

Clackamas County to host Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration Oct. 8

Clackamas County will hold an Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, at Clackamas Community College’s Environmental Learning Center, 19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City.

Community members are invited to attend this event, which includes Indigenous food, music and storytelling. Admission is free.

There will be an opening blessing by Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, storytelling with Darlene Foster and Ed Edmo, a flute performance by Jan Michael Looking Wolf and Robin Gentlewolf, free books from Clackamas County libraries and Spoke and Word, food for purchase and a variety of vendors selling handmade Indigenous creations.

Parking is available in the yellow and blue lots at Clackamas Community College, and accessible parking is available in the brown lot near the Environmental Learning Center. Shuttles will run from the parking lots to the event.

The event is sponsored by Clackamas County, Clackamas Community College, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Port of Portland and Unite Oregon.

Email TracyMor@clackamas.us for more information. ■



Contributed photo

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, middle, was selected for the John Kieffer Sovereignty Award on Wednesday, Sept. 13, during the Indian Gaming Association’s 2023 Mid-Year Conference at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Conn. Harvey was presented with a plaque and a blanket by IGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., left, and Spokane Tribal Business Council Vice Chairman Danny Kieffer, who is the son of John Kieffer.

Harvey selected for Indian Gaming Association’s Sovereignty Award

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

MASHANTUCKET, CONN. – Tribal Council member Denise Harvey was honored with a sovereignty award during the Indian Gaming Association’s Mid-Year Conference & Expo in Mashantucket, Conn.

The John Kieffer Sovereignty Award was given out Wednesday, Sept. 13, during the awards luncheon. It is named in honor of the late John Kieffer (Spokane Tribe), who was a member of the IGA Executive Committee and advocated for self-determination and Tribal sovereignty.

Award recipients are selected based on their fulfillment of the association’s mission, which is to “protect and preserve the general welfare of Tribes.”

Harvey was presented with a plaque and a blanket by IGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. and Spokane Tribal Business Council Vice Chairman Danny Kieffer, who is the son of John Kieffer. Afterward, Tribal drummers performed a warrior song.

“This is quite the honor and surprise,” Harvey said. “I will say as Tribal leaders, we all wear many (advocacy) hats. We can be engaged in our Indian gaming but there are so many other things we have to do as leaders, from the Indian Child Welfare Act to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People to Housing and Urban Development, the list goes on and on. We all have a huge responsibility ... I try to be a very responsible Tribal Council person and realize there is a lot of responsibility to our communities and all Indian people. I feel lucky to be able to do a lot of the national work with IGA and the Tribal HUD

Advisory Committee. ... I do this for all of Indian County. ... I admire and appreciate all of you and you gotta show up. We all need to be here and work together. I’m happy to be a part of this list now.”

While announcing the award, Stevens said that Harvey is someone who is dedicated in her advocacy for Native gaming sovereignty.

“Denise is always there,” he said. “She is on our board of directors, her Tribal Council and a major part of our team. We’ve been fighting the fight together and that’s why we’ve selected her for the John Kieffer Sovereignty Award.”

IGA works with the federal, state and Tribal governments to develop policies and practices, and to provide technical assistance and advocacy on gaming-related issues, while maintaining and protecting Tribal sovereignty, according to its mission statement.

Harvey has served as a Pacific Northwest Tribal delegate to the commission since 2018, and is the first Grand Ronde Tribal member to be appointed to the board. She previously served on the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission as a member and chair from March 2004 through September 2013.

Harvey started working for the Tribe in 2002 in the Human Resources Department as the Mentorship and Workforce Development coordinator, a position she held until 2010. She has been a Tribal Council member since 2013.

In November 2022, Harvey was selected as one of 15 Tribal leaders appointed to the first-ever Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. ■



WIFI HOTSPOTS

NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT AT THE TRIBAL LIBRARY!

For patrons without access to reliable internet, 10 T-Mobile hotspots have been made available for use. Devices provide access within the T-Mobile coverage area.

To borrow a hotspot library cardholders must be 18 years or older and have their library account in good standing. Parents/guardians are responsible for the use of the hotspot by minors.

For additional terms and agreements please contact the library. Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org 503-879-1488

These hotspots were made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with the Chemeketa Community College and the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.



a tush lamatsin family event

FALL FESTIVAL



LET'S HAVE SKELE-FUN!



AT THE TRIBAL GYM
DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
HOSTED BY THE GRHWC

THURSDAY
26 OCT
5-7 P.M.

JAM • COSTUME CONTEST • RAFFLE
CARNIVAL GAMES • FACE PAINTING ...AND MORE!

Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service, said Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole.

Tribal members can now get books from libraries in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, as well as access to many free programs.

Tribal Library patrons should visit the Tribal Library and update their information and obtain a new Regional Library Service card.

For more information, contact Cole at 503-879-1488. ■