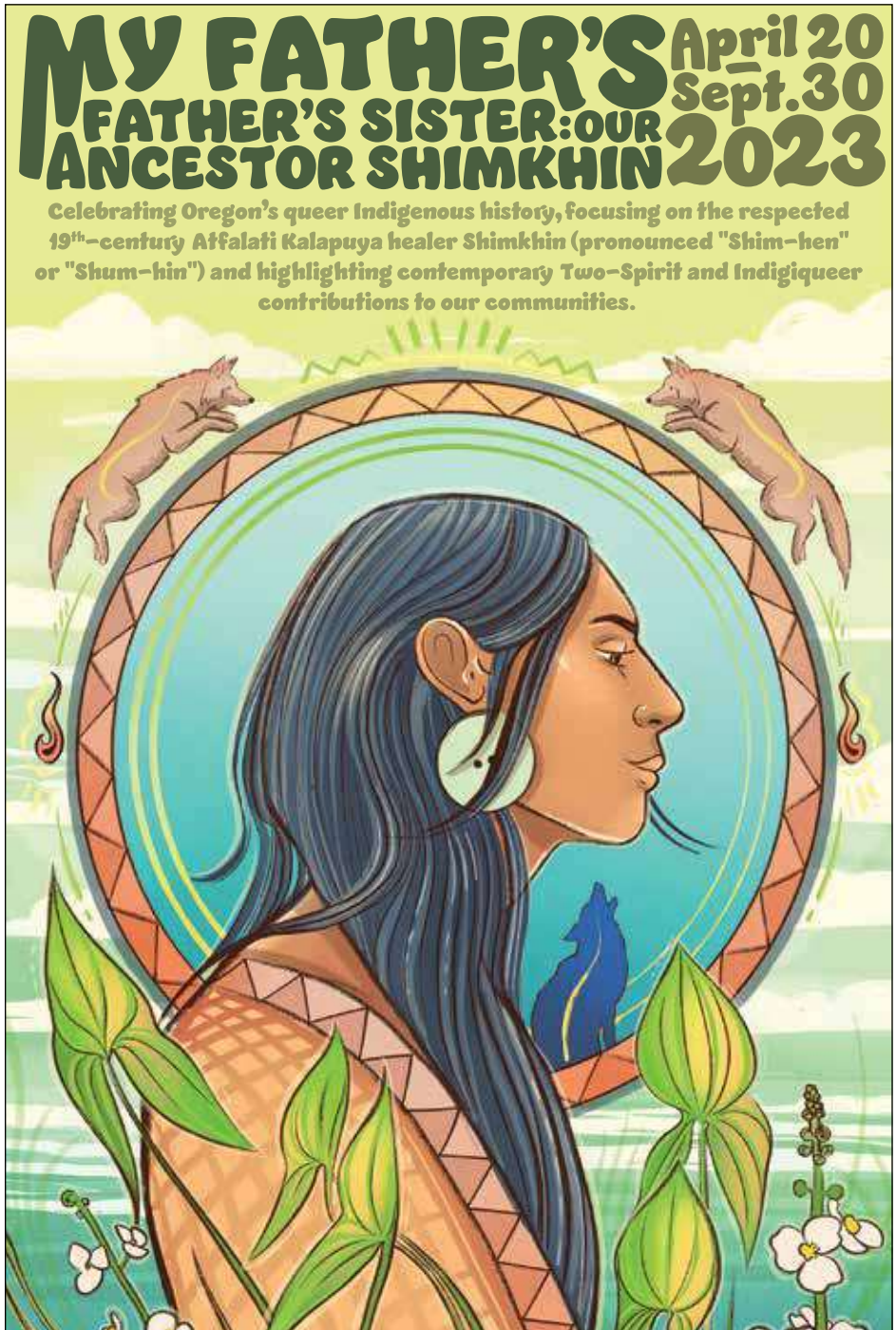
In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a memorandum of understanding and a memorandum of agreement for the Tribe’s 670-acre Noble Oaks property outside of Willamina. The agreements will allow an Oregon State University student, who is also a member of the Long Tom Watershed Council, to research whether allowing goats to graze on sections of the property is more efficient than

using herbicides for weed control. The property was donated to the Grand Ronde Tribe by The Nature Conservancy in 2019, which also gave the Tribe about \$1 million in stewardship funding;

- Approved the 11 Tribe O’Link memorandum of agreement. The annual agreement is necessary because the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Indian Housing Block Grant service area overlaps with 10 other Tribes in Oregon and California. The federal government requires that Tribes in overlapping service areas agree on how to distribute funding and the 11 Tribes have agreed to use Tribal enrollment data instead of Bureau of Indian Affairs labor force statistics. The agreement includes the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Siletz, Klamath, Coquille and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribes in Oregon and the Karuk, Quartz Valley, Tolowa Dee-ni’, Yurok and Fort Bidwell Tribes in California. The agreement will benefit the 11 Tribes a total of \$2 million in additional funding;
- And approved the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department application for the America the Beautiful Challenge 2023 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government’s website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■



# Elder Honor Day



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder and Elders Committee Secretary Shannon Stanton hands Tribal Elder Crystal Thomas, 81, a blanket during Elder Honor Day held at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center on Monday, July 10. One hundred blankets were gifted to Elders starting at the age of 100 and lower until all blankets were given out. Thomas attended the event with her daughter, Tribal Elder Phyllis Brown. Approximately 600 people attended the event that included breakfast and lunch, raffle prizes and bingo.**



**Roni Shaw (Crow Creek) accepts her gifts from Grand Ronde Tiny Tot Willow Squetimkin after her name was randomly drawn as queen during Elder Honor Day held at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center on Monday, July 10. Tribal Elder Steve Rife was randomly drawn as king.**

# Linn County hosting Cultural Encampments

Tribal Elder and Linn County Cultural Encampment Director Dietrich Peters is hosting Cultural Encampments again this summer.

Upcoming encampments will be held July 28-30 at Waterloo County Park in Lebanon and Aug. 25-27 at Cascadia County Park in Cascadia.

The three-day encampments open with a morning prayer on Friday, a meet and greet, storytelling and flute music, and an evening prayer. On Saturdays, craft classes and Native American traditional dancing are taught. Sundays include more dancing and then a thank you feast in the afternoon.

For more information, contact Peters at [petersdeitz@gmail.com](mailto:petersdeitz@gmail.com) or visit the Linn County Parks web page. ■