



Watchlist: ‘Why some Native American Tribes do their best to avoid seeing an eclipse’

(Editor’s note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

Although many Tribal members and United States citizens flocked to catch a glimpse of the eclipse, Arkansas CBS-affiliated 5News reports some Tribes have cultural beliefs that encouraged their people to avoid seeing it.

Navajo Nation Tribal member Alayna Littlefeather described her Tribe’s cultural practices during the solar eclipse as a time for mourning and rest.

“An eclipse is essentially a disturbance or the death of the sun,” she said. “He is considered a father figure in Navajo Culture. He is the reason why we have everything: Our plants, our harvesting. We are essentially mourning his disappearance at this time so we are trying to be very dormant during our regular routine.”

Littlefeather said during the time before and after the eclipse she will rest, do no heavy lifting and consume little food and water.

“Growing up in a very close community with a lot of Navajos, everyone knows these rules so you don’t necessarily feel alone or isolated in these instances,” she said.

Things are different outside of her Tribal community.

During a last eclipse in 2017 she had to email her college professor to inform him she would not be attending class due to her cultural beliefs. She also had to refrain from seeing the eclipse herself, which left her a little disappointed. However, Littlefeather said she follows those traditions because they are there for a reason.

You can watch the rest of Littlefeather’s interview at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2dwuSL546A or find it linked on the Smoke Signals YouTube page “Watchlist” playlist. ■

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. ■

Join us at our upcoming Tribal Library events

<p>APRIL EVENTS!</p> <p>APRIL 3RD-30TH LIBRARY Native Innovations Exhibit <small>presents a celebration and recognition of many science and engineering innovations developed and used by Oregon's Indigenous peoples.</small></p> <p>APRIL 22ND 5:30PM GYM Steph Littlebird <small>Discuss her soon to be released book Coyote & Meadowlark Make Willamette Falls</small></p> <p>JUNE EVENTS!</p> <p>JUNE 13TH 11AM GYM Oregon Coast Aquarium <small>Come learn about tidepools!</small></p> <p>JUNE 16TH-AUGUST 9TH Summer Reading Program <small>Track your reading minutes, complete reading logs, earn prizes, and weekly take home packet</small></p>	<p>JULY EVENTS!</p> <p>JULY 9TH 11AM GYM Paradise of Samoa <small>Original Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Maori, Hawaiian, and Tahitian dance</small></p> <p>JULY 11TH (TIME TBD) GYM Pueblo Aspen Song Kids <small>Cultural sharing, come learn about Taos Pueblo language, culture, heritage and tradition</small></p> <p>JULY 16TH 11AM GYM Jeff Evans Magic Show <small>Magic, comedy, and fun for all ages!</small></p> <p>AUGUST EVENTS!</p> <p>AUGUST 6TH 11AM GYM Red Yarn <small>Music & puppetry!</small></p>
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FREE FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS WORKSHOPS

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is collaborating with DevNW to offer free Financial Foundations workshops.

Financial Foundations explores the following topics:



Budget & cash flow planning, Money goal setting, Tackling debt, Channeling savings for big goals, Financial planning for retirement, Protecting your assets, Strengthening credit.

Financial Foundations April & May classes:

April Zoom:

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, April 27

May Zoom:

Zoom, 5:30-7:30pm, Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28

Zoom, 9am-5pm, Saturday, May 18

Register online:

www.devnw.org/go/ctgr/

Questions? Email caitlin.zimbrick@grandronde.org
To learn more about IDA's visit <https://oregonidainitiative.org/>



Financial Foundations is required to sign up for an IDA (Individual Development Account) matched savings. Limited space available, must meet eligibility requirements.

May 17th, 2024 Save the Date

PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

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DOORS OPEN AT 4PM
MEAL AT 5PM
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