



Tribe shares vision for Blue Heron site — pg. 5



APRIL 1, 2021

SMOKE SIGNALS

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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Tribe fighting efforts to rewrite history of Falls

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is once again rebutting claims by Columbia Plateau Tribes, particularly the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, regarding historical usage of the Willamette Falls fishery by Native American Tribes.

In November 2020, the Umatilla Tribe sent Gov. Kate Brown and other officials a document titled “Traditional Use Study of Willamette Falls and the Lower Columbia River by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation” in that Tribe’s efforts to get Grand Ronde to dismantle its ceremonial fishing platform and prevent it from exercising its cultural practices at the falls.

In response, the Grand Ronde Tribe once again turned to Dr. Stephen Dow Beckham, who wrote a 205-page analysis of the Umatilla document.

Beckham’s assessment said that the Umatilla study is filled with errors of fact, faulty conclusions based on misunderstanding of primary and secondary sources, and accepting as “truth” virtually anything that is in print.

“In sum, CTUIR’s study is intellectually dishonest,” Beckham said.

Beckham, a professor emeritus of history at Lewis & Clark College, had previously prepared a 160-page report commissioned by the Grand Ronde Tribe in 2018 that rebutted assertions by the Columbia Plateau Tribes that their ancestors also

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Dunk shots

Tribe records 13 assists, vaccinates most Trail Blazers

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Portland Trail Blazers had 13 of their 15 players vaccinated on Monday, March 22, at the Tribal gym, using some of the extra vaccine supply from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The Trail Blazers posted news of the team vaccination efforts to its various social media channels and website that same morning, and players also posted pictures to their social media accounts on Twitter.

“Today, 13 Trail Blazers players received their first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine,” the team said. “Access to this excess supply of vaccines was through the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde who began offering the vaccine to the general public in February as a way to help Oregon and the nation move past the pandemic.”

“The Trail Blazers organization and players are grateful to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for making these vaccines available to the general public. ... Players were excited and enthusiastic about getting their first dose. It all went very smoothly.”

The statement encouraged others to get vaccinated as well.

“As vaccination efforts continue to ramp up, we will continue to use our platform via public service announcements and other messaging to raise



Photo courtesy of Twitter

Portland Trail Blazers forward Robert Covington posted a photo of himself getting the first dose of the two-dose Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the Tribal gym on Monday, March 22, to his personal Twitter account. The Tribe vaccinated 13 members of Portland’s professional basketball team, using some of its excess supply of vaccines.

awareness on the safety, efficacy and importance of vaccination so our state and communities can come out of this awful pandemic as soon as possible.”

Center Enes Kanter posted a selfie of himself getting vacci-

See BLAZERS
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Revitalizing Chinuk Wawa during a pandemic

Zoey Holsclaw, 25, is a post-elementary Chinuk Wawa teacher and Grand Ronde Language Department outreach coordinator. She sits outside her office building on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus on March 12.

Photo by Kamiah Koch



(Editor’s note: This story was originally produced as part of a collaboration between the Native American Journalists Association and NPR’s Next Generation Radio.)

By Kamiah Koch
Smoke Signals social media/digital journalist

As a young Grand Ronde Tribal member, Zoey Holsclaw learned storytelling happens from the first frost until the frogs sing.

Wintertime was when activity would slow and the Elders of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde could share their

stories and history in Chinuk Wawa, their Native language.

“I love speaking the language, and part of why I want to teach people to speak in Chinuk Wawa is because we don’t have that many speakers right now,” Holsclaw

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General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, April 11

Being held remotely using the Zoom teleconferencing program.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, April 7.....	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 21.....	10 a.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

LIHEAP program open in service area

The Tribal Social Service's LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – is open to eligible Tribal members in the six-county service area and Clackamas County.

This is a first-come, first-served program and income criteria applies. LIHEAP is federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to help low-income households with home heating costs.

For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

Congressional Art Competition seeks entries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici is accepting submissions for the 2021 Congressional Art Competition, which is open to any high school student who lives in or attends schools in her district, which includes Washington, Yamhill, Clatsop and Columbia counties and part of Multnomah County.

Local artists will select the winning student artist whose work will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year. All students who participate in the competition will be invited to a virtual reception with Bonamici where the winner will be announced and all submissions shown.

Students interested in submitting artwork should visit bonamici.house.gov/services/art-competition on the Internet. Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 30. Art can be mailed to Bonamici's Beaverton office at 12725 S.W. Millikan Way, Suite 220, Beaverton, OR 97005. Staff members will be available to receive art outside the front entrance to the building from 8 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 28, and 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, April 30. ■

BURIAL FUND ORDINANCE OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Burial Fund Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a First Reading at the Feb. 10, 2021, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments increase the Burial Benefit from \$6,000 to \$7,000, and may also include minor technical (i.e., formatting, typographical, housekeeping) modifications.

Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed amendments to the Burial Fund Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347 or by e-mail to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by Thursday, April 15, 2021. ■

Clarification — An article in the March 15 edition of *Smoke Signals* contained information provided by a source that requires clarification: When an Elder becomes eligible for Tribal foster care, the cost is determined by 75 percent of their income, such as Social Security, per capita payments or a pension from a job. The Elders pension received as a Tribal member is not included in determining how much is paid for adult foster care.

Letters welcome

Letters should be exclusive to **smok signalz**.

Letters should be 400 words or less and must include the writer's name, address, phone number and Tribal roll number. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed during a three-month period.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the other writer by name, should refer to the date of the letter published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters deemed in poor taste will not be printed. Send letters via e-mail to news@grandronde.org, or submit in person at the Tribal Governance Center in Grand Ronde, Ore., or mail to **smok signalz**, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 9.....	APRIL 15, 2021
MONDAY, APRIL 26.....	MAY 1, 2021
MONDAY, MAY 10.....	MAY 15, 2021
MONDAY, MAY 24.....	JUNE 1, 2021

EDITORIAL POLICY

smok signalz, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or e-mail address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested. Letters must be 400 words or less.

smok signalz reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **smok signalz**.



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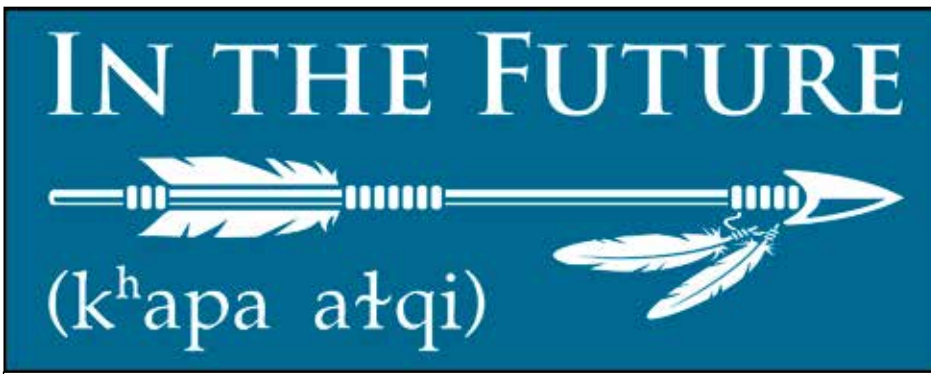
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April

- Wednesday, April 7 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Thursday, April 8 – Community Input meeting, 6 p.m., Zoom teleconference. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, April 11 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Zoom teleconference. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, April 21 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

May

- Sunday, May 2 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Zoom teleconference. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, May 5 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, May 19 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day observance, 1 p.m., West Valley Veterans Memorial, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-4555.

(Editor's note: All events are tentative depending on the status of the Tribe's COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic response.)

Blue Heron fire suspect's trial date set for June 1

By Dean Rhodes and Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writers

OREGON CITY – The man suspected of starting a fire that damaged the Grand Ronde Tribe's Blue Heron property has a trial date set for June 1 after he was found fit to proceed by Clackamas County Judge Heather Karabeika.

Karabeika previously ordered a mental health examination by Oregon State Hospital personnel on Jan. 4 after finding there was reason to doubt Enrique Omar Mejia's mental ability to proceed with a criminal defense regarding the arson charge filed against him.

Oregon City police arrested Mejia, 29, for the Dec. 5 fire at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site that the Tribe purchased in August 2019. He was originally scheduled to go on trial on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Mejia's court-appointed attorney Ruben Medina Jr. requested a psychiatric/psychological examination, saying that a criminal trial could violate his client's "fundamental right to competency."

Mejia reportedly made "concerning statements" that called into question his ability to stand trial, Medina said. He added that his client's family members said that he has been having mental health issues for some time.

Medina told the court that Mejia claimed to have had a chip implanted in his head and wanted to know what would happen when the chip was discovered. He also asserted that he has since been followed around by a cult that is trying to frame him for a crime.

According to a Dec. 29 court filing



Enrique Omar Mejia

reported by *The Clackamas Review*, Mejia said that because of his brain implant "a group of people can see what I'm thinking;

they can see what I see, and they can hear what I hear. ... I'm not sure exactly what it is, but I think it's part of a cell phone or Google eye or something."

Mejia's previous convictions include a 2018 disorderly-conduct charge in Lincoln City. According to the *Lincoln City News Guard*, he also was cited and released by the Lincoln City Police Department in July 2020 after police received a report of a man with a beer pushing a crosswalk button over and over again.

Oregon law states that a person may be found incapacitated if, as a result of a qualifying mental disorder, he or she is "unable to understand the nature of the proceedings against the defendant or to assist and cooperate with the counsel."

Mejia remains in the Clackamas County Jail in Oregon City on \$100,000 bail on one count of second-degree arson. He has been previously denied release because of failure to appear charges, the felony arson charge, having adult convictions and being unemployed.

His next scheduled court date is a status check set for May 13. ■

Includes information from Pamplin Media Group.

Health & Wellness Center hours

The Health & Wellness Center is pleased to add additional access for patients during holiday weeks on Thursday mornings. The clinic will be scheduling patients at 8 a.m. every Thursday preceding or following a holiday closure.

Urgent care also will be available during this time. ■

Find us on

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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If so...
Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002
To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENT BOARD VACANCIES
The following Committees and Special Event Boards have vacant positions.

- Housing Grievance Board** – 1 vacancy, 5 expiring
- Ceremonial Hunting Board** – 2 vacancies, 4 expiring
- Culture Committee** – 2 vacancies, 4 expiring
- Enrollment Committee** – 2 vacancies, 2 expiring
- Fish & Wildlife Committee** – 2 vacancies, 2 expiring
- Powwow Special Event Board** – 1 vacancy, 4 expiring
- Education Committee** – 5 expiring
- Election Committee** – 4 expiring
- Health Committee** – 2 expiring
- Timber Committee** – 3 expiring
- TERO Commision** – 2 expiring
- Veterans Special Event Board** – 5 expiring

Please send completed applications to
Stacia Hernandez, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – *iskam məkʰmək haws* – is operated by Marion-Polk Food Share, which has been leading the fight to end hunger since 1987 because no one should be hungry.

Recipients of SNAP, TANF, SSI or LIHEAP assistance automatically qualify for assistance at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.

“We believe that everyone deserves to have enough to eat,” Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose says. “You are welcome to get a food box at each of our regular weekly distributions. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.”

In reaction to the continuing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold April food box distributions on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“We are asking clients to not come for a food box if they are having any symptoms or concerned about their health,” Ambrose said. “We are limiting our geographic service area to Sheridan to Otis on Highway 18 and Sheridan to Hebo on Highway 22. We are asking clients and volunteers to wash their hands immediately upon entry to the building. Our lobby is closed until further notice.

“Food box distribution is happening outside while maintaining a safe distance between clients. We are sanitizing and keeping the food quarantined for three days before distribution. Pre-made boxes are available on distribution days, limited to two days of food for two adults. Clients within our geographic service area are still welcome to visit us weekly.”

People must check in 15 minutes before closing to receive a food box. If you need immediate assistance, call 211 or visit 211info.org.

Those who are unable to pick up a food box can fill out an authorized representative form and that designated person can pick up a food box on your behalf. The authorization is good for one year.

The Food Bank is continuing the Farm Share Rx program with 35 farm shares being distributed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. It is a first-come, first-served distribution until the shares are depleted.

The Food Bank continues to seek volunteers to help with repacking food, putting food on the shelves, handing out food boxes, end-of-month inventory and picking up food donations at area stores.

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly e-mail for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.

Call Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or contact her at fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/*iskam məkʰmək haws*, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board meets monthly.** The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 23, using the Zoom conferencing program. Chair: Siobhan Taylor. Contact: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Chair: Tammy Cook.
- **Elders Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Penny DeLoe.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Bernadine Shriver.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 4 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Simone Auger.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets monthly at noon at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Interim Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the old Elders Craft House. Chair: Rich VanAtta.

To update information on this list, contact Publications Coordinator Dean Rhodes at 503-879-1463 or dean.rhodes@grandronde.org.

(Editor's note: All committee and special event board in-person meetings have been suspended during the Tribe's reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.)



2016 – A Celebration of Life event was held for Tribal Elder Richard Ray, which he was able to attend in person. Fellow Elders decided to host the event before he passed away from terminal cancer. “I’m on a different path,” Ray said. During the service, friends and family recalled his youthful adventures, childhood in Willamina and adulthood working for his own logging company. Ray served on the Tribe’s Timber and Elders committees.

2011 – The Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department hosted a photograph identification session. The department compiled several photos, which were laid out for people to look at and hopefully identify some of the people and items in them. The cache of 150 pieces, including 20 letters and a huge basket, dated back as far as the late 1800s and as recent as the 1950s.



2011

File photo

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison inspected image after image with a magnifying glass. It was the first time she had seen one photo of her oldest brother as a baby. “I just wish the last generation was still around,” she said. “Especially the Hudson girls.”

2006 – More than 150 Native youth participated in the fourth annual Native Youth Wellness Day at the Tribal gym. The day included motivational speakers, Native American pop music artist Jana, breakout groups, a basketball tournament and a pizza dinner. “I go around to talk about motivating and empowering the youth,” Jana said. “I like to spread my message and visiting Grand Ronde has been a great experience.”

2001 – Approximately 25 Japanese exchange students who were attending Marylhurst College visited Grand Ronde and toured the Tribal offices. The college students were on a spring break trip studying different cultures and tourism. They performed a traditional Japanese dance in the Tribal Governance Center for Tribal staff and second-grade students from Grand Ronde Elementary School.

1996 – Spirit Mountain Casino’s Phase 2 expansion was progressing rapidly, with employees and customers anticipating the addition of 36,500 square feet of new gaming, dining and family entertainment space. Scheduled for completion by July, the new expansion would include the Legends restaurant, a children’s attraction, video arcade and expansion of gaming space. The expansion would add between 125 to 150 new employees to the facility, according to David Hargo, vice president of development.

1991 – Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier and Tribal Council member Larry Brandon attended a Tribal Leaders Forum in Seattle, Wash. The event included Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs. Inouye told the group of Tribal leaders that he was genuinely supportive of Native people and was at the meeting to take his “marching orders” from them. Approximately 60 Tribal representatives from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska attended the event.

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Hunters Education Field Day set for May 1

The Natural Resources Department’s Parks and Recreation Program is coordinating a Hunters Education Field Day on Saturday, May 1.

Registration for the class must be done at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife website. There is a \$10 per student fee and the class is open to Tribal and nonTribal youth ages 9 to 17 by the beginning of the 2021 hunting season.

The class is only the field day and students must have attended either a conventional course, online course or completed an at-home workbook. Spots will be limited.

In Oregon, all youth hunters 17 and younger must pass a certified hunter education class before hunting unless they are participating in the Mentor Youth Hunter Program. The minimum age to hunt big game is 12 and hunters age 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult 21 or older when hunting.

To register for the Field Day, visit myodfw.com. For a full list of youth hunter regulations, visit www.eregulations.com/oregon.

For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Coordinator Jerry Bailey at 503-879-2337 or jerry.bailey@grandronde.org. ■

Tribal Council OKs contracts to restore conservation properties

By Dean Rhodes and Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writers

Tribal Council approved the Natural Resources Department entering into two contracts that will restore oak and upland prairie habitat, respectively, on two of the Tribe's six conservation properties during it Wednesday, March 24, meeting.

The agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program involve sharing costs in which the conservation service contributes funds toward implementation of conservation practices and the Tribe provides any remaining resources necessary to complete the projects.

The first contract would help restore oak habitat on 41 acres of the Rattlesnake Butte conservation property northwest of Junction City in Lane County. The Tribe obtained three separate parcels at Rattlesnake Butte in 2012 and 2015 totaling a combined 269.5 acres.

The work at Rattlesnake Butte would improve the forest stand, treat woody residue, and manage brush and plant for wildlife habitat. The cost-share amount would not exceed \$72,000.

The second contract would help restore upland prairie habitat at Noble Oaks, a 667.5-acre conservation property in Polk County obtained by the Tribe in 2019.

The work over 40 acres would include mowing, weed control and conservation cover. The cost-share would not exceed \$25,000.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved applying to the Nation-

al Congress of American Indians for a one-year, \$84,053 grant that would fund a domestic violence client advocate who would work for the Social Services Department;

- Approved applying to the U.S. Department of Justice for two \$500,000 grants. The first grant would purchase a replacement police vehicle and fund an additional police officer for five years at the Tribal Police Department. The second grant would fund a Tribal Youth Enhancement & Prevention coordinator in the Social Services Department who would operate a five-year program;
- Extended the maturity date on the permanent loan to Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. to reflect the seven months that loan payments were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic. The new maturity date would be Aug. 15, 2025;
- Approved extending the sunset date of the COVID-19-related coverage in the Workers' Compensation Ordinance from March 31 to end on the date that the Tribally declared state of emergency expires;
- And approved one voluntary relinquishment of membership and OK'd the enrollment of eight individuals into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■



Smoke Signals file photo

The Grand Ronde Tribe released its vision for redevelopment of the Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City on Wednesday, March 24. The Tribe purchased the culturally important land in August 2019.

Tribe shares vision for Blue Heron site

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

After acquiring the 23-acre Blue Heron site near Willamette Falls in August 2019, the Tribe is now sharing its ideas for future use of the culturally significant land located in its ancestral homelands.

Potential plans include environmental and cultural restoration along with new development. Other priorities are to help restore public access, provide economic prosperity and return the Tribe to the role of caregiver over an important piece of its homeland.

"Acquiring the property at Willamette Falls let us reclaim part of our history and allowed us to once again become stewards of the land and the falls," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy said in a press release. "Now, we head into the future with a vision for this land that helps heal it and revitalize it while telling our story and sharing our history."

The Tribe purchased the property from Washington developer George Heidergerken in 2019 for \$15.25 million. Since then, it has been working with a design team from GBD Architects and Walker | Macy to create a vision for the site. The Tribe also has been working with the state Department of Environmental Quality on onsite cleanup efforts.

"Focused on the central idea of healing, the vision will also be guided by the values of spirit, place, people and prosperity," the press release stated. "What that means for the site itself is extensive ecological restoration at the southern end, which would include restoring natural basalt

landscape and water channels underneath defunct industrial buildings. Native plantings would be re-established, and restored riparian habitat would provide vast benefits for native fish, birds and other wildlife."

Additionally, the Tribe envisions mixed-use development at the northern end of the site that would be a visual and physical connection to the restored landscape.

Potential development could include office, hospitality, institutional or educational spaces, as well as Tribal spaces, public gathering spots, restaurants, retail and a riverwalk area. Any new development would reflect the story of the Tribe and its historical and cultural connection to Willamette Falls.

"This is a meaningful and exciting time for our Tribe and for everyone who will benefit from the healing and promise of our Willamette Falls site," Kennedy said. "We look forward to working with all of the partners who share in our vision for the land, from its historical, ecological and cultural significance to its potential to create prosperity for the entire region."

In December 2020, Tribal Council approved the allocation of \$1.235 million to purchase an approximately half-acre plot adjacent to the Blue Heron property. It is located at the entrance to the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site and has an office building.

The property was on the market and the Tribe's purchase ensured that it controls the site's future use so that it is complementary to Blue Heron's development. ■

Remembering Saige



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal member Veronica Gaston works on renewing the Saige Selwyn Bicycle Memorial on Grand Ronde Road on Monday, March 15. Gaston has been taking care of the memorial since 2016. She was able to replace the bike and add a ceramic angel with money she won during General Council door prize drawings, along with a small personal contribution. Any future money from the door prizes will be used to decorate the memorial in May, which is Saige's birth month. Saige, 12, walked on in September 2015 after the bicycle she was riding was struck by a vehicle while she was crossing Grand Ronde Road.



GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

28450 Tye Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

ATTENTION ALL HOUSING TENANTS AND GUEST

PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN ELDER HOUSING

Also, please make sure and maintain low levels of music in the Elder community.

Clinic ribbon-cutting



Photo by Great Circle Recovery staff

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe and Tribal Council member Steve Bobb, Sr. participate in the grand opening of the Grand Ronde Tribe's first medication-assisted treatment clinic to combat opioid addiction on Monday, March 22. Also attending was Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier. The Great Circle Recovery Opioid Treatment Program clinic is at 1011 Commercial St. N.E. in Salem and is the first Tribally operated MAT clinic in Oregon. The Tribe also plans to open a clinic in east Portland on Southeast 82nd Avenue this summer. Portland resident Jennifer Worth was hired to be the clinics' Operations Director in December. "Opioid addiction is something that does not discriminate," Kennedy said. "It takes lives, destroys families and haunts Tribal and non-Tribal communities alike. That's why it was important for the Tribe to bring these services to those seeking treatment."

12,748 people have received vaccines, including 6,905 shots for Elders 55 and older

BLAZERS continued from front page

nated on Twitter, saying: "Just got vaccinated today with my brothers. The faster we get vaccinated, the sooner we can return to our lives with our loved ones."

Forward Robert Covington did the same, saying, "First step in the right direction of life getting back to normal."

The Blazers, citing health and privacy concerns, declined to elaborate on how the team and Tribe connected in arranging the vaccinations.

The Tribe received its first doses of the Moderna vaccine in late December, with priority going to clinic personnel, Tribal first responders, adult foster care workers and residents. The vaccine rollout was expanded to include all Tribal members 55

and older in late January, and to the general public in February.

To date, more than 50 percent of Tribal employees have been vaccinated and 90 percent of Health & Wellness Center employees have received both shots.

Total vaccines administered are 12,748, including 6,905 shots put into the arms of Elders, who are at highest risk for complications from COVID-19.

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said the Tribe has been able to draw an additional 800 doses from its current supply.

"Each dose is important," she said. "We're excited to be part of the effort to vaccinate the community, our partners and combat COVID-19."

Second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are usually given 21 to 28 days after the first. ■

Pharmacy adds lockers for prescription pickup

The Grand Ronde Pharmacy has added lockers for people to pick up their prescriptions, according to Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright.

The lockers are located at the southwest entrance door marked Pharmacy Locker Pickup and are available 24/7, 365 days a year.

"When the order is placed in the locker, the patient receives a random code via text or e-mail," Wright said. "That randomized code is specific to that locker for that one order. Once the order is picked up that code is no longer useable. There's also an app they can download on their smartphone so they can track their pickup history and more easily share the code with someone else they want to pick up for them."

Pharmacy patients must fill out a Patient Contact Preference form and provide their e-mail address or phone number to receive locker notifications.

"We've been testing it for a few weeks, so patients can start using it as soon as we receive the contact preference form and upload their e-mail address," Wright said. "The upload of e-mail addresses only happens a couple of times a day so the first order can be delayed depending on when everything is ready. After that the e-mail and cell number stay in the system and orders can be delivered to the lockers several times a day."

"If patients don't have an e-mail, like a small child, we have a manual workaround to help the parent get the text message. Generally, the e-mail is used for the first pickup and then the patient can enter in their cell number for text alerts on future orders."

For more information, contact the Pharmacy at 503-879-2342. ■


Listening sessions set

PORTLAND – The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Columbia River InterTribal Fish Commission, Prosper Portland and Portland Bureau of Environmental Services are starting an 18-month planning process to engage Tribes, Tribal organizations and the Portland metro area Native American community to seek ideas, identify needs and explore development opportunities for the proposed Center for Tribal Nations and Waterfront Education Park at the OMSI District on the eastern shore of the Willamette River.

The property includes 23 acres of which 18 are available for the new development with 3 million square feet of new useable space.

As part of Phase One, a series of listening sessions have been scheduled, all running from 1 to 3 p.m. The sessions will be held on March 31, April 13, April 26, May 13 and June 2 and will be conducted using virtual meeting applications like Zoom. People also can complete a survey regarding the proposal at atntribe.org/center-tribal-nations/.

For more information or to provide additional input, contact Don Sampson at DP@Seventhgenerationllc.com or 541-215-2753 or James Parker at Jparker@atntribes.org or 541-249-5770. ■



Tribal Veterans Service Office Veteran Outreach Event
Memorial Day
Honoring families of Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Veterans who have walked on...

Let us express our gratitude and pride for those who served; those who put their lives on the line; and the families who supported them. We raise our hands to acknowledge and honor the service of the Veteran in your family and their memory. hayu masi.

To Receive a Memorial Day gift:


1. Be a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) Tribal Member or a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde family member with
2. A CTGR Veteran in your family who has made their journey (from any service era) and
3. Submit a photo, biography, story, or information about your tribal veteran and/or their military service **by May 21, 2021** (to TVSO office by mail/email).
(All information submitted is kept confidential and will not be shared).

In return:
The first 100 submissions get to choose one of the following gifts:
♥ A gardening tool kit for the veterans gravesite (15 available) or,
♥ A picture frame for the veterans photo (15 available) or,
♥ A 4x6" American flag with a silk flower (40 available)
♥ 5.5x8" Military Branch flags (a few of each branch, 30 available)

♥

Gift pick up will be during Memorial Day Week. Individuals who sign up will be contacted to set up a date/time for drive-through pick-up.

Arrangements can be made if you would like your gift mailed.





TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

(503) 879-1484
CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

Much of the Umatilla report is ‘fact-free history’

FALLS continued from front page

fished at the falls and supported the Grand Ronde Tribe’s claims to Willamette Falls.

He called Columbia Plateau Tribes’ claims to the Willamette Falls fishery a “modern-day discovery of opportunity” in 2018.

In a March 11 letter, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said that since the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Restoration in 1983, it has not only had to confront a legacy of colonialism and racism, but “regrettably, we have also had to resist the efforts of some Tribes to move beyond their lands and deprive Grand Ronde of its rights and history.”

Kennedy met with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown in a Tribal Government Willamette Falls executive session meeting on Thursday, March 18.

“Much of the Umatilla Report is ‘fact-free history’” Beckham says. “A close analysis of the sources cited confirms the author glossed her narrative from unreliable secondary sources, failed to check the primary sources alleged to be the foundation for the information, and accepted as fact information that was wrong or of dubious authenticity.”

The author, Dr. Jennifer Karson Engum, works for the Umatilla Tribe’s Cultural Resources Protection Program. She earned a Ph.D. in anthropology in 2007 from the University of Texas at Austin, according to her LinkedIn profile.

In his summary, Beckham rebukes six major claims made by the Umatilla report.

1. “Use of Willamette Falls area was not exclusive to any single Tribe or band.” Beckham says the



Smoke Signals file photo

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde commissioned noted Oregon historian Stephen Dow Beckham to write an analysis of an Umatilla Tribal document regarding the Willamette Falls fishery. Beckham’s analysis once again rebuts claims by Columbia Plateau Tribes of their regular historical usage of Willamette Falls as a fishery.

statement is false and does not address the “extensive” linguistic and ethno-historical information recorded since 1806 that identifies the falls and its vicinity as the aboriginal homeland of the Clackamas, Clowewalla, Multnomah, Tualatin and Molalla Tribes. “The Umatilla Report fails to provide any evidence that its antecedent Tribes and bands possessed a single village or exercised any subsistence activities west of Celilo Falls prior to 1995.”

2. “(Umatilla) members maintained uninterrupted use and exercised treaty rights in the area which use continues today.” Beckham calls the statement false and cites the fact that in 1941 none of 35 Umatilla Tribal Elders reported any use or exercise of treaty rights west of Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. He also cites a 2015 Umatilla-published atlas

that did not identify any resource uses or locations west of Celilo Falls.

3. “The (Umatilla) possess abundant oral histories on our traditional use at Willamette Falls and the Lower Columbia River area.” Beckham again does not mince words, calling the statement false and “based on heavily redacted modern oral histories.” He also cites the fact that the Umatilla sought no settlement from the U.S. government for any land other than on the eastern Columbia Plateau.
4. “The Cayuse people had significant contact and clear cultural and historical ties including intermarriage with the Molalla Tribe of the Willamette Valley.” Beckham says the alleged linguistic affiliation of the Cayuse and Molalla languages has been “resoundingly and consistently rejected by linguistic scholars since the 1960s.”
5. “The presence of the (Umatilla) people increased during the fur trade and mission era, which brought additional (Umatilla) members to the Willamette Valley and increased use at Willamette

Falls.” Beckham fact-checks that statement as false as well, citing an 1839 Hudson’s Bay Co. census of Fort Vancouver Indians that identified no Umatilla Indians. He does concede there was one Walla Walla youth who briefly attended school on French Prairie in the early 1840s. “School attendance by one youth does not document Tribal presence and treaty rights,” he says.

6. “The Cayuse Five trial, during which Tribal headmen were tried and convicted in Oregon City, adjacent to Willamette Falls, for the deaths that took place at the Whitman Mission (near Walla Walla, Wash.) created deep and unresolved trauma that adds to CTUIR’s connection to the area of Willamette Falls.” Beckham said the Cayuse men were tried in Oregon City because it was the capital of the Oregon Territory and the location of the territorial court. “The trial in no way buttressed the reserved treaty rights of fishing, hunting, digging roots, gathering berries or grazing livestock for the CTUIR in western Oregon.”

“Such compelling findings require making Dr. Beckham’s complete report available to officials and the public,” Kennedy said. “Dr. Beckham’s analysis, and his citations to a plethora of well-regarded and widely known materials, ultimately speaks for itself.”

Kennedy’s letter and Beckham’s report have been posted on the Willamette Falls & Landing Heritage Area’s website at www.wflha.org.

“The biggest hurdle ahead is recognizing Tribal sovereignty and the federally recognized treaties that apply to the area,” said retiring Heritage Area Executive Director Siobhan Taylor, who previously worked for the Grand Ronde Tribe as Public Affairs director and currently is chair of the Tribe’s Editorial Board, which oversees *Smoke Signals*. “Make no mistake, this is in the ceded homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. And the treaty that applies is the Willamette Valley Treaty.” ■



ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC

Karen Case 971-237-1230
 930 SW Bales Ave., Willamina, OR 97396
angelbookkeepingllc@gmail.com

**UPDATE FROM:
 ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC – Karen Case**

The Federal Tax Deadline to file is **May 15, 2021**

You are valued and please be assured we continue to be available to care for all your tax needs during this time of encouraged social distancing.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, we will not be scheduling any appointments in person at the Confederated Tribes in Grand Ronde, but will be available in the Willamina home office location.

We will continue to be doing taxes and accepting your documents via email, mail, drop-off, or by appointment at the Willamina home office location.

We are sorry for this inconvenience and encourage you to stay safe and healthy.

You may contact us at **971-237-1230**

ANGEL BOOKKEEPING LLC
 Karen Case
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 Willamina, OR 97396
angelbookkeepingllc@gmail.com

Service honored



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. and former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno share a smile after Leno was presented with a certificate from Spirit Mountain Casino to recognize his 25 years of service on the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors on Monday, March 29. Leno also served seven straight terms – 21 years – on Tribal Council.

Panel addresses health inequities in Indian Country

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — Tribal member and American Leadership Oregon Executive Director Lisa Watson led a panel discussion on health inequities in Indian Country in recognition of Women's History Month.

The discussion, held on Thursday, March 18, via Zoom included Watson, MRG Foundation Director Se-ah-dom Edmo (Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce and Yakama) and University of Providence Nursing Division Chair Melissa Robinson (Salish and Kootenai).

The event was sponsored by Portland State University, the Center for Women's Leadership and Tillamook.

"This is an important subject always, but even more so in this current time we are in," Watson said. "I'm very excited to be here today to discuss health care as it relates to health inequities for Indigenous communities. ... One of my leading values is once we know better, we must do better. I would invite the audience today to take this new information and turn it into action in your own communities."

Watson's first question for the panelists was their thoughts on the term "health inequities" versus "health disparities."

"I'm not a health practitioner, but I love working on things," Edmo said. "I love operationalizing our traditional values into how we do our work. For me, I much prefer the term 'health inequities.' Health inequity is something you must make equitable. Health disparity makes it seem like a foregone conclusion, that something is just the way it is."

Robinson agreed.

"Disparity means different. We need to get away from that term. Health outcomes aren't just dif-



Smoke Signals screenshot

Tribal member Lisa Watson, top left, led a panel discussion on health inequities in Indian Country on Thursday, March 18. She was joined by MRG Foundation Director Se-ah-dom Edmo, bottom left, and University of Providence Nursing Division Chair Melissa Robinson.

ferent when something has been unfair or unjust. Health disparities is ingrained as a term in the health care system. In education, what I've learned is that as children and adults enter the system, the opportunities haven't been equal. When we can create an equitable playing field, we will be better. It is not an easy thing to change, but I think we can."

Added Watson, "It is important for us to have a shared understanding of a term that is so loaded."

The next question involved the various ways Indigenous people access health care.

"For me, it is IHS (Indian Health Service) first," Edmo said. "It is one thing that has been a common element of treaty and trust responsibility. We have to first fully fund IHS. Every time the budget comes up, the myth of scarcity does. How health dollars are managed has troubling reverberations throughout Indian Country. Elders are very aware that this is the case. They

will forgo care in case a younger family member gets seriously ill. These are upsetting dynamics."

Robinson shared a story of her grandmother receiving a letter from Indian Health Service and worrying about what to do.

"The letter told her not to access care unless it was life threatening," she said. "It was a hard budget year, but so scary for her because it limited her ability to access care. Another barrier is that since Indian people get free health care, it is hard to combat that with the qualitative experience of what it is really like. Being able to (raise awareness) and communicate that with people is an important starting point."

Watson said experiences like that can be trauma triggers.

"It's another communication that makes you fundamentally aware that you don't matter," she said.

The third question for panelists involved the value of having culturally specific health care.

Robinson said she considers designating something as culturally specific care can risk safety and quality by increasing stereotypes about what different racial and ethnic groups want, and hamper providers' ability to offer individualized care and develop trust.

"If we can be humble about what

we don't know, that humility will help us listen, ask good questions and demonstrate trust," she said. "Our identities are informed not just by socioeconomic status and educational level, but so many other different things. It's important to recognize how broad those experiences can be."

Edmo said she feels culturally specific care has value in the context of who someone is as a person.

"I absolutely believe that many of our communities experience their best health with eating First Foods and diets that have sustained people for generations, and within our extended family structures. I think culture should always be looked at as an accelerator to achieving health and wellness for individuals."

Added Watson, "It's a systems change question. How do we embrace the systems that are going to be affirming of all of our identities, and educate people not only to embrace but to work within these systems? It's a tall order but it's doable. These are things we can do."

The last question involved trauma-informed care and the importance of being aware of it.

"More people have experienced trauma than have not," Robinson said. "COVID is a level of trauma we haven't seen in our lifetime. We need to provide an open level of understanding for people."

Added Watson, "We could spend days or weeks talking about trauma. I think trauma-informed interaction is something everyone should be aware of."

After the panelists finished answering Watson's questions, they fielded three audience inquiries.

Center for Women's Leadership Interim Executive Director Jessica Mole thanked panelists for their participation in the event.

"It has been really meaningful to be in a space with all of you today, hearing your experiences and learning from your collective wisdom," she said.

Added Watson, "Thank you for the experience and for sharing your hearts today." ■



Please join us for the 5th annual Grand Ronde Education Summit via Zoom!

Details on registration will be sent out as the event date approaches.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday
June 24th
9AM to 3PM

Salmon egg distribution

Requirements:

- Must be an enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal Member.
- Eggs cannot be sold.
- To apply call or email Brandon.weems@grandronde.org or Call (503)879-2192.
- Eggs must be picked up in person with Tribal ID at Natural Resources (47010 SW Hebo Road Grand Ronde, OR)
- The frequency and quantity of the egg supply cannot be predicted. When eggs are available the applicants will be notified in the order of their application until the supply is gone. If we cannot supply eggs to meet the entire list of requests; those not receiving eggs will be moved to the top of the list for the next distribution
- Eggs can be loose or in skeins
- Eggs are stored vacuumed sealed and frozen.



To sign up, or for more information, Contact Brandon Weems at (503)879-2192 or brandon.weems@grandronde.org

Haaland confirmed to lead Department of the Interior

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

New Mexico Congresswoman Deb Haaland, a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo Nation, became the first Native American Cabinet member on Monday, March 15, when the U.S. Senate confirmed her nomination 51-40 to lead the Department of the Interior.

Haaland also became the first Native American to lead the federal department that handles the government's trust responsibility to the more than 574 Tribal nations in the United States.

Reaction in Oregon was swift and positive.

"Deb Haaland's confirmation hopefully opens a path for Native Tribes across this nation with many challenges with the department," said Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. "Native people view this as a big step for Indigenous people and a great day."

Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Denise Harvey met Haaland in February 2019 while attending the National Indian Gaming Association's Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

"I think she will do very well in the position," Harvey said. "One of the things about Deb that I've known and all of the times that I've had the opportunity to work with her is that she always listens and she always shows up. She's very knowledgeable about Indian Country and the Tribes, and she



Contributed photo

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, left, met with former New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland in Washington, D.C., in February 2019 while attending the National Indian Gaming Association's Legislative Summit. Haaland is an enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo Nation and was confirmed as Secretary of the Interior on Monday, March 15, becoming the first Native American Cabinet member in the history of the United States.

just has a very fair, equitable kind of disposition about her.

"It's a day in history for a Native woman to be in the position for the first time and I think she is a great lady for the job. I've always really

respected her."

