



Youth Education
Community Night
photos — pg. 5

FEBRUARY 1, 2025



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

Army Corps is ‘killing salmon to lose money’



The salmon situation

Part 3 of 3

Editor’s note: Salmon, rain and conifer forests are symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In a three-part series, “The salmon situation,” Smoke Signals examines how the region’s signature fish is heading for extinction, with little time left to reverse course and save these ancient species, which are crucial to both the ecosystem and Tribal culture. In the end, the Tribe’s best hope to prevail may lie in winning an epic battle with bureaucracy. This is the third and final installment of the series.

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been urging the Army Corps of Engineers to revamp its operations in the Willamette River Basin.

By reducing reservoir levels temporarily during key times of the year, the Corps could enable juvenile fish to get past dams that are blocking their migratory path to the ocean. The tactic requires no construction and has been shown to work.

See SALMON
continued on page 7

WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN DAMS



Graphic created by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe says it remains confident despite funding freeze

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren
Smoke Signals staff members

Confusion spread Tuesday, Jan. 28, after President Donald Trump announced a freeze on federal grant funding Monday, Jan. 27, in defiance of the Constitution and laws that place spending under the authority of Congress.

The funding freeze was to go into effect Tuesday at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Confusion and pushback were so widespread that on Tuesday morning, the White House attempted to clarify, saying that Trump was targeting funding for diversity, equity and inclusion programs and foreign aid.

Federal grants help pay for

numerous health and human services programs, drug abuse treatment programs, school programs, transportation programs, food assistance, heating assistance for low-income families, police and fire department funding, and other services that directly affect health and safety.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Washington Post announced that a federal judge had temporarily blocked the order until Monday, Feb. 3, as public health advocates and other organizations and businesses filed lawsuits against the Trump administration.

After the order was blocked Tuesday afternoon, Office of

See FREEZE
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Federal government approves Medford casino

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Despite the protests of several other Tribes, the Department of Interior has signed the record of decision to approve an off-reservation casino for the Coquille Indian Tribe in Medford, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians announced in a press release.

The press release was issued jointly with the Karuk Tribe and Tolowa Dee-Ni’Nation on Friday, Jan. 10.

The three Tribes also immediately filed a request with the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon for a temporary restraining order on the project.

The request cites violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Reorganization Act and the



Cheryle A. Kennedy

Coquille Restoration Act, along with constitutional concerns related to the National Environmental Policy Act, according to the press release.

“Grand Ronde opposes an off-reservation casino in Medford or anywhere in Oregon,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “We support the Cow Creek Tribe’s litigation to prevent it. Like Oregon’s governor and U.S. senators, among many others, we

See CASINO
continued on page 5

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2

Monarch Hotel & Convention Center,
12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas

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

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Feb. 5.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19.....	4 p.m.

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

Inclement weather alert!

Please be sure to call the Health & Wellness Center before traveling in to appointments at the clinic during inclement weather.

Health & Wellness Center staff will make every attempt to call patients during closures. Also, sign up for emergency notifications about Tribal campus closures on the Tribal website at www.grandronde.org or follow the Tribe's primary page on Facebook. ■



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
OFFSITE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sunday, February 2


Monarch Hotel
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Sunday, April 6

Lane Community College Longhouse
4000 E. 30th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405

Followed by Community Input Meeting.

www.grandronde.org



CTGR Member Services

Requests for Descendancy Options

1. Descendancy letter (no DNA testing)
2. Certificate of Descendancy (DNA testing required)

Process:
Submit completed application (digital signatures are not accepted) along with a copy of an original state certified birth certificate (we cannot accept copies) and proof of payment for the DNA from the Finance Department. Once application is received, Enrollment Office staff will process and setup the DNA appointment.

DNA at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center: Cost of DNA testing is \$50 and you must pre-register with the clinic prior to your appointment. To pre-register, contact Ashley Stonebrink at 503-879-1325 or Stacy Pond-Bissonette at 503-879-2096.

To request an application or if you have any questions, contact the following:
Memberservices@grandronde.org

Enrollment staff:
Tristin Armstrong 503-879-1619, Tristin.armstrong@grandronde.org
Nick Labonte 503-879-2490, Nick.labonte@grandronde.org

Please send completed applications to:
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Attn: Enrollment Office
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Thursday, Feb. 6	Feb. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Feb. 20	Mar. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Mar. 6	Mar. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Mar. 20	Apr. 1	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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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

makwst-mun (February)

- Sunday, Feb. 2 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Monarch Hotel & Convention Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- **UPDATED:** Wednesday, Feb. 5 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Feb. 17 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.
- **UPDATED:** Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Friday, Feb. 28 – Native Youth Wellness Day, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-1471.
- Friday, Feb. 28 – 20th annual Agency Creek Round Dance, 5 p.m. pipe ceremony, 6 p.m. traditional meal, 7 p.m. Round Dance, Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.

᠎un-mun (March)

- Saturday, March 1 – 20th annual Agency Creek Round Dance, 6 p.m. meal, 7 p.m. Round Dance, Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.
- Sunday, March 2 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, March 5 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, March 19 – 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.

2025 NPAIHB members



Contributed photo

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board 2025 Executive Committee members, from left, Greg Abrahamson, Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Rachel Edwards, Kim Coombs and Aaron Hines. Kennedy was reappointed to the executive committee and named secretary. The NPAIHB was established in 1972 and is a nonprofit Tribal advisory organization serving the 43 federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Their work includes health promotion, disease prevention, legislative and policy analysis, training and technical assistance, and surveillance and research. The executive committee approves the quarterly board meeting agendas, approves executive committee resolutions, develops and refers policy issues to the entire delegation for approval, reviews and monitors NPAIHB financial matters, represents NPAIHB at regional and national meetings and is the direct supervisor to the executive director.

Tribal Marketplace seeking vendors

Spirit Mountain Casino will host a Tribal Marketplace from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 14-15; and Friday and Saturday, March 21-22.

Vendor spots are open to Grand Ronde Tribal members, other Tribes and community members. The cost is \$30 per table with a \$10 fee for a second table.

Spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment and registration will secure a spot in the vendor table assignment lottery.

For more information or to register for the marketplace, contact SMC Purchasing Manager Shauna Skinner at Shauna.Skinner@SpiritMtn.com or 503-879-3916; or Purchasing Supervisor Tanya Lopez at Tanya.Lopez@SpiritMtn.com or 503-879-3746. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.

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/CTGRFCFS

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:

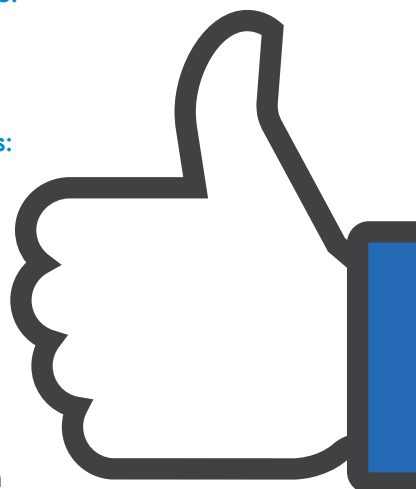
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:

facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department

Grand Ronde Employment Services

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

- Do you want to be more involved with the Tribe?
- Do you have a desire to be a part of a group to plan and be involved in Tribal activities and events?
- Are you interested in making positive changes for future generations?

Current vacancies:

- Ceremonial Hunting Board – Must be a ceremonial hunter (1)
- Culture Committee (2) • Election Board (1)
- Election Board alternates (2) • Enrollment Committee (1)
- Fish & Wildlife Committee (2) • Powwow Special Event Board (1)

For questions email:

shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org

Applications available online at:

www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/

Applications also available in the Tribal Governance building:

Located at the Tribal Council office near the security desk.

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək^hmək 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 February 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.

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 in the Veteran's House, Acting Chair: Pamala Warren-Chase.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21 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** meetings have been paused. Meeting times will be updated when information is available.
- **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 Monday 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.



2020 – Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center staff launched a program called AV Club to share the Tribe's history with community members and employees by showing videos and photos from the archives. Staff also encouraged people to bring in their old VHS tapes, DVDs and photographs of Tribal activities to be copied.



2020 File photo

2015 – Tribal members were going to vote in an election to decide whether the Bureau of Indian Affairs should continue to administer Tribal constitutional elections, and whether to impose term limits for Tribal Council members.

2010 – The Grand Ronde Tribal Council donated \$5,000 from the Tribe and \$5,000 from Spirit Mountain Casino to Mercy Corps, the Portland-based nonprofit that works to alleviate suffering and poverty throughout the world. The donations were intended for relief efforts in Haiti, following a massive earthquake that leveled the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing an estimated 200,000 people, injuring 250,000 and leaving 1.5 million people homeless.

2005 – Tribal Elder and former Tribal Council member Dean Mercier was featured in an extensive article about his life and service on the Tribal Council before and during Restoration.

2000 – “Tonight Show” host Jay Leno performed two back-to-back shows at Spirit Mountain Casino, and afterward agreed to an interview with Smoke Signals staff writer Brent Merrill.

1995 – Construction was proceeding on the Tribe's new gaming center. Spirit Mountain Development Company had begun ordering slot machines and searching for a marketing director.

1990 – No edition available.

1985 – No edition available.

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

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. ■

ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

One permanent full time board member position open.

Two alternate board member positions open.

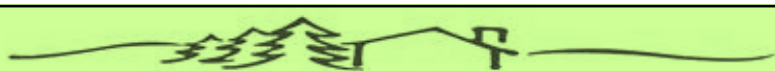
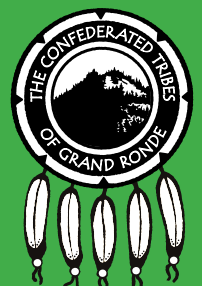
Qualifications:

Basic computer skills / file search / email / phone inquiries / flexible hours.

Election Board Chair:
Kalene Contreras

For information contact:

Shannon Ham-Texeira • 503-879-2301
shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org



GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

28450 Tyee 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.

Youth Ed. community party



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Youth Education K5 Academic Advisor Devon Mercier helps Remington Mercier, 9, choose a raffle prize during Youth Education Community Night held in the Tribal gym Tuesday, Jan. 14. More than 100 people attended the event that featured free books, raffle prizes, a reading of “Critter Counting,” which was written by Tribal member Cheyanne Heidt, and a Chipotle dinner.



Bonnie’Lee Mathews, 7, right, checks out the mountain bike that Saedy Smith, 8, left, won during Youth Education Community Night held in the Tribal gym Tuesday, Jan. 14.

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO

@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrsmokesignals @SmokeSignalsCTGR

Tribal Council approves Fort Yamhill transfer agreement

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved the transfer of the 107.22-acre Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area from the state of Oregon to the Tribe at its Wednesday, Jan. 22, meeting.

The park is located near the uyxat Powwow Grounds and achaf-hammi Tribal plankhouse off Hebo Road.

The transfer process began in 2022 but was halted as there was no Oregon law that provided authority for the state Parks and Recreation Department to transfer the property to the Tribe.

Following that decision, state Rep. Tawna Sanchez (Shoshone-Bannock/Ute/Carrizo) sponsored legislation to update the law and allow the state to convey real property and mineral rights to eligible Tribes. The legislation passed in 2023 and was enacted in 2024.

In the interim, a memorandum of understanding was approved in 2023 between the Tribe and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to jointly manage the property with the eventual goal of the Tribe taking over ownership.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to approve the transfer in November 2024.

The sale was expected to close Friday, Jan. 31.

Tribal Lands and Self-Governance Manager Jan Micheal Reibach has said that it had been “a lengthy, multi-layered project,” and that “Our hearts are full of gratitude.”

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved the sale of the 111.6-acre Win Thin logging unit;
 - Approved an application to the National Telecommunications

and Information Administration’s Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program for up to \$2 million to support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital inclusion and provide funding for a digital equity coordinator for four years;

- Approved an application to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Partnerships for Success grant for up to \$1.25 million to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and related problems;
- Approved changes to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund articles of incorporation to include organizations designed to serve addiction prevention and local governments with jurisdiction within the counties of where Tribal lands are located as eligible to receive grants;
- Approved reappointing Tribal Council member Denise Harvey as a delegate to the Indian Gaming Association and approved paying annual membership dues;
- And approved enrolling three infants into the Tribe as they meet the previous enrollment requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance as well as the requirements under the constitutional amendment.

In other news, Tribal Council set the next General Council meeting date for 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, at the Monarch Hotel & Convention Center in Clackamas with a program report from the Housing Department.

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

Coquille Tribe contends that area is a part of its ancestral homelands

CASINO continued from front page

believe Oregonians are not interested in setting off a race to build casinos in cities across the state.”

Kennedy was joined by Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden in opposing the decision.

“The Biden administration’s approval of the Coquille Indian Tribe’s Medford casino is highly damaging,” Merkley said. “It sets in motion a competition that pits Tribe against Tribe and endangers the special framework Oregon has supported for Tribal casinos. I will be working with my colleagues, including Senator Wyden, to explore pathways to block or reverse this wrongheaded action,” Merkley said.

“This reckless choice by D.C. bureaucrats catapults Oregon into an uncontrolled escalation of gambling with no end in sight,” Wyden said. “And it compounds the collateral damage from this casino arms race by cavalierly tossing out our state’s time-honored agreement that balances all Tribes’ equal

opportunities to achieve economic independence and prosperity. I will fight this senseless decision with all the options available, including the Congressional Review Act that empowers elected representatives to battle back against rogue federal agency decisions just like this one.”

The press release quoted Karuk Tribal Chairman Russell “Buster” Attebery.

“By approving the Coquille Tribe’s application to build a casino in Medford, far outside that Tribe’s territory, the DOI is knowingly impeding the Karuk Tribe’s cultural sovereignty, frustrating its ability to provide governmental programs and impoverishing the Karuk Tribe in order to enrich a Tribe that has one-third the number of Tribal members and a casino twice as large as Karuk’s,” he said.

The Coquille Tribe contends that the Medford area is a part of its ancestral homelands, and that it should have the right to determine what is best for its people and to provide for their economic security. ■

Minors' TRUST FUND

Do you want to know more?

- What are my accounts?
- What are my options?
- How do I access my account?
- What about taxes?
- Where can I go for financial advice?

The answers to all of these questions and more can be found on the Tribal website / member services.
<https://www.grandronde.org/services/member-services/>

Tribe issued a statement calling the situation ‘unfortunate’

FREEZE continued from front page

Management and Budget officials reversed course and rescinded the federal freeze order the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 29. Then, later in the day, the White House said that the federal funding reviews remain in effect, according to an article in The Washington Post.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden announced on social media Tuesday morning that his staff had confirmed that Medicaid portals were down in all 50 states.

“This is a blatant attempt to rip away health insurance from millions of Americans overnight and will get people killed,” Wyden said.

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center reported that it was able to verify Medicaid accounts through the federal portal as of Tuesday afternoon.

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson issued a statement calling the situation “unfortunate.”

“The recent actions by the federal government to stop payment on federal grants and loans is unfortunate,” she said. “While we are still trying to figure out how these actions may impact our programs, we are confident that our own financial security should help us navigate any temporary uncertainty this may cause. We will continue to monitor the situation and re-evaluate things as we move forward.”

Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said it was unclear which of the Tribe’s grants will be affected.

“We got direction that Head

Start is not affected and that the Environmental Protection Agency grant for the recreation center is affected,” Webb said. “But we didn’t get that same clarification for the EPA grants for environmental cleanup at tumwata village, or for the Tribe’s toxins reduction grant... Information is unclear even when it does come trickling out.”

He added that his department is continuing to seek more information through contacts in the federal government and across Indian Country.

Meanwhile, Tribal Grants Manager Wendy Sparks informed department heads in an email that it was reviewing all federal grants and loans. If necessary, these will be “realigned to the priorities of the current administration.”

Departments that are working on existing grant applications or programs should continue to do so, she added, and should continue submitting reports as usual.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley condemned Trump’s actions in a press release, calling the freeze “a clear violation of law and Congress’s constitutional duty to appropriate funds.”

“The president is not a king, and the laws Congress passes are not suggestions,” Merkley said. “Federal funds are the foundations for our schools, hospitals and law enforcement and fire departments. These funds support the roads we drive on, the pipes that deliver water to our homes, the food we eat at our kitchen tables grown by farmers in our communities and federal programs that assist families recovering from natural disasters.” ■

smok signalz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signalz? Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else? In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, smok signalz electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you’re set.

Why would you want to do that? The PDF version is available before the newspaper is sent to our printing contractor in Salem. You can read the paper on your computer or print out a copy of individual pages yourself. And you will receive Tribal news much faster than the current standard mailing utilized by the Tribe.

If you would like to receive an emailed PDF version of smok signalz and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your email to esubscription@grandronde.org. Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

STORY IDEAS?

Do you have Tribal story ideas you would like to see in Smoke Signals?

Please share your suggestions at news@grandronde.org or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.



WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Baker Technical Institute Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Concrete Basics Training



This training is a hands-on, beginner-friendly training where you will acquire the skills to prepare the work area, build and set up forms, calculate the amount of concrete needed for your project, leveling and finishing techniques, and ensuring proper curing of the concrete, all while adhering to safety protocols and gaining an understanding of basic concrete principles.

