



Elder Safety Fair
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SMOKE SIGNALS

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Controlled fire



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Wildland Firefighter Van Dugdale uses a torch connected to a propane tank to burn a portion of the Bateman property camas field Wednesday, Sept. 17. For the second year, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department, in partnership with the Cultural Resources Department, conducted a technological/cultural oriented controlled burn to track changes in the camas population in the field over time to get a better sense of the best way to take care of it. With only one year of monitoring so far, there isn't a full picture yet. The Bateman property is located east of the Natural Resources Department building and west of uyxat Powwow Grounds on Highway 22. "In 2024 we averaged about 35 camas plants for square meter across the site," Tribal Natural Resources Specialist Annaliese Ramthun said. "The site was not mowed in 2023 so thick grass did make plants harder to find. In 2025, the average was 133 per square meter. We found the most in the burn-only area with an average of 200 camas per square meter and the least in the control plot with an average of 83 camas per square meter... We also plan to track the depth and size of bulbs and how easy it is to dig them over time."

Council approves Portland Harbor cleanup agreement, homeownership construction contract

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a third agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency for the ongoing Portland Harbor cleanup at its Wednesday, Sept. 24, meeting.

Since 2004, the Tribe has had agreements with the EPA through which the agency has funded Grand Ronde's involvement in the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The Tribe began a new cooperative agreement in 2019 to continue the work. The third cooperative agreement will fund Tribal staff and a technical consultant for up to \$603,529.

"Is there any type of timeline for when we can actually say that the Portland Harbor will actually be clean?" Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George said during a Tuesday, Sept. 16, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "It's been 20 years already, a long time."

Tribal Lands Department Project Administrator Brandy Humphreys agreed that it has taken a long time and progress is being made.

"The record of decision (selecting a cleanup plan) was released in 2017 and the whole foundation of it is to have cleanup done by 2034," she said. "It's a massive site and

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Community Fund invests in changing lives

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grant money from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund will enable the non-profit organization Medicine Bear to keep working with Indigenous and Latino youth at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center in Portland, with the goal of helping them reconnect with their culture and seek healing.

The funds will also enable the Ronald McDonald House to redo the gardens and play equipment for its Eastern House in Portland, where families of children undergoing cancer



treatment can stay free of charge. They will pay for environmental cleanup work in Multnomah County, for a new kicker motor for a swift water rescue boat in Clackamas County, civics education in Benton County, a reading program for Spanish-speaking children in Marion County, a transport vehicle for veterans in Lane County and much more.

During the third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium

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Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees Chair Trevor Aaron, left, shakes hands with Latino Network Development Project Manager Jim Mauceri as he accepts a check for his nonprofit during the Fund's third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Sept. 17.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo