

Tribal Council secretary attends Elected Tribal Official Academy Training



Photo courtesy of The Evergreen State College

Tribal Council Secretary Michael Cherry, second from left, attended the second annual Elected Tribal Official Academy Training that was held in February at ilani Casino Resort in Ridgefield, Wash. A few of her fellow attendees included The Evergreen State College Tribal Liaison Lyn Dennis, left, Tulalip Tribes Chairwoman Teri Gobin, second from right, and Cowlitz Tribal Council member Suzanne Donaldson.

RIDGEFIELD, Wash. – Grand Ronde Tribal Council Secretary Michael Cherry attended the second annual Elected Tribal Official Academy Training in February at ilani Casino Resort.

Cherry was one of 48 Tribal officials who participated in the training according to a press release from The Evergreen State College, which developed curriculum for the training.

Tribes represented included Squaxin Island, Nisqually, Lummi Nation, Confederated Tribes of Colville, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, Spokane, Hoh, Port Gamble S'Klallam; Tulalip Tribes; Jamestown S'Klallam; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Skokomish and the Cowlitz Tribe.

Cowlitz Tribal Chairwoman Patty Kinswa-Gaiser welcomed attendees to the event and The Evergreen State College President John Carmichael gave opening remarks.

Resilient Tribal governance was highlighted throughout the training, including topics such as the federal Supreme Court, congressional updates, an overview of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, communication and political protocols, Tribal budgets and fiscal policy, climate change, legislative

processes at the state and federal level, and gaming and sustainable Tribal economies.

Grand Ronde Tribal member and Northwest Regional BIA Director Bryan Mercier was one of the featured speakers.

The training is a result of a consultation that previously took place at The Evergreen State College, in which Tribes requested a training for newly elected Tribal officials and Tribal liaisons.

“Attending the Elected Tribal Official Academy Training was a transformative experience that provided invaluable insights and opportunities to collaborate with other elected officials,” Cherry said. “The training offered a unique opportunity for both new and seasoned elected Tribal leaders to gain a deeper understanding of Tribal governance and Tribal sovereignty essential to our communities. I cannot emphasize enough how effective this training was, I only wish I attended sooner.”

For a more in-depth story about Cherry’s experience, listen to the Smoke Signals podcast by visiting smokesignals.org and clicking on the “podcast” link under the dropdown menu. ■

Drop box installed

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, has a medication drop box located in the front lobby.

Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag. Tribal Police employees cannot handle the medications so the person dropping them off must repackage them.

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

Photo collection



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Leland Butler discusses his photographs during an artist talk and opening reception for his exhibit, “Connected to the Land,” in the art gallery at Linfield University in McMinnville on Wednesday, March 20. “Over the course of making photos, I’ve become attached to the duality of light and shadow and the beauty it creates in an image,” Butler said in his artist statement. “With that same idea, there is an internal exploration that takes place throughout life and similarly, one can find the beauty in the duality of our own internal light and shadow through expression and exploration (internally and externally). This collection of photos explores that concept through landscape photos of the Pacific Northwest that were created while also exploring the internal light and shadow. The spiritual journeys we embark on to find life’s answers about self often brings us back to nature and that’s what connects us to the land.” The exhibit is co-curated with Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center and Linfield Art Gallery. Butler was selected as the 2024 Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellow, receiving \$20,000 to advance his artistic work. The fellowship is administered by the Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department. It will run through Friday, May 3.

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Event Details:

April 12th, 2024
Elder Activity Center
Blacktail Drive, Grand Ronde
10am to 2pm
• Tribal Members will be selling
their hard work



May 17th, 2024

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PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING GRAND OPENING

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DOORS OPEN AT 4PM
MEAL AT 5PM
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