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MARCH 1, 2025



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## Status of federal grants remains uncertain

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren

*Smoke Signals staff writers*

Clarity over which of the Tribe's federal grants may be affected by the Trump administration's funding freeze remains hard to come by, as so much remains in flux at the federal level.

Numerous lawsuits have been filed and may not be resolved for weeks or months. It is also unclear whether the Trump administration will abide by court orders.



**Cheryle A. Kennedy**

Tribal Department heads and council members are keeping an eye on the news, and planning for how to proceed if funds are not forthcoming.

Two judges have ordered that the freeze be paused while lawsuits are ongoing. One of them, U.S. District Court Judge John McConnell, ordered the administration to comply with his earlier temporary restraining order, according to CBS News. Agencies were ordered to restore any funds that had been paused or withheld.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, the Tribe received a letter from Department of Health and Human Services Acting General Counsel Sean Keveney, stating that in late January, the Indian Health Service had asked whether the executive order imposing the funding freeze applied

See GRANTS  
continued on page 11



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Peer Support Specialist Ferrell DeGarmo tours the Main Street Recovery House during an open house in Sheridan Monday, Feb. 24. Main Street Recovery House is Great Circle Recovery's new residential drug and alcohol addiction treatment center.

## Tribe celebrates opening of new residential treatment center

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

A longtime goal of the Tribe was accomplished on Monday, Feb. 24, when Great Circle Recovery held an open house to celebrate the opening of its new residential drug and alcohol addiction treatment center, Main Street Recovery House, in Sheridan.

"I know that this has been a long time coming," Tribal General Manager Angie Blackwell said. "I'm just really happy we can have a place close to home, and not have our people waiting



for a bed."

Located in a former bed-and-breakfast, the house features 18 bedrooms for intensive in-patient treatment. A small hotel located behind the main house holds another 13 beds intended for transitional housing once residents are recovered enough to live more independently, while still undergoing outpatient treatment and receiving mental health services.

Best of all, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said, treatment at the center will not be limited by insurance restrictions. Instead, people will be able to stay as long as needed. Although insurance services will be billed for service, Tribal members will not be required to leave if they are not sufficiently recovered when the insurance payments stop.

"Until you're well," Rowe said. "The stay is as long as it takes. ...

See OPENING  
continued on page 7

## Tribal firefighters assist with Los Angeles blazes

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

LOS ANGELES — The fires began on Tuesday, Jan. 7. Hot and dry Santa Ana winds blowing with hurricane force drove the flames across the drought-stricken landscape and into Los Angeles neighborhoods. Over the following three and a half weeks, eight fires killed 29 people and destroyed thousands of homes. Calls for aid went out almost immediately. By the second day of the fires, the Grand Ronde Natural Resources Fire Protection and Management Program was pulling together a crew to send.

Wildland firefighters Steve Ashby, Max Lynn,

Josh Royse and Tribal member Nick Larsen drove for two days to reach San Diego County in southern California. They downplayed their response to the call.

"We typically do respond nationwide, so this type of assignment isn't out of the ordinary for us," Ashby said.

Although winter is not usually their busy season, answering calls for help from across the country is business as usual.

Lynn noted that California "was basically calling for all help that was willing to come down there, as well as having a lot of firefighters on standby in case of another fire were to pop up. ... And you know, there were fires that were

happening, new, while we were down there and because there were so many personnel down in the area, they were able to stop a lot of those fires and keep them small."

Larsen said being on standby involved a constant state of readiness.

"We always had a plan," he said. "We were kind of on the sidelines, which was fine."

Ashby said the out-of-state firefighters were there to support the local crews so that they would have enough resources available.

Fire Management and Protection Program Man-

See FIRES  
continued on page 8



# General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, March 2

Tribal Council Chambers

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, March 5.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 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.

## LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

I want to thank Nicole Montesano and my brother, Bradley Kowing, for the awesome article in the Jan. 15 Smoke Signals. It covered my grandmother, Cecil Rose Russell Porter, and her time growing up and being taken from her family to the Chemawa Indian School.

Grandmother Cecil as always an active part of our families' life and we saw her every week. Her children and grandchildren were very important to her and saw that she was taken care of. Her home was always a place where family and friends were welcome.

In all of the times I visited her, grandmother never spoke of her time in the Indian school. The only hint of her time spent there came when I was 6 or 7. She took my three brothers and myself out to the small woodshed behind her house in Willamina.

"I have something to show you!" she said. In a box was her calico cat with a clutter of new babies. Black, white and calicos all being cleaned by their mother. "Do you see how the mother cat loves her babies regardless of what color they are? That is the way our Heavenly Father loves us. Don't ever judge a person by their color or belief."

Grandmother could have chosen to hate the people who stole her away from her family for 10 years. In the paperwork that was finally released from the national archives, were personal letters from grandmother asking our Norwest relatives if she couldn't, "Please come for a visit?" The reply was always a yes and tickets were even bought. However, there were letters from the school saying Cecil was their property until she was 18. She wasn't allowed to visit or have any visitors.

It stuck with me my whole life what grandmother Cecil said about us all being equal in God's eyes. Wouldn't the world be a great place if everyone felt this way, all being brothers and sisters and caring for all.

Sincerely,

Judith Kowing Nesbit  
Roll #1823

## Spirit Mountain Casino Tribal Marketplace seeking vendors

Spirit Mountain Casino will host a Tribal Marketplace from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 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. ■

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
OFFSITE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Sunday, April 6**

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

Followed by  
Community Input Meeting.

www.grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# smok signalz

## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
1-800-422-0232 • FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: www.smokesignals.org

Email: news@grandronde.org

Email: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org

X (Formerly Twitter): CTGRsmoksignalz  
www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/  
www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel

### DANIELLE HARRISON

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER / EDITOR  
503-879-4663  
danielle.harrison@grandronde.org

### MICHELLE ALAIMO

PHOTOJOURNALIST / ASSISTANT EDITOR  
503-879-1961  
michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org

### JUSTIN PHILLIPS

PRODUCTION SPECIALIST  
503-879-2190  
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

### SAMUEL F. BRIGGS III

GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST  
503-879-1416  
samuel.briggs@grandronde.org

### KAMIAH KOCH

SOCIAL MEDIA / DIGITAL JOURNALIST  
503-879-1461  
kamiah.koch@grandronde.org

### NICOLE MONTESANO

STAFF WRITER  
503-879-1463  
nicole.montesano@grandronde.org

### KATHERINE WARREN

SECRETARY / ADVERTISING  
503-879-1466 • katherine.warren-steffensmier@grandronde.org

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Thursday, Mar. 6 .....	Mar. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Mar. 20 .....	Apr. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Friday, Apr. 4 .....	Apr. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Tuesday, Apr. 22 .....	May. 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.