Date: February 24-28, 2025

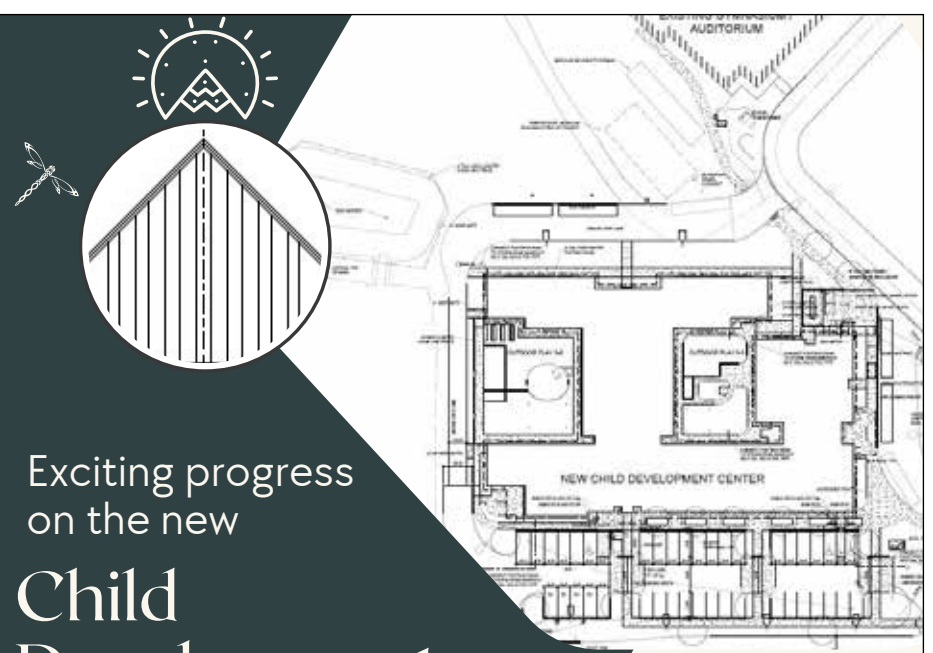
Time: TBD

Location: GTGR Employment Service
9615 Grand Ronde Rd
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Register for training by calling 503-879-2146
or email tero@grandronde.org



◆ A Different Kind of Education ◆



Exciting progress on the new

Child Development Center

Property Features

- 12 CLASSROOMS
- INDOOR PLAY
- PLANKHOUSE PLAY STRUCTURE
- PARENT LOUNGE
- OFFICE AND MEETING SPACE

We’re thrilled to share that construction on the new Child Development Center is moving along smoothly, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our Tribal leaders, the grants management team, Triplett Wellman, Inc., and Early Childhood Education staff.



As construction nears completion, we want to prepare families for an exciting transition. Over the next several months, we will begin moving classrooms into the new space. Stay tuned for updates as we approach this significant milestone in providing enhanced learning environments for our children.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this process!

‘Getting (salmon) past the dams is critical’

SALMON continued from front page

While the Corps is complying with a court order for drawdowns now, that’s not part of its long-term plan.

Advocacy by the Tribe and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has “been falling on deaf ears,” Tribal Council member Kathleen George said.

“Getting (salmon) past the dams is critical,” George said. “There are certainly small things we can do here and there, but if you look at a population size difference, the real solution is the habitat on the other side of those 13 dams. ... If we do not do that, we have no reason to expect we will not continue to see declines in the salmon population year over year.”

Yet in October 2023, in a report titled “Killing salmon to lose money,” ProPublica and Oregon Public Broadcasting reported that the Corps is instead developing a new \$1.9 billion plan to truck juvenile salmon around the dams, rather than using drawdowns for the long term. The headline was taken from a sentence in a letter the Tribe filed with the Corps in February 2023.

“Killing salmon to lose money deserves a deeper analysis,” it stated.

The article noted the drawdowns “cost next to nothing, would keep the Willamette Valley dams available for their original purpose of flood control and has succeeded on a river system before. This approach is supported by Native American Tribes and other critics.”

It continued, “The Corps ruled it out as a long-term solution for most of its 13 Willamette River dams, saying further reservoir draw-

downs would conflict with other interests” — including hydropower. The Corps’ effort to keep its dams running full-bore is a story of how the taxpayer-funded federal agency, despite decades of criticism, continues to double down on costly feats of engineering to reverse environmental catastrophes its own engineers created.”

The Corps has responded by saying it is complying with the court order to improve fish passage and water quality.

“All injunction-related operations are being implemented, including the fall deep drawdowns at Lookout Point and Green Peter dams, which began in 2023,” it stated on its website.

The agency put out a press release highlighting an unfortunate effect at Green Peter Reservoir, where 8,000 kokanee salmon died in October 2023. Kokanee, which are landlocked sockeye salmon, are not endangered or native to the reservoir. They are stocked there for fishing.

The Corps blamed an injunction issued by U.S. District Judge Marco Hernandez in 2021. Hernandez noted in his ruling that the Corps had spent the previous decades refusing to implement orders from the National Marine Fisheries Service to draw down reservoirs to improve passage for spring Chinook and winter steelhead.

“At this time of year, fish would historically pass through the dam using a higher-elevation outlet called a penstock, but a 2021 court injunction outlined operations for moving fish through a lower-elevation regulating outlet this fall,” the Corps stated.

George said the kokanee die off

does not change the Tribe’s position on drawdowns.

“Time is running out and reservoir drawdowns are an important tool to allow juvenile fish safe passage downstream,” she said. “For many of us, seeing the reservoirs drawn down is a change. But we know that we cannot continue with the status quo — the numbers are dire and we must use every tool in our toolbox before it is too late.”

Dam removal efforts ‘commonly based on political dynamics’

In 2021, the International Journal of Water Resources Development published a report by Alexander C. Nagel & Thomas Ptak analyzing the dams.

Although research has shown for years that dams cause environmental problems, they continue to “occupy a central position” in policies and discussions about river management, the report stated.

So many administrative and regulatory bodies have been created to deal with dams that efforts to remove them “are commonly based more on political dynamics than scientific analysis,” despite “a strong body of evidence detailing how dam structures pose direct impacts to the biological, chemical and physical properties of rivers and riparian ecosystems.”

The dams also create a financial benefit for both the Army Corps of Engineers and the federal government, providing strong incentive to keep them.

The report continues that “Biologists estimate that even structures hosting adequate fish ladders for passage precipitate species losses of between 5% and 13%” and “In the most severe cases, an absence

of fish ladders has resulted in 85% declines for anadromous fish runs throughout the Willamette and its major influents.”

Adding fish ladders would be difficult.

“The combination of concrete buttress and earth-filled arch dams are located predominantly in narrow canyons, ideal for harnessing electricity, yet challenging for retrofitting to accommodate fish ladders,” it stated. “Currently, no evidence suggests plans for the installation of ladders. ... the only meaningful efforts involve fish transport in trucks, which yields low rates of success.”

The report concluded that removing just four of the dams — Big Cliff, Cottage Grove, Dorena and Fern Ridge — would make a significant impact by eliminating structures with high fish mortality. Of those four, only Big Cliff and Dorena produce hydropower.

However, removing dams is controversial, expensive and takes years to accomplish. George said there is no time left to waste and the Tribe’s Salmon Strength Team sees the drawdowns as the most practical option. It is focusing its efforts on lobbying congressional representatives and the Bonneville Power Administration to pressure the Corps.

“Our ancestors lived in harmony with their environment and their resources,” George said. “There was no other way to live and I don’t think there’s any other sane way to live now. We have to live in right relationship with rivers and accept the responsibility that we have created problems for our salmon. And therefore, it’s our responsibility to fix those problems.” ■

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ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES

Tribal member's new book offers a path for healing

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

In writing a workbook to help others heal, artist and Tribal member Kitana Connelly found healing herself.

Connelly has spent the past year producing her book, "Sacred Flow: Creativity as Medicine," which offers Indigenous readers help in working through difficult emotions and experiences.

On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, the Confluence Project, along with the Native American Youth & Family Center's Microenterprise Program, will host a Creativity as Medicine art show and book release, intended to "showcase a unique blend of art and literature aimed at empowering Indigenous peoples and their peers on their journey of healing," according to a press release from Confluence.

"This workbook has been designed as part of Confluence's year two Emerging Indigenous Artist/Educator program, generously funded through the Roundhouse Foundation. ... (It) invites readers to embrace self-exploration through cultural heritage, guided by ancestral knowledge systems and ways of being," the release stated.

Connelly said she has always been an artist, but it's only in recent years that she's ventured away from the more formal and structured world of graphic artistry into the abstract paintings she now markets through her business, Twahna Creation.

It was in working on those paintings that she was able to work through her own need for healing.

"I set out a year ago to try to make a workbook that prioritizes Indigenous ways of being, seeing and believing and that focuses on our historic lifeways, like practicing



Kitana Connelly

ing the medicine wheel and other ways we had of being mindful of our wellbeing and the land," she said. "My

own personal brand (is) connecting with the land and healing through that relationship, whether its ourselves, our communities or the land."

The work involved hours of researching records and interviewing Tribal Elders, Connelly said. The finished book includes plenty of space for people to create their own artistry as they work to heal themselves.

"The community I'm making it for is Indigenous, so it has Northwest themes: Lamprey, cedar, camas, some First Foods," Connelly said.

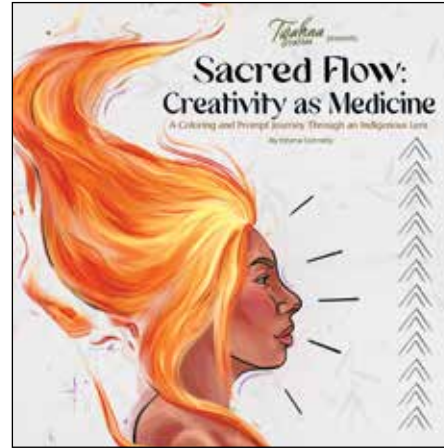
There are pages for coloring in, pages for journaling and activity prompts designed "to get the reader thinking about certain things; thinking about what wellness looks like for them. ... There are prompted diagrams, so a couple of activities in there; interactive activities to help you dive deeper into your priorities or your personal wellness or your beliefs, even," she said.

Connelly, who grew up in Willamina, had intended to be an artist, but in a very different vein.

"I was in college, in southern California, and I was in my seventh year for college," she said.

Connelly supported herself throughout school by working for Nike. She was studying to be a video game artist.

"I made environments for video games, digital painting and 3D modeling," she said. "I was getting



Tribal member Kitana Connelly's book cover.

close to graduating, but I ended up having to take in my little brother, so I couldn't go to school anymore. I knew I didn't want to lose my brother to the state of Oregon and him going somewhere else; I felt like I'd rather take care of him."

In 2021, she asked Nike to transfer her to Oregon and moved to Portland with her brother.

"After seven months at Nike here, it was just really different," Connelly said. "I loved my job in California, but I did not like my job here. I think a part of that was my soul saying, 'You don't need to be here anymore, so why are you still here?'"

Connelly took another leap of faith and left her job to focus on her art.

"I got my business license, took a small business course ... I have gotten a lot of support from the Native community here to support my business," she said.

The digital work she had been doing was very different from the work she now found herself free to pursue.

"I would say it's a very technical side of art. I spent a lot of time at my computer and a lot of time stuck in perfectionism, because that field of work was all about delivering for what other people needed," she said. "And it was awesome, but when I did get my little brother, it was because something had happened to my mom and that triggered so many emotions for me, because like a lot of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) communities, and growing up in a BIPOC household, it's not always OK to express your feelings. I just got so used to holding in all these feelings and I didn't even know I had all this inside, and it just started flowing out."

Connelly said she used her painting to work through things.

"That was the first time I did abstract painting," she said. "I'm much more able to take care of myself now and focus on creating for myself instead of delivering for others. I'm much more able to focus on healing now."

After two years of running her art business, she said, serendipity stepped in. "Someone at Chachalu told me about this position at Confluence."

Confluence is a non-profit organization in Vancouver, Washington, that works with Indigenous artists.

It was a perfect match, Connelly said.

"I thought it was too good to be true," she said. "The job was artist in residence, but they pay you like a job. Half my hours (are) working on my art, which was this book, and the other half was going into schools and teaching about my culture. I do art with kids and spend time talking about Indigenous art with them."

The opportunity was invaluable, she said.

"It was so healing, like it was literally my job to spend time with my culture and learn about us and spend time with people in community talking about culture," Connelly said. "It was definitely a time of reconnecting for me. It was also when I learned what family I'm from. I grew up not really knowing. (I) was able to use the research room at Chachalu and found out I'm from a pretty big family. I didn't know that; thought I came from a small family. ... It was also healing just having a job like this. A job that sees the value in Indigenous voices and uplifting that and sees the value in healing art and connecting communities."

Both the art show and book launch will take place in Portland, at munk-ye?lan saxali, 4636 NE 42 Ave., Portland.

From 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, the site will host an art show, featuring the abstract paintings that Connelly worked through in her own healing process.

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, there will be a book release, featuring spaces for attendees to work with the book themselves, or engage in its activities. Connelly will give a special presentation at noon. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, visit confluenceproject.org/event-post/workbookrelease/. ■

February 2025 is
Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

LOVE ROCKS

PRIZES
*Rock Painting
Lunch & Punch

Friday (no school)
February 14th, 2025
10:30am - 1:30pm
At the Community Center

1 in 3 American teens are affected by Teen Dating Violence. Let's come together to discuss the facts, and paint Love Rocks to promote awareness and healthy relationships within our community!

All are welcome; however, we ask that guardians use discretion with children under 10 years of age. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian for the duration of the event. Discussion topics include: Forms of Teen Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, Healthy Relationship Traits, and available resources. *While supplies last.

Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

Grand Ronde Tribal members who are incarcerated, have been recently released from prison or are involved in addiction treatment programs don't have to face challenges alone.

The Tribe has a post-prison/post-treatment peer support specialist, Tribal member Joe Ulestad, who is also a certified recovery mentor.

"I want our members who are incarcerated or need help to know we haven't forgotten about them and we're here to help," he said. "They can call me, email or text."

Ulestad can be reached at joe.ulestad@grandronde.org, by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on his office line, 503-879-1389. ■

Logan to realize childhood dream in New York fashion show

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Modeling Native-designed clothing in one of the fashion shows making up the New York Fashion Week in New York City is a childhood dream of Tribal member Auburn Logan – and this month it is coming true.

Logan teared up as she thought about what it would have meant to her as a child to see a Native woman showcasing fashion, rather than an endless parade of people who did not look like her.

“It’s very healing for me,” she said. “I loved watching movies and TV when I was a kid. ... I never saw anyone, especially a woman, who looked like me. It made me confused about my identity. It led to an identity crisis and I was really struggling to figure out who I was, because I didn’t see anyone who looked like me in movies, television, entertainment and fashion.”

Now, not only will she be modeling, she said, but she won’t be the only one there: Several Native artists and models will be represented.



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal member Auburn Logan models in the Northwest/West Coast Indigenous Fashion Show at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center last July. Logan is modeling in Yurok Tribe member Shoshoni Hostler’s show in New York Fashion Week in New York City Saturday, Feb. 8.

“It just shows you how far we’ve gotten in the media in the last 10 years,” she said.

Fashion has always been important to Logan.

“I expressed myself through fashion,” she said. “It made me feel confident, beautiful.”

Part of the appeal was that she could simply change her clothing and makeup when she didn’t like something or wanted a new look. “It’s a way of expressing yourself, of seeing what fits you best,” she said.

As a young adult, she began exploring the world of clothing and makeup, finding and following Native designers on Instagram and then setting out to join that world.

Last summer, she traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to model in the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts Native Fashion Show.

She said she was shocked when she saw that a favorite designer had chosen her for New York Fashion Week, which will run from Wednesday, Feb. 5 to Tuesday, Feb. 11. Logan said she has received numerous custom-made items of clothing and jewelry to wear while she is in New York and looks forward to providing exposure for the Indigenous artists who presented them to her.

“This is a very big fashion event, so having Indigenous representatives in one of these big events around the world is a very big deal,” she said.

Logan will be modeling for Shoshoni Hostler, an enrolled member of the Yurok Tribe, who runs a small business, Nar Rew Ekar, designing clothing that mixes contemporary style with traditional clothing. Her show will be presented at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in Sony Hall at Times Square.

“She’s a powerhouse, and I’m just grateful I was selected to represent her and her clothes for Fashion Week,” Logan said.

The lineup will also include Native model Skylar Evans.

“It’s really cool, because all the models she selected are Native,” Logan said.

She said she’s particularly drawn to Hostler’s clothing line because in addition to the style of contemporary blended with traditional, “She works with bear grass, abalone and dentalia, which I’m drawn to,” Logan said. “She creates couture pieces that take hours to make.”

Hostler is from a coastal Tribe, Logan noted, saying, “I just gravitate to it. It’s beautiful, intricate work.”

She said she hopes to inspire young Native people growing up today by allowing them to see someone who does look like them and who reflects their culture and values. ■

Kowing exhibit open now

An exhibit of paintings, sculptures and sketchbooks of Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Frank Kowing Jr., who walked on in 2016, will be at Oregon State University’s Memorial Union building through Friday, March 21.

Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Exhibit Coordinator Lyle Cairdeas helped bring Kowing’s artwork that was currently stored at the museum to OSU for the exhibit.

A reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. It is open to the public.

“We invite and encourage all that would like to come join us in celebrating not only Frank’s art and ideas, but also a gathering of those whose lives he touched and inspired in so many ways,” Cairdeas said.

For more information, contact angela.purviance@oregonstate.edu or lyle.cairdeas@grandronde.org. ■

Gas discount

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.

Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount. ■

COOKING CLASSES FOR VETERANS

AT THE CHERYLE KENNEDY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING ~ GRAND RONDE, OR
FROM 11 AM TO 12 PM

Join us for a delicious meal and learn how to make it at home.

Win prizes and take home a gift card!

FEBRUARY 6, 2025,

SALMON & POTATOES (WITH A CHICKEN SWAP)

FEBRUARY 20, 2025,

STEWES & SOUPS ~ ELK STEW & VENISON

MARCH 6, 2025,

DESSERTS ~ ICE CREAM, TARTS, & COBBLER

MARCH 20, 2025,

HOW TO USE LEFTOVERS



Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes

Feb 10th, March 9th, April 7th, 10-4pm @ CTGR Community Center

We will be working on everything from weaving to regalia making, hide work, drums, leather work, sewing, and gathering important plant fibers, and more! Feel free to Bring Your Own Craft and be in community!

We are in hopes to have some cedar donated from Culture Resources for the Feb class. Sewing machines will be available. We will have necklace making supplies available-make one for the Culture Committee/Restoration and make one to take home!

Any questions please feel free to reach out to the Culture Committee: Pamala Warren-Chase @ Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com; Marianne Blanchard @ indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com; Stephanie Craig @ kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com, Molly Leno @ molly.leno@grandronde.org

Tribal member joins police force

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Being a police officer was not always on Tribal member Ayden Bobb's radar, but he did know that he loved helping others.

After two months serving with the Grand Ronde Tribal Police following completion of the police academy in 2024, Bobb said that even on tough days, he knows he's found his place.

Bobb grew up in Salem, but spent a lot of time on the reservation, visiting his grandfather, Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., who walked on in 2022.

"We were pretty close," he said. "I got to see how much he dedicated of himself, with his years on the (Tribal) council, or even just conversations I saw him have," Bobb said. "If they were a member of the community, he cared."

Steve Bobb Sr. was a Vietnam War era Marine Corps veteran who served on Tribal Council for three terms, which he jokingly referred to as "tours on Tribal Council," using a military term. Bobb was a sculptor and painter who designed the Tribe's West Valley Veterans Me-



Ayden Bobb

morial and the "Visionaries" statue of the three Tribal Elders, credited for bringing about the Tribe's Restoration, at the front of

the Governance Center: Merle Holmes, Margaret Provost and Marvin Kimsey.

Even today, Bobb said, sometimes people he's had to arrest recall his grandfather with affection.

Even while driving them to jail, he said, some will ask if he's any relation to Steve Bobb. When he answers in affirmative, the response is usually, "Hell of a nice guy."

"My grandfather kind of paved the way for me," he said. "It's been two years since he died and I still haven't heard anything bad about him."

Bobb was working for the Tribe's Housing Department when he first began searching for another path.

"I was content with what I was doing, but I felt like I could do

more," he said.

In 2021, he joined the Marine Corps Reserves. "When I was younger, I wanted to be in the military," he said. "It was something I always wanted to do."

He returned to Oregon when his grandfather died.

"We were pretty close and it impacted me a lot," Bobb said. "Going through the mourning process, I started thinking about what my grandpa would want. He wouldn't want me to go around being sad all the time; he would want me to do something."

It was right around then, Bobb recalled, that the Tribe opened up an entry-level officer position.

"I had always admired law enforcement," he said. "It wasn't until after my grandpa passed away that I decided that was what I wanted to go do."

Bobb applied for the position and was hired. Because he lacked previous experience however, he first went through the police academy to learn the job. He graduated in October 2024 and began working full-time. Initially, new officers are placed in a field training enhancement program, working with a supervisor who gradually gives them more responsibility.

"A lot of the base stuff they give us at the academy, but it's different when you're with an actor at the academy, then in a real situation, so they guide us through that," he said.

Officers handle a wide variety of cases, from traffic patrol to intervening in difficult family problems. Bobb is the department's youngest new hire but said none of that has dissuaded him.

"I love it," he said. "There's nowhere else I'd rather be. I definitely made the right choice. When I was working as a housing technician...I felt like there was more I could be doing. I'm grateful to the department leadership and all they have done to get me to this point. I have challenged myself and met a lot of really great people."

Bobb acknowledged that the job isn't always easy.

"The days get long and you get tired," he said. "But there's never a day when I'd rather be somewhere else. I'm like, 'This is what the job is right now and I'm going to be getting this done.'"

He said he also appreciates his colleagues.

"Everybody helps everybody and everybody understands the job gets hard sometimes," he said. "It's like a family."

Bobb said he also appreciates the lack of predictability.

"There's never a routine call, because you never know what something is going to turn into," he said. "Traffic is one of my favorite things and investigating traffic calls. One minute you're sitting with paperwork and the next you're driving with lights and sirens to the casino."

An important aspect of the job, he said, is that he's working for the Tribe.

"Being in this community working for Grand Ronde is so very important to me," he said. "I grew up in Salem, but working for the Salem Police I would not have the same sense of pride as I do here."

Bobb said in his off hours, he enjoys spending time with his siblings as a family, and with his girlfriend and their dog. ■

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. ■

the MU Concourse Gallery presents
the collective works of



Frank Eugene Kowing
Apr. 1, 1944 - Sept. 24, 2016

Previously shown @ Linfield University,
Chachahale Museum,
and Cho Nakota Community College

Come to the Reception:
Thursday 2/20/25
-5pm til -7pm

RSVP to Terry @
tkowing@yahoo.com for the tickets
January 15th through March 21st

MU Art Collection
Gallery & Restoration

For accommodations relating to disability,
please contact reservations@oregonstate.edu
or call 541-737-2416

Oregon State University

Nature Playground



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

MG's Construction Service owner Mike Gonzalez sands a cedar board while working in the Nature Playground that is under construction Tuesday, Jan. 21. The playground is located across from the Elders Activity Center and will focus on natural elements and culturally influenced amenities, such as fishing platforms and a native plant restoration garden. It is scheduled to be completed at the end of March.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION

JANUARY - MARCH 2025 EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Chinuk Winter Gathering Dates: TBD	Love Rocks Date: 2/14 - 11am-2pm Location: Community Center	Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 3/1 starting at 6pm Location: Tribal Gym
Round Dance Gift Making Dates: 1/8 - 3:30-6:30 1/15 - 1:30-1:30 1/22 - 3:30-6:30 1/29 - 1:30-1:30 Location: Community Center	Unity Conference Date: 2/6-2/9 Location: Arizona	9 Tribes Youth Prevention Camp Date: 3/24-3/28 Location: TBD
Stick Game Dates: 1/16 - 3:30-5:15 1/30 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	Youth Native Wellness Day Date: 2/28 9am - 4pm Location: Tribal Gym	Canoe Journey Prep Dates: TBD
	Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 2/28 starting at 5pm Location: Tribal Gym	Stick Game Dates: 3/13 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J
	Stick Game Dates: 2/11 - 3:30-5:15 2/27 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	

**All events are subject to change, please look out for our official fliers on the Youth Empowerment & Prevention Facebook page.*

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

NATIVE YOUTH WELLNESS DAY

Hosted by Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025
8:30AM REGISTRATION
9AM-4PM

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & SNACKS PROVIDED
TRIBAL GYM

OPEN TO ALL NATIVE/DESCENDANT YOUTH IN MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL.



20TH ANNUAL AGENCY CREEK ROUND DANCE TO FOLLOW: STARTING AT 5PM

RSVP AND FOR ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL YEP@GRANDRONDE.ORG

BIG DOOR PRIZES

FACILITATED BY NATIVE WELLNESS INSTITUTE

THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY & CULTURE BY NOT DISPLAYING GANG AFFILIATION & BY NOT BRINGING DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR WEAPONS TO THIS EVENT.



Contributed photo

Congratulations, Trey

Tribal member and trumpet player Trey Danforth was selected for the 2025 Oregon Music Education Association District III High School Honor Band. A concert was held at Forest Grove High School on Saturday, Jan. 11. Danforth, 17, is a junior at Willamina High School and was one of three students selected for this honor by band director Ryan Lewis and the only Tribal member selected from WHS. Danforth has been playing the trumpet for four years. His mother is Tribal member Amy Danforth and his grandmother is Tribal Elder Barbara Danforth.

Anthony Hudson receives Native Performing Arts fellowship award

Grand Ronde Tribal member Anthony Hudson has been awarded a Native Performing Arts fellowship from the First Peoples Fund, which offers up to \$10,000 in funding for Native performing artists across theater, dance, music and more. He was one of 12 awardees from across the United States.



Anthony Hudson

Hudson is a multi-disciplinary artist who works as a writer, performer and filmmaker, and often performs as his "alter-ego" Carla Rossi, known as Portland's premier drag clown.

"This inaugural cohort of NPA grantees and fellows showcases the incredible diversity of creativity and expression in Indian Country," a press release stated. "As born storytellers and performers, these artists exemplify our communities' rich traditions and brilliance."

First Peoples Fund President and Chief Executive Officer Justin Kii Huenemann (Diné), shared his thoughts about the Native Performing Arts program.

"We're witnessing a remarkable surge in Native performing arts and productions across the country — a vibrant continuation of our traditions of storytelling, music, dance, and performance," he said. "We're thrilled to launch our first dedicated funding to support Native performing artists and their work."

The fellowship focuses on supporting artists holistically, with opportunities for professional growth, mentorship from industry experts and participation in the annual multi-day fellowship convening to connect with other artists. ■



Food drive for Easter boxes

Accepting donations until 4/11 at the EAC.

One raffle ticket per item donated.

Easter boxes will be handed out by the Food Pantry. Date TBD.



Valentine's Bake Sale

ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER
FEBRUARY 12TH, 2025
10AM TO 2PM

CAKES, CUPCAKES, BREADS,
CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES,
CAKE POPS, AND MUCH MORE

PROCEEDS WILL GO TO A TRIBAL YOUTH
RAISING MONEY TO TRAVEL ABROAD
THIS SUMMER WITH THEIR SCHOOL!



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



INSPIRE LOVE

RESPECT your partner and uplift EQUALITY in the relationship. Set HEALTHY BOUNDARIES and maintain SAFETY and SOVEREIGNTY. Honor CULTURE and spiritual practices. Choose LOVE and live FREE FROM VIOLENCE and abuse.



STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

844-7NATIVE (762-8483)
www.strongheartshelpline.org

Safe | Confidential | Anonymous | 24/7

This advertisement was produced by StrongHearts Native Helpline with Grant No 15POVC-23-GK-01582-TVAG, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this ad are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



Watchlist: ‘You’re No Indian’

(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 was put in front of all the Natives that everyone would benefit from Indian gaming,” the “You’re No Indian” trailer begins. “It hasn’t turned out that way.”

A new documentary about Tribal disenrollment released its trailer in the first few days of 2025. Within the two-minute trailer, a brief overview of what disenrollment is and why it is happening in Tribes across the country is described.

“Casinos play the biggest role in disenrollment,” a narrator said in the trailer. “The accumulation of extreme wealth is what’s driving disenrollment.”

The trailer uses interviews and animation to describe how disenrollment works. In one clip, a family tree is shown with red slashes through six generations. A narrator said that Tribes are disenrolling ancestors and therefore everyone behind them in the lineal descent is also disenrolled.

“If we’re a Tribe of 1,000 and the number of Tribal members is reduced in half to 500, then the remaining Tribal members just doubled their income,” one interviewee said.

The trailer shows the other side of the argument with Tribal members supporting disenrollment. Interview clips are shown recounting disenrollment as not a bad thing, with some families called “counterfeit.”

The trailer explained this practice is Natives banishing other Natives, and if it continues many Indigenous populations will cease to exist generations down the line.

Lumbee Nation Citizen David Wilkins co-authored the 2017 book, “Dismembered.” The book examines the unprecedented rates of disenrollment in Tribal nations since the 1990s. Wilkins said in an email to Smoke Signals that he was interviewed by the “You’re No Indian” director and producer, Ryan Flynn, several times.

“It looks and feels quite emotionally powerful and I look forward to seeing the full show when it’s made available to the public,” Wilkins said. “I hope this documentary receives a lot of attention, though I have heard that the leaders of some Native nations that are disenrolling folks are not happy about the project and may well try to interfere with its rollout for fear of the adverse publicity they might receive.”

On the “You’re No Indian” website it states that this documentary is not just a film but a call to action, with hopes of urging viewers to join the movement for truth and accountability of Tribal nations.

“I have no doubt that many of the disenrollees who were interviewed for the documentary felt at least a sense of relief that someone was paying attention to them for the disastrous way their own nation has treated them,” Wilkins said. “It will, I hope, create a stronger bond for all those who have been suffering and will enlighten those who watch the show.”

Smoke Signals will have more coverage on the documentary when it becomes available to the public.

You can watch the “You’re No Indian” trailer at <https://youtu.be/DcrtDiDASUg?si=3knh2K1OeiymaU9S> or see more about the film at www.yourenoinian.com. ■

TERO Worker of the Month December 2024

Name: Tye Russell
Employer: Kiewit Bridge & Marine
Position: Journeyman Carpenter
 Tye Russell joined the TERO Skills Bank in 2018 and came with a vast number of skillsets. He has been a journeyman carpenter for 20 years and has been a great asset to the Abernethy Bridge widening project in Oregon City where he was dispatched to Kiewit Bridge & Marine through our TERO program.



Tye Russell

Tye has utilized TERO in other job dispatches throughout the Pacific Northwest with other Tribes and is a very passionate supporter of its mission to help fellow workers and their families.

When asked how TERO has helped him, Tye said that TERO has always been a great supporter for himself and other Tribal members in opening doors to the construction industry.

TERO is proud to award Tye with the December TERO Worker of the Month for his dedication and hard work, and also his support promoting and putting a good word out to recruit other Tribal members to our program.

Tye goes on to say he is thankful to the Grand Ronde TERO program and those before him for their sacrifice and commitment for the future for our native people.

Our staff here at TERO gives many thanks to Tye for representing himself and our program in a great way! Congrats Tye, keep up the good work!

**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**

Tribal nonemergency text

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. ■



hayu-munk
skukum & YEP



YOUTH STICK GAMES

Location:
9615 Grand Ronde Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97396
Youth Education Building “J”

Join us and learn stick game, stick game songs and practice some of our cultural teachings!

Time & Dates:
 01/16/25- 3:30-5:15pm
 01/30/25- 3:30-5:15pm
 02/11/25- 3:30-5:15pm
 02/27/25- 3:30-5:15pm
 03/13/25- 3:30-5:15pm

CONTACT US

 503-879-2101

 yep@grandronde.org



Are you moving?

Do you need help with First, Last, and Deposit?

This program has limited funding and will be a first come, first served program.

Contact Social Services for more information
 (503) 879-2034 or (800) 422-0232

You can also email us at
ssdinfo@grandronde.org

FILED *vl*
JAN 15 2025
TRIBAL COURT

1 IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
2 GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

3 IN THE MATTER OF:) Case No.: 24C0020
4 JACKON JIMMIELEE HUDSON,) ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE
5 a Minor,) NAME
6 by)
7 CHELSEA MARIE PETERS,)
8 Parent/Petitioner)

9 Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Minor Name
10 Change filed on October 24, 2024, and the sworn testimony of the Petitioner
11 at the Show Cause Hearing held on November 14, 2024;

12

13 THE COURT FINDS:

14 (X)The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Tribe's
15 Name Change and Birth certification Ordinance Tribal Code § 3.11
16 (c).
17 (X)Petitioner is over 18 years of age and is the parent or legal
18 guardian of the minor child;
19 (X)The child is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of
20 the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon;
21 (X)The child has not been granted a change of name by the Tribal
22 Court within the past twelve (12) months;
23 (X)No objection to the Petition has been filed by any parent or legal
24 guardian of the minor child and no objection was raised at the Show
25 Cause Hearing;

1 (X)Roy Lee Hudson, the biological father of the minor child, has
2 consented to the name change.
3 (X)The proposed name change is in the best interests of the minor
4 child and the Court grants the Petition.

5

6 THE COURT DECREES:

7 (X)That the name of the minor child be changed from Jackson Jimmielee
8 Hudson to Jackson Jimmielee Peters-Hudson;
9 (X)That the Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order
10 to be published in the Tribal Newsletter;
11 (X)That the Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of
12 this Order to the Tribal Enrollment office;
13 (X)That the Clerk of the Court shall provide a certified copy of this
14 Order to be submitted to the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the
15 state in which the applicant was born;
16 (X)That the Petitioner, on behalf of the minor child, shall surrender
17 all old Tribal identification cards bearing applicant's former name
18 to the Tribal Enrollment Office prior to the enrollment office
19 issuing applicant new Tribal identification cards bearing the
20 applicant's new name;
21 (X)That within sixty (60) days from the date of this order the Tribal
22 Enrollment staff and if necessary the Tribal Enrollment Committee
23 shall cause new Tribal Identification cards to be issued to
24 Petitioner showing the new name of the Tribal member and shall
25 change the official membership roll and all official enrollment
records of the Tribe to reflect the Petitioner's new name as stated
in this Decree.

DATED THIS 15th day of JANUARY, 2025.

/s/ Patrick S. Melendy
Patrick S. Melendy,
Chief Judge

FILED *vl*
JAN 15 2025
TRIBAL COURT

1 IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
2 GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

3 IN THE MATTER OF:) Case No.: 24C0019
4 JORDYN LYNN HUDSON,) ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE
5 a Minor,) NAME
6 by)
7 CHELSEA MARIE PETERS,)
8 Parent/Petitioner)

9 Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Minor Name
10 Change filed on October 24, 2024, and the sworn testimony of the Petitioner
11 at the Show Cause Hearing held on November 14, 2024;

12

13 THE COURT FINDS:

14 (X)The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Tribe's
15 Name Change and Birth certification Ordinance Tribal Code § 3.11
16 (c).
17 (X)Petitioner is over 18 years of age and is the parent or legal
18 guardian of the minor child;
19 (X)The child is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of
20 the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon;
21 (X)The child has not been granted a change of name by the Tribal
22 Court within the past twelve (12) months;
23 (X)No objection to the Petition has been filed by any parent or legal
24 guardian of the minor child and no objection was raised at the Show
25 Cause Hearing;

1 (X)Roy Lee Hudson, the biological father of the minor child, has
2 consented to the name change.
3 (X)The proposed name change is in the best interests of the minor
4 child and the Court grants the Petition.

5

6 THE COURT DECREES:

7 (X)That the name of the minor child be changed from Jordyn Lynn Hudson
8 to Jordyn Lynn Peters-Hudson;
9 (X)That the Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order
10 to be published in the Tribal Newsletter;
11 (X)That the Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of
12 this Order to the Tribal Enrollment office;
13 (X)That the Clerk of the Court shall provide a certified copy of this
14 Order to be submitted to the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the
15 state in which the applicant was born;
16 (X)That the Petitioner, on behalf of the minor child, shall surrender
17 all old Tribal identification cards bearing applicant's former name
18 to the Tribal Enrollment Office prior to the enrollment office
19 issuing applicant new Tribal identification cards bearing the
20 applicant's new name;
21 (X)That within sixty (60) days from the date of this order the Tribal
22 Enrollment staff and if necessary the Tribal Enrollment Committee
23 shall cause new Tribal Identification cards to be issued to
24 Petitioner showing the new name of the Tribal member and shall
25 change the official membership roll and all official enrollment
records of the Tribe to reflect the Petitioner's new name as stated
in this Decree.

DATED THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY, 2025.

/s/ Patrick S. Melendy
Patrick S. Melendy,
Chief Judge



DUE TO ILLEGAL DUMPING OF TRASH IN THE RECYCLE BINS AND CONTAMINATION, THIS RECYCLING DEPOT IS ON THE VERGE OF CLOSING AND GOING AWAY.

CTGR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

RECYCLE

whatbin.com

Bottles and Tubs 4oz or Larger Metals Mixed Paper and Cardboard

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. ■

Reading volunteers needed

Children’s literacy nonprofit SMART Reading is seeking volunteers to read with students weekly at Grand Ronde Head Start. Reading is an essential skill for kids, helping them start and stay on a path to success in school and beyond, according to a press release from the organization.

“Volunteering with SMART Reading is a fun, meaningful way to impact kids right here in our community,” Michael Finlay, Interim Program Manager for SMART’s northwest area, said. “I regularly have volunteers tell me that the hour they spend at SMART is the best part of their week.”

The time commitment is one hour per week. To learn more, contact 971-634-1628 or visit www.SMARTReading.org. ■

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach 6-12	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Berista Trainee – Limited Duration – TERO	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	01/27/2025
Cashier-Fueler Part Time (Variable Shift)	3	\$15.59/hr.	\$15.59/hr.	02/03/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Community Transition Case Manager	13	\$39.61/hr.	\$50.87/hr.	Until Filled
Compliance Manager – Gaming Commission	16	\$107,644.28/yr.	\$140,433.67/yr.	Until Filled
Compliance Officer – TERO	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	01/27/2025
Employment Caseworker	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Supervisor K-5	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Firefighter/EMT	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	01/27/2025
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	01/27/2025
Grant-Writer	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	01/27/2025
Health Promotion Specialist – Community Health	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
IT Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Adult Foster Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part-Time & On-Call * \$500 Hire-On Bonus after 120-days	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Counselor – Sheridan – Great Circle Recovery	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Portland - Great Circle Recovery	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician-Salem- Great Circle Recovery	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	02/03/2025
Pharmacy Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	01/27/2025
Staff Pharmacist	19	\$137,901.74/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland – Great Circle Recovery	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part-Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	01/27/2025
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

We have transitioned to a new applicant portal system. Returning applicants will need to create a new profile in UKG. Previous log-in credentials with Acquire are no longer valid.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde offers generous benefits and competitive pay. POSTINGS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED & WILL BE REMOVED WITHOUT NOTICE

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

- Grand Ronde Tribal members.
- (Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they meet the minimum qualifications of the position during the course of the screening and interview process will be given first consideration for hire and the recruitment process will end)
- Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children and current regular employees.
- External candidates. **Apply online at: www.grandronde.org**

Now accepting applications!

Native American Habitat Restoration Internships at Elderberry Wisdom Farm – Spring and Summer 2025



The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting interns pursuing conservation career pathways for its 2025 Habitat Restoration Internships. This paid opportunity provides Native Americans and other people of color an opportunity to receive culturally tailored training, experiential service learning, and mentoring. Traditional Ecological Knowledge is integrated with local restoration practices and native plant nursery development in collaboration with mid-Willamette Valley partners.

A \$3,000 stipend will be provided for those completing the nine-week internship. Spring trainings are held three days a week from March 31 to May 30, 2025 and in Summer from June 23 to August 22 for a total of 190 hours of indoor classroom education and experiential service-learning activities.

A highlight of the internship is the emphasis upon Native American habitat restoration practices that integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge principles, climate adaptation practices, and mentoring. The service learning will help you learn to strengthen the biodiversity and sustainability of mid-Willamette Valley ecosystems at our work sites, including wetlands, oak prairie, and organic farmland, plus Elderberry Wisdom Farm’s four-acre native plant nursery and greenhouse south of Salem, OR.

There are opportunities for interns who are motivated to continue their training to become part-time employees or become emerging owners and operators of the habitat restoration or native plant nursery businesses EWF formed. Promising urban forestry and agroforestry opportunities even includes transitioning to organic farming, dry farming, and other practices that help to strengthen Native American food sovereignty as well as social and economic resilience of Native families.

To apply: Please complete the [application form](#). Visit our website at www.elderberrywisdom.org or if you have questions, feel free to leave a message at [contact us](#).



Paid ad

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Events Coordinator	1/30/2025	\$23.24/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	1/30/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Sports Bar Bussperson (*Part-Time)	1/30/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Assistant Banquet Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Bar Porter (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Pastry Sous Chef	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Slot Floor Supervisor	Until Filled	\$23.24/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent I	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent II	Until Filled	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent III	Until Filled	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips

\$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

- ✓ SMGI adheres to a Tribal hiring preference policy for enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
- ✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.
- ✓ Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
- ✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus

✉ employmentteam@spiritmtn.com

<https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Sunday, December 1

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 100 block of Main Street in Willamina.
- Trespassing occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8500 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, December 2

- Fraud occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An animal complaint was reported in the area of Tilixam Circle and Tye Road.
- A crash occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 200 block of Ead Creek Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Trespassing occurred in the area of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.

Tuesday, December 3

- Trespassing occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers responded to a no contact order violation on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- Officers served a warrant on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A welfare check occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- A missing person was reported in the area of North Street and Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious person was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 14.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest was made in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, December 4

- A domestic disturbance occurred in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, December 5

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Stone Road and Highway 22.
- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An arrest was made due to a traffic offense in the area of Fort Hill Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.

Friday, December 6

- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant was served in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- A drug complaint was reported in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- A domestic disturbance occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- A crash occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 15.

Saturday, December 7

- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 60000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, December 8

- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Monday, December 9

- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Theft occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted with coverage in the area of Fort Hill Road and Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, December 10

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Wednesday, December 11

- Citizen contact occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted with traffic in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- An animal complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- An animal complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 28.

Thursday, December 12

- A stolen vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18B near milepost 1.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An arrest for a traffic violation occurred in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- An animal complaint was reported in the area of Jahn Road and Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 28400 block of McPherson Road.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, December 13

- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 8800 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, December 14

- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Blacktail Drive and Grand Ronde Road.
- An arrest was made in the area of Hebo and LaChance roads.

Sunday, December 15

- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 29.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 600 block of Southeast Sheridan Road in Sheridan.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Trespassing occurred on Hebo Road near milepost 24.

Monday, December 16

- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the area of Grand Ronde and Hebo roads.
- A 911 hang-up call was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, December 17

- A disturbance occurred in the 8800 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Wednesday, December 18

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A noise complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Thursday, December 19

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Highway 18B and Yamhill River Road.
- Trespassing occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Disorderly conduct occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, December 20

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 29000 block of Rock Creek Drive.

See POLICE LOG continued on page 17



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



POLICE LOG continued from page 16

- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Raven Loop and Tye Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of First and B streets in Willamina.

Saturday, December 21

- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 29000 block of Rock Creek Drive.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest was made on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Blacktail Drive and Blue Jay Court.

Sunday, December 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 22 near milepost 2.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 100 block of Madison Street in Sheridan.

Monday, December 23

- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, December 24

- Officers assisted traffic in the area of Salmon River Highway and Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest was made in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, December 25

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers responded to a crash on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 20.
- A traffic hazard was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 14.

Thursday, December 26

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Friday, December 27

- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 22.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Grand Ronde Road and North Street.

- Officers served a warrant in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Tye Road and Wind River Drive.

Saturday, December 28

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of B and First streets in Willamina.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest was made in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, December 29

- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, December 30

- A crash occurred in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- A warrant was served in the 28400 block of McPherson Road.
- An ordinance violation occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 29000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred in the area of Fire Hall Road and Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, December 31

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 29000 block of Joe Day Way.
- A hit-and-run occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A noise complaint was reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An arrest for traffic crimes occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Austin Gomez*



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 **Tribal Member Review Board**
(open to all community members) (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/



Walking On...

Grace Ellen Warren

Feb. 26, 1939 – Jan. 19, 2025

Tribal Elder Grace Ellen Warren passed away on Sunday, Jan. 19, at the age of 85.

Hillside Chapel in Oregon City is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.



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

Open Positions

Development and Communications Director	\$120-140K/yr
Many Nations Academy Principal	\$110-125K/yr
Many Nations Academy Substitute Teachers	\$150-175/day
Housing Services Manager	\$80-85K/yr
Home Repair Coordinator	\$60-64K/yr
Early Childhood Family First Advocate	\$50-54K/yr
Youth Alcohol & Drug Prevention Specialist	\$25-27/hr
Student Success Specialist	\$25/hr
Foster Care Support Specialist	\$22/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

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

01/23/25

Paid ad

Attention to Tribal members with Medicare

Previously, Shasta had a contract with Medicare to automatically roll over outstanding balances once Medicare paid. At this point in time, Forest County does not have that in place, but they are working on it. It's a contract, so it's going to take some time. Be sure to take your new cards with you to give to your providers.

If you are receiving bills from your providers after Medicare processes, you can drop them off here at the clinic (patient check-in) or you can call FCP at 715-478-4610 to provide the information or you can email them if that is an option at FCPInsurance@fcp-nsn.gov.

We know this transition has been rocky and we are right in the thick of it with you. We appreciate your patience! Hopefully we'll start seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

hayu masi,
HWC Admin

TYPES OF IN HOME SERVICES

Home Health Care

Home health care providers services in a patient's home to treat an illness or injury. These services are provided by licensed nurses, therapists, home health aids. Insurance *may* cover home health care if the patient is homebound or needs intermittent skilled nursing or therapy (care at least once every 60 days, but no more than once a day for up to three weeks). Requires referral from healthcare provider.

SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Nursing Care for wound care, medication administration, pain management, and more
- Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy
- Activities of Daily Living Assistance
- Medication Management

Home care is care that allows a person to stay in their home. It can be for people who are chronically ill, recovering from surgery and do not qualify for home health care, or have a disability, or are aging and wish to stay home. Home care services, are not covered by insurance, but covered out of pocket by the person receiving the care.

SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Personal care such as helping with bathing, washing hair, or getting dressed
- Household chores such as cleaning, yard work, laundry
- Cooking or delivering meals
- Money management
- Medical transportation

Home Care Services

Community Health provider a community approach for improving the overall health, preventing disease and reducing health disparities by addressing the whole person. Services and support is offered to Tribal Elders and Native Family Caregivers.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Medical Transportation
- Elder Justice Support
- Care Management
- Wellness Checks
- Medication Delivery
- Dementia Care Support
- Blood Pressure Checks
- ER/Hospital Discharge Calls
- Life Alert Services
- Home Safety Visits
- Any many more....

Grand Ronde Community Health

GRHWC PROJECTED tush lamatsin EVENTS 2025

January

Pajama Jam
1/10 from 5-7pm @Tribal Gym
Fresh Foods Distribution
1/23 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

February

Sweetheart's Jam
2/13 from 5-7pm @ Tribal Gym
Fresh Foods Distribution
2/20 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

March

Fresh Foods Distribution
3/20 Start 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

April

Earth Day Jam
4/18 from 5-7 @ Tribal Gym
Fresh Foods Distribution
4/24 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

May

Fentanyl Awareness Event
Mother's Day Tea
Canoe Outings
Fresh Foods Distribution
5/22 Starts 10:00am
@GR Procurement Building

June

Elder Canoe Day 6/18 Location TBD
Father's Day BBQ
Canoe Outings
Fresh Foods Distribution
6/26 Starts 10:00am
@GR Procurement Building
June Jam 6/27 (TBD)

July

Fresh Foods Distribution
7/17 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building
Marcellus Norwest
Memorial Veterans Powwow
July 11 - 13, 2025
@Uyxat Powwow Ground
Canoe Journey (tentatively)

August

Fun Run / Walk
8/16 - Time TBD
@Uyxat Powwow Grounds
3v3 Bball Collab
Fresh Foods Distribution
8/21 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building
Canoe Journey (tentatively)

September

Fresh Foods Distribution
9/18 Starts 10:00am
@GR Procurement Building
Every Child Matters Jam
9/20 - Location & Time TBD
Canoe Races (tentatively)

October

Health and Wellness Centers
28th birthday 10/ 01
Fresh Foods Distribution
10/16 Starts 10:00am
@GR Procurement Building
Fall Festival - TBD

November

Fresh Foods Distribution
11/20 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

December

Fresh Foods Distribution
12/18 Starts 10:00am
@ GR Procurement Building

*All events are subject to change, please look out for our official fliers on the GRHWC Facebook page



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

National Children's Dental Health Month

Every February, National Children's Dental Health Month shines a spotlight on the importance of oral health in children. Sponsored by the American Dental Association, this nationwide observance serves as a reminder to parents, caregivers and educators about the pivotal role dental hygiene plays in a child's overall health and well-being.



The importance of oral health in children

Dental health is an integral part of a child's overall wellness. Poor oral hygiene can lead to tooth decay, gum disease and even systemic issues such as infections that affect other parts of the body. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases in children aged 6 to 11 years and adolescents aged 12 to 19 years. Left untreated, dental problems can cause pain, difficulty eating, and even issues with speech development and self-esteem.

Key messages for parents and caregivers

1. Start early: Begin oral care as soon as the first tooth appears. Use a soft, damp cloth to clean infants' gums and transition to a small toothbrush as teeth emerge.
2. Brush and floss daily: Teach children to brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and floss daily to remove plaque between teeth.
3. Regular dental visits: Schedule the first dental visit by the child's first birthday and maintain routine check-ups every six months.
4. Healthy diet choices: Limit sugary snacks and beverages, which can contribute to cavities. Encourage a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables and dairy products that promote strong teeth.
5. Fluoride and sealants: Talk to your dentist about fluoride treatments and dental sealants, which provide additional protection against tooth decay.

A brighter future for every child

National Children's Dental Health Month is more than just a campaign; it's a movement to ensure that every child grows up with a healthy smile. By fostering early habits and providing access to preventive care, we can set the foundation for a lifetime of oral health and confidence. Let's work together to make dental health a priority this February and beyond!

Did you know that Sheila Blacketer, RDH will come over to Medical during well-child checks with Dr. Empey. The services she provides is screening for cavities, cleaning, sealants and fluoride varnish. She also gives oral hygiene supplies and will answer any questions you have regarding the oral health of your family. ■

National Caregiver's Day is Feb. 21

Each year, National Caregiver's Day is observed on the third Friday of February to recognize and celebrate the selfless individuals who provide essential care to those in need. Whether assisting an elderly parent, supporting a child with special needs, or caring for someone recovering from illness, caregivers play a pivotal role in maintaining the well-being of our communities. This day serves as a reminder to honor their dedication and to raise awareness about the challenges they face.



Who are caregivers?

Caregivers are individuals who offer physical, emotional and often financial support to someone unable to fully care for themselves. They can be family members, friends or professional healthcare workers. Caregivers often help with tasks like bathing, dressing, meal preparation, medication management and transportation to medical appointments. Beyond these practical tasks, they also provide emotional support and companionship, which are vital to the mental health of those they care for.

The impact of caregiving

Caregiving is both a rewarding and challenging role. On the one hand, it allows caregivers to deepen their connections with their loved ones and provide meaningful support. On the other hand, it can be physically, emotionally and financially taxing. According to the Family Caregiver Alliance, many caregivers experience stress, burnout, and health problems as a result of their responsibilities. Balancing caregiving duties with work and personal life often leads to fatigue and feelings of isolation.

How to support caregivers

National Caregiver's Day is an opportunity for everyone to show appreciation and offer support to caregivers. Here are some ways to make a difference:

1. Express gratitude: A simple thank you note or verbal acknowledgment can go a long way in boosting a caregiver's morale.
2. Offer respite: Give caregivers a break by volunteering to take over their duties for a few hours. This can allow them to recharge and attend to their own needs.
3. Provide resources: Share information about local support groups, counseling services or community programs designed for caregivers.
4. Financial assistance: If possible, contribute to costs related to caregiving, such as medical supplies or transportation expenses.

National Caregiver's Day is more than just a date on the calendar; it's a call to action to recognize and uplift those who dedicate their lives to caring for others. By showing appreciation and advocating for better resources and support, we can ensure that caregivers receive the recognition and assistance they deserve. Let's make this day a celebration of compassion, resilience and the enduring spirit of caregiving. ■

Whoop! (There It Is)

In 2024, Oregon recorded its highest number of cases of Whooping Cough (also known as Pertussis) since 1950. We can prevent this!

What is Whooping Cough?

It is an infection caused by a bacteria spread via airborne particles when someone coughs or sneezes. **Babies younger than 1 year of age have the greatest risk of severe illness.**



What are the symptoms?

Early on, symptoms are similar to a cold and include runny/stuffed up nose, mild cough and low grade fever (<100.4 F). After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing fits may start, marked by people making high-pitched "whooping" sounds when they try to inhale after coughing. Often, these coughing fits are described as the worst cough you've ever had. **A person with Whooping Cough can be infectious for at least two weeks after their symptoms begin.**

How can we protect our community from Whooping Cough?

Get vaccinated, practice good hygiene, and seek medical attention if you've been exposed to someone with Whooping Cough. **Call GRHWC at 503-879-2002 to schedule a vaccine!**

People of all ages need WHOOPING COUGH VACCINES



DTaP for young children	Tdap for preteens	Tdap for pregnant women	Tdap for adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2, 4, and 6 months ✓ 15 through 18 months ✓ 4 through 6 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 11 through 12 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the 27-36th week of each pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Anytime for those who have never received it

www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough

cold weather safety

Do you and your family like to get outside during the cold weather months? If so, here are some tips to keep you safe this winter:

#1 Tip: Keep your children supervised, especially young children, to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

Recognize Hypothermia

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

Signs: Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.

Actions: Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

Dress for the Elements

Proper clothing can help prevent hypothermia and frostbite.

- Don't go outside immediately after a bath or shower.
- Wear warm, loose-fitting layers.
- Bring your child inside often and check their fingers and nose for signs of frostbite.
- Stay dry. Change layers if needed. Take extra clothes if traveling away from home.

*Recommendations from OHSU and Ready.gov, 2025

Recognize Frostbite

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes and can lead to permanent tissue damage.

Signs: Redness, tingling, or numbness in the skin.

Actions: Bring your child indoors





SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

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ZIP-UP HOODIE (TEAL) \$35							Not Available
T-SHIRT (BLACK) <small>BACK GRAPHIC</small> \$15					Discontinued		
T-SHIRT (BLACK) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (GRAY) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (TEAL) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (CYAN) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15		Discontinued	Discontinued	Discontinued			

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