



**Tribal Council** members sworn in — pg. 9

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2024** 



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA, MOLALLA, ROGUE RIVER, KALAPUYA, CHASTA

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE, SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

### Kennedy, George, Gleason-Shepek win

By Danielle Harrison

 $Smoke\ Signals\ editor$ 

heryle A. Kennedy and Jon A. George won decisive victories in the Tribal Council election Saturday, Sept. 7, each garnering more than 22% of the vote, while past Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek regained her seat, with nearly 18% of the vote.

Kennedy received 916 votes, George received 913 votes and Gleason-Shepek received 723 votes.

"I feel blessed and I have so much to be grateful for," Gleason-Shepek said. "Congratulations to Cheryle Kennedy and Jon George on their successful reelections. Putting yourself out there and seeking a Tribal Council position is



Cheryle A. Kennedy



Jon A. George

a humbling experience of vulnerability. I raise

my hands in thanks and respect to all the can-

didates. I truly appreciate every single person

that participated and voted in this election.

There were countless warriors that supported



**Tonya Gleason-Shepek** 

my election and each one of you has inspired me. It absolutely was a team effort. Serving the membership is a great privilege and an even greater responsibility. I am ready to do the hard work for all of you."

Tribal Council incumbent Michael Cherry was not reelected. She came in fourth, with 610 votes, slightly more than 15%.

"I am so thankful to have served the membership this past 3 years on Tribal Council." she said. "I'm think-

ing of all the past leaders, of their sacrifices, their hopes and dreams for our Tribe and now I add

> See ELECTION continued on page 8

## **General Council briefed on** casino, election results

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

y pirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier and Chief Operating Officer Clint Johnson gave the first presentation of the 2024-25 General Council meeting cycle on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Mercier gave the presentation in executive session and then fielded questions and comments from Tribal members in attendance.

Since the presentation was held in executive session, Smoke Signals cannot publish specific details.

In other action, Tribal Election Board member Dan Stroebel delivered the Tribal Council election results from Saturday, Sept. 7, that saw two incumbents – Cheryle A. Kennedy and Jon A. George - re-elected to three-year terms.

Challenger and past Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek beat incumbent, Tribal Council for the third seat.

This year's election was not nearly as close as in 2023, when there was a one-vote separation between candidates, the closest in an election since 1983's Restoration.

Kennedy thanked the Elec-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Newly reelected Tribal Council member Jon A. George gets a congratulatory hug Secretary Michael Cherry, from Tribal member Angella Schultz before the General Council meeting in Tribal Council Chambers on Sunday, Sept. 8. George received 913 votes in the Tribal Council election held on Saturday, Sept. 7, placing second.

> tion Board members for their work during the past few months.

"They've been taking calls and making sure that our Tribal members who didn't have ballots or those who may not have been registered, (had) information on how

> See MEETING continued on page 8

#### **Tribal Librarian's trip** delayed, but not denied

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

rand Ronde Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole was excited about her upcoming trip to Boston in June. She had been selected by children's author and illustrator Jeff Kinney to join seven other librarians for a weekend in Boston to celebrate his 18th book

Kinney is well-known for his "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series and his 18th book, "No Brainer," discusses the movement to ban books that has swept the country. Working with his publisher, Abrams Books, and his company, Wimpy Kid Inc., he held a nationwide contest to select eight librarians for an all-expenses-paid trip to Boston to meet Kinney,

#### See LIBRARY continued on page 9



Children's author and illustrator Jeff **Kinney and Tribal Librarian Kathy** Cole pose for a photo during her recent visit to Kinney's studio in Plainville, Mass.

### **General Council meeting**

11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6
Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 800-422-0232 for more information.

#### 

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. In-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

#### **LETTERS**

#### Dear Smoke Signals,

I would like to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported me during this year's Tribal Council elections. Although I did not win a seat on council, receiving the 99 votes was not a disappointment but a source of encouragement and hope for the future.

This election was not just about winning or losing; it was about standing up for our people, encouraging our members to get involved and working toward a better future for our people. The number of votes this year, compared to last, shows me that many of you are ready for change, for new perspectives, and for leadership that reflects the needs and desires of our community. It is clear that our members are eager for a shift in direction and that inspires me more than anything.

As a first-time candidate, this campaign was challenging, but it was also a rewarding and humbling experience. There were moments of hard work, learning and growth, but also moments of joy and connection. I've come away from this election more passionate than ever about serving our people.

This experience has empowered me to keep moving forward, to continue fighting for the future we deserve. I believe our people are on the brink of something great and I am excited to be a part of it.

Thank you once again for your support, your encouragement and your votes. I look forward to what the future holds for our people and our continued journey toward positive change.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Pamala Warren-Chase

Roll 1081

### Road 690 gates closed

The Natural Resources Department will be conducting commercial thinning operations through its logging contractor along Road 690 in the Reservation forest. For protection of public safety, Tribal resources and contractor equipment, the gates at the upper and lower ends of the Road 690 crossover route will be temporarily closed and locked for the duration of operations. Vehicular access will be limited to administrative and operational use. The roads will remain open to non-motorized uses, although visitors are advised to stay safely away from commercial thinning units and equipment.

Operations along Road 690 are expected to be complete this summer and the Natural Resources Department will announce when the road is reopened to motorized vehicles.

### 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.

#### TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed on Friday, Sept. 27 in observance of National Native American Day.

### smok signəlz

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#### DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

Tuesday, Sept. 24	Oct. 1
Monday, Oct. 7	Oct. 15
Friday, Oct. 25	Nov. 1
Friday Nov 8	Nov 15

#### **MEMBERS OF:**

Indigenous Journalists Association
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
2022 IJA General Excellence
2023 IJA General Excellence

#### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Smoke Signals, 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 email 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.

Smoke Signals 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 Smoke Signals.

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smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 15, 2024** 

# N THE FUTURE

#### Kwayts-mun (September)

- Wednesday, Sept. 25 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-
- Friday, Sept. 27 Tribal offices closed in observance of National Native American Day.

#### tałlam-mun (October)

- Wednesday, Oct. 2 Grand Ronde Emergency Services fire station grand opening, 4-7 p.m., 28480 McPherson Road. Ribbon cutting ceremony followed by dinner and an open house.
- Wednesday to Friday, Oct. 2-4 Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center. 503-879-2034.
- Saturday, Oct. 5 məkhmək Mania, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center. Open to all.
- Sunday, Oct. 6 General Council meeting. Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Oct. 9 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Oct. 14 Tribal offices closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Saturday, Oct. 19 Tribal plankhouse achaf hammi's 15th birthday celebration. Doors open at 4 p.m. and a meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Contact bobby.mercier@grandronde.org or 503-879-2076 for more information.
- Wednesday, Oct. 23 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit www.smokesignals.org/calendar.

#### Find us on OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES **Smoke Signals:** facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde: facebook.com/CTGRgov **Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:** facebook.com/GRHWC **Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:** facebook.com/CTGRCFS **Grand Ronde Royalty:** facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty **Grand Ronde Education Programs:** facebook.com/CTGREducation **Grand Ronde Youth Council:** facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil **Grand Ronde Station:** facebook.com/GrandRondeStation **Grand Ronde Social Services Department:** facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices **Grand Ronde Food Bank:** facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank **Spirit Mountain Community Fund:** facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund **Grand Ronde Cultural Education:** facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education **Grand Ronde Community Garden:** facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden **Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:** facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department **Grand Ronde Employment Services**

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

### **Tribal member appointed to** head Bureau of Indian Affairs

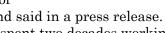
Tribal member Bryan Mercier has been selected as the next director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Mercier, 50, has been serving as director of the BIA's Northwest Regional Office since 2018.

He began as acting BIA director on Sept. 8, and will be formally appointed to the position when current director Darryl LaCounte retires later this year.

Mercier was selected out of what Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland described as "a comprehensive recruitment and selection process."

"Bryan stood out for his vision of the future of



**Bryan Mercier** 

BIA and skills to achieve that vision," Newland said in a press release. According to the press release, Mercier has spent two decades working in public service. His federal career started with the U.S. Forest Service, followed by a few years as a program manager at the Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund.

Prior to joining the BIA, Mercier served as the executive manager of fish and wildlife for the Bonneville Power Administration's Environment, Fish and Wildlife Program, which is the largest environmental mitigation program in the United States.

An interview with Mercier will be in a future edition of Smoke Signals. ■

#### **MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT**

Tribal Court is issuing marriage licenses and able to perform marriage ceremonies for a filing fee of \$40. Contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

### **Tribe hosting annual Gathering** of Grand Ronde Tilixam Oct. 2-4

The Tribe will host the annual Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, Oct. 2-4 at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.

The museum is located at 8720 Grand Ronde Road. To register, visit eventbrite.com/e/gathering-of-grand-ronde-tilixam-oct-2-4th-tickets-1003137620627.

This community gathering will include discussions about historical and intergenerational trauma, wisdom, culture, identity and healing.

Breakfast, snacks and lunch will be served daily.

For more information, call 503-879-2034. ■



### **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."

The Food Bank will hold September food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. There will be no distribution on Friday, Sept. 27, due to Tribal offices being closed for National Native American Day.

People must check in 15 minutes before closing to receive a food box on both days. 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 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 email for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider. Contact Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or 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 as needed at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkhmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- Editorial Board meets monthly. The next meeting . The next meeting will be held in October via Zoom. Contact Chair Mia Prickett at Editorial.Board@grandronde.org for the meeting link.
- Education Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- Elders Committee meets at 10 a.m. the first and third Wednesday of the month in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Carmen Robertson.
- 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: Reyn Leno.
- Health Committee meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- Housing Grievance Board meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- Powwow Special Event Board meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037.
   Chair: Dana Ainam.
- TERO Commission meets at 10 a.m. the second 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. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Raymond Petite.

To update information on this list, contact Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or danielle.harrison@grandronde.org.

### **Construction zone**

Now through Dec. 31, 2024, construction is occurring for the new child development center. During this time, there will be construction traffic using the loop road around the old powwow grounds across the street from the Governance Center.

The road surrounding the old powwow grounds will have restricted access to allow the contractor adequate space to access the site, as well as store materials and equipment.

For more information, contact 503-879-2404 or Ryan.Webb@grandronde.

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2019 – The Tribe blessed Willamette Falls, former home of the Blue Heron Paper Mill, in an emotional ceremony celebrating the return of land last held in Tribal hands in 1855. It is now in the process of environmental remediation, which includes clearing away the industrial development and cleaning the site.

2014 – The state Department



2019

File photo

of Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the Tribe's fish and wildlife management plan along with a new administrative rule giving the Tribe control over the fish and wildlife on the Reservation.

**2009** – The Tribe co-hosted the 2009 Self-Governance Tribal Strategy Session, with the Department of Interior's Office of Self-Governance, to develop a list of priorities to present to the Obama administration.

**2004** – The Tribe was advising a group that had hoped to get a regional library and community center established to serve Sheridan, Willamina and Grand Ronde.

1994 – The Tribe was starting its third phase of a strategic planning process. Tribal members had the opportunity to participate in the process by completing a survey or attending community meetings. Phase one began with an identification of key issues that could affect the Tribe's future plans. Phase two directly involved Tribal members through participation in the survey and community meetings. Phase three was a time to further refine issues and strategies, leading to the final plan.

1989 – Tribal Accounting Supervisor and Tribal member Shelley Hanson was featured for her dedication to both job and family. Hanson decided she wanted to work for the Tribe due to its expanding growth. Her duties included overseeing the fiscal operations and producing payroll checks. "Shelley is one of the most dedicated people I know," co-worker Pat Mercier said. "She works very hard for her Tribe and for her new family. She really deserves this honor."

1984 – Tribal staff were looking into the possibility of pursuing a Johnson O'Malley contract. The program was for youth in kindergarten through 12th grade and funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It provided tutoring, cultural activities, special education activities and parenting classes.

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



# Tribal Council approves agreement to reestablish daily transit service from Salem to Grand Ronde

#### By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a transit services agreement with Pacific Crest Bus Lines of Bend, which will bring back daily bus service from Salem to Grand Ronde and Lincoln City, during its Wednesday, Sept. 4, meeting.

The agreement will provide funding and operating assistance to reestablish a public transit route formerly provided by the Tillamook County Transportation District, which was discontinued in December due to a driver shortage.

That left just one public transit bus route to and from Grand Ronde: Yamhill County's bus from Grand Ronde to McMinnville runs four times a day, seven days a week.

The new service will provide three roundtrips per day, Public Works Director John Mercier said during a Tuesday, Sept. 3, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

"We had a heck of a time finding a replacement and as soon as this agreement is approved, we want to start as soon as we can," Mercier said. "I've gotten calls from people desperately wanting this route reestablished. ... Cherriots (Salem's mass transit program) was going to do it, but they backed out. Reestablishing this route is desperately needed in the community."

In other action, Tribal Council:

• Approved an application to the Seeding Justice Columbia River Restoration Fund grant for \$200,000. If approved, the funds would be used to raise awareness about salmon health in local watersheds by hiring an Indigenous artist to create content that reflects the culturally significant plants and animals in the watershed to use as artwork on the stormwater manholes/catch basins;

- Approved an application to the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program for up to \$12 million to support efforts to achieve digital equity and promote digital inclusion activities such as educational and employment opportunities, training programs, workforce development programs, access to equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, or digital network technology for broadband services at low or no cost to Tribal members;
- Approved the first reading of amendments to the Tribe's Gaming Ordinance which would amend numerous definitions, revise license applications and background investigation requirements to better reflect information currently needed for safe operation of Spirit Mountain Casino, and other changes as per the National Indian Gaming Commission
- And approved enrolling one infant into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. ■

### RABBI TRUST FUND AND MINORS' CUSTODIAL TRUST FUND

This announcement is to inform you of the upcoming election opportunity to recommend an investment option that best suits your tolerance for investment risk. The election deadline is Sept. 25, 2024, and the investment period will be effective from Oct. 1, 2024, until modified.

Recognizing that each Tribal member's tolerance for investment risk may be different, parents of minor members age 17 or younger having balances in the Rabbi Trust Fund and Minors' Custodial Trust Fund, or members age 18 or older can recommend that these funds be invested in one out of five possible investment options.

Email deanne.norton@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2215 to receive your investment risk assessment recommendation form. This form can also be found at www.grandronde.org/services/finance/minors-trust-funds/ and click on the Rabbi Minor Investment Change Form link. This form is optional and open only to those who participate in the Rabbi and Minors' Custodial Trust Funds.

### Tribal nonemergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight.

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■



# RIBAL VETERANS ERVICE OFFICE

Contact the TVSO Office if you have any questions or for more event information.

CTGRTribalVSO@ GrandRonde.Org

503-879-1484

#### **SEPTEMBER 2024 EVENTS**

#### **Veterans Garden**

Garden beds have been placed and are in the back of the Community Programs Building.

Veterans are welcome to come garden whenever they have a moment. Supplies are in the tote.

#### **Veterans Golf**

Veteran makes the arrangements. There are five golf vouchers remaining for the month of August. Come by and pick up a pre-paid card to take to Dallas Golf Club. Veteran will need to call them directly to make an appointment for "T" time.

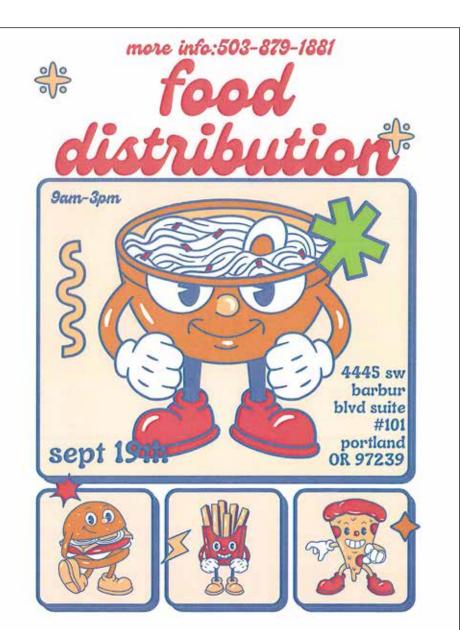
Please note: Pick up times are between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Thursdays are the best day to pick up due to it being the normal walk-in day.

#### **Save the Date for Upcoming Events:**

Parfleche & Painting Classes ~ Sept. 18 at the Community Programs Building from 4 to 7 p.m.

#### **Tentative September Events:**

Veteran Guitar Music Classes – Due to popular demand, we are setting up another guitar class for veterans. Veteran Cooking Classes – Four cooking classes for veterans.



# Tribal fashionista participates in Santa Fe fashion show

By Nicole Montesano

 $Smoke\ Signals\ staff\ writer$ 

It was a dream come true for Tribal member and fashionista Auburn Logan; the designer she'd been tagging for months in her Instagram posts had sent her an application form to model in a fashion show at the Santa Fe Indian Market in New Mexico.

Logan said the excitement really kicked in when she learned her application had been accepted.

"I was excited, not knowing what to expect, and I was thinking, 'If I don't get it, at least I had the opportunity offered," she said. "It felt like all my work had paid off and I had been seen. It was validating."

Logan was a co-coordinator for the fashion show held in July at Spirit Mountain Casino and said at the time that it was "something I have always dreamt of since I was a little girl."

That show was intended to bring the world of fashion to the Pacific Northwest and showcase regional Native talent.

Just a few weeks later, Logan was on the way to New Mexico. "This summer has been very influential," she said.

For the last year, Logan had been buying clothing from the line of Native fashion designer Lauren Good Day (Arikara, Hidatsa, Blackfeet and Plains Cree), creating outfits using them and tagging Good Day in her Instagram posts.

"I have been a huge supporter of Lauren Good Day for a number of years, buying her products — out of all the Native artists, I gravitate toward her; she matches my aesthetics," Logan said.

Participating in the fashion show, showing for her favorite designer, was deeply fulfilling, Logan said.

"Besides seeing people through a screen on your phone, you get to meet them," she said. "I got to meet designers, models, singers — all of it was very surreal."

She said she also loved the outfit



Courtesy photo by Tira Howard

Tribal member Auburn Logan
wears a Lauren Good Day designed
dress and headscarf, and carries
an umbrella also designed by
Good Day, as she walks in the
Southwestern Association for Indian
Arts Native Fashion Show in Santa
Fe, N.M., on Sunday, Aug. 18.

she modeled; "a beige dress with vertical parfleche designs on the front and back," and "a silk headscarf with parfleche butterflies."

Parfleche designs, named for the rawhide carrying bags made by Plains Tribes, are bright geometrical patterns similar to those typically used on parfleche bags.

"It was cool, comfortable, easy to move in, modest — and just gorgeous, as well," Logan said.

The design will be released soon, she said. A silk scarf featuring parfleche butterflies is available on Good Day's website.

"We did fittings and the designers put us in what thought was best suited for us," Logan said.

She said that as far as she knew, she was the only Pacific Northwest or Grand Ronde Tribal member present, and that it felt like an honor to be a representative of her Tribe and region.

# 'Tribal Honor' wins gold medal in international book contest

"Tribal Honor," the first book in a law enforcement fiction series by Grand Ronde Police Cpl. Tyler Brown, was selected as gold medal winner in the Readers' Favorite International Book Award Contest fiction-action category.

The contest featured thousands of contestants from more than 12 countries, ranging from new independent authors to New York Times best-sellers and celebrities, according to a press release from the organization.

"We receive thousands of entries from all over the world," the release stated. "Because of these large submission numbers, we are able to break down our contest into 14-plus genres and each genre is judged separately, ensuring that books only compete against books of their same genre for a fairer and more accurate competition."

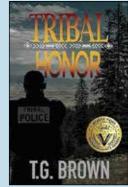
The contest receives submissions from independent authors, small publishers, and publishing companies such as Random House, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster, according to the release.

"When the right books are picked as winners, we pay attention," the release stated. "We will be spreading the word about Readers' Favorite."

To learn more about "Tribal Honor," visit readers favorite.com/book-review/tribal-honor. The book is available for purchase on Amazon. ■



Tyler Brown



Kick the Habit.

Call these numbers for free from anywhere in Oregon: 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)

Español: 1-877-2NO-FUME (1-877-266-3863)

TTY: 1-877-777-6534

Or register online at: www.quitnow.net/oregon/

Or register online at: www.quitnow.net/oregon/





A celebration of local food, farmers, hunting, and gathering

Free and Open to all community members

Cooking Demonstations Educational Workshops Informational booths Free community Meal



Organized by Grand Ronde's Food Access and Community Team Sponsored by Marion-Polk Food Share & The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



September 22, 7:00 am

Meet @ Toledo Boat Ramp

CTGR TRIBAL MEMBER/DESCENDANT VETERANS ONLY

Sign-Up: Call Patricia Henry, 503-879-1399

### Casino employee cited several weeks ago is 'no longer employed'

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Spirit Mountain Casino Marketing Manager Chris Cherry is no longer employed by the casino as of Wednesday, Sept. 4.

This occurred approximately three weeks after Cherry was investigated by Grand Ronde Tribal Police for personal use of a work computer, after he printed out a few sample pieces relating to his wife, Michael Cherry's, reelection campaign signs. Cherry was running for a second term on Tribal Council.

Chris Cherry was issued a non-criminal citation under the Tribal Public Safety Ordinance for violating the campaign provision by using a casino graphics printer to print out sample proofs of the signs and was given a Nov. 20 court date to contest the citation. He told police and Smoke Signals that he used professional sign companies to print the actual signs, which the newspaper verified through receipts.

Then-Tribal Council Secretary Michael Cherry had no advance knowledge of the incident, according to Grand Ronde Tribal Police reports and what she told Smoke Signals.

She was not cited in the matter.

The updated information was made public during an Sept. 4, Tribal Council meeting by Vice Chair Chris Mercier.

"This is largely a follow-up to the issue with the last Wednesday night council meeting pertaining to the Spirit Mountain Casino and Tribal police investigations...I anticipate a number of questions and in an attempt to address them, I did reach out to the Gaming Commission and there was an active investigation going on and they will update council. ... There were some concerns expressed (at the Aug. 21 council meeting) about possible Tribal member enrollment information on the file and as far as we know, it was campaign related materials given to all (council) candidates and not Tribal member enrollment information. And there was a human resources issue and I can tell people, and I'm not going to elaborate, but as of this morning, that employee is no longer employed at Spirit Mountain Casino."

When contacted by Smoke Signals, Chris Cherry issued the following statement via email.

"The involvement of Tribal gov-

ernment and certain council members in an employment matter at Spirit Mountain Casino is, in my opinion, both unprecedented and unethical," he said. "From a council member reporting the matter to the police, to staff directing the police to issue a citation, the casino taking employment action and referencing the issuance of the \$50 citation that hasn't even been adjudicated in court yet, and then a council member announcing an employee's separation in a public forum before the employee even received official paperwork, the entire process is alarming. It seems that due process has not been upheld, and after 28 years of service to the casino, this is a deeply disappointing moment for the community. Everyone observing this situation should be concerned about its implications for fairness and the impact on employee morale — especially for those who may have ever used their work computers for personal purposes. This is clearly political gamesmanship and unsavory tac-

Michael Cherry sent the following statement.

tics, which I pray the community

will see through."

"Chris had a meeting scheduled at the casino with Human Resources at 5:30 p.m. that had not even taken place when the announcement was made at the council meeting, which was highly

inappropriate, unprofessional and unnecessary."

When contacted to confirm the investigation, Grand Ronde Gaming Commission Executive Director Michael Boyce declined to comment.

"The Gaming Commission investigations are focused solely on a licensee's suitability to get, or maintain, a gaming license," he said. "All information gathered in those investigations (is) considered confidential."

Non-criminal campaign ordinance violations used to be investigated by the Tribe's general manager. However, that was amended in recent years so that the general manager wouldn't be in a position of potentially having to issue a citation to one of their supervisors, as the general manager is a direct report to Tribal Council.

According to the police report and Smoke Signals interviews, Chris Cherry said he was using his computer to help troubleshoot a print quality issue that had come up with the signs.

He said in an Aug. 15 interview with Tribal Police that he had not printed the actual signs at the casino. Additionally, Michael Cherry provided Smoke Signals with invoices from the printing companies, Graphic Print Solutions of Lake Oswego, for a 6x12-foot billboard cover, three 60x30-inch signs and two 84x42-inch signs, and 1 Day Signs of Salem for 20, 14x16 inch brochures. ■



### **Drop box installed**

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, has a medication drop box located in the front lobby.

Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag.

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

Tribal Court Programs Coordinator 9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347

503-879-4623 CourtPrograms@grandronde.org

### Volunteers Needed!

#### We are seeking volunteers for two of our programs:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (open to all community members)

Iribal Member Review Board
(must be an enrolled CTGR Tribal member
·

#### If you would like to volunteer:

- 1. Indicate which program you are interested in (mark one of the boxes above).
- 2. Fill out the form below with your contact information.
- 3. Mail, drop-off or email the completed form to Tribal Court Programs Coordinator.

Full Name:

Phone	Number:	

Email:

#### Address:

Visit our website for more information and the qualifications for each program: grandronde.org/government/tribal-court/court-programs/



### Forest Route 312 will be closed for culvert replacement

Forest Route 312 will be closed for culvert replacement until further notice. The construction contractor is Elk Mountain Construction.

The road will be closed at the culvert area during construction, which is expected to be complete by September. There are other routes that will access the area. The construction crew has permission to camp near the project area for their ease of access.

For more information, see the Google maps link to the project area: www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=19ZBdnrqDlKyvAvX2466G-ByUE6hn10FM&usp=sharing

Contact Tribal Public Works Director John Mercier at john.mercier@ grandronde.org for more information. ■

#### **Next General Council meeting is Oct. 6**

**MEETING** continued from front page

to register," she said. "Thank you, Election Board, for all the work that you've done."

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, and feature a report on the Tribe's various investments.

Darlene Aaron, Judy Ballini and Robert Wiggs each won the \$100 door prizes. Stefanie Shandy, Peter Grout, Yetiva Allen, Spencer Weiss and Leroy Good won the \$50 door prizes.

The non-executive session portion of the meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribe's website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Videos tab.

Tribal members wanting to see the executive session portion should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde. org or call 503-879-2304. ■

### Ballot included three advisory votes

#### **ELECTION** continued from front page

my prayers with theirs for future unity, healing and peace as we move forward. I am beyond grateful for all the love, encouragement and support I have received from my family, friends and supporters on this journey and am forever grateful to the Creator of the universe who never leaves us or forsakes us. Congratulations to all the candidates who ran their race well and to those selected by the membership to serve for the next 3 years."

Tribal member Valeria Atanacio received 422 votes, nearly 10.5%; Tribal Elder Andy Jenness received 341 votes, close to 8.5%; and Tribal Elder Pamala Warren-Chase received 99 votes, approximately

"Overall, it has been an amazing experience to run for Tribal Council this year," Atanacio said. "Although I am disappointed in not being selected for Tribal Council, I am confident in our Tribal election process and feel grateful to have run and be considered for this important leadership role. I learned so much during this election season and feel it has personally changed me and helped me grow. I am eager to continue being active in our Tribal government and as a member of the Grand Ronde Tribal community. hayu masi to all 422 Tribal members who entrusted me with their vote and confidence. Congratulations to those selected for Tribal Council."

"Congratulations to Cheryle, Jon and Tonya," Warren-Chase said. "Thank you to those 99 who voted for me. Wait for me next year!"

"Although the election did not turn out as I hoped, I am profoundly grateful for the support, encouragement and faith so many Tribal members have shown me," Jenness said. "Our journey toward justice, fairness and unity for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde does not end here. I remain committed

to healing the divisions within our Tribe and advocating for the values so many of us believe in. Together, we will continue to strive for a stronger, more inclusive community where every voice is heard. I thank those who stood with me."

Kennedy, 76, will serve her 10th consecutive term on Tribal Council. She has served on Tribal Council dating back to 2000 and an 18-month term in the 1980s. She currently serves as the Tribal Council Chairwoman and holds the record as longest-serving Tribal Council member.

George, 63, has served on Tribal Council since 2012. He served as Tribal Council Secretary for three terms between 2012 to 2021.

Gleason-Shepek, 53, is retired from the Oregon Department of Human Services. She previously served on Tribal Council from 2014-17.

This year marked the 11th consecutive year of single-digit candidates running for Tribal Council. The last time 10 or more candidates threw their proverbial hats in the ring was in 2013.

Turnout was 31.63% with 1,427 ballots cast out of 4,511 elilgible adult Tribal members. It marked the first year since 2021 that turnout was higher than 30%.

Winners were sworn into office on Wednesday, Sept. 11, in Tribal Council Chambers.

Also on the ballot were three advisory votes. The results were:

- Are you or a member of your household experiencing food insecurity? 333 yes and 896 no.
- · If the Tribe is operating on a "hold the line" budget, should the Tribe continue to put out advisory votes that have budgetary impacts? 811 yes and 370 no.
- · Should the Tribe look into helping Tribal members access legal aid services? 964 yes and 269 no.

This story will be updated online with more candidate statements if

they provide those.



### **Election results**

Sept. 7, 2024

#### **CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL**

CHERYLE A. KENNEDY	916
JON A. GEORGE	913
TONYA GLEASON-SHEPEK	723
MICHAEL S. CHERRY	610
VALERIA ATANACIO	422
ANDY JENNESS	341
PAMALA WARREN-CHASE	99

#### **ADVISORY VOTE QUESTIONS**

#### **QUESTION #1**

ARE YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD **EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY?** 

> NO - 896 / 72.9% YES - 333 / 27%

#### **QUESTION #2**

IF THE TRIBE IS OPERATING ON A "HOLD THE LINE" BUDGET, SHOULD THE TRIBE CONTINUE TO PUT OUT ADVISORY VOTES THAT HAVE **BUDGETARY IMPACTS?** 

> YES - 811 / 68.6% NO - 370 / 31.3%

#### **QUESTION #3**

SHOULD THE TRIBE LOOK INTO HELPING TRIBAL MEMBERS ACCESS LEGAL **AID SERVICES?** 

> YES - 964 / 78.1% NO - 269 / 21.8%



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control? Do you have questions about diabetes? Do you need help managing your diabetes? If so...

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

### **Tribal Council members sworn in**



Newly reelected Tribal Council member Cheryle
A. Kennedy is sworn in during the Tribal
Council swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council



Newly reelected Tribal Council member Jon A. George smiles at the audience after being sworn in during the Tribal Council swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers.



Newly elected Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek shakes hands with Tribal Court Chief Judge Patrick S. Melendy after being sworn in during the Tribal Council swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers.

### 'I'm so glad Kathy was able to make it to Boston after all'

LIBRARY continued from front page

Chambers on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

generally enjoy themselves. Tribal Family & Community Partnership Coordinator Rebecca Ambrose nominated Cole, who was selected from hundreds of nominees.

But six days before Cole's flight was due to leave, her 18-month-old granddaughter Carmen fell ill with a case of croup so severe that she was immediately hospitalized at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. All thoughts of Boston vanished from Cole's head; the only thing

CONTACT US: 503-879-2233

that mattered was staying by her granddaughter's side.

"There was no way I could leave her," she said. "She was in the hospital for over a week. It was horrible." Carmen has since made a full recovery.

Cole sent a regretful message to Kinney, thanking him and explaining she would not be coming, and assumed that was the end of the

"I didn't think they would give me a second chance," she said. "They certainly didn't need to."

Kinney, however, thought oth-

erwise.

"All the librarians and Jeff Kinney made me a video," Cole said. "In the video, he said he would get me out there."

With the aid of his assistant, Anna Cesary, Kinney kept that promise and at the end of July, Cole finally flew to Boston with her son Chris.

"I was actually in tears — like, 'you would do that for me?' That's pretty generous," she said.

"I'm so glad Kathy was able to make it to Boston after all," Kinney said in an email. "It meant a lot to me that she made the journey, and I was grateful for the opportunity to get to spend one-on-one time with Kathy and her son."

Cesary said in an email that "Kathy was an absolute delight to correspond with and I'm heartbroken that I didn't get the chance to meet her in person myself. It's clear that she has a heart of gold."

The trip was a whirlwind weekend of sheer fun, including a private lunch with Kinney and his wife, and a tour of his studio.

"It was really interesting," Cole said. "He really spent a lot of time with us and kind of explained everything. ... He sat down and showed us how he did his illustrations. They set up a couple of tours for us; the duck boat and a walking tour."

Cole also made sure to visit a market that friends had told her about and, of course, the Boston Public Library. It was founded in 1848 and had a number of firsts: The first large free municipal library in the United States, the first public library to lend books, the first to have a branch library and the first to have a children's room, according to its website.

It was Cole's first visit to Boston. "I loved the seafood," she said. "We threw our stuff in the motel and went and got a lobster roll," a New

England specialty of lobster meat served on a grilled hotdog bun.

The library, Cole said, "probably wasn't on a bucket list for my son but he made sure I got there."

As expected, she loved it and was particularly struck by an open area between the historic and new buildings, where she saw people were sitting out studying and reading.

Cole said she'd love to create such a space at the Tribal Library. "It's kind of my dream to have a little café and children's reading area," she said. "I just keep putting it out there, and maybe eventually someone will run with it. But we're pretty full here."

That's partly because Cole does not purge books, believing they are far too important to discard simply because they are older publications. "It takes one book — but it has to be the right book — to turn somebody into a reader," she said. "The more books you have, the more chances of finding the reader inside."

In addition to the trip, Kinney also donated 50 books of Cole's choosing to the library. She has them proudly displayed on a set of shelves near the door.

"Most of them are books that we don't have," she said. "It was somewhat hard to choose, but there are a lot of good ones here that the kids will like."

She said she was impressed by Kinney's philanthropic actions, such as traveling to Tasmania to drill a well for a village with poor water access.

"He goes once a year and they do research before about which village needs the most help," Cole said.

In addition, she said, Kinney is buying up decaying buildings around his bookshop to rebuild.

"A lot of people with money keep to themselves," Cole said. "He seems like he's looking to make the world a better place." ■



### We want to hear from you!

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain.

Share your experience, good or bad with us.



# Watchlist: 'Freeing the Klamath River'

(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

It seems that all eyes were on the Klamath River last week when the largest dam removal project in United States history was finally complete at the end of August.

A video shared by The Seattle Times, published in March, displayed the emotions of the Yurok people as they shared the traumatic history of four dams on their ancestral homelands and the plans they have for restoration of the Klamath River.

"Fish came from the ocean and they brought with them these marine-derived nutrients and all the great things that the ocean provides to the land," Yurok Tribe Fisheries Director Barry McCovey said. "And that was abruptly ended 100 years ago."

A saying often heard with the Klamath River is that the installment of the Iron Gate Dam cut the river in half.

"They pretty much extinguished the spring run in the Klamath, the one that everyone was dependent on the most," Karuk Tribe Elder and ceremonial leader Leaf Hillman said.

For Natural Resources Policy Advocate Craig Tucker, the dams really aren't worth keeping anymore. Tucker calls the dams "vestiges of Manifest Destiny," and conquering the wilderness in a romanticized fashion

To Tucker, the dams cause more harms than there are benefits.

In 2001, there was an epic drought and farmers in northern California were forced to shut off their water to protect the fish. Tucker explains this upset a lot of the non-Native farming communities. In 2002, when water was limited again, the farmers received water against the warning of downriver Tribes.

This is known as the 2002 fish kill.

"I knew in my heart that the temperatures were going to be high and with extremely low flows that were going to have a fish kill," Former Yurok Tribe Chair Susan Masten said tearfully. "It was very horrific because there were thousands of fish that were coming down river."

Video footage shows the bodies of thousands of adult Chinook salmon floating lifelessly along the river.

In the wake of the loss of fish, Masten and others took 500 pounds of dead salmon to the Department of Interior and laid them out on the steps of their building to draw attention to what occurs with flawed water policies.

This loss sparked the 20-year campaign to remove the dams from the Klamath River and restore the river's natural flow.

But the work doesn't end there. McCovey, the Yurok Fisheries Director, explains that parts of the 400 miles of new uninterrupted river flow will need to be reshaped to reintroduce complexity for salmon and other marine species to spawn.

"The Yurok Tribal Constitution dictates that we restore and protect the waters and the lands within our ancestral territories," McCovey said. "This is a piece of a larger puzzle where we're trying to restore as much riverine habitat as we can."

If you wish to watch more, you can find the entire video at www. youtube.com/watch?v=12RDkzRMMm8&t=2s. ■

### **Clothes Closet open**

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elder Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive.

The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items.

For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■

### Big time shaker

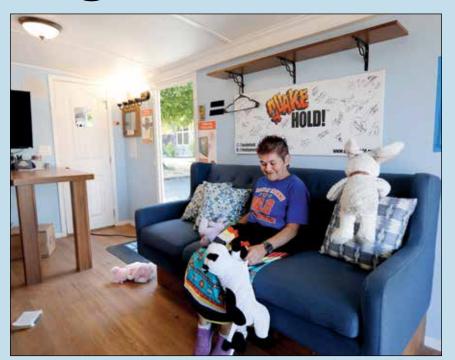


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Veronica Gaston catches a stuffed animal as it falls from the shelf above her during a 7.0 magnitude earthquake simulation in the "Big Shaker" during the Grand Ronde Emergency Services Safety Preparedness outside the Tribal gymnasium on Sunday, Sept. 8. In addition to Ready America being there with the "Big Shaker" earthquake simulator, Grand Ronde Emergency Services, Oregon State Fire Marshal, American Red Cross, Oregon Livestock Council, Oregon State University and məkhmək haws had information tables.

# Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service, said Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole.

Tribal members can now get books from libraries in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, as well as access to many free programs.

Tribal Library patrons should visit the Tribal Library and update their information and obtain a new Regional Library Service card.

For more information, contact Cole at 503-879-1488. ■



JOIN OUR TEAM
WE ARE HIRING!

Oregon City, Oregon

#### HELP SOMEONE REBUILD THEIR LIVES

Our mission is to prevent and reduce incarceraton among Native Americans. We provide a variety of programs inside Oregon State Prisons, two county jails and the Red Lodge Transition Center for Women located in Oregon City.

#### ■ Full-Time Program Manager

Help design and implement a men's transition program in addition to expanding cultural programming behind the Iron Doors!

#### On-Site Full-Time House Manager

House manager will assist in keeping the transition center running smoothly. We serve Native and non-Native women returning from jail, treatment programs and prison who are ready to work toward rebuilding their lives.

#### Case Manager

Case manager works with women and men returning from jail, treatment centers and prison. We assist clients with basic necessities and basic skills to prevent and reduce incarceration. We help people rebuild their lives.

#### Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer coordinator helps coordinate volunteers, update database, assists with annual cultural/spirtual prison events, friends of Red Lodge art project and community outreach events!



Please scan our QR code or visit our website at www.redlodgetransition.org/about/career-opportunities/

For more information contact us at info@redlodgetransition.org

. P.O. Box 55157, Portland, OR 97238 | 503-245-4175 | www.redlodgetransition.org

11 smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 15, 2024** 

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Social Security Disability Insurance Benefit Advocate Request for Proposal

The Request for Proposals is being conducted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Social Service Department for the purpose of obtaining a contractor who has experience in SSI/SSD advocacy/ benefit determination and the qualifications to advocate for Tribal members who are seeking assistance in the application process. Qualified applicants shall possess the ability to:

- Provide general information to Tribal members and assist in referrals regarding SSI/SSD.
- Screen Tribal members who claim their disability does not allow them to work to determine potential for an SSI/SSD application.
- Assist Tribal members in applying for SSI/SSD.
- Refer members to appropriate physical and/or mental health evaluations related to SSI/SSD application.
- Assist Tribal members with completing paperwork to file for appeals for denial of SSI/SSD.
- Refer Tribal members to Tribal member benefits to apply for the Tribal SSI/SSD program.
- · Serve as a resource to employees when working with clients that may benefit from SSI/SSD.
- · Assist Tribal members in preparation for retirement to understand Social Security benefits.
- Provide assistance to Tribal members 1-2 days per week, contract rate negotiable.

Preference will be given to members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and or Indian-owned business registered with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO office.

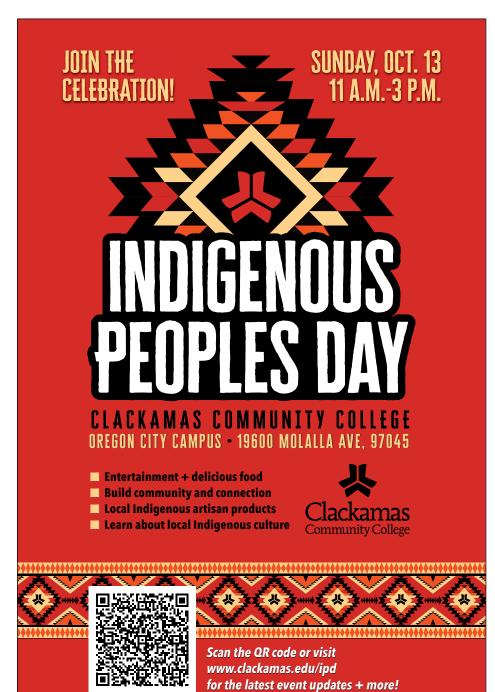
Successful candidates must provide the following insurance:

 Commercial general liability insurance limits not less than: \$500,000 general aggregate limit, \$500,000 personal injury, \$500,000 each occurrence limit.

Submit your proposal to Tammy Garrison via U.S. mail or email. Tammy Garrison, Social Service Department 9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, OR 97347 Tammy.garrison@grandronde.org

503-879-2077



#### **Gas discount in Grand Ronde**

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount.







#### \$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions \$500 Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees

#### **NOTICE**

We have transitioned to a new applicant portal system. Returning applicants will need to create a new account on UKG. Previous log-in credentials will not be valid.

\*Part-time employees are eligible for a **20% differential** pay to their base wage if they are scheduled to work up to 29.99 hours per week.

#### SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance

- SMGI adheres to a Tribal hiring preference policy for enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
  - positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
- Please reference the Job Description for job duties,
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus

⊠employmentteam@spiritmtn.com

https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers

Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new

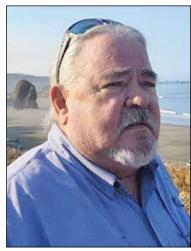
Paid ad

### Walking On...

#### **Gary Lee Ashman**

Jan. 5, 1953 – Aug. 31, 2024

Tribal Elder Gary Lee Ashman passed away on Aug. 31, 2024, at the age of 71.



Gary was born on Jan. 5, 1953, in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. He moved to Willamina, where he lived most of his life surrounded by the beauty of his hometown.

A man of boundless enthusiasm and joy, Gary was a true connoisseur of life's simple pleasures. His passions were as varied as they were profound, and he embraced each one with a zeal that was nothing short of infectious.

A cherished member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Gary was a guiding force of wisdom and tradition within the community. His dedication to preserving and sharing the Tribe's rich heritage was

a testament to his deep-rooted commitment to his people.

Gary's leadership, insight, and respect for Tribal customs made him a beloved figure and a source of inspiration.

An avid motorcyclist, Gary found freedom and exhilaration on the open road. Whether it was the roar of his bike or the thrill of a long ride, he cherished the sense of adventure it brought. His motorcycle was not just a vehicle but a vessel for the countless memories he made with friends and family.

Fishing was another of Gary's great loves. From early morning casts on tranquil lakes to quiet afternoons by the river, Gary relished the peaceful solitude that fishing provided. These moments were often shared with his children and grandchildren, creating lasting bonds and treasured memories.

Gary's passion for cooking was matched only by his love for sharing meals with those he cared about. His kitchen was always filled with the aroma of his latest culinary creations, and his family will fondly remember the delicious feasts and the laughter that accompanied them. Gary's cooking was more than just a skill—it was a way of expressing his love and care.

Above all, Gary was devoted to his family. He was a pillar of strength and a source of unwavering support. His love for his wife, children and grandchildren was evident in everything he did. Family gatherings were a highlight of his life and he took great joy in spending time with his loved ones, creating a legacy of warmth and unity.

Gary's departure leaves a void that will be felt deeply by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Katherine; children, Melanie Perez (Eric), Hollie Alonzo (Steven) and Gabriel Witt; his grandchildren, Holdon Perez, Kimber Perez and Madison Alonzo; and sister, Virginia Singh. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and a wide circle of friends and extended family, who will remember him for his kindness, generosity and unwavering spirit.

Gary lived a life rich with adventure, love and joy. His memory will forever be cherished and his spirit will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Rest in peace, Gary. You will be deeply missed.

Heavenly Grace Funeral Home & Memorial Park in La Feria, Texas, is assisting the family.

### Leveta Mary Sell

Oct. 20, 1945 - Aug. 30, 2024

Tribal Elder Leveta Mary Sell passed away on Aug. 30, 2024, at the age of 78.

Bollman's Tribute Center in Dallas is assisting the family.

Funeral services occured Friday, Sept.13, at the Tribal Cemetery.

#### **David Leonard Pichette Jr.**

Dec. 11, 1936 - Sept. 2, 2024

Tribal Elder David Leonard Pichette Jr. passed away on Sept. 2, 2024, at the age of 87.

Wilson's Sutherlin Chapel of the Roses in Roseburg is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were not available before press time.

#### **Darla Cathleen Woods**

Sept. 12, 1966 – Sept. 9, 2024

Tribal Elder Darla Cathleen Woods passed away on Sept. 9, 2024, at the age of 57.

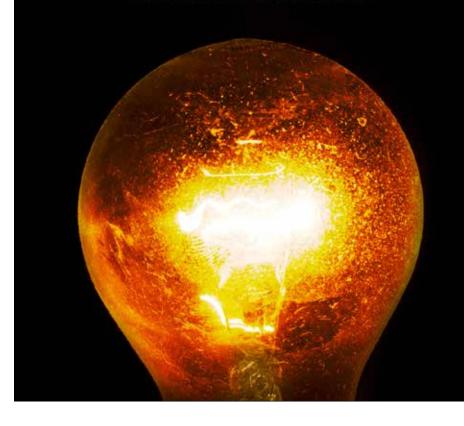
Pahrump Family Mortuary in Pahrump, Nevada, is assisting the family. Funeral service details were not available before press time.

# PGE PRESENTATION

1:00PM ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER

#### **TOPICS:**

PUBLIC SAFETY SHUT OFF
INCOME QUALFIED BILL DISCOUNTS
MEDICAL CERTIFICATES





Serving urban Natives, infant to elder, in Portland and Vancouver

# **Open Positions**

Many Nations Academy Principal

\$110-125K/yr

Digital Media and Engagement Manager

\$68-75K/yr

SW WA Financial Wellness Coordinator \$60-65K/yr

**Leadership Development Coordinator** \$60-65K/yr

Multnomah Stability Initiative (MSI) Housing Advocate

\$25-27/hr

Resident Services Coordinator \$24-25/hr

Foster Care - Independent Living Program

\$24/hr

Youth Housing Advocate
Family Parenting Support Specialist

\$22-25/hr \$22/hr

Early Head Start Teacher's Aid

\$18/hr



Coordinator

All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit nayapdx.org/about/jobs to learn more.

09/09/24

13 smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 15, 2024** 







### We want to hear from you!

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain.

Share your experience, good or bad with us. ■



#### Service Animal

- An animal individually trained to perform work or tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability (e.g. Guide, Hearing, Seizure Response, etc.)
- Allowed to enter most public areas, with limited exceptions.
- · A dog or a miniature horse

- Is an animal that provides a therapeutic benefit (e.g. emotional support, comfort, companionship)
- Needs a letter from your Health Care Provider.
- Is NOT considered a Service Animal
- · Is NOT considered a pet and not restricted by animal type.
- · Any domesticated animal can be considered a support animal (e.g. cats, dogs, mice, rabbits, birds, etc.)
- · Must be manageable in public
- Does NOT perform specific task

#### ONLY TWO QUESTIONS ARE PERMITTED BY LAW FOR SERVICE ANIMALS IN

- · Is the animal a service animal?
- What work or tasks has the animal been trained to perform?

#### Takeaways

- A support animal requires documentation to be in public spaces.
- Support animals Service animals, Therapy animals, or Pets.
- Service Animals perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability.

### **Paid Internships in Habitat Restoration**

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting Native Americans and other people of color for its Fall Habitat Restoration Internship. This paid opportunity integrates Traditional **Ecological Knowledge with local** environmental conservation practices and is supported by multiple collaborative partners.

- \$3000 stipend
- 9 week training, 3 days a week
- Both classroom education and experiential service learning activities
- September 30 December 6, 2024

#### Apply now:

elderberrywisdom.org/internships



**Elderberry Wisdom Farm** 

#### IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE ALE COURT SEP - 3 2024 Case No. 24C0012 In the Matter of: ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE Yates, Amber Angelic PETITIONER Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Name Change filed by Petitioner on August 6, 2024; THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOW: ✓ The Petition ✓ does ☐ does not meet the requirements of the Name Change Ordinance, Chapter 303 and the Petition is ☐ dismissed ✓ granted: ☑ The Court ☑ has ☐ does not have jurisdiction over the Petitioner and ☑ subject matter of the Petition herein ☐ The Petitioner ☐ is ☐ is not over 18 years old: ☐ The Petitioner ☐ is ☐ is not an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde: Petitioner has I has not petitioned or been granted a change of name by the Tribal Court within the past twelve (12) months:

#### NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

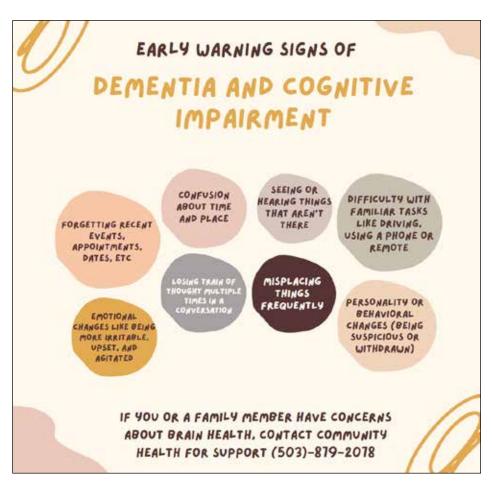
The Petition for Name Change is not granted and is dismissed without prejudice.
 The Petition for Name Change is granted and Petitioner's name is changed from Amber Angelic Yates to Amber Angelic Haller.

✓ The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order to be published in the Tribal Newsletter:

The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of this Order to the Grand Ronde Tribal Enrollment Office and to the State Department of Vital Statistics Office in the state in which Petitioner was born.

DATED THIS 23RD DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.

Patrick S. Melandy
Patrick S Melendy
Chief Judge





#### **Congratulations, Tori!**

Congratulations to our beautiful daughter, **Tori Noelle Hirata.** 

a recent graduate of Pennsylvania State University. She has achieved an incredible academic milestone by earning a double major in bio behavioral health and psychology. Tori's dedication and passion for learning have now led her to pursue a doctorate in psychology, where she aims to contribute to the field with groundbreaking research and a commitment to helping others. Tori's academic

journey is a testament to her hard work and

determination. Wishing her the best as she embarks on this new chapter, we couldn't be prouder of her.

We love you Tori and congratulations!

### TERO Worker of the Month August 2024

Name: Alex Morales

**Employer:** Hamilton Construction **Position:** Apprentice Laborer

Alex Morales first applied with the TERO program in May 2023. At that time, TERO didn't have an open position on any of its construction projects. TERO encouraged Alex to apply for a non-union apprenticeship with the Northwest College of Construction. That way, when there was an open position,



Alex Morales

he would be ready to be dispatched as an apprentice laborer.

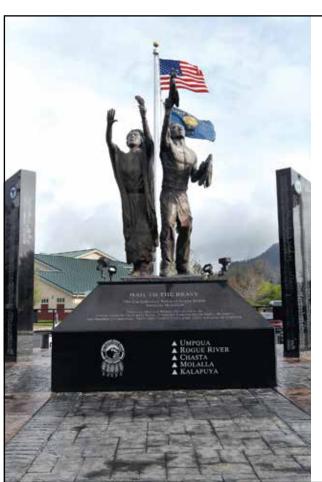
During Alex's wait for an open position, the college dispatched him to a heavy highway construction project with Corpac Construction where he worked diligently for approximately 8 months. Once this project ended, Alex called the TERO office and was dispatched out to the Van Buren Bridge project in Corvallis as an apprentice laborer.

Alex's self-motivation, dependability and hard work is what earned him the August 2024 TERO Worker of the Month. Alex has learned new skills such as flagging, forklift operation and bridge work, along with many other skills obtained through his employment.

We asked Alex what he liked about the TERO program. He said that it helped him with great employment opportunities and he got to work around other Native Americans, which made him feel more at home. Alex goes on to say that he would like to thank TERO and the community of Grand Ronde for these opportunities.

"It's much appreciated love from me to all of you," Alex said. Great job, Alex, TERO thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

For more information on the TERO Skills Bank and any other TERO opportunities, contact the TERO office or the TERO director.
TERO Office: 503-879-1488 or tero@grandronde.org



### 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.



## **World Lung Day**

World Lung Day is an annual campaign observed on Sept. 25 to raise awareness about lung health and promote better lung care around the world. There has been significant increase in lung diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer and infections like tuberculosis.



Breathing is essential to life, and lung health impacts every part of the body.

Lung cancer continues to be the number one cancer cause of death in the United States. Lung diseases such as COVID-19 and COPD are the leading causes of death nationwide.

Combined with 12.5 million individuals living with COPD, as thma affects 24.8 million Americans, including 4.2 million children, for a combined total of more than 34 million Americans impacted.

#### Habits that can reduce lung disease risk:

- Avoid smoking: One of the most important habits to reduce the risk of lung diseases is to avoid smoking. Smoking is a major cause of lung disease such as COPD and lung cancer. Quitting can significantly improve lung health and reduce the risk of developing these diseases.
- Exercise regularly: Engaging in regular physical activity and exercise can help improve lung function and reduce the risk of lung diseases. Activities such as walking, jogging, swimming, and cycling can strengthen the respiratory muscles and improve overall lung capacity.
- Practice good hygiene: Washing hands regularly and avoiding close contact with people who have respiratory infections can help reduce the risk of respiratory diseases like pneumonia and bronchitis. These infections can often lead to more serious lung conditions if left untreated.
- Maintain a healthy diet: Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins can help support overall health. Certain nutrients, such as antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids, have been shown to protect against lung damage caused by environmental pollutants and inflammation.
- Avoid exposure to pollutants: Minimizing exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollutants is crucial in reducing the risk of lung diseases. Avoiding areas with high levels of air pollution, using air purifiers indoors, and wearing masks when exposed to harmful particles or chemicals can help protect the lungs.

#### Steps to help reduce air pollution:

There are many sources of air pollution. Harmful emissions come from cars and trucks that burn gasoline and diesel; burning coal, natural gas, oil, wood and biomass and more. With our climate changing, air pollution remains a problem due to wildfire smoke and increased levels of ozone pollution, to longer and more intense allergy seasons.

#### There are steps that can be taken to help:

- Visit airnow.gov to check out the air quality where you live.
- · Walk, bike or carpool when able.
- ${\boldsymbol{\cdot}}$  Reduce energy use where you can.
- Use hand-powered or electric lawn care equipment rather than gaso-line-powered.
- Don't burn wood or trash.



# Online portal and temporary ID cards

The Forest County Potawatomi Insurance Department (FCPID) would like to welcome you aboard! We are excited for the partnership with Grand Ronde and want to thank you for your continued patience while we transition the Grand Ronde Health Plans over to FCPID.

We are excited to announce that you can now access our online portal to view your information, claims and to access an online temporary ID card.

#### How to register online:

Click: FCP Portal (hi-techhealth.com)

 $\textbf{Username:} \ \textbf{Member ID} \ (\textbf{ex:} \ \textbf{GRSXXXXXXXXX} \ \textbf{or} \ \textbf{GREXXXXXXXXX})$ 

Password: Your date of birth (ex: mmddyyyy)

\*You will be prompted to change your password upon logging in.

Q: Why should I create an online account?

**A:** If you create an online account, you will be able to view your claims and online ID Card

**Q:** What if I have trouble logging into my account? **A:** Contact FCP Insurance at 715-478-4610 via phone, text or email fcpinsurance@fcp-nsn.gov

**Q:** When will I receive my new ID cards in the mail? **A:** ID cards will be going out in the mail in September.

### **Massage at Health & Wellness**

Hi, my name is Shawna Ray. I have been a licensed massage therapist in the Yamhill and Polk county area for eight years. I will be at the Health & Wellness Center on Mondays providing massage therapy as an on-site contractor and I am contracted with Shasta.

Contact 971-241-4323 by text or voice message to schedule appointments. Co-pay still may apply. I'm looking forward to working with those in the community to deliver a holistic approach to pain management, relaxation and overall wellness. ■





AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE - SMOKESIGNALS.ORG



### T-SHIRTS • ZIP-UP HOODIES • PULL-OVER HOODIES • FLEXFIT CAPS **BEANIES • PATCHES • STICKERS • FREE SHIPPING!**

Checks, cash 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

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