



Tribal flags now in  
ICWA Court — pg. 6

MARCH 15, 2025



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## Self-governance offers some protection to the Tribe

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren

*Smoke Signals staff writers*

When the federal government demanded that Tribes concede the vast majority of their lands in the 1800s and 1900s, it signed treaties promising to provide basic services to Tribes in return, in addition to protecting Tribal sovereignty.



Cheryl A. Kennedy

Modern courts have upheld those treaties but now Tribal governments are finding themselves having to defend them once again in the wake of federal funding freezes and slashed agency staffing by the Trump administration.

Still, there are some protections in place for Grand Ronde. One of them is the self-governing agreement the Tribe entered into with the Department of Interior in early December, under which it receives a lump sum for its contracted services at the beginning of the year.

This year's allocation was \$3.66 million, and with that in the Tribal coffers, there's less worry about getting through the remainder of this year.

Even so, the Tribe is not necessarily immune to the damage with federal grants in question, members still reliant on various federal departments and programs such as Medicaid, and some Tribal

See GRANTS continued on page 6



Tribal member Future Leno dances during the 20th annual Agency Creek Round Dance in the Tribal gym Saturday, March 1. The dance also took place Friday, Feb. 28.

## Dancing around



Ila Mercier, 10, decides which candy she wants after a spot dance during the 20th annual Agency Creek Round Dance in the Tribal gym Saturday, March 1. When a spot dance is over, dancers stay in their spot and are randomly chosen to pick a prize.

To see more Round Dance and Native Youth Wellness Day photos, see page 9.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



## Clackamas Fire confirms tumwata village blaze was accidental

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

OREGON CITY — The Clackamas Fire District announced Wednesday, Feb. 26, that it has determined that the fire at the Tribe's tumwata village property, the former Blue Heron Paper Mill in Oregon City, began accidentally.

The three-alarm fire was reported at 3:45 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30. There were no fatalities.

Clackamas Fire Public Information Officer Izak Hamilton said that drone videos showed the fire appears to have started on the second floor of the building, from a makeshift stove brought in by unsheltered people who were sheltering there in the subfreezing temperatures.

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thomp-

See FIRE continued on page 9



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Clackamas Fire District firefighters apply water to extinguish a blaze at the Tribe's tumwata village property, the former Blue Heron Paper Mill, in Oregon City on Thursday, Jan. 30. The Fire District announced Wednesday, Feb. 26, that it determined the fire began accidentally.

# General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, April 6

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

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 19.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 2.....	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,

My name is Dylan Cadwell and I'm the grandson of Scott (Tribal Elder) and Laura Lenaberg. I wanted to say thank you to everyone who helped with Flat Stanley and giving me all the treasures and gifts. I love them and so do my classmates.

We all have enjoyed learning about the Tribe and the community.

Thank you again,

Dylan Cadwell  
Arkansas

## 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. ■

## Letters welcome

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

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

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed during a three-month period. Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the other writer by name, should refer to the date of the letter published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner.

Letters deemed in poor taste will not be printed. Send letters via e-mail to news@grandronde.org, or submit in person at the Tribal Governance Center in Grand Ronde, Ore. or mail to **smok signalz**, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347.

# smok signalz

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

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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

# IN THE FUTURE



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

**Fun-mun (March)**

- 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.
- Thursday, April 3 – Spring carnival, 4-6 p.m., Tribal gym. Boxed dinners provided.
- Sunday, April 6 – General Council meeting, Lane Community College Longhouse, 4000 E. 30th Ave., Eugene, 11 a.m., and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Saturday, April 12 – Household hazardous waste collection, 9 a.m. to noon, Tribal Procurement Department on the Tribal campus.
- 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).**



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**The Tribe’s new Early Care and Education building should be completed by the end of the month. The building will house the current Early Childhood Education Program and finally allow the entire program team to operate under one roof.**

## New child development center expected to be finished soon

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Construction is continuing on a new child development center, and Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said he hopes it will be completed by the end of March.

Systems were being started up in late February, Webb said, and would take around three or four weeks to complete.

Tribal Council approved a contract for construction of the building in late 2023 and had originally hoped to open it by last December.

“The new building will serve the current Early Childhood Education Program, which currently provides center-based and home-based services,” Education Department Manager Angela Fasana said. “The home-based program serves expectant mothers as well as mothers of young children. Overall, the center-based services will provide services for babies as young as 12 weeks to 5 years of age.”

The 26,000-square-foot structure will include 12 classrooms, outdoor play areas, community room, large commercial kitchen, 16 administrative offices, break room, restrooms

and other support areas.

Early Childhood Education Program Manager Dawn Doar said the new building, “Allows our entire program team to finally operate under one roof, enhancing collaboration and efficiency, as we were previously spread across multiple buildings due to space limitations...Our offerings include home-based services and center-based services for infants and toddlers (prenatal to age 3), center-based programs for children ages 3 to 5, six existing classrooms and a planned seventh classroom, set to open in the new school year starting in September.”

Currently, the program serves 101 children, with a capacity to expand to 110 in the upcoming school year.

“We have a dedicated team of 50-plus staff members committed to providing high-quality early learning experiences,” Doar said.

Funding for the child development center came from a combination of American Rescue Plan Act monies, grants from foundations and Tribal dollars.

Contact Dawn Doar at 503-879-2287 for more information. ■

## 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. ■

## Find us on



### OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

**Smoke Signals:**

[facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR](https://facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR)

**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:**

[facebook.com/CTGRgov](https://facebook.com/CTGRgov)

**Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:**

[facebook.com/GRHWC](https://facebook.com/GRHWC)

**Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:**

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**Grand Ronde Royalty:**

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**Grand Ronde Education Programs:**

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**Grand Ronde Youth Council:**

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**Grand Ronde Station:**

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**Grand Ronde Social Services Department:**

[facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices](https://facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices)

**Grand Ronde Food Bank:**

[facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank](https://facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank)

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund:**

[facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund](https://facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund)

**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:**

[facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education](https://facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education)

**Grand Ronde Community Garden:**

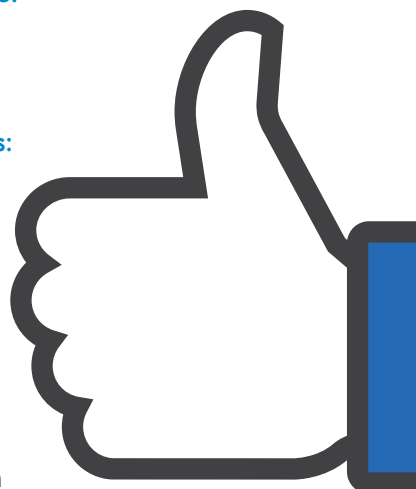
[facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden](https://facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden)

**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**

[facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department](https://facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department)

**Grand Ronde Employment Services**

[Facebook.com/EmploymentServices](https://Facebook.com/EmploymentServices)



## Kowing exhibit open through March 21

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

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

For more information, contact [angela.purviance@oregonstate.edu](mailto:angela.purviance@oregonstate.edu) or [lyle.cairdeas@grandronde.org](mailto:lyle.cairdeas@grandronde.org). ■

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ONLY

**NO PARKING**

## 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](http://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](mailto: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 in April via Zoom. Contact Chair Mia Prickett at [Editorial.Board@grandronde.org](mailto:Editorial.Board@grandronde.org) for the meeting link and date.
- **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](mailto:danielle.harrison@grandronde.org).



On Fridays you will receive a message about mental health, a social emotional tip or a simple quote or message of encouragement.

Text JOIN to  
(971) 318-3459



## ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

One permanent full time board member position open.

Two alternate board member positions open.

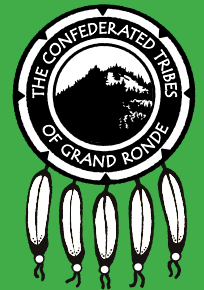
### Qualifications:

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

Election Board Chair:  
Kalene Contreras

### For information contact:

Shannon Ham-Teixeira • 503-879-2301  
[shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org)



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## HELP GROW YOUR FAMILY STRONG



Immunizations are important for people of all ages, from infants to elders. Talk with your doctor, nurse, or clinic to make sure your family and friends are up-to-date on their vaccinations.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. A child is eligible for the VFC Program if he or she is younger than 19 years of age and is American Indian or Alaska Native.

To learn more, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)



### 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 approves \$3.4 million loan for RV park expansion, slot machines

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a maximum \$3.4 million loan to Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. to cover costs for an RV park expansion and purchase of slot machines at Spirit Mountain Casino at its Wednesday, March 5, meeting.

Currently, the RV park offers full hookups and the renovated clubhouse features a seating area, Topgolf swing suite, and laundry and shower facilities for RV travelers. Pet-friendly, fully furnished models are also available for rent.

Tribal Council first approved a maximum \$4.5 million to finish constructing a 74-space park in 2022. The newest lodging option at the casino is hoping to continue capitalizing on an increasingly more popular RV trend in the United States.

Spirit Mountain Casino CEO Camille Mercier has said that the park is very popular with guests and has been listed in Good Sam, which is a publication for RV enthusiasts.

The funding for the loan will come from the Tribe's TriState Capital Bank line of credit.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved a rent reduction for Grand Meadows subleases to \$1, which will allow them to pay for utilities directly instead of into a Tribal management account, which will make the process consistent with the Tribe's new homeownership development Tipsu-ili'i;
  - Approved a memorandum of understanding between the Tribe's Natural Resources Department and the Mid-Willamette Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area;
  - Approved the first supplemental budget of \$120,000 for the purchase of a used aerial ladder truck for the Emergency Services Department;
  - Approved a \$25 million investment in the Baird Capital Global

- Fund III;
  - Approved amendments to the Veterans Special Events Board bylaws to establish an Honor Guard whose sole responsibility is to carry flags at Tribal or other events designated by the board;
  - Approved amendments to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund bylaws to provide that charitable organizations eligible for grants will include those designed to serve addiction prevention and that local governments with jurisdiction in counties within the boundaries of Tribal lands are eligible to receive grants;
  - Approved appointing Trevor Aaron to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Camille Mercier, which expires on Sept. 30;
  - Approved a grant agreement between the Tribe and the Oregon Department of Education to support the Tribe's curriculum related to the Native American experience in Oregon and make it available to school districts;
  - Approved a memorandum of understanding between the Tribe and the Sheridan School District;
  - Approved a \$400,000 grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation for public safety and community policing;
  - Approved a \$241,200 grant application to the Oregon Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Disabilities Services;
  - And approved the enrollment of five infants and an emergency non-infant enrollment 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. ■

## General Council briefed on Spirit Mountain Casino

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier gave a presentation to the membership on the casino's history, current status and future plans during the General Council meeting Sunday, March 2.

Mercier gave the 40-minute presentation in executive session and then fielded eight questions and comments from Tribal members in attendance.

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

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Lane Community College Longhouse in Eugene and feature a report on the Tribal Engineering, Public Works & Community Development Department.



Camille Mercier

Christie Kimsey, Eric Larsen (donated winnings to the Veterans Committee) and Lee Huffman each won the \$100 door

prizes. Leroy Good, Lisa Watson, Andrea Knight, Erin Castro and Eric Bernardo won the \$50 door prizes.

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

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

## Hotel room rate increase in effect

As of January 2025, the Spirit Mountain Hotel at Spirit Mountain Casino has implemented a revised pricing structure for the Elders discount, which has remained unchanged since the hotel's opening in 1997. The new discounted rates are \$99 for mid-week stays, \$109 for weekends and \$129 for holidays.

This adjustment is necessary to better align room rates with the actual cost of room upkeep, while still offering competitive pricing, according to Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier.

The Tribal member discount will reflect a 10% discount on standard room rates. The RV park will offer Elders and Tribal members a \$10 discount off the standard rate at the RV lot.

"The changes ensure that we continue to provide valuable services while maintaining financial sustainability," Mercier said. ■



### CTGR Member Services

### Requests for Descendancy Options

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

**Process:**

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

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

To request an application or if you have any questions, contact the following:

[Memberservices@grandronde.org](mailto:Memberservices@grandronde.org)

**Enrollment staff:**

Tristin Armstrong 503-879-1619, [Tristin.armstrong@grandronde.org](mailto:Tristin.armstrong@grandronde.org)  
Nick Labonte 503-879-2490, [Nick.labonte@grandronde.org](mailto:Nick.labonte@grandronde.org)

**Please send completed applications to:**

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Attn: Enrollment Office  
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

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/>

YOUR MONEY YOUR FUTURE

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Member Services Department  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
503-879-2116  
[memberservices@grandronde.org](mailto:memberservices@grandronde.org)

## Student coat drive brings in four times their goal

The Shawash-ili?i Skul on the Grand Ronde campus decided to run a coat drive in January, with a goal of collecting 50 coats in a month.

“Our kids were all excited to participate and we checked in with them on a weekly basis in our morning meetings as a school to remind them to bring in their extra coats,” Shawash-ili?i Skul School Administrator Justine Flynn said. “We talked about the importance of supporting our own community and we were collecting coats for those that may not have them during the colder months.”

With several snow days interrupting the month, however, the school decided several times to extend the drive, which lasted until the last week of February. It far exceeded expectations, even as the students kept expanding their goal.

“Our students initially set a goal of collecting 50 coats and we upped that goal two different times to 100 and then again to 200,” Flynn said.

In the end, 235 coats of all sizes were collected, washed and given to the local community, Flynn said.

Extra coats will be donated to the Grand Ronde Clothes Closet, the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope program and the Willamina Thrift Store. ■

## Tribal nonemergency text

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

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

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911.

For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

## ‘For Grand Ronde, we are not affected (directly)’

GRANTS continued  
from front page

members’ government jobs at risk.

Tribal Council has been struggling to assess the likely effects, even as it also tries to make it clear to administration officials that funds and services are mandated by law.

“We keep saying over and over, that this is not a racial issue,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said at the General Council meeting on Sunday, March 2. “It’s not an ethnic issue. This is the treaty responsibilities that you have entered into and that have been upheld by courts, by Congress, by all the powers that be, and that we are ready. We will take whatever we need to make sure that our treaty rights and our relationship is not hindered. So, we are well-armed to do that.”

In late February, Kennedy noted, several members of the Tribal Council, along with the Tribal Attorney Rob Greene, joined other Tribal leaders in Washington, D.C. to lobby congressional representatives and federal officials.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey said organizations representing Tribes have distributed talking points to all members, so that representatives from across the United States are essentially speaking with one voice as they present their arguments.

In mid-February, new Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., (no relation to Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy), rescinded the layoffs of 950 employees of Indian Health Service. Tribal leaders had acted quickly, sending letters to the Trump administration, warning that with some 214 Tribal

nations reliant on care from IHS, the layoffs would cost lives.

On Thursday, March 6, Chairwoman Kennedy said she had spoken with Robert Kennedy Jr. as well as with the IHS director about potential affects to Oregon Tribes.

“For Grand Ronde, we are not affected (directly),” she said. “There could be the potential, if there are new initiatives or new funds made available by Congress, there could be delays (in receiving the funds), because the Indian Health Service parcels out the funds, so if administrative staff is very small, there could be significant delays.”

In addition, she said, funding cuts at the IHS headquarters in Maryland could prevent the agency from compiling its annual reports to Congress. Those reports determine the size of the following year’s funding allocations.

Kennedy said she had thanked the secretary for rescinding the layoffs and invited him to visit Grand Ronde.

“We’d love to host him and show him what a self-government Tribe does,” Kennedy said. “He was very open and showed interest ... but you never know how all that plays out, but he really made an effort to talk to all of us and reassure that he was going to make an effort to make sure that all of the needs of IHS continues to be covered.”

In addition, Kennedy said during the General Council meeting that she told him the issue is bigger than the Indian Health Service.

“We have to have good health, but the environment is something that we live on; everyone lives from the environment and those cuts need to be stopped,” she said. ■

## Court appointed



Photos by Kamiah Koch

**Tribal Peer Support Specialist Ferrell DeGarmo carries in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde flag as flags from the nine Oregon Tribes were brought in by various Tribal representatives to be posted in one of the Marion County Juvenile Department courtrooms in Salem Thursday, March 6. The Marion County Circuit Court recently started a new court docket aimed at improving outcomes in child welfare cases involving Native American families by launching the new Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court in 2024, the second ICWA Court in Oregon.**



**Photos of achaf-hammi (the Tribal plankhouse) and Willamette Falls are presented by Tribal Children & Family Services Caseworker Santi Atanacio, left, and Tribal Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program Teen Pregnancy Prevention Assistant Fabian Quenelle on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to the Marion County Juvenile Court celebrating the launch of its new Indian Child Welfare Act Department in Salem Thursday, March 6. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Children & Family Services Program Manager Kristi Petite spoke on the importance of cultural connection and Tribal Elder Michael Cherry spoke on behalf of state Rep. Tawna Sanchez.**

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

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**Monday**      **Thursday**

**Tuesday**

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

# Judge's ruling on Medford casino appealed

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Three Tribes from southern Oregon and northern California have filed an appeal after a federal judge declined to issue a restraining order to temporarily halt operations of a new casino in Medford.

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, along with the Karuk Tribe and the Tolowa Deeni' Nation notified the judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that they were filing an appeal of his ruling.

The Coquille Tribe has been seeking for more than a decade to open a casino in Medford, over the objections of other Tribes, including Grand Ronde.

After the Department of the Interior approved the casino in January, the Coquille opened for business. Opponents then sought a temporary restraining order to keep the casino from operating while their lawsuit against the DOI is proceeding.

However, U.S. District Court Judge Amit P. Meta wrote in his ruling on Tuesday, Feb. 11, that the Tribes had failed to establish

that the casino's operation would substantially harm them in the immediate future.

The plaintiff Tribes wrote that the casino would harm them in multiple ways, including economic, sovereign, cultural, historical, environmental and ecological, stating that these would be "devasted" if injunctive relief was not granted by the court.

"Defendants completely disregard evidence that Coquille's new territorial presence in Medford displaces and causes irreparable harm to . . . the aboriginal Indigenous peoples and Tribal nations of southern Oregon and northern California, including plaintiffs," their argument stated.

Meta wrote that the plaintiffs assumed, without proof, that the casino would be developed faster than the timeline assumed by the DOI and failed to establish that specific programs would have to be closed as a result of lost revenue.

He noted that the Tribes fear the casino would be developed sooner, but said that "Irreparable harm, however, cannot rest on speculation. . . . Plaintiffs have not offered

any evidence to show that Coquille intend to rapidly accelerate their gaming operations to create the magnitude of losses that the (final environmental impact statement) estimates is years away."

Meta also noted that "There is no dispute that plaintiffs fund Tribal programs and services with gaming revenues and that a drop in those revenues will adversely affect their ability carry out those functions. . . . The question for the court, however, is whether the immediate impacts on Tribal programs and services will be 'certain and great.' . . . Measured against that standard, plaintiffs have fallen short. None have described in any detail how potential near-term revenue losses would concretely affect any program or service. They have not, for example, said that any program would have to be shut down or any service discontinued, or explained

how a particular program or service would be curtailed during the pendency of this litigation. Nor have they described how they might have to reallocate resources because of a near-term drop in gaming revenues."

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe issued a statement by email.

"This ruling does not change the fact that this casino is illegal under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and was approved in the final hours of the Biden administration based on personal politics rather than policy," it stated. "It's simple - one cannot restore lands they never had - and the Coquille do not have any ancestral ties to this land."

Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden have opposed the Coquille's Medford casino, as has the Grand Ronde Tribe, fearing that it will open the door to an "arms race" in new casinos across the state. ■

## Clothes Closet open

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

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

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

*Now Accepting Applications*



**ADULT FOSTER CARE**

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



**TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION**

Now accepting new applications

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

---

**Current vacancies:**

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

---

**For questions email:**  
shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org

**Applications available online at:**  
www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/

**Applications also available in the Tribal Governance building:**  
Located at the Tribal Council office near the security desk.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

**CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS**



**NOON-8pm THURSDAYS @ CHACHALU**

**OPEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CULTURALEUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG**

# Tribal member wants to help fight diabetes

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Orien Fiander has made a fortune with his chain of health clubs and fitness centers. Now, he wants to turn his attention to helping fight the nationwide Tribal struggle with diabetes while he's still invested in that business.

"We as a Native people are leading the United States substantially in obesity and diabetes - almost 60% of our population are obese and over 50% of our people are pre-diabetic," he said.

Those statistics are calling him to action.

"I will be 50 this year," he said. "I'm looking for what's next."

Fiander said he has a team from his Native Fitness business arm that provides consultation services to Tribes about how to improve their recreation centers in order to better attract and serve Tribal members, in addition to selling exercise equipment to Tribes.

Fiander said he wants to create a nonprofit arm of the business, to focus on improving recreation centers on reservation lands across the country.

Fiander said the Indian Health Service has poured millions of dollars into fighting diabetes since 1997 but has yet to actually make progress.

"If you look at the stats, we have never moved the needle in terms of lessening the number of people getting diabetes," he said. "They'll show a 15% decrease, but only because from 2013 to 2017, we had an actual increase, then dropped back down. But we've never dropped below 1997 levels."

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2023, "American Indian/Alaska Native adults were 1.5 times more

likely than non-Hispanic white adults to be diagnosed with diabetes," down from more than twice as likely, in 2020. It said that 13.2% of American Indian/Alaska Native people 18 or older had an official diagnosis of diabetes in 2023, the most recent year statistics were available.

According to the National Institutes of Health, diabetes among AI/AN people increased significantly by nearly 30% between 1990 and 1997. That year, Congress created the Special Diabetes Program for Indians to combat the growing threat. It provided \$30 million per year for prevention and treatment.

According to the National Indian Council on Aging, health outcomes among Tribal people with diabetes increased significantly, creating "an almost 40 percent reduction in diabetes-related complications."

"The diabetes care has increased substantially," Fiander said. "So, the care of fixing us after we're broke is great. But we're operating on a broke-fix it mentality."

His solution is to encourage more people to exercise regularly. He said the key to that is recreation centers that truly invite Tribal members in and make them feel welcome. Socialization is a part of that, he said, and so is personal attention.

"We need a place to gather, where Elders come and visit, a place for kids to go," he said.

Small changes, such as expanding the hours the centers are open so people working full-time can still access the equipment, are helpful.

"Usually even if it is a fitness center, it's open 9-5 and it's stuck in a hole in a corner," he said.

Fiander said he also believes that the position of recreation center director "should be one of the high-

est paid positions the Tribe has to offer. Their job is to proactively go out, reach out to our people, follow up on them and actually care what goes on in the facility."

He advocates actively reaching out to invite people to the center and creating activities to attract attention. For example, in Grand Ronde, Fiander suggested, the Tribe could create an annual commemorative event for the Rogue Trail of Tears, in which participants would walk a total of 263 miles, the distance from the Table Rock Reservation in southern Oregon to the Grand Ronde reservation, that took 33 days during the 1856 forced march.

"Culture and pride are huge with

our people," Fiander said.

By integrating the Tribe's history into wellness events, he said it could both remind members of their ancestral strength and resilience, while attracting people to participate who might otherwise not be drawn to use a gym.

In addition, Fiander said it's important to keep track of who is using the facilities and how often to help decide which programs need to be changed or to determine who might need a phone call with a personal invitation to an event.

"Just seeing their face, having them seeing our face, that's healing also," he said. "There's so much more to wellness than just fitness." ■

## Zine making workshops

The Tribal 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. Remaining 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.

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

## Fresh Foods Distribution

### Distribution


*One Box per Tribal Member Household*

March 20th

10am-2pm

- One food box per tribal member **household** (tribal member must be present-or- complete permission slip), 3 boxes max per vehicle.
- 400 boxes are available in Grand Ronde, first come first served (distribution begins at 10 am and ends at 2pm or *earlier* if all boxes have been distributed).
- Distribution will be at the GR Procurement Building (see map for driving directions).
- 100 additional boxes are available at the Portland Office. Portland office 2 boxes per vehicle max.

