



Watchlist: ‘The Halluci Nation puts a new spin on a traditional beat’

(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

“We’ll throw up our light and then people will gather,” Tim Hill (Mowhawk Tribe), also known as “Zoolman” says in a PBS video published in October 2023. Hill and Ehren Thomas (Cayuga First Nation), who goes by, “Bear Witness,” are the duo behind the well-known sound of “The Halluci Nation.”

Songs you may have heard by “The Halluci Nation” are “Electric Pow Wow Drum” and “R.E.D.” In these songs you’ll hear traditional Native American drumming and singing mixed with electronic beats.

“We have helped in building community,” Thomas says. “But we’re part of the wave, not leading it. We react to where people are at.”

In the video, Thomas and Hill agree that the live music they perform helps bring existing Indigenous communities together. In the PBS video, they are playing a show in Brooklyn, New York and the room is packed with people. As they perform, a young woman in regalia joins them on stage to perform a traditional hoop dance to their music.

“With the history that we have had in the past 500 years, it’s become really hard to want to share who we are and representation of Indigenous people has always been through the lens of the other, we have never had control of our own image,” Thomas says. “It’s about us taking that power for ourselves, representing ourselves in the way we see ourselves.”

Their music mixes traditional songs with samples of contemporary sounds like eagle cries and Indigenous pop culture references.

One song shown in the video uses audio from the movie, “The Addams Family.” In the scene, Wednesday Addams goes off-script from her stereotyped Thanksgiving play to tell the Natives, “Do not trust the pilgrims.”

During their high energy performances, the audience is dancing to the same rhythm.

“When I look out in our show and see people from all different nations, all different backgrounds, they are feeling those beats,” Hill says. “They experience what we experience. That’s a common experience.”

You can hear more from “The Halluci Nation” in the video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUtNoDI5cDY or find it linked on our “Watchlist” Playlist on YouTube. ■

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announces availability of ODOT STIF Transit Grant Funds

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Public Works provides this public notice that the Tribe intends to apply for ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Plan (STIF Plan), which is due Jan. 16, 2025. The STIF Plan assists the Tribe with funding public transit programs during the next state of Oregon biennium from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

This announcement also notifies other public transit service providers that the Tribe intends to work collaboratively to deliver safe and efficient public transit services in Grand Ronde and neighboring communities. The Tribe’s Public Works Coordinator, John Mercier, who also manages the Tribal transportation programs, will present the STIF Plan to the Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The committee was established in 2023 to assist the Tribe with transportation planning. The Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee will meet to review options with Public Works and make recommendations to Tribal Council.

The next Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025. The meeting location will be at the Elder Activity Center, located at 48940 Blacktail Drive, Grand Ronde, Oregon, 97347. Meeting information is subject to change. Check website address below for any and all updates.

Copies of STIF Plan, meeting agendas and minutes will also be available at the website address. Any questions regarding the STIF Plan application may be directed to:

John Mercier, Public Works Coordinator
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon, 97347
Phone: 503-879-2400
Email (preferred): john.mercier@grandronde.org
More information will be available at the Tribe’s website: www.grandronde.org/press-media/project-updates/transportation-projects. ■

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West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2025

Name:		DOB:	
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Phone:		Gender: Male/Female (Circle)	
Rank:	Branch:	Honorable: Yes/No (Circle)	
DOE:	Place of entry:		
DOS:	Place of seperation:		
Deceased: Yes/No (Circle)		Place of burial:	
CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle)		If Tribal, Roll#	

*All applicants must submit a copy of their DD214. If applicant is deceased, a family member or spouse can submit a copy of their DD214. If you are a CTGR Tribal member please attach a copy of your Tribal ID. If you are non-Tribal please attach a copy of a bill/record with your name and address showing you had lived or now reside in Grand Ronde, Willamina or Sheridan. Please send application and all documents to Tribal Council, Attn: Chelsea Clark, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Clark at 503-879-1418 or email: publicaffairs@grandronde.org

Any applications received after January 15, 2025, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2026.