## 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

### CHERYLE A. KENNEDY

Tribal Council Chairwoman  
— ext. 2352  
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

### KATHLEEN GEORGE

— ext. 2305  
kathleen.george@grandronde.org

### CHRIS MERCIER

Tribal Council Vice Chair  
— ext. 1444  
chris.mercier@grandronde.org

### BRENDA TUOMI

— ext. 2300  
brenda.tuomi@grandronde.org

### JON A. GEORGE

Tribal Council Secretary  
— ext. 2355  
jon.george@grandronde.org

### MATTHEW HALLER

— ext. 1777  
matthew.haller@grandronde.org

### LISA LENO

— ext. 1770  
lisaleno@grandronde.org

### TONYA GLEASON-SHEPEK


— ext. 4555  
tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org

### DENISE HARVEY

— ext. 2353  
denise.harvey@grandronde.org



# IN THE FUTURE



(k<sup>h</sup>apa atqi)

**᠘un-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.

**lakit-mun (April)**

- Wednesday, April 2 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, April 6 – General Council meeting, Lane Community College Longhouse, Eugene, 11 a.m., and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, April 16 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

**To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit [www.smokesignals.org/calendar](http://www.smokesignals.org/calendar).**

## MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

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

## 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:**  
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**Grand Ronde Royalty:**  
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**Grand Ronde Youth Council:**  
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**Grand Ronde Station:**  
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**Grand Ronde Social Services Department:**  
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**Grand Ronde Food Bank:**  
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**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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## PSU President visit




Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Portland State University President Ann Cudd visits with Tribal Council members in the Tribal Council conference room Wednesday, Feb. 12. Better and continued communication and campus housing were part of the conversation. The Tribe currently has five full-time and four part-time students that attend the university.**



**Portland State University President Ann Cudd looks at a display of books created by Tribal members that are on display at the Tribal Library as Education Department Manager Angela Fasana gives her a tour of the buildings.**




# ikanum

## PULAK<sup>h</sup>LI

### WINTER STORIES NIGHT

**MARCH 13TH**  
**5-7 @**  
**ACHAF**  
**HAMMI**  
**LONG HOUSE**



**SHARING**  
**STORIES**  
**AND**  
**FOOD**



# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək<sup>h</sup>mək 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 March 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 Veterans House, Acting Chair: Pamala Warren-Chase.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 14, 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** – The Tribe and the City of Salem signed a memorandum of understanding intended to “strengthen the government-to-government relationship” between the two entities. It pledged that representatives of the city and Tribe would establish a database of known archeological sites and Tribally significant areas that have a high probability of his-



2020

File photo

toric and pre-contact significance. In addition, the city pledged to provide the Tribe with adequate notice for proposed land use actions on private lands within the significant areas and ensure consultation.

**2015** – The Tribal Council approved a contract for construction of a 20,000-square-foot arbor for the uyxat Powwow Grounds, with a removable shade and rain cover. The council also approved an amendment to one logging unit, to allow use the necessary amount of Douglas fir logs from the Reservation for the construction.

**2010** – The Tribe received a \$235,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant to more than double the size of the library from 1,390 square feet to 2,890. The Tribe provided matching funds of \$108,334 for the project.

**2005** – Grand Ronde community member Jo Elam had the opportunity to release a Peregrine Falcon she had found injured and trapped in a fence by the post office in mid-December. The bird, which had suffered a broken wing, was treated by McMinnville Animal Hospital and then rehabilitated by the Audubon Society of Portland’s wildlife care center, before being brought back and released in the field behind Willamina Middle School.

**2000** – Spirit Mountain Community Fund provided a \$33,208 grant to Grand Ronde Elementary School, to bolster math programs and continue the emphasis on reading instruction at the school, which had a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

**1995** – Work on the foundation of the new Spirit Mountain Casino was 80% complete. Jeffrey A. Dalton, project manager for Drake/Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, said that when the foundation was complete, the company would start erecting the steel framework for the building.

**1990** – Representatives of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council met with the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners and presented them with a check for \$20,000, to compensate the county for revenues lost due to the establishment of the Grand Ronde Reservation.

**1985** – No edition available

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

## 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. ■

## 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.



# Tribal Council renews Marion-Polk Food Share contract

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council renewed a two-year contract with Marion-Polk Food Share for operation of the Grand Ronde Food Bank (iskam mək<sup>h</sup>mək-haws) at its Wednesday, Feb. 19, meeting.

The \$375,399 contract includes distribution of approximately 350,000 pounds of emergency food in more than 5,000 boxes to the greater Grand Ronde community.

There are no changes from the previous agreement.

“The amount is the same,” General Manager Angie Blackwell said at a Tuesday, Feb. 11, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “Marion-Polk asked for an increase this year but we told them our departments are holding the line and we’re asking them to do the same. The amount is spread out over two years.”

In addition to food box distribution, the agreement includes training food bank volunteers, working with a grant writer for facility upgrade needs, developing a long-term plan, providing community outreach and education, and managing the Farm Share RX program.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a per capita period of December through February,

with a payment date of Friday, March 14;

- Approved an application to the Oregon Department of Human Services Tribal Navigator grant for up to \$228,674;
- Accepted a \$69,599 Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance grant;
- Approved an amendment to the memorandum of agreement between the Tribe and the Scappoose School District to extend the agreement for an additional six months with a term ending on Saturday, Aug. 23;
- Approved a limited waiver of the Tribe’s sovereign immunity for the Canva software program;
- Approved a purchase and sale agreement for the acquisition of the 48.2-acre Noble Sisters Timberland property for \$120,000. The property is located on Highway 22 in Tillamook County, three miles west of the Tribe’s reservation forestlands;
- And approved the enrollment of two infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government’s website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

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/>

# STORY IDEAS?

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

Please share your suggestions at [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org) or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.



[WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG)

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## ENROLLMENT ORDINANCE OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council adopted amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance on an emergency basis at a special meeting held Jan. 30, 2025.

The amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance will (1) update the membership criteria; (2) update the genetic testing section; (3) update the application process; (4) make other changes to be consistent with the Tribal Constitution, and (5) other minor technical changes.

Tribal Council invites comments on the amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. For a copy of the ordinance, contact the Tribal Attorney’s Office at 503-879-4664. Send your comments to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org).

**Comments must be received by Monday, March 31, 2025. ■**

## Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department



### Opportunity for comment on Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department 2024 annual performance reports

Under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, (NAHASDA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will provide grants to eligible Indian Tribes/Indian housing authorities for the development and operation of low-income housing in Indian areas. To be eligible for the grants, respondents must submit an annual performance report to HUD and maintain records for HUD monitoring.

The Tribe, through the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department, received multiple grants under three programs which were active during 2024: ARPA, GEM and the Cares Act. These annual performance reports will be available for comment and can be obtained at the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department Office, 28450 Tye Road, or by calling 503-879-2401 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, March 3 through Monday, March 10. All comments must be submitted in writing and will be incorporated into the final report submitted to HUD. ■

### Tipsu-ili’l Tribal home ownership opportunity

**For sale:** Three-bedroom, two-bathroom, single story 1,587 square foot home on 10,000 square foot lot.

**Features include:** open floor plan, asphalt shingle roof, cement siding, one car garage, gas water heater, gas-fired furnace with A/C, gas fireplace in living room, carpet in bedrooms, covered back patio, fenced back yard (homeowner responsible for completing front portion of fence if they choose), LVT flooring and quartz counters.

**Price:** \$298,660.70

**Available to tour:** 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 6 or 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 27.

**Sale will be preceded by a lottery system.** To be included in the lottery, the Tipsu-ili’l homeownership leasing application and lender pre-approval letter must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, March 31. The leasing application is located at the Housing Department webpage, [grandronde.org/services/housing/home-ownership/](http://grandronde.org/services/housing/home-ownership/), by emailing [Downpayment@grandronde.org](mailto:Downpayment@grandronde.org) or picking it up at the Tribal Housing Department office at 28450 Tye Road between 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. ■



**TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

<b>Scheduled Appointments Only</b>	<b>Walk-In Day</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	

**To schedule an appointment:**  
**Call (503) 879-1424 or**  
**CTGR Tribal VSO@GrandRonde.Org**



# Native fashion star



Courtesy photo by Candice Andress Photo

Tribal member Auburn Logan models Northern California style custom pieces in Yurok Tribe member Shoshoni Hostler's Nar Rew Ekar show during New York Fashion Week in New York City Saturday, Feb. 8. The maple bark top is fashioned after traditional bark clothing and dentalium adornments to increase value, taking everyday wear and making it couture. The belt is made of braided beargrass and the skirt has traditional basket designs drawn in an etched fashion. During the last two years, Logan has modeled in more than 10 fashion shows and this was the first show that she cried after she walked. She looked at Hostler, sharing tears, and telling her "I would do it again and again," adding that Hostler is the real reason why she made it to New York Fashion Week. Logan said that being able to take up space at the fashion capital of the world as Indian people is groundbreaking and powerful. It was Logan's first time visiting New York City.

# Cultural Resources hosting zine making workshops

The Cultural Resources Department's art program is hosting a series of small self-publishing/zine making workshops given by Grand Ronde Tribal member and artist Steph Littlebird.

Remaining classes will be held from 3-6 p.m. on the third Thursday of March and April at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center. Class dates are March 20 and April 17.

The classes are for all ages and will focus on making a self-published booklet that can be made from one or multiple pieces of paper, including all poetry, comics, short stories, art or any kind of creative project for the page.

The first two classes introduce participants to different types of zines, while also creating a unique booklet to take home. During the third and final class, zines will be created to give as gifts to the United States Poet Laureate Ada Limón when she visits Grand Ronde later in May 2025, a collaborative event with Sitka Center For Art & Ecology and the Nestucca Valley School District. Some art supplies will be on hand and participants may also bring their own supplies.

This is a drop-in style workshop and participants are not required to attend all three classes.

Contact Mack McFarland at [mack.mcfarland@grandronde.org](mailto:mack.mcfarland@grandronde.org) for more information. ■

**TEACH** our children our stories

**BECOME A TEACHER. APPLY TO AITP**

[www.pdx.edu/aitp](http://www.pdx.edu/aitp)

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION

### JANUARY - MARCH 2025 EVENTS

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

# CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS



**NOON-8pm**  
**THURSDAYS @ CHACHALU**  
**OPEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS**  
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[CULTURALEUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:CULTURALEUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG)

ELDER CENTER BAKES FOR YOUTH

# Bake Sale

MARCH 14TH, 2025  
10AM TO 2PM  
ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO TRIBAL YOUTH TRAVELING WITH SCHOOL PROGRAM THIS SUMMER

**cake, cupcakes, breads, cake pops, and more!**



## Salinas, Merkley reintroduce bill to remove consent decree

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Andrea Salinas and U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley introduced legislation to restore traditional hunting and fishing rights for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, they announced on Friday, Feb. 21.

The House version of the bill is cosponsored by Suzanne Bonamici, Val Hoyle, and Janelle Bynum. The Senate version is cosponsored by Ron Wyden.

Grand Ronde is the only federally recognized Tribe in the country bound by a consent decree, which limits where, when and how much Tribal members are allowed to hunt and fish on their traditional lands.

If passed, this legislation would allow the Tribe to return to federal court to request the termination or modification of their current consent decree with the state of Oregon, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said.

“The Tribe was forced to sign the decree in 1985, when its federal status was restored,” she said.

“For nearly 40 years, the consent decree has placed unfair and unjust conditions on the Grand Ronde Tribe’s sovereignty. At this point the Grand Ronde Tribe is the only Tribe in the nation with these restrictions. The introduction of this legislation brings this issue to light and presents us with the first step in righting this historic wrong. We’re grateful to congresswoman Salinas and our delegation for bringing this issue forward.”

Salinas agreed.

“For decades, members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have been unable to freely hunt and fish on their ancestral lands – all because of an unfair consent decree they were forced to sign,” she said. “My legislation would rectify this injustice by allowing the Tribe to renegotiate and come to a new agreement. I’m grateful for the partnership of the Grand Ronde Tribal Council and my Oregon colleagues as we continue to right the wrongs of the past.”

Merkley introduced a similar bill in 2020 that passed the Senate but not the House.

“The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were forced to give up their traditional ability to hunt, fish and gather on Tribal land as the price of restoring their homelands,” he said. “This historic injustice has stood for far too long. Our legislation is critical to remove federal restrictions on the Grand Ronde and allow them to fully engage in these traditional activities once more.”

Wyden agreed.

“The historic injustices inflicted by the federal government on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are long overdue for reversal and repair,” he said. “This bill would help to achieve those objectives by restoring their abilities to hunt, fish and gather food on their ancestral lands without government overreach and intervention. I will keep partnering with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the other eight federally recog-

nized Tribes in Oregon for justice that protects Tribal sovereignty.”

Bonamici called the consent decree a shameful remnant of past U.S. government efforts to undermine Tribal sovereignty.

“I’m grateful to join my Oregon colleagues on this effort to correct this historic injustice,” she said.

Hoyle and Bynum also expressed their strong support.

In December 2023, Salinas and Merkley’s legislation restoring Grand Ronde’s right to pursue land claims and compensation was signed into law. The Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment was the first piece of legislation introduced by Rep. Salinas as a member of Congress, as well as her first bill to become law. It corrected an error introduced into the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1994, when the Tribe accepted a 240-acre parcel of land in exchange for an 84-acre parcel that was mistakenly left out of a 1904 sale of lands to the Tribe on the eastern edge of the Reservation. ■

# ‘The stay is as long as it takes’

OPENING continued  
from front page

it’s more of a wellness philosophy. We don’t know anyone else who has that philosophy.”

Inpatient treatment beds are in short supply in Oregon.

“This is really such a culmination of so many dreams for us,” Rowe said. “We have fought so many times for a bed for our members. This gives us the ability to know we have a placement and it’s local, and it’s our own programming.”

Phase two of the project, she said, includes building a sports court for games like basketball and pickleball, and constructing a sweat lodge.

Acquisition and renovation of the building took more than a year. The work included opening up rooms and repainting to make the space light, airy and welcoming. During the renovation, Rowe said, workers discovered that an arched doorway separating what is now a large living room from a smaller parlor



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe speaks during the Main Street Recovery House open house in Sheridan Monday, Feb. 24.**

had been covered over. “It was all blocked off, and they had, like, flowery wallpaper over it,” she said. “So, our first thing was, ‘Let’s open this up, to make it lighter, and wel-

coming.’ Our whole thing has been, make it lighter. ... it was very dark, and just not welcoming. We wanted to make it so when somebody walks in, they feel good. When somebody

says ‘Ok, I’m ready for help,’ you don’t want them to walk into a place that’s doom and gloom. You’re already not feeling good.”

The doorway now features a graceful set of French doors that can be left open to provide a larger gathering area, or closed to allow more privacy.

A formal dining room holds a long table for family-style dining, while a cozy breakfast nook in

the kitchen allows for smaller gatherings.

The house will serve both men and women. Visiting hours will be by appointment, Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth said.

Once members move from the treatment center into the transitional apartments, the next step is having intensive outpatient services, including mental health services.

During inpatient care, services are intended to help people get stabilized. Once that has been accomplished, Rowe said, it’s time to delve into “why somebody has fallen into that use of illicit substances.”

The Tribe has previously opened Great Circle Recovery programs in Salem and Portland, with a mobile van that delivers services to the Tribal campus, as well as transitional houses for people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. The new center is intended to fill in some of the gaps between those services.

“This whole continuum of care that we’re building, it makes my heart full,” Rowe said. “It’s an amazing thing to have the support of Tribal Council, have them support this whole program for our membership. They will be saving lives for our membership.”

Joey Nicolas, a Great Circle employee who will work as primary nurse for the new center, said he’s excited to be part of the new program.

“I’ve worked in long-term care and Tribal nursing, and just the idea of helping people get off the drugs and on their feet is very rewarding,” he said. ■



**The Main Street Recovery House is located on West Main Street in Sheridan.**



# Man banished from school district property

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

A Sheridan man has been banned from Sheridan School District property after allegedly shouting racist insults at a Grand Ronde Tribal member student during a boys' basketball game between Sheridan and Willamina High schools.

The game was hosted by Sheridan High School on Friday, Feb. 14.

Sheridan School District Superintendent Dorie Vickery, who declined to release the man's name, said her efforts to contact him have been unsuccessful but that on Tuesday, Feb. 18, he was hand-delivered a letter notifying him of her decision to ban him from district property.

As per district policy, he has five school days from notification to submit a written appeal and request a meeting. If he fails to do so, the ban will become permanent. Vickery said she does not expect him to appeal.

"It's disheartening, it's discouraging to have this go on in our schools," Vickery said. "I was very angry when I read the complaint, but as superintendent, I also need to take the steps and follow due process. And as superintendent, I know the Sheridan School District remains committed to creating a safe space for all our students and our guests."

Vickery said the investigation is ongoing and she invites any witnesses to the behavior to contact her at [dorie.vickery@sheridan.k12.or.us](mailto:dorie.vickery@sheridan.k12.or.us).

"We are still working to get a full picture of everything that took place," Vickery said. "There are other events that occurred after

*"I was very angry when I read the complaint, but as superintendent, I also need to take the steps and follow due process. And as superintendent, I know the Sheridan School District remains committed to creating a safe space for all our students and our guests."*

**~ Sheridan School District  
Superintendent Dorie Vickery**

the game and things posted on video on Facebook, so things have continued."

However, she said, she had learned enough to institute the ban, noting that the person is banned from ever being on district property, not just for sporting events.

She said that she and Willamina School District Superintendent Mike Gass met with the student's family on Saturday, Feb. 15.

"We had a very good conversation," she said. "I showed them the actions that have been taken and I personally apologized to the student that the comments were made to. They were very gracious. They wanted to enjoy a basketball game. We talked about their concerns, the history of the behavior of some adults in our communities, the behavior that's modeled for students and the progress we've made. Sheridan High School has spent a tremendous amount (of time) improving the culture of the school."

Vickery said the school made some changes immediately, beginning with the girls' basketball game held just a few days after the incident.

"I learned that oftentimes people are not aware in the stands who is

on duty, so we are going to change that...staff will be introduced, so people know if they hear or see any inappropriate behavior, they know who they can report it to," she said.

As of publication time, the student and his family had not responded to an invitation for comment by Smoke Signals, except to note that it was under discussion.

School district policies spell out expectations for behavior by members of the community on school district property, Vickery said, as well as ban harassment and give the superintendent the discretion to ban offenders from district property.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Vickery read a statement aloud at the school board meeting. In it, she noted that the district's five-year goals include promoting a culture of high expectations from the entire community, and building community support through transparency, communication and engagement.

"On Friday, Feb. 14, several incidents occurred at SHS that show we have work to do in order to achieve both of these goals," Vickery said. "We do not currently have a culture of high expectations within our schools nor the community and we need to build better

internal and external support for all of our programs."

She read a district policy out loud at the meeting, which notes that "All students are entitled to a high-quality educational experience, free from discrimination or harassment based on perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin," as well as specifying that employees and visitors are entitled to the same expectations of an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

"We ask our students to be constantly learning from new experiences and as a district we must demonstrate the same behavior and learn from these events," Vickery said. "After many conversations with students, coaches, community members and administrators from both schools, we have a better understanding of the gaps that existed in our approach to maintaining an environment free from discrimination and harassment."

She said changes will include the introduction of on-duty staff at events, improving communication regarding expectations for students, staff, coaches and guests, and better addressing inappropriate behavior.

"We are working to be as transparent as possible with our larger community with regards to steps we are taking to resolve the gaps we have identified and to convey our sincere apologies to those who have been impacted," Vickery said. "Sheridan community, we ask for your support as we learn together and build a culture that allows for learning and growth." ■

# Fires were devastating for the region

**FIRES continued  
from front page**

ager Andrew Puerini, however, noted the import of the response team.

"Four of our most experienced staff were dispatched to the Southern California fire storm, to assist with the complex emerging wildfire incidents," Puerini said in an email. "Like many other firefighters, they selflessly put their regular lives on hold to answer the call for help... For almost a month, they worked repeated 16-hour shifts, assisting the local Cal Fire resources in their response to the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history."

The fires were not the deadliest in even the last few years: The Lahaina fire in Maui during August 2023 killed 102 people and was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century, while the Camp Fire in Paradise, California in 2018 took 85 lives.

Nonetheless, they were devastating for the region, charring tens of thousands of acres and leaving whole neighborhoods in ruins.

"To have a fire like that in the middle of January is unprecedented," Lynn said. "Also, the low humidity and the high winds were a factor. A lot of the country were in the off season, so it allowed a lot

of these guys to be able to respond; federal and state resources, as well as municipal departments."

And although the four are seasoned firefighters, they noted that the situation was significantly different than western Oregon.

"The topography, the environment and the type of vegetation is very different," Royse said. "In our region, we have dense timber. All their stuff was very fast-moving brush, chapparal. So that's a very different aspect and it has to be fought in a different way as well."

Ashby agreed, noting that it was a faster-moving, more active fire. "You also don't have the road systems like we do in the rural areas," he said. "We have logging roads; they don't, so the road systems aren't as good out in the woods."

Many of the neighborhoods were located in what firefighters call the "wildland interface," where homes are scattered across a rural area, creating a situation that combines the most dangerous traits of rural and urban fires.

"You've got people's homes and their lives in the mix, where a lot of times we're fighting in a very remote area, where there's high value, high timber and we're fighting for the nature, but you don't have people's lives at stake," Ashby said.

"They all are unique; but we have to focus on the same way; our equipment and its readiness and our gear and its readiness and ourselves and our readiness. It was kind of a good test of our readiness."

In Oregon, a focus on mitigating fuels and using approaches such as thinning projects and prescribed burns can help areas be prepared to face local fire seasons, Royse said.

All of the firefighters said they were proud to have joined the response for California and would gladly have done more.

"We all feel like we wish we could have done more," Ashby said. "We did what was asked of us, but when you are a part of something so grandiose, it's kind of tough to have not been in the thick of it."

Typically, he said, the Tribe starts responding to spring blazes in the southwest, where fire season begins earlier than in Oregon.

"It definitely gives you a sense of

pride and purpose in going out there and representing the Tribe and making a difference in helping people," Larsen said. "It's rewarding."

The Natural Resources Department has managed a wildland fire program for almost 35 years, beginning in 1990, Puerini said. Teams are often dispatched throughout the country.

"As a result of year-round training, involving physically and mental conditioning well above and beyond many regular occupations, our firefighters provided noteworthy wildfire protection, represented the Tribe in a positive light, and returned home tired but safe and in good health," he said. "It's because of our dedicated firefighting team that our program maintains a 35-year tradition of distinction and one of, if not the best, reputations in the wildfire management community, both within Tribal communities and throughout the country." ■

## 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](http://www.grandronde.org) or follow the Tribe's primary page on Facebook. ■





**Aiyana Woodward, 6, was chosen as the K-2 student of the month because of her exemplary leadership and decision making. She was presented her certificate by Tribal Enrichment Coordinator Makayla Parker, left.**



**Satara Blanchard, 15, left, was chosen as high school student of the month because of her positivity and kindness towards others and openness to new experiences. She was presented her certificate, beaded necklace and candy bar by Tribal Enrichment Coordinator Aide Genifer Grout, middle, and Tribal Enrichment Coordinator Josh Sherwood, right.**



**Marley Poff, 11, left, is presented her certificate by Tribal Enrichment Coordinator Josh Sherwood. She was chosen as middle school student of the month for setting the example in growth, maturity and willingness to try new things.**

# Student honors

The Tribe's Youth Enrichment Program hayu-munk skukum has implemented student of the month awards for K-2, 3-5, middle and high school students. The first students of the month were named and presented with certificates, a beaded necklace and a candy bar in front of their respective classes on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

**Photos by Michelle Alaimo**



**Azariah Sherwood, 10, gets a hug from his mother, Tribal member Bee Foster, after being awarded student of the month for grades 3-5. He was chosen because he is a great role model and an outstanding leader for all ages.**





**Hanora Diaz, 12, paints a rock during Love Rocks at the Tribal Community Center Friday, Feb. 21. One in three U.S. teens is affected by teen dating violence and February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The event promotes awareness and healthy relationships within the community by providing an informational presentation and resources to teens. Love Rocks is a collaboration with the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program and Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program.**

# Celebrating love



**Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole, left, hands Tribal member Rayna Hutton a book during Blind Date with a Book at the Tribal Library Thursday, Feb. 20. In the background, Hutton’s mother, Miaree Hutton opens a book.**



**Sophie Grout, 16, dances during the Sweethearts Jam in the Tribal gym Friday, Feb. 21. The łush lałatsin (good medicine) event included singing, dancing, drumming, a beading table and a pizza dinner.**

**Molly Biery holds a book as her two-year-old daughter, Mia Biery, opens it during Blind Date with a Book at the Tribal Library Thursday, Feb. 20.**



**Nine-month-old Sinamoxst-Tenas Ulestad rattles as he rolls around in his baby walker during the Sweethearts Jam in the Tribal gym Friday, Feb. 21.**

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**Photos by Michelle Alaimo**



# Kennedy said Tribal leaders are praying

**GRANTS continued  
from front page**

to programs serving American Indians and Alaska Natives. It does not, he said.

Keveney wrote that “First, the order, by its plain terms, does not apply to such programs. Second, it would be imprudent to read it as so applying given that Tribes are separate sovereigns. Third, the Supreme Court has consistently applied the Indian canon of construction in favor of funding toward Tribes; application of that canon here counsels against reading the EO as applying to (American Indians/Alaska Natives).”

Although the Tribe is largely self-funded, it has a number of federal grants in place, including ones for the ongoing environmental cleanup and restoration at tumwata village, construction of a new recreation center and Tribal Police.

For the Tribe’s Emergency Services Department, little is expected to change, since 95% of the department’s funding comes from the state, Chief Steve Warden said.

“We are fully operational and have not had communications indicative of any potential change in grant receipts,” Warden said in an email.

Natural Resources Department Manager Colby Drake said he does not expect the freeze to affect the Tribe’s wildland fire program either.

“Our wildland firefighters ... are Tribal employees and are hired through the Tribal process,”

Drake said in an email. “They are paid with Tribal funds when they work on Tribal lands or assist other state/federal agencies in fire suppression activities. The Tribe then sends all reimbursables to the Northwest Regional Office for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for reimbursements of funds related to wages/fringe, lodging, food and miscellaneous supplies. (It) takes a couple of years typically for it all to be reconciled.”

Drake said he was unsure whether the BIA, which is part of the Department of the Interior, might be affected. By Thursday, Feb. 20, the BIA had seen funds frozen and employees terminated.

In a press release, Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley said that he and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine), the top Democrats on the subcommittees that oversee funding for the Department of the Interior, had demanded that the administration “immediately reinstate any terminated Indian Affairs employees, lift the hiring freeze, officially rescind the deferred resignation and early retirement offers, and instead work to strengthen and grow the Indian Affairs staff to best meet the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives in accordance with our treaty and trust obligations.”

The letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum continued, “These damaging actions – implemented without Tribal consultation – violate congressional direction to implement programs and activities funded through appropriations... Without the necessary staff to fulfill federal

obligations, Indigenous communities will face the loss of vital services, meaning services for law enforcement, Tribal courts, natural resource management, education, firefighters and road maintenance. These are services that are critical for any community to function effectively. ... Any efforts to diminish already understaffed and underfunded programs further exacerbates already dire conditions in many Tribal communities who rely on services provided by Indian Affairs for their daily existence. When this is paired with the illegal freeze of federal funds that are owed to Tribes to reimburse them for services already performed and the inability of Tribes to draw down their funds, it jeopardizes the way of life and well-being of Native communities.”

The letter echoed some of the points made earlier on Sunday, Feb. 2, when a coalition of Tribal organizations sent a letter to the Trump administration and members of Congress, urging them to “recognize and protect the status of Tribal nations as political entities” in light of the federal government actions.

“Tribal nations are eager to work with the administration on multiple shared priorities. These include, among others, reducing unnecessary federal regulations, streamlining federal funding mechanisms for critical Tribal priorities and economic development, strengthening Tribal self-determination and addressing long-standing tax issues that are historic impediments to Tribal economic growth,” the letter stated.

However, it said that “Our unique political and legal relationship with the United States is rooted in our inherent sovereignty and recognized in the U.S. Constitution, in treaties, and is carried out by many federal laws and policies. When Congress is acting under its unique obligation toward Tribal nations and their citizens, they have legal status as a political class rather than a suspect racial class under the principles of constitutional legal analysis. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently recognized and upheld the distinct legal and political status of Tribal nations and their citizens and communities. We call on the Trump administration to ensure the United States’ delivery on its trust and treaty obligations does not become collateral damage in the Trump administration’s implementation of its other priorities, such as limiting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility and environmental justice initiatives, and restricting the federal workforce.”

During the Tuesday, Feb. 18, Leg-

islative Action Committee meeting, Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said the Tribe continues to monitor the situation.

“We’re just continuing to review all of the emails to check and see the direction that the administration of the United States is taking and the many positions that are being affected by the recent pause on funding and looking forward to the continuing resolution and how that will unroll,” Kennedy said. “So, there are things that we’re looking at trying to stay as vigilant as we can to make sure that the Tribe receives all of the funding that has been obligated...and (we are) in the throes of writing letters and making sure that our voices are heard.”

Kennedy said Tribal leaders are praying, adding “I would ask all of our people to pray as well. This is a different time that we’re facing and we’re living in and we don’t really know all of the paths forward, but we are working diligently to make sure that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and other Tribes across the United States receive what has been promised to them.”

Tribal Council members Denise Harvey and Lisa Leno attended a conference in Washington, D.C. in mid-February and said that a group of some 20 Tribal leaders had several meetings with congressional representatives about funding issues.

“Everybody seems to be trying to focus on the importance of this major national issue for all of us,” Harvey said. “I do believe that the Tribes do have language in some of those agreements and that’s what they are; they’re agreements that the federal government made to us ... and there is language in there, I’m hoping, that we’re going to prevail.”

She noted that it may be some months before much is known.

“I feel very good about our Tribe, though,” Harvey said. “We’re very secure. We’re not totally reliant on grants, services from the federal government and our Elders before us kind of paved that path for us to protect us through times like this, and I think that we’re very grateful for that. There are many Tribes out there that are completely reliant on federal funding. ... So just keep Indian Country in your prayers and I think Grand Ronde is in a good position. We’re strong and I think we’ll weather this fairly well. I’m just really concerned about some of the other Tribes that aren’t in the same situation that we are.”

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson weighed in as well.

“I hope the federal government honors its trust responsibility with all Tribal nations with the care and dedication that it deserves,” she said. ■

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Katherine Warren Steffensmier at 503-879-1466 or Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org

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[WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG)

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## 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. ■





Hall of Legends at Spirit Mountain Casino

## Call for Tribal family photos for the Hall of Legends at Spirit Mountain Casino electronic display

We are excited to invite all Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde members and their families to submit your family photos for inclusion in a special electronic display in the Hall of Legends at Spirit Mountain Casino. This project is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and preserve the legacy, history, and culture of our community through shared moments captured in pictures.

Photos submitted should have a connection to CTGR and can showcase any aspect of Tribal life, including familial gatherings, school events, sports teams, cultural ceremonies or other significant occasions. We encourage you to label your submissions with as much information as possible, such as names, dates, locations and the story behind the moment.

Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Submission details: Ensure photos are clearly labeled with information about the event or gathering, the individuals featured and any other relevant context.
- Photo considerations: While we will make every effort to include all submitted photos, inclusion is not guaranteed. Photos will be reviewed for quality, content and appropriateness. Please refrain from sending original photos, as they will not be returned.
- Photo adjustments: To ensure a high-quality display, our team reserves the right to make general improvements to photos, such as cropping, sharpening and adjusting focus or clarity.

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate our shared heritage and strengthen the bonds of our Tribal community. Submit your photos and the photo submission form no later than **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**, by mailing to: Hall of Legends Submissions, Spirit Mountain Casino, ATTN: Carter Tollas, 27100 SW Salmon River Hwy., Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Help us honor the past, present and future of the Grand Ronde people.

You can also visit the Spirit Mountain website at SpiritMountain.com, then scroll to the bottom of the page to the GET IN TOUCH header, and click the “Hall of Legends” link to submit online.

We look forward to seeing the stories your photos tell! ■

# ZINE WORKSHOP

WITH *Steph Littlebird*

## LEARN TO MAKE BOOKS + PAMPHLETS

→ DISCOVER THE ART OF SELF-PUBLISHING

→ 2/20/25

- 3/20/25
- 4/17/25

3-6PM

@ CHACHALU MUSEUM

ALL AGES WELCOME

## 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](mailto:joe.ulestad@grandronde.org), by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on his office line, 503-879-1389. ■

## Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes

March 9th, April 7th, May 18th. 10-4pm @ CTGR Community Center

*May date changed due to room availability!*

**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!**

**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](mailto:Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com); Marianne Blanchard @ [indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com](mailto:indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com); Stephanie Craig @ [kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com), Molly Leno @ [molly.leno@grandronde.org](mailto:molly.leno@grandronde.org)**

### Public Notice

*Notice of Opening of the Southfair Apartments Accessible 1-Bedroom Waiting List*

**Effective Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 9:00 am until Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:59 pm, Salem Housing Authority (SHA) will accept applications for the waiting list for Accessible 1-bedroom apartments at Southfair Apartments.**

- Current rent for these units is \$900 per month.
- Section 8 and other types of rental assistance are accepted.
- Applicants with a verified need for the mobility accessibility features are prioritized for these units.
- Units are restricted to households with income at or below 60% of the Area Median Income, which is currently \$38,400 annually for 1 person.

To apply, visit [www.salemhousingor.com](http://www.salemhousingor.com) and click the “Apply Now” link. Paper applications are also accepted as a reasonable accommodation, but we encourage applicants to apply online whenever possible. Paper applications may be requested by contacting SHA at [housing@salemhousingor.com](mailto:housing@salemhousingor.com) or (503) 588-6368.

**Applications will not be accepted after 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

Questions may be directed to [housing@salemhousingor.com](mailto:housing@salemhousingor.com).



The Housing Authority of Salem does not discriminate against any person due to disability, race, color, religion, sex, source of income, familial status, national origin, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status and/or domestic partnership in accessing, applying for, or receiving assistance, or in treatment or employment in any of its programs and activities.

The person named below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8, dated June 2, 1988): Jessica Blakely, Assistant Housing Administrator, Salem Housing Authority, 360 Church Street SE, Salem OR 97301 (503) 373-3808 | [jblakely@salemhousingor.com](mailto:jblakely@salemhousingor.com) | TDD users: Dial 711

The mission of Salem Housing Authority is to assist low- and moderate-income families to achieve self-sufficiency through stable housing, economic opportunity, community investment, and coordination with social service providers.



## 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](mailto:esubscription@grandronde.org). Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

## Tribal art display



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**“The Collective Works of Frank Eugene Kowing” is on display in the Memorial Union Concourse Gallery at Oregon State University in Corvallis until Friday, March 21. The exhibit consists of paintings, sculptures and sketchbooks of Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Frank Kowing Jr., who walked on in 2016. 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 was held at OSU for the exhibit on Thursday, Feb. 20.**

## Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2025-26 Hatfield Fellowship program funded by Spirit Mountain Community Fund are being accepted from Monday, March 3 through Friday, May 2.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office. Placement of the fellow rotates through the Oregon delegation to enhance mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Fellows are provided an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, D.C., while working on issues that affect Native Americans.

Fellows begin their Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association, which is followed by an eight-month term working in a congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend and relocation and travel expenses.

The fellowship is for Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as members of Pacific Northwest Tribes. Preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree or be graduating in June 2025, and be 21 or older.

For more information, visit [thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship](http://thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship) or go to [youtu.be/7TOnNoFgUYs](https://youtu.be/7TOnNoFgUYs) to watch an informational video about the Hatfield Fellowship.

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

*Now Accepting Applications*

### ADULT FOSTER CARE

Priority is given to Grand Ronde Tribal Elders, dependent on need and acuity of all Tribal applicants

*Eligibility Requirements*

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

RETURN APPLICATIONS TO ALISHA PARKS SHELL,  
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ADULT FOSTER CARE MANAGER  
PHONE: 503-879-6542  
ALISHA.PARKSSHHELL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

If level of need and/or safety concerns at time of admission exceed a Level 2 Classification as defined by Oregon Department of Health Services OAR 411-049-0125, the applicant will be notified of ineligibility

COMMUNITY COURT PROGRAMS  
TILIXAM  
CASA • PEACEMAKER • TMRB

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

503-879-4623  
[CourtPrograms@grandronde.org](mailto: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:**

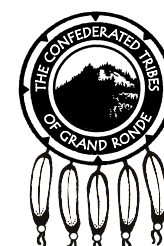
1. Indicate which program you are interested in (mark one of the boxes above).
2. Fill out the form below with your contact information.
3. Mail, drop-off or email the completed form to Tribal Court Programs Coordinator.

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/](http://grandronde.org/government/tribal-court/court-programs/)





hayu-munk skukum  
Youth Enrichment Program

## K-5 Spring Break Schedule

March 24-27, 2025

**LEADERSHIP - EDUCATION - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
On-Site day-Crafts and Cultural Enrichment	Field Trip Day To Movie Theatre	On-site day-Activities and Cultural Enrichment	Field Trip Day to Dallas Aquatics Center

# 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. ■

**HAYU-MUNK SKUKUM**

RISE & SHINE! IT'S A

# MONDAY MEET UP

UNDER THE COVERED AREA IN  
Tribal Housing  
6th-12th Grade

MONDAY MORNINGS  
9:50AM - 10:20AM  
FREE BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH

the MU Concourse Gallery presents

## the collective works of

Previously shown @ Kentfield University, Chesham Museum, and Chesham Community center

# Frank Eugene Kowing

Apr. 1, 1944 – Sept. 24, 2016

January 15th through March 21st

MU Art Collection  
Gallery & Restoration

For accommodations relating to disability, please contact [reservations@oregonstate.edu](mailto:reservations@oregonstate.edu) or call 541.737.2416

Oregon State University

## 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.

## MIDDLE FORK WILLAMETTE WATERSHED COUNCIL

### WE'RE HIRING

## Community Engagement Coordinator

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network and Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council seek a compassionate, skilled, dynamic individual to join our team as the Community Engagement Coordinator. This position will play a key role in collaboratively developing strategies for communication and outreach for large scale initiatives with partner organizations.

**Qualifications:**

- Storyteller
- Self-starter
- Collaborative
- Excellent Writing and Communication Skills
- Detail Oriented

<https://www.middleforkwillamette.org/job-announcements/>



# Health & Wellness Center entrance

**Reminder:** The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind. If you are coming to the center to pick up prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces. ■

# CLEAR Clinic

All services are

Services Provided.

- Criminal record expungements.
- Eviction expungements and tenant advocacy letters.
- Court fines and fee waiver petitions.
- Legal name and gender marker changes.
- Referrals for other legal services.

\* There is an Oregon State police charge of \$33 for finger printing for all criminal expungements  
Cash, Card or Money order

**Wednesday, April 16, 3-7 p.m.**

**Thursday, April 17, 12-4 p.m.**

At the Grand Ronde Tribal Gym



# 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](http://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
<del>Battalion Chief - Fire Marshall Services - Part-Time</del>	<del>13</del>	<del>\$39.01/hr.</del>	<del>\$50.87/hr.</del>	<del>02/24/2025</del>
CFS Supervisor	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/yr.	Until Filled
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	15	\$97,858.44/yr.	\$127,796.59/yr.	Until Filled
Dementia Care Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	03/03/2025
Enrichment Coordinator Supervisor K-5	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Entry	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	03/03/2025
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Intermediate	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	03/03/2025
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Engine Boss/Crew Boss/EMT	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	03/03/2025
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	03/03/2025
<del>Licensed Practical Nurse - Portland - Great Circle Recovery</del>	<del>12</del>	<del>\$36.01/hr.</del>	<del>\$46.31/hr.</del>	<del>02/24/2025</del>
Lodge Caregiver - Part-Time & On-Call * \$500 Hire-On Bonus after 120-days	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver - Full Time * \$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
<del>Nurse Practitioner - Health &amp; Wellness</del>	<del>22</del>	<del>\$176,393.03/yr.</del>	<del>\$248,136.43/yr.</del>	<del>02/24/2025</del>
Pharmacy Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Phlebotomist/Lab Assistant - Health & Wellness	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Physician - Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Police Officer	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	03/03/2025
Police Officer Trainee	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	03/03/2025
<del>Preschool Teacher - Entry Level</del>	<del>9</del>	<del>\$27.05/hr.</del>	<del>\$34.95/hr.</del>	<del>02/24/2025</del>
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:

1. 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)
2. Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children and current regular employees.
3. External candidates.

Apply online at: [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)

# NOW HIRING WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS



Competitive Wages + National Dispatch + Overtime + Hazard Pay + Training

Application period:  
**Feb. 21 - April 18**

## CTGR Natural Resources

Forestry Technicians:  
Entry Level / Intermediate / Engine Boss / Crew Boss / EMT

Visit [www.grandronde.org/employment/](http://www.grandronde.org/employment/) or scan the QR code to apply.

Contact Andrew Puerini at 503-879-1696 or Jim Pinder at 503-879-2332



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Cage Cashier	2/27/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Finance Administrative Assistant II	2/27/2025	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Player Services Representative I	2/27/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Restaurant Manager	2/27/2025	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
<del>Sports Bar Busperson (*Part-Time)</del>	<del>2/27/2025</del>	<del>\$18.02/hr. DOE</del>
Assistant Banquet Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Bar Porter (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Bartender	Until Filled	\$16.50/hr. DOE + Tips
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Cleaning Attendant (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pro Shop Host	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Floor Supervisor	Until Filled	\$23.24/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**

*\*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](mailto:employmentteam@spiritmtn.com)

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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.





**It's never too late to heal from addiction.**

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](http://www.elderberrywisdom.org) or if you have questions, feel free to leave a message at [contact us](#).



Paid ad

**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

**Bottles and Tubs 4oz or Larger**

**Metals**

**Mixed Paper and Cardboard**

**Items Not Allowed**

RECOLOGY.COM/RECOLOGY-WESTERN-OREGON RWDINFO@RECOLOGY.COM \*ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY \*PLACE ITEMS LOOSE IN THE CONTAINER.

## 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**

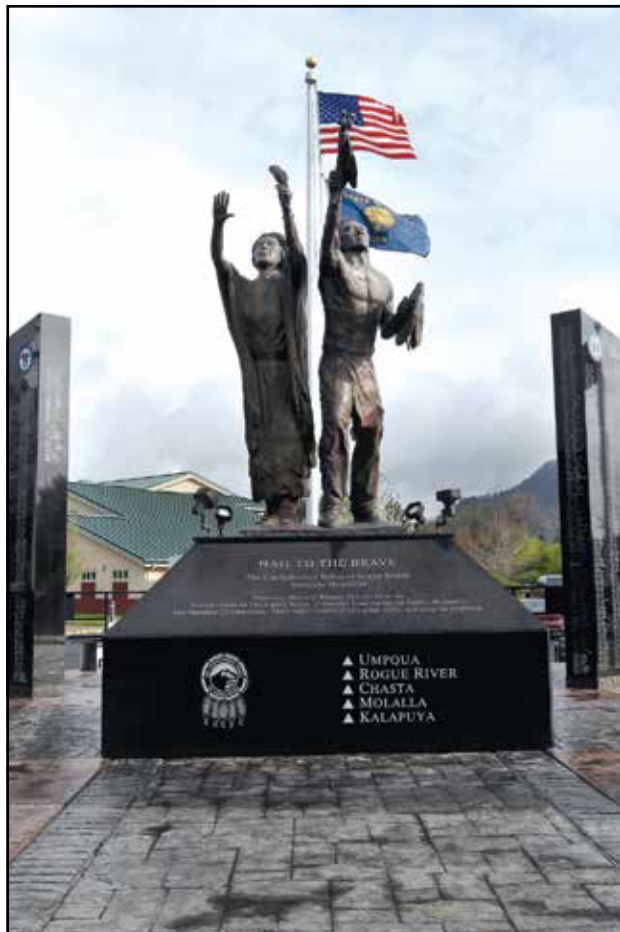
**MARCH 20, 2025,**

**HOW TO USE LEFTOVERS**



## West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2026



Name (as desired on memorial): \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: Male/Female (Circle) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Honorable: Yes/No (Circle) \_\_\_\_\_

DOE: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of entry: \_\_\_\_\_

DOS: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of separation: \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased: Yes/No (Circle) \_\_\_\_\_ Place of burial: \_\_\_\_\_

CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle) \_\_\_\_\_ If Tribal, Roll# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Any applications received after January 15, 2026, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2027.





## Watchlist: ‘North of North’ trailer

*(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*

Looking for something to watch? Another Indigenous television show is coming to Netflix.

A new Indigenous sitcom called “North of North” is premiering on CBC Television and will follow the life of a young Inuk mother.

Set in the heart of the arctic, “North of North” follows Siaja, a fictional character living in small town with realistic small-town drama.

“I am a modern Inuk woman,” Siaja narrates in the show’s two-minute trailer. “I got married out of high school, started a family and now he’s the town golden boy and I’m... his wife.”

She realizes without her husband she has no car, home or money and decides to reset her life and find herself with the help of her community.

The show follows her around her small arctic town filled with Indigenous characters and traditions. One of Siaja’s relatives has the traditional face tattoos of Inuit culture. Most of the characters wear Tribal-patterned clothing, traditional furs to stay warm and lots of beaded earrings.

The trailer shows her landing a job that can help her community and allow her to be her unique self.

“Every community need a special person like you to bring the generations together,” a character says in the trailer.

The show is now available on Canadian channels but will be made available on Netflix in the spring of 2025.

You can find out more about the show and watch the trailer for yourself at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx\\_ZDbDDxbY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx_ZDbDDxbY). ■

## Walking On...

### Ricky Scott George

June 19, 1964 – Jan. 29, 2025

Tribal Elder Ricky Scott George passed away on Jan. 29, 2025, at the age of 60.

Harper-Ridgeview Funeral Chapel in Port Angeles, Washington, is assisting the family.

No further information was available before press time.

### Jose ‘Ken’ Trevino

May 21, 1969 – Feb. 19, 2025

Tribal Elder and Tribal Finance Department employee Jose “Ken” Trevino passed away on Feb. 19, 2025, at the age of 55.

Simon-Cornwell Funeral Home in Woodburn is assisting the family.

Funeral service information was not available before press time.

### Ladonna Terri Hembree

Dec. 31, 1968 – Feb. 22, 2025

Tribal Elder Ladonna Terri Hembree passed away on Feb. 22, 2025, at the age of 56.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the Tribal gym, followed by a gravesite service at the Tribal cemetery, with a meal following at the Tribal Community Center.

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

**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](mailto:ssdinfo@grandronde.org)

**DHS** | Oregon Department of Human Services  
**SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**9AM-4PM**

**Community Center - Building B**

**Services Available:**  
**SNAP, TANF, ERDC, OHP**  
**and more.**

**WALK-IN'S WELCOME**  
**FOR QUESTIONS CALL 503-879-2034**

## 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](mailto:yep@grandronde.org)





Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?  
Do you have questions about diabetes?  
Do you need help managing your diabetes?  
If so...  
Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002  
To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment



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

## Open Positions

- Development and Communications Director** \$120-140K/yr
- Sexual Assault Advocate** \$29/hr
- Youth Alcohol and Drug Prevention Specialist** \$25-27/hr
- Family Parenting Support Advocate** \$25/hr
- Foster Care Support Specialist** \$24/hr
- Early Head Start Teacher (On Call)** \$18/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.  
Visit [nayapdx.org/about/jobs](http://nayapdx.org/about/jobs) to learn more.

02/15/25

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](mailto: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**

National Poison Prevention Week 2025


### Toxicology Lecture hosted by the Oregon Poison Center

# Psilocybin in Oregon


**March 20, 2025**  
**12:00 PM PST**  
**via WebEx**



Featuring **Dr. Shana Kusun**, associate professor of Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology in the OHSU School of Medicine.

**Register:**



Or go to:  
[bit.ly/OPCpsilocybin](http://bit.ly/OPCpsilocybin)



[OregonPoison.org](http://OregonPoison.org)

## GRHWC PROJECTED lush lamatsin EVENTS 2025

<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">January</p> <p>Pajana Jam 1/10 from 5-7pm @Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 1/23 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">February</p> <p>Sweetheart's Jam 2/13 from 5-7pm @ Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 2/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">March</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 3/20 Start 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">April</p> <p>Earth Day Jam 4/18 from 5-7 @ Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 4/24 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">May</p> <p>Fentanyl Awareness Event Mother's Day Tea Canoe Outings Fresh Foods Distribution 5/22 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">June</p> <p>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)</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">July</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 7/17 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow July 11 - 13, 2025 @Uyxtat Powwow Ground Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">August</p> <p>Fun Run / Walk 8/16 - Time TBD @Uyxtat Powwow Grounds 3v3 Bball Collab Fresh Foods Distribution 8/21 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">September</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 9/18 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Every Child Matters Jam 9/20 - Location &amp; Time TBD Canoe Races (tentatively)</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">October</p> <p>Health and Wellness Centers 28th birthday 10/01 Fresh Foods Distribution 10/16 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Fall Festival - TBD</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">November</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 11/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">December</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 12/18 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>

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





# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## Health & Wellness Tribal DNA testing information

Clients must be fully registered with the clinic prior to the testing. It can take three to five business days once all their information is submitted.

The patient cannot schedule with the lab until after registration is complete.

Unregistered patients cannot show up with papers in hand and do the test the same day.

The link for the registration form is [registration-form-use-for-all-2023-24.pdf](#) ([grandronde.org](#)) or it can be emailed and mailed. Patients should contact registration at 503-879-1325 or 503-879-2096.

To complete registration, a copy of a state birth certificate and a copy of a parent's Tribal identification is needed.

Registration information can be mailed to the address on the form, faxed, emailed or dropped off at the clinic.

The link for the registration form can be found on the Tribe's main website [www.grandronde.org](#), under "Services – Health and Wellness." The link to print the form is on the bottom of the page, called "New Patient Registration Form."

Once everything is submitted and the registration process is complete, the patient can schedule with lab. ■

## March is DVT Awareness Month

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) is a condition where a blood clot forms in a deep vein, usually in the legs. If the clot breaks loose, it can travel to the lungs and cause a dangerous condition called a pulmonary embolism (PE). Knowing about DVT can help you spot the signs early and prevent serious complications.



### What causes DVT and who is at risk?

DVT can happen when blood flow slows down or your blood clots too easily. Here are some common risk factors:

- **Sitting too long:** Long flights, car rides or sitting for hours can slow blood circulation and lead to clot formation.
- **Surgery or injury:** Operations, especially on the legs, can damage blood vessels and increase clotting risk.
- **Health conditions:** Some illnesses, like cancer or heart disease, make blood clot more easily.
- **Pregnancy:** Changes in hormones and pressure from baby can slow blood flow in the legs.
- **Birth control or hormone therapy:** Some medications with estrogen can increase clot risks.
- **Obesity and smoking:** These factors can make it harder for blood to flow smoothly.
- **Family history:** If close relatives have had DVT, you might have a higher chance of developing it.

### Signs and symptoms of DVT

Knowing the signs of DVT can help you act quickly. Look out for:

- Swelling in one leg, often with pain or tenderness.
- Skin that looks red or darker than usual.
- Warmth in the affected area.
- Leg pain or cramping, especially when standing or walking.

### How to prevent DVT

There are simple steps you can take to lower your risk of DVT:

- **Move around:** If you sit for long periods, get up and stretch regularly.
- **Wear compression socks:** These can improve blood flow, especially when traveling or recovering from surgery.
- **Stay active and eat well:** Regular exercise and a healthy diet help keep blood flowing smoothly.
- **Drink water:** Staying hydrated prevents blood from thickening.
- **Take medication if needed:** If your doctor recommends blood thinners, take them as prescribed.
- **Follow post-surgery care:** Moving around as soon as possible after surgery can prevent blood clots.

### When to see a doctor

If you notice symptoms of DVT or PE, don't wait — seek medical help immediately. Doctors can diagnose DVT with tests like ultrasounds and may prescribe blood thinners or other treatments to prevent complications. ■

## World Sleep Day is March 14

Every year, on the Friday before the Spring Equinox, the world observes World Sleep Day. This special day is organized by the World Sleep Society to raise awareness about the importance of good sleep and how it affects our overall health.



### Why is sleep important?

Sleep is as vital as eating and breathing.

It allows our bodies to rest, recover and prepare for the next day. Poor sleep can lead to serious health problems, such as:

- Weakened immune system – Making it easier to get sick.
- Increased risk of heart disease and stroke – Sleep helps regulate blood pressure.
- Mental health issues – Lack of sleep can contribute to anxiety and depression.
- Obesity and diabetes – Poor sleep affects metabolism and increases sugar cravings.
- Memory and concentration problems – Sleep strengthens learning and focus.

### Common sleep disorders

Many people suffer from sleep problems without realizing it. Some common sleep disorders include:

- **Insomnia** – Difficulty falling or staying asleep.
- **Sleep apnea** – Breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep.
- **Restless leg syndrome (RLS)** – An uncontrollable urge to move the legs at night.
- **Narcolepsy** – Sudden sleep attacks during the day.

### Tips for better sleep

Improving sleep quality can be simple. Here are some helpful tips:

1. Stick to a schedule – Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day.
2. Create a bedtime routine – Relax before bed with a book or soft music.
3. Limit screen time – Reduce phone and TV use before sleeping.
4. Avoid caffeine and heavy meals – Especially in the evening.
5. Make your bedroom comfortable – Keep it cool, dark and quiet.

### Final thoughts

Sleep is not a luxury – it's a necessity. By prioritizing sleep, we can improve our health, productivity and overall well-being. On this World Sleep Day, take a moment to reflect on your sleep habits and make small changes for a better, healthier life. ■

## CAREGIVER BURNOUT

Signs of burnout in caregivers of people with dementia or cognitive impairment

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### What is burnout?

Burnout is physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion that occurs when a caregiver becomes overwhelmed by the demands of caring for someone, often to the point where they can no longer effectively fulfill their caregiving responsibilities.

#### Overwhelm

Caregivers often feel as though they are unable to manage all the demands placed on them, leading to feelings of helplessness and guilt. They may feel like they are failing in their caregiving role, even if they are doing their best.

#### Physical exhaustion

Caregiving can be physically demanding. The constant strain can lead to fatigue, sleep disturbances, and a weakened immune system in the caregiver.

### Irritability or frustration

A caregiver may feel easily irritated, especially when dealing with challenging behaviors or communication difficulties from the person they are caring for.





### Social Withdrawal

Avoiding friends, family, or activities that they once enjoyed. Caregivers may isolate themselves due to exhaustion or because they feel misunderstood.

If you are a caregiver of someone with dementia or cognitive impairment, you are not alone. Reach out to Community Health for support or if you think you may be experiencing caregiver burnout. 503-879-1353





# SMOKE SIGNALS

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