

Blackwell spoke to members who logged on, answered questions

FB LIVE continued from front page

Family Resources LLC.

“I am so happy to be here and I welcome this opportunity to re-introduce myself to the membership,” Blackwell said. “Many of you already know me and some of you will remember me from other capacities that I’ve served within the Tribe. For those of you who may not know me, I’m a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe and I come from the Riggs and Norwest families... My mother is Candy Robertson and she served on Tribal Council for the first 10 years post-Restoration, so she contributed to some of that work as far as restoring us to federal recognition.”

Blackwell shared that after moving to Grand Ronde as a child, she and her sisters would make copies of the original Smoke Signals newsletter and help with distribution, along with washing dishes after potluck meetings at St. Michael’s Church and other activities to help with the Restoration effort in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

“Even as children, we were engaged in this effort,” she said. “I remember lots of meetings with Sen. (Mark) Hatfield and Rep. (Les) AuCoin and Elizabeth Furse. I really value those memories.”

Attending the Facebook Live event were Kennedy and Tribal Council members Jon A. George and Denise Harvey, with Communications Director Sara Thompson fielding questions asked on Facebook.

Blackwell said that she didn’t always aspire to be a general manager and when it was suggested years ago, she didn’t take it seriously

because at the time she was a high school dropout with a young child.

“But I worked really hard all of those years and with the Tribe’s support and my family’s support, I was able to get my education, earn a degree and be able to work here contributing to the Tribe,” she said. “I’m really grateful for this opportunity to be in the role as general manager.”

After Blackwell spoke to the 110 Tribal members who logged on to Facebook to attend, she answered five questions from the audience.

“As a council person, I think we’re all honored to have somebody with such a rich historical background and foundation of not only being a resident here in our community but also who has been working on our different programs and services within the Tribe,” Harvey said. “I’ve never gotten to work directly with Angie but I have definitely worked with her in her different capacities here and I will say one of the things I most admire is she’s an amazing problem solver, which is great as a general manager. Her communication is amazing and she has a good understanding of our organization and community. It’s an honor to have somebody with her knowledge and experience in this role.”

The Tribe started holding monthly Facebook Live events after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 as a way to safely keep Tribal members informed about the Tribe and its activities. They are now held on a more irregular schedule and deal with a variety of issues.

To contact Blackwell, call 503-879-2036 or email angie.blackwell@grandronde.org. ■

Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2024-25 Hatfield Fellowship program funded by Spirit Mountain Community Fund are being accepted through Tuesday, April 30.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office. Placement of the fellow rotates through the Oregon delegation to enhance mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Fellows are provided an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, D.C., while working on issues that affect Native Americans.

Fellows begin their Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association, which is followed by an eight-month term working in a congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend and relocation and travel expenses.

The fellowship is for Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as members of Pacific Northwest Tribes. Preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or be graduating in June 2024, and be 21 or older.

For more information, visit thecommunityfund.com/other-programs/hatfield-fellowship or go to Youtube to watch an informational video about the Hatfield Fellowship.

The fellowship was created in 1998 to honor the late Sen. Mark Hatfield’s public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. ■

Rec center funding approved

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas announced that she successfully advanced more than \$14 million in community project funding for Oregon’s 6th District, including \$500,000 for a new resident and recreation center in Grand Ronde.

The project funding was included in the first of the 2024 government appropriations packages passed by the House of Representatives. The legislation is expected to be signed into law by President Joe Biden later this month.

“I am incredibly pleased to vote for the first government funding package today and advance over \$14 million for important community projects in Oregon’s 6th District,” Salinas said. “From making needed improvements to our roads and water infrastructure, to expanding access to rural broadband and public transportation, these projects will tangibly improve the lives of everyone in our communities.” ■

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