Questions? Contact Public Health  
503-879-6701  
[publichealthdepartment@grandronde.org](mailto:publichealthdepartment@grandronde.org)



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#### For more information contact:

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Youth, including Marie Quenelle, 14, front left, and Cheyenne Haller, front right, 16, touch their noses as they play “Simon Says” during Native Youth Wellness Day in the Tribal gym Friday, Feb. 28. Approximately 120 Tribal youth participated in the daylong event that is hosted by the Tribe’s Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program and facilitated by the Native Wellness Institute based in Gresham. The day ended with a Wellness Extravaganza where the youth broke into groups and performed skits ranging from “Simon Says” to teaching traditional dances.



Kalea Liebelt, 13, makes a cedar bundle during Native Youth Wellness Day in the Tribal gym Friday, Feb. 28.

## Wellness & dance

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

One-year-old Kaiya Mercier dances during the 20th annual Agency Creek Round Dance in the Tribal gym Saturday, March 1.



### FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

**Where:**  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Procurement Building V  
9635 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**When:**  
Saturday April 12  
9 a.m. – Noon



### Tips for Safe Household Hazardous Waste Delivery

**1. Use safe containers**

- o Keep products in securely-sealed original containers when possible
- o Place items in boxes or sturdy containers.
- o Please do not put inside plastic garbage bags.
- o **No containers larger than 5 gallons.**

**2. Waste collected from vehicle**

- o Keep products in securely-sealed original containers when possible.
- o Please stay in your vehicle.
- o Materials will be collected from trunk, cargo area, or truck bed.
- o Please do not bring additional passengers or pets.
- o **No smoking.**

**3. Follow instructions at event**



**Bring This:**

- Pesticides and poisons
- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Mercury and mercury-containing items
- Fluorescent lights/ballasts
- Polishes
- Household cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- Rust remover
- Antifreeze
- Parts cleaners
- Automotive fluids
- Paint and paint thinners
- Batteries

**Not That:**

- Radioactive waste
- Asbestos
- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Sharps
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronic Waste

## Tribe purchased the 23-acre former Blue Heron Paper Mill in 2019

**FIRE continued from front page**

son said it has been a struggle to keep trespassers away from the massive complex.

“Unfortunately, the size, complexity and the many access points to the site can draw trespassers to the property for many reasons,” Thompson said. “We have worked collaboratively with Oregon City to address trespass issues as they come up and to mitigate any potential problems. ... We have begun demo of the impacted buildings and are committed to continuing to work with our partners in Oregon City to keep people safe and move forward with the remaining demolition.”

The department said the fire had been thoroughly investigated and thanked the Oregon City Police Department, the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department and the Oregon State Police for their assistance.

Clackamas Fire responded to the site multiple times in the following weeks to continue battling hotspots.

Demolition of the buildings started in late February and is expected to take a few weeks. The latest phase is focused on cleanup of four buildings affected by the fire.

“There will be further demolition work occurring after this initial phase focused on the buildings surrounding the fire impacted ones,” Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said. “This work was always scheduled to happen this year, but the timeframes were accelerated due to the fire. We plan on taking down an additional 10 buildings, so a total of 14 buildings will come down in 2025. All of this work is part of the Tribe’s plan to heal and restore the land.”

Hamilton noted that demolition crews “have the equipment to deal with any small smoldering hotspots they come across.”

The Tribe purchased the 23-acre former Blue Heron Paper Mill in 2019 and renamed it tumwata village in 2022. When it was purchased, it marked the first time that the Tribe had owned land at Willamette Falls in more than 150 years.

When the development is complete, it will include a mix of open space, retail, shopping, residential, office, restaurants, and a hotel and event space. It will include access to the river’s edge, views of the restored native basalt riverbank and space for public and Tribal gatherings. ■

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

This announcement is to inform you of the upcoming election opportunity to recommend an investment option that best suits your tolerance for investment risk.

The election deadline is March 21, 2025, and the investment period will be effective from April 1, 2025, until modified.

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

Email [deanne.norton@grandronde.org](mailto:deanne.norton@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-2215 to receive your Investment Risk Assessment Recommendation Form. This form can also be found at [www.grandronde.org/services/finance/minors-trust-funds/](http://www.grandronde.org/services/finance/minors-trust-funds/) and click on the "Rabbi Minor Investment Change Form" link. This form is optional and open only to those who participate in the Rabbi and Minors' Custodial Trust Funds. ■

### GRAND RONDE GAMING COMMISSION OPEN POSITIONS

The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is accepting applications for two commission member positions for a three-year term. The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission regulates all gaming related activities associated with Spirit Mountain Casino.

The Tribal Gaming Ordinance requires both positions to be filled by Tribal members. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Commissioners may not hold elective or managerial Tribal positions, and may not be employed in or own any interest in or gamble in a gaming operation authorized by the Tribal Gaming Ordinance.

Commissioners are paid independent contractors and spend approximately 30 to 40 hours per month to fulfill their responsibilities.

The Gaming Commission generally meets on the second and third Thursdays of each month. Appointment is contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation.

