



SEPTEMBER 1, 2023



# SMOKE SIGNALS

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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

## Grand Ronde Education Summit draws record attendance

By Dean Rhodes & Katherine Warren-Steffensmier  
*Smoke Signals staff members*

The Grand Ronde Education Summit returned to Spirit Mountain Casino's Events Center on Friday, Aug. 25, and saw record attendance with more than 250 educators registered to attend.

The summit, now in its seventh year, seeks to educate educators about the history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The summit opened with an invocation delivered by Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi and welcome from Tribal Council Secretary Michael Langley following a welcome announcement from Curriculum Specialist Cheyanne Heidt.

"Education and continuous learning is something that my grandfather preached the importance of and I feel it in the very marrow of my bones," Langley said. "... I can't help but look at this program in front of many of you today and look at the results of the investments we have made in education as a Tribe. Look at those biographies. I am so proud of our youth who have

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2023 Annual Contest Powwow pullout edition inside



# Graduated

Mawich teacher Christina Lacaden gets a hug from Paisley Smith, 5, during the graduation for the Tribe's Early Childhood Education Program Mawich and Shayim preschool classes held at úyxat Powwow Grounds on Thursday, Aug. 17. Nineteen children graduated.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo



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## Emergency Services employees honored for saving a life



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Dean Rhodes  
*Publications coordinator*

WILLAMINA — On Saturday, May 20, a man estimated to be in his 60s went to Spirit Mountain Casino, probably hoping to have the time of his life.

By 11:32 p.m., he was laying on the floor of the main tables game pit, suffering from sudden cardiac arrest and hoping that someone

would save his life.

And, according to Tribal Emergency Services Chief Steve Warden, the odds of him surviving were not good. Well, at least based on Warden's years of experience.

"In almost 50 years of public safety, I've

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Grand Ronde Emergency Services Firefighter/Paramedic Giovanni Jacobo, left, receives a certificate from Emergency Services Chief Steve Warden during a ceremony at Station 28 in Willamina on Thursday, Aug. 17. Jacobo and five other Emergency Services personnel were honored with certificates and engraved commemorative pens for saving the life of a man who went into cardiac arrest at Spirit Mountain Casino on May 20.