Haaland, 60, earned degrees from the University of New Mexico and its Law School. She ran her own small business producing and canning Pueblo Salsa and became the first chairwoman elected to the Laguna Development Corp. Board of Directors, overseeing the business operations of the second largest Tribal gaming enterprise in New Mexico.

She ran for New Mexico lieutenant governor in 2014 and then became the first Native American woman to lead the Democratic State Party in New Mexico. She was elected to Congress in 2018, becoming one of the first Native American women to serve in the House of Representatives and was nominated to serve as Secretary of the Interior by President Biden.

"Secretary Haaland's lifetime of service demonstrates her strong commitment to defending our public lands and waters – natural treasures that make countless contributions to the spirit and vitality of communities and local economies throughout Oregon and across America," said Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley in a press release sent out moments after the vote was final. "At a time when climate chaos is fueling more catastrophic wildfires, deadly winter storms, extreme droughts and powerful hurricanes, that kind of responsible environmental stewardship couldn't be more important to the

health and safety of our families.

"I am also thrilled that for the first time a Native American woman will be at the helm of the agency that oversees programs directly affecting Indian Country. This is an invaluable milestone in our work to turn the page on America's long history of broken promises with Tribal nations, and I look forward to working with Secretary Haaland to support Tribal sovereignty and self-determination."

The Klamath Tribes in southern Oregon called Haaland's confirmation a "beacon of hope" in the long history of challenging relationships with the Department of the Interior.

"It is heartening to think that an Indigenous woman will be leading the Department of Interior," said Klamath Tribal Secretary Roberta Frost. "During her confirmation hearing, Secretary Haaland talked about protecting Mother Earth. This is so important to us as a Tribe."

"As a matriarch herself, Secretary Haaland understands the complex issues and decisions Tribes make," Klamath Tribal Council member Willa Powless said. "This confirmation is historic in so many ways, but for the first time it feels like Tribes will be understood and listened to when advocating for our people."

Haaland was sworn in on Thursday, March 18, by Vice President Kamala Harris. ■

'It takes three weeks to get through one lesson so that every kid is on the same page'

WAWA continued
from front page

said. "If we lose all of our speakers and we lose our language, and that's a huge part of our culture that we won't be able to get back."

Today after centuries of colonization, the number of fluent speakers has dwindled to an estimated double-digit number.

Holsclaw is one of the seven Chinuk Wawa teachers in the Grand Ronde Language Department. She is also the department's outreach coordinator, which means she is responsible for finding ways to interest more people in learning the language.

She began learning Chinuk Wawa as a child. While she was learning to say "hello" and "goodbye" in preschool classes, her older sister, Ali Holsclaw, began to take adult classes.

The sisters continued to learn the language, becoming two of the few fluent speakers. That eventually led them to teaching.

But unlike her sister, Zoey started her position in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, when all classes shifted to an online format.

On her first day, she said, she was one of the only ones working in the building after someone in her department tested positive for COVID-19 and her new co-workers

were quarantining at home.

"At first, I was really nervous about teaching virtually and probably the first couple of months I hated it because none of the kids want to turn their cameras on and they don't want to participate," Zoey said. "But now that I'm getting into a swing of things, I kind of like it. But we're also going to in-person teaching next week, so things are being thrown up in the air again."

Throughout the pandemic, Zoey intermittently worked from home. COVID-19 is not something she is happy about, but working remotely gave her time to be at home with her 1-year-old daughter and see her achieve baby milestones.

Her daughter even participated in teaching classes from home one day, mimicking her mom by holding up Chinuk Wawa vocabulary flashcards to the virtual class.

But teaching remotely takes even longer, and Zoey says she still feels pressure to keep their language alive.

"It takes three weeks to get

through one lesson so that every kid is on the same page," she said. "I could just move on, but I don't. The goal is to create speakers, and so I don't want to leave kids behind when they don't show up because that just seems like the opposite of what I want to do."

In her office, she has a cabinet full of books and binders of Native languages no one speaks anymore. She attributes the loss of those languages to the forceful relocations of Tribes to reservations and assimilation practices that continued into the 20th century.

One such practice was the federal removal of Grand Ronde's Tribal sovereignty in 1954 in what was also known as the Termination era.

"Our area was affected by assimilation, and termination had a huge effect on the people here, especially when it comes to learning their culture and having pride in who they are," Zoey said. "There is still pride there. It's just when you grow up in an area where you can't really show that, it kind of

is suppressed and kind of hard to get involved when you've gone your whole life being told that you can't be Native."

Termination meant the Tribe no longer had recognition from the United States government, losing what was promised in signed treaties and federal aid.

However, in 1983, a group of Grand Ronde Tribal members raised enough money to go to Washington, D.C., to appeal to Congress. They won, regaining recognition. But 30 years of damage was already done.

"There's a lot of cultural shame and trauma that has kind of happened to our people, and that kind of sits with a lot of our Elders. And so there's shame in wanting to learn the language, because people feel like they should already know it, but they don't." Zoey said. "But since the pandemic, there have been quite a few others that have expressed interest in learning, so that's something that I'm wanting to explore more as the outreach coordinator."

On March 6, the U.S. Senate approved the largest investment in Native programs with \$31 billion going to Native communities, including \$20 million to mitigate the effect of the coronavirus on Native languages, as part of the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan. ■

Multimedia for this story is
available at [www.spreaker.com/
episode/44004008](http://www.spreaker.com/episode/44004008) and
www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel

**Request for Proposals
Construction and Financial Services
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
HOME OWNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – PHASE 1**

Through this Request for Proposals ("RFP"), the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde ("CTGR") seek competitive proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms (hereafter, "Proposers") for the provision of construction and financial services for CTGR's Home Ownership Development – Phase 1 ("Project"). The purpose of this solicitation is to secure proposals from Contractor-Finance Teams who have experience in designing, permitting, construction and financing of developments similar in scope and scale. CTGR will accept proposals until 4 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021, at CTGR's Engineering & Public Works Department, located at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, Tribal Governance Building. Proposals should be clearly marked with the Proposer's name and address, as well as the RFP title.

Electronic copies of the RFP documents are available by e-mailing Ryan Webb at Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-2404.

Respondents shall provide a written proposal by 4 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021, to Ryan Webb, Project Manager, at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. Specific information regarding document submittal procedures and due dates will be found in the RFP. ■

Fund seeks Hatfield applicants

Spirit Mountain Community Fund is accepting applications for the 2021-22 Hatfield Fellowship through Friday, April 30.

Each year, the Community Fund sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow, giving them an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, D.C., while representing Northwest Tribes and working on issues that directly affect Native Americans.

The Hatfield Fellow will begin his or her Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association, followed by an eight-month term working in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend and relocation and travel expenses.

Applicants should be a member of one of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon or a member of a Tribe in Washington, Idaho and Montana. Preference will be given to Oregon Tribal members.

Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree or graduating in June and be 21 or older.

For more information, visit thecommunityfund.com or go to youtu.be/7TONoFgUYs to view a Hatfield Fellowship informational video.

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

Drug Take-Back Day scheduled for April 24

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration will give members of the public their 20th opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 24.

People should bring their pills for disposal to the department at 9655 Grand Ronde Road. The service is free and anonymous, but it cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps; only pills or patches.

The DEA and state, local and Tribal law enforcement removed almost 493 tons of medications during the last national Drug Take-Back event held in October 2020. Last fall, residents of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington turned in more than 20 tons of expired and unwanted medications for safe and proper disposal at 150 sites in the Northwest.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 24 event, visit www.DEATakeBack.com on the Internet. ■



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www.facebook.com/CTGREducation

www.youtube.com/CTGREducation

Chinuk-Wawa Early Childhood Language Nest Program Enrollment for 2021-22



What: Meet and Greet

This is a Meet and Greet session for interested families to learn about the Chinuk-Wawa Early Childhood Language Nest. This is the time to meet the staff, learn about our philosophy, goals and curriculum. This session is mandatory for enrollment consideration.

Who:

Potential incoming 3-5 year olds for 2021-22 school year

When/Where:

On Zoom

April 22nd at 5pm; **Meeting ID: 841 8665 8261 Passcode: 613192**

Or

April 28th at 12 pm; **Meeting ID: 833 0123 9722 Passcode: 839945**

***Choose one of these mandatory sessions if you would like your child to be considered for enrollment in the program for the 2021-22 school year.**

To sign-up or for more information please contact Jeff Mercier (503) 879-1633 or Jeffrey.mercier@grandronde.org.



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Thursday, March 4

- DUII arrest occurred in the area of milepost 26 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 48700 block of Eagle Loop.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Warrant arrest occurred in the area of milepost 21 on Highway 18.
- Theft reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 24 on Highway 18.

Friday, March 5

- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving complaint reported in the area of milepost 21 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- Driving complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assault reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, March 6

- DUII arrest occurred in the area of milepost 21 on Highway 18.
- Disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in McMinnville area.
- Assist outside agency in the area of Southwest Hebo Road and Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, March 7

- Warrant arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 7400 block of Alvord Alley Road.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, March 8

- Assist outside agency in the 28800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- Parole violation arrest occurred in the area of milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 25200 block of Southwest Beaver Court.

Tuesday, March 9

- Assist outside agency in the 48700 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of milepost 19 on Highway 18.

Wednesday, March 10

- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 27 on Highway 18.
- Civil standby occurred in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

Thursday, March 11

- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 19 on Highway 18.
- Animal complaint received in the 48800 block of Coyote Court.
- Assist outside agency in the 22700 block of McPherson Road.
- Disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, March 12

- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Reported sex abuse. The investigation is ongoing.
- Disturbance reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Warrant arrest in the area of milepost 5 on Agency Creek Road.
- Assist outside agency in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fight reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, March 13

- Suspicious activity in the area of milepost 3 on Agency Creek Road.
- Assist outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 900 block of East Main Street in Sheridan.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 24100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, March 14

- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, March 15

- Driving complaint reported in the area of milepost 1 on Highway 18.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Animal complaint received in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8800 block of Hebo Road.
- Assist outside agency in the 25000 block of Yamhill River Road.

Tuesday, March 16

- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving complaint received in the area of Yamhill River and Fort Hill roads.
- Warrant arrest occurred in the area of Highway 18 and Jahn Road.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A suspect was arrested for harassment.
- Warrant arrest occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.

Wednesday, March 17

- Trespass reported in the 7400 block of Ash Avenue.
- Burglary call received in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Methamphetamine arrest occurred in the area of milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in 28400 block of McPherson Road.
- Driving complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8700 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, March 18

- Trespass reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A suspect was escorted off the property and given a courtesy transport to another location.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Hebo and Old Fort roads.

Friday, March 19

- Assist outside agency in the 500 block of Northeast Main Street in Willamina.
- Assist outside agency in the 47000 block of Hebo Road.
- Assist outside agency in the 700 block of Churchman Street in Sheridan.
- Drug complaint received in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Open door reported in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- DUII arrest made in the area of Highway 18 and Rowell Creek Road.
- Driving complaint received the area of milepost 22 on Highway 18.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 28 on Highway 18.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A suspect was arrested for physical harassment.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Hebo and Old Fort roads.

Saturday, March 20

- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fight reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Vehicle fire reported in the 8200 block of Fire Hall Road.
- Traffic accident reported the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Stolen vehicle reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, March 21

- Hit-and-run reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Welfare check performed in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Attempt to locate on a possibly armed suspect out of Lincoln City in the Grand Ronde area.

Monday, March 22

- Harassment reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Assist outside agency in the 500 block of Walnut Street in Willamina.
- Citizen contact occurred the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, March 23

- Trespass reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. One female suspect was arrested after refusing to leave the property.
- Welfare check performed in the area of milepost 6 on Agency Creek Road.
- Assist outside agency in the 24700 block of Yamhill River Road.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of milepost 28 on Highway 18.
- Harassment reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, March 24

- Warrant arrest made in the area of milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Warrant arrest made in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 28200 block of Andy Riggs Road.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal
Police Department Officer Tyler Brown.*

'Earth Day Activities'

The 2020-21 Royalty participants for the CTGR and Veterans SEB groups celebrate Earth Day (April 22) by planting seeds, helping clean up their neighborhood and connecting with nature.

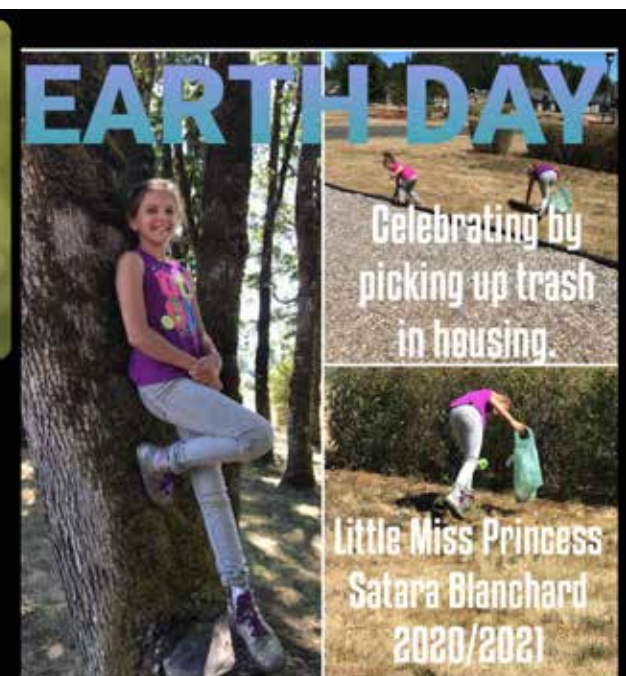
Practice ways to 'Go Green' by: planting a tree or flowers, picking up trash, connect with nature (walk barefoot in the grass/star gaze/hike into a forest), use reusable shopping bags, use steel or glass straws and switch to bamboo towels instead of napkins or paper towels.

The collections also can be found at www.facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty and www.facebook.com/CTGRVeteransSEB.





Kaleigha Simi
Veterans Senior Queen
2020/2021





LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 9 A.M. – 6 P.M.
(Monday closed from noon – 1 P.M.)
Saturday: 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

“Little Library” locations: The Tribal Library oversees the 14 Little Library locations in and around Grand Ronde. Feel free to stop by any of these locations and grab a book for free. Please remember that you cannot return your library items to the Little Library locations. Library materials that have been checked out must be returned in person or dropped off via the book return, located on the left side of the Tribal Library entrance.

New Native books: “Abandon Me” by Melissa Febos, “Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir” by Deborah Miranda, “Code Talker” by Joseph Bruchac and “Our Land” by Mercedes Jones.

New children’s books: “Al Capone Throws Me a Curve Ball” by Gennifer Choldenko, “Bunny Breathes” by Kira Willey and “Dinglehoppers and thingamabobs” by Livingstone Crouse.

DVD selection: Come check out the Tribal Library’s ever-growing movie collection with more than 1,900 DVDs/Blu-ray formats to choose from.

Requests: The Tribal Library provides recommendation forms in order to provide patrons with an outlet to request book/media content we may not currently have.

Book Review: “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens.

Kya Clark, who is also called “Marsh Girl” in Barkley Cove, N.C., is a smart, strong, and resilient young girl. Kya has had to survive for years alone in the marsh. When the attractive town star athlete, Chase Andrews, is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya.

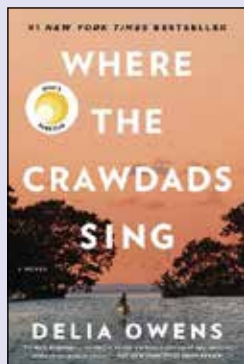
Kya’s home and first love is the marsh and the author, Delia Owens, does a great job making you feel like you are there. This is one of the things I loved most about the book. Throughout this book, Owens paints the scenes with beautiful and descriptive imagery. Her writing is beautiful; it flows and is very poetic at times.

I heard much praise about this book and I will have to agree. I am glad that I have read it and I would highly recommend this book. —
Reviewed by Crystal Bigelow

Donations: A special thank you to Don Day, Larry Cole and others for their contributions to the Tribal Library. We appreciate it.

Reminder: The Tribal Library is not accepting donations at this time.

For any questions or comments, contact the Tribal Library at 503-879-1488 by e-mail Kathy.cole@grandronde.org.



Walking On...

Donna Mae Burkett

Dec. 12, 1946 – Feb. 17, 2021

Tribal Elder Donna Mae Burkett passed away of natural causes on Feb. 17, 2021, at her home. She was 74 years old.

Adopted as an infant, Donna was raised in Portland, Ore., was a Campfire Girl and graduated from Roosevelt High School. Growing up, Donna traveled to many places with her parents as they belonged to a travel trailer club.

Donna tried numerous arts and craft hobbies in her life: knitting, beading and leather work, and collected skins, hides, bones, teeth, claws and even harvested quills from a porcupine.

Donna loved nature and animals, owning numerous cats throughout her life and a few different horses. Her father once purchased a Ford Falcon for her to learn how to drive. She eventually traded it for an Appaloosa horse she named Cochise. Donna purchased a box turtle from a pet store in Seaside back in 1980, found another turtle near the Siletz River in the 1990s and had them as pets until her death.

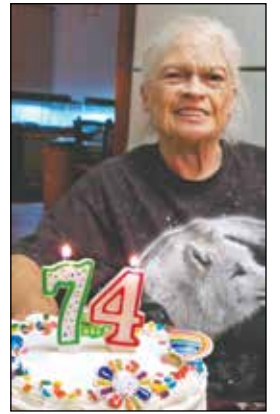
Donna liked camping, fishing and especially loved the ocean, walking the beach most days and beachcombing. She lived in the small towns of St. Helens, Seaside, Newport, a farm in Toledo, an RV on the Siletz River and Newport once again before returning to Portland in 2001 when her father took ill.

Donna met her birth mother in June 1997 and began exchanging letters on a regular basis.

She was preceded in death by her adoptive parents, Perry and Georgia Andre, and sister, Lavonne C. Dorning. Donna passed away the same day as her birth mother, Betty Maxine Reed.

She is survived by siblings Lola Gray, Beverly Morgan, Elaine Sihilling, Raelene Cox and Jay Reed; cousin, William Blank, who she grew up with and remained close; children, Robert Burkett, Charles Burkett and Ronald Housley; grandchildren, Malissa, Cazmine, Falconn, Cody, Kyle and Alyssa; and eight great-grandchildren.

A small service and spreading of ashes is still to be determined.



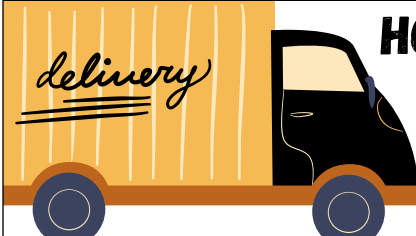
Other passings

Meagan Renea Brumley

Jan. 21, 1991 – March 10, 2021

Tribal member Meagan Renea Brumley, 30, passed away on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Crown Memorial Center in Salem is assisting the family, which will be holding a private memorial service.



HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

The Tribal Library is open
by **appointment only**
Monday-Friday 9 am- 5 pm

Home delivery is a free service being offered to library card holders in the Grand Ronde area only



You may request specific titles from our library or you may also have a staff member select materials based on your interests.

You can view our library catalog at Follett.grandronde.org

To reserve materials and set up delivery drop off and pick up times:

Email: Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org

OR

Call- 503-879-1488

Loan policies

3 items per library card

Books: 2-weeks

DVD's: 1-week

Audiobook on CD: 1-week

LET'S TALK EDUCATION

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7TH AT
5:30PM

TO JOIN THIS MEETING GO TO ZOOM.COM AND ENTER THE
MEETING ID: 853 7893 3166 AND PASSCODE: 478203

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DEVIN BOEKHOFF AT
503-879-2275 OR DEVIN.BOEKHOFF@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Fee assistance

Enrolled Tribal members can request assistance with test fees (i.e. GRE, SAT, LSAT, ACT) and admissions application fees.

Contact Higher Education for more information at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2275. ■



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Prepared by JBS International, Inc. under Grant No. 3-FY19-11-026000-0151 for the U.S. DHHS-SAMHSA, CSAT

It's never too late to heal from addiction.

Have a courageous spirit. Reach out now, for you and your children.

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center
 Behavioral Health Program
 9605 Grand Ronde Rd.
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347
 503-879-2026



HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

THE DESIGNATED AREA IN FRONT OF THE CLINIC IS FOR **LOADING AND UNLOADING ONLY.**

PHARMACY PICKUP LOCKERS

CONVENIENCE HAS ARRIVED

Available 24/7, 365 days a year for prescription pick up. Contact pharmacy staff for the sweet details.

April is National Stress Awareness Month

How to Deal with Stress and Anxiety

Practicing yoga, listening to music, getting a massage or learning other relaxation techniques will help clear your head and step back from the problem.

Volunteering to be active in your community can create a support system and gives your mind a break from everyday stress.

Caffeine can increase anxiety and cause panic attacks. Try drinking water instead.

Talking to someone that you feel safe with about what your feeling can help lift some of the stress off of your shoulders.

Exercising can increase your overall health and it can bump up your brain's feel-good neurotransmitters, called endorphins.

Sleep is a powerful stress reducer. A regular sleep routine calms and restores the body and improves concentration. You're better able to cope with stress when you're well-rested.

Slowly counting to ten and becoming aware of the sensations in your body can help you identify feelings that could be contributing to your stress.

Deep breathing is one of the best ways to lower stress in the body. When you breathe deeply, it sends a message to your brain to calm down and relax, the brain then sends that message to your body.

This information is provided to you by the Indigenous Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health). The purpose of this grant is to foster culturally responsive models to support and promote the wellness of children and families.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon
 Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy
 9605 Grand Ronde Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Patient Contact Preference

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy (GRHWCP) can send alerts to you regarding prescriptions and urgent information that could affect your care. Please fill out this form with your preferred contact method(s) so that we can notify you of the status of your orders in ways that you prefer.

NOTICE:
 Notifications will contain private information that you may not want to share with others. It is your responsibility to protect any notifications that you receive.

Instructions:

- Every patient will need to fill out this form in order to receive notifications. Parents or guardians of children will need to fill out one for each child.
- This form will need to be printed out and either **mailed**, **faxed** (503-879-2030), or **dropped off** at the pharmacy. Email cannot be accepted due to privacy laws. Phone requests cannot be used as a signature is required.
- If you've already filled this form out, no need to fill it out again.**

Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 DOB: _____
 Opt in for text messages Preferred texting phone # _____
OR
 Opt in for automatic voicemails Preferred phone # _____

For locker use only; lockers are located at the southwest entrance door marked Pharmacy Locker Pickup.

Email: _____

******Text messages sections needs to be filled out to continue to receive locker notifications******

Please Return To The Pharmacy For Activation

Below for office use only:
 Date: _____ Updated by: _____

Questions ?
 503-879-2342



SMOKE SIGNALS

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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

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T-Shirts	QTY								
	Total								

Stickers	Total	
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Checks or money orders only please: Make payable to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Memo: Editorial Board

Please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347