Applications may be obtained by calling Kathy Doane at 503-879-2393 or email [kathy.doane@grandronde.org](mailto:kathy.doane@grandronde.org). The application closing date is 5 p.m. Monday, March 31. ■

### 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



### 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 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 Tyee Road between 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. ■

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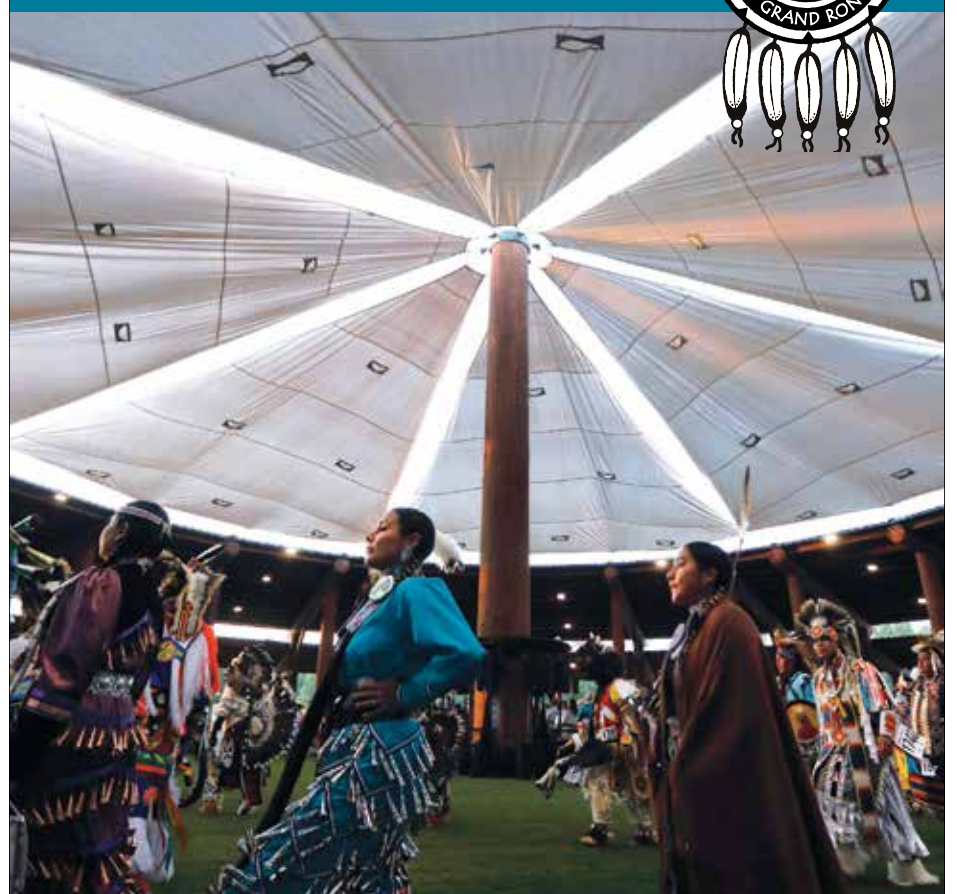
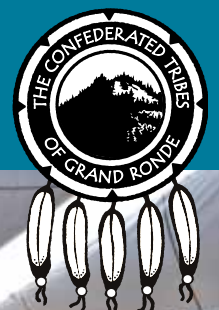
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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## Grand Ronde Contest Powwow



Save the date | August 15-17

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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

10-4pm

- April 7th @ CTGR Public Health Building
- May 18th @ CTGR Community Center
- June 9th @ CTGR Community Center
- July 6th @ CTGR Community Center
- August 3rd @ CTGR Community Center
- September 14th @ CTGR Community Center
- October 12th @ CTGR Community Center
- November 9th @ CTGR Community Center
- December 14th @ CTGR Community Center

**Come make new projects, work on old projects!**  
**Tribal families welcomed!!**  
**All ages!!**

**Questions? Please 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.

# SMCF awards more than \$400,000 in grants

By Nicole Montesano & Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff*

A \$100,000 grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund will enable the Sheridan School District to offer students training in a much greater range of possible careers, according to School Superintendent Dorie Vickery.

"The funds will provide for the necessary site work and permits to construct our fire tower, a key part of the Fire Science/EMT Training career pathway," she said in an email. "The fire tower will allow high school students and firefighting recruits with hands-on experience and certifications to meet the demands of an essential profession in this region. It will also allow our current firefighting organizations a safe place for training."

Vickery anticipates that the fire tower will be complete by the end of this summer and serve up to 25 students in the coming school year.

"We are very grateful for the funding and the opportunity to partner with the Spirit Mountain Community Fund on this important project," Vickery said.

The fire tower is part of the Sheridan School District's efforts to expand its educational options with its planned Barbara Roberts Career Technical School, the first of its kind in rural Oregon.

The Community Fund grant application noted that according to the Oregon Report Card, just 82.8% of Sheridan residents have high school diplomas and 19.2% live under the state poverty line.

However, students who participate in advanced career and technical education courses experience a 2% wage increase for each additional year, and a study from Arkansas shows that students who take three or more courses in a single CTE program are 42% more likely to graduate from high school.

Vickery said students will be offered training in four different careers: firefighting/EMT, agricultural science, diesel technician and truck driving, and in manufacturing.

"This project will create a sus-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Sheridan School District Superintendent Dorie Vickery, middle, is gifted a blanket that the school district won in a drawing during the Spirit Mountain Community Fund first quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, March 12. She was presented the blanket by Tribal Council member and SMCF Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Tuomi, left, and SMCF Executive Director Angie Sears. The Sheridan School District received a \$100,000 grant from the Community Fund.**

tainable employment pipeline, filling skilled positions in local industries and offering students clear pathways into high-wage, high-demand careers," Vickery wrote in the application. "Students will earn college credits, high school diplomas and certifications through hands-on, applied learning experiences. Our programming will also incorporate a focus on developing professional soft skills, such as adaptability and critical thinking."

The school district was among the 14 grant recipients for the first quarter grants from Spirit Mountain Community Fund. A check presentation was held in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, March 12.

Community Fund Executive Director Angie Sears welcomed attendees to the check presentation.

"It is such an honor to host you on our homelands," she said. "You're taking time out of your busy schedules to be here. The check presentations are a way to connect with our grantees who are providing much

needed support and services for vulnerable communities."

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller opened the presentation with a flute song.

Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie announced the large grant recipients and Grants Coordinator Jesse Knight announced the small grant recipients.

The fund awarded nine large grants worth \$377,805 and five small grants worth \$34,496, with the largest, \$100,000, going to the Sheridan School District.

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund was created as part of the Tribe's gaming contract with the state. It is supervised by an eight-member board of trustees that includes Tribal Council members Brenda Tuomi (chair), Denise Harvey (secretary/treasurer) and Kathleen George.

Tuomi, Haller, Sears, Schlappie and Knight shook recipients' hands as they were awarded their grants checks.

The fund has given out more than \$100 million in 3,410 grants since its inception in 1997 and receives 6% of the revenue from the casino, which it distributes among northwestern Oregon nonprofits.

The Community Fund also donates funds to the nine federally

recognized Tribes in Oregon and to government agencies in Polk, Tillamook and Yamhill counties.

Nine large grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- \$30,000 to Clackamas Women's Services, for prevention and intervention services expansion in rural communities;
- \$10,170 to Lewis & Clark College, for saving salmonids with cooler water;
- \$50,000 to Lutheran Family Services in Yamhill County, for A Family Place;
- \$42,766 to the Oregon Agricultural Trust in Lane County, for supporting Tribal connection to restored native oak habitat;
- \$50,000 to Oregon Native American Chamber in Multnomah County, for creating clean energy pathways for Native Americans in Oregon;
- \$24,869 to Parenting Now in Lane County, for parenting education for rural families to help prevent child abuse;
- \$100,000 to the Sheridan School District, for the Barbara Roberts CTEC: Oregon's first rural CTEC for marginalized youth;
- \$50,000 to Vision to Learn in Multnomah County, for vision care access for underserved Oregon students;
- \$20,000 to Volunteers in Medicine Clinic in Lane County, for women's care and durable equipment.

Five small grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- \$6,000 to FinAbility in Multnomah County, for savings matching for domestic violence survivors and their families;
- \$7,500 to Opportunity Oregon Inc. in Lane County, for its Pathway Home project;
- \$6,000 to Pacific Communities Health District Foundation in Lincoln County, for its Reach Out and Read project providing approved books for children;
- \$7,496 to the Siletz Regalia Sharing Closet in Marion County;
- \$7,500 to Washington County Kids for its Out-of-School-Time provider association.

The presentation concluded with a Tri-logged blanket raffle for two grantees. Community Fund Administrative Assistant Pamala Warren-Chase told attendees about the creation of the blanket by Tribal member Matthew Williams. Sheridan School District and Vision to Learn won the raffle. ■

## 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

### Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation.



## smok signəlz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signəlz? 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 signəlz 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 signəlz and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your email to [subscription@grandronde.org](mailto:subscription@grandronde.org). Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

## TERO Worker of the Month February 2025

**Name:** Reynold Lane

**Employer:** K&E Excavating

**Position:** Traffic control supervisor, equipment operations and general laborer

Reynold Lane first applied with the TERO program back in 2016 and was immediately dispatched out to Accurate Flagging Company. Reynold worked for a couple different flagging companies until K&E Excavating saw him working on their job site.

Reynold's hard work and devotion toward his job stood out so much that K&E hired him on as a permanent employee where he has remained for more than seven years.

This type of dedication and passion for his work in the heavy highway

construction trades is what earned Reynold the February TERO Worker of the month. When asked how TERO has helped him throughout the years, Reynold said that it gave him an opportunity to pursue a new career and to learn many new skills. He would also like to thank TERO for the great opportunities that they work hard to provide, not only to him, but to all Native people.

On behalf of our staff here at TERO we want to congratulate and thank Reynold for the great representation of our program! Thanks Reynold! Keep up the hard work!



**Reynold Lane**

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

## 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. ■

**YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 13 TO 18**

**ARