



Youth GONA
event photos
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General Council membership briefed on Community Fund

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Executive Director Angela Sears briefed the membership on the fund and its various grant awards during a Sunday, April 7, General Council meeting held via Zoom and at the Lane Community College Longhouse in Eugene.

Sears began her presentation to the Tribal audience with an overview of the Community Fund, which was created as part of the Tribe's gaming compact with the state of Oregon. It is supervised by an eight-member Board of Trustees that includes Tribal Council members Denise Harvey, Brenda Tuomi and Michael Cherry, who is also a former Community Fund director.

The first grants ever awarded were to Life Flight Network and the Portland Art Museum in 1997.

As of the first quarter of 2024, the Grand Ronde Tribe's philanthropic giving now exceeds \$97 million with 3,309 grants awarded since 1997.

"I think of how far we have come and now to being in a place to equip communities with almost \$100 million," Sears said. "I'm super proud of who we are and am grateful to Tribal leaders who had the foresight to create this fund."

Sears also introduced Community Fund employees in attendance, which included Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie and Administrative Assistant Pamala Warren-Chase.

Sears said The Community Fund receives 6 percent of proceeds from Spirit Mountain Casino and

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Carter Soderberg, 4, collects eggs during the Tribal Housing Department Easter Egg Hunt held at Tribal Housing on Saturday, March 30. Approximately 200 children showed up to the annual event to collect about 2,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy.

On the hunt again



Tribal member Bradly Robertson holds a bag for his daughter AvaMarie Roberson, 4, as she collects eggs during the Tribal Housing Department Easter Egg Hunt held at Tribal Housing.

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Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Native Innovation exhibit makes first stop in Grand Ronde

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

Grand Ronde community members looking for an educational and interactive family-friendly activity to do this month need look no further than the Tribal Library.

On Thursday, April 4, the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History Education Manager Mia Jackson unpacked the Native Innovation Museum Adventures traveling exhibit at its first stop in Grand Ronde.

Jackson and Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole set up the 10-station exhibit together throughout the library. Each hands-on station comes in a wooden box that unfolds into a display. Printed on the underside of the lid is information about science and engineering innovations Native peo-

ple have created, along with tangible examples within the box.

The stations include topics like harvest solutions, fish technology and transportation innovations.

"The term 'technology' means anything designed by a person to solve a problem," Jackson

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University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History Education Manager Mia Jackson sets up a hands-on fishing station that is part of the Native Innovation Museum Adventures traveling exhibit at the Tribal Library on Thursday, April 4. The exhibit will be at the library through April 30.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo