

Tribal Officer Tyler Brown pens thriller

By Sherron Lumley

Smoke Signals staff writer

The debut novel by Grand Ronde Tribal Police Cpl. Tyler Brown, "Tribal Honor," hit stands Tuesday, Dec. 5, published by TG Thriller Publication.

The author is a Grand Ronde Tribal member and also a part-time detective with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. He writes the book under the pen name, "T.G. Brown."

"Writing started as therapy," Brown said. "I was inspired by authors who turned real-life experience into exciting fictional stories."

"Tribal Honor" is for adult readers due to its sometimes graphic content. It falls within the crime thriller, action and police procedural genres, with a key theme being the brotherhood in law enforcement.

The case pulls the reader in quickly with heroes just as complex as the villains, such as central good guy Warren Lawson, a Tribal police officer on the fictional Jericho Nation Reservation.

"I don't want a too-perfect character," Brown said of his flawed hero. "I want him to be relatable."

The character's vibe draws on the author's experience in law enforcement, skill as a defensive tactics instructor and what he calls the "dark part of life."

"The darkness is a powerful force," Brown said. "It takes a part of you. One character embraced it and one did everything not to. I've experienced that myself. It hits you, you're human."

For martial arts fans, there are detailed fight scenes that call upon Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing, wrestling, Muay Thai and Krav Maga techniques. The moves are de-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department Cpl. Tyler Brown, right, shakes hands with Jared Dickerson after signing a copy of his book "Tribal Honor" for him during an author book signing event at ShredCity Fitness in Dallas on Sunday, Dec. 10. "Tribal Honor," written under Brown's pen name T.G. Brown, is his debut novel.

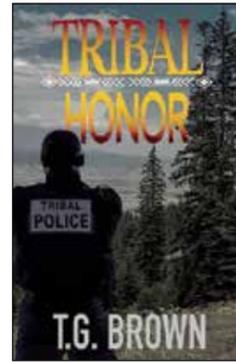
scribed in detail as Lawson battles a murderous predator, gang warfare and twin Native brothers, who also want justice.

Although Oregonians may recognize the book's setting, as Jericho Nation is placed near the actual towns of Willamina and Dallas, Brown insists the case, which deals with elder abuse, is fictional.

Some characters in "Tribal Honor" are also completely fictional, whereas others are based on real people, such as fellow Tribal officers, the police chief and Brown's wife, Ashley.

"The Ashley character is most closely inspired by real life," Brown said, referring to the hero's love interest.

This budding romance woven throughout the story is mostly just innocent banter, making the adult content of Chapter 55 jump off the page. Brown explained this was a



way of showing a close relationship between two characters in the span of a few pages, without drawing attention away from the central narrative.

This turning point in tone is also reflected in escalating conflict, as the plot moves

toward climax in a crescendo of action and violence.

"That's what I wanted, to end the first novel with a bang," Brown said.

He draws inspiration from the Jack Reacher series written by English author Lee Child, as well as Detective Harry Bosch, fictional

hero of the best-selling police procedural series created by Michael Connelly.

"I've always had a strong passion for writing, and I'm planning to make this into a series," Brown said. "The second book is already written. The character ages and shows growth throughout the series. I like that I can write a story people can connect with. It's something I've always wanted to do."

"Tribal Honor," is available now from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The first signing was held locally at ShredCity Fitness in the author's hometown of Dallas on Sunday, Dec. 10.

TG Thriller Publication was formed by Brown to publish the book, working with an agent for new author distribution. It is now available in bookstores in all major cities, and an audio version with narrator Andrew Tell will be out in the coming weeks via Audio and Apple Books.

"Tribal Honor" is dedicated to Brown's aunt, Tribal spouse Liz Leno, who worked for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for many years and walked on earlier this year. ■

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. ■

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CDL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO Department is looking for Tribal members with CDLs who are interested in current employment opportunities or Tribal members who are interested in obtaining their CDL for future employment.

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- Must show proof of completed ODOT physical and other requirements.
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Contact Jacob Boekhoff at 503-879-2146 or e-mail Jacob.Boekhoff@grandronde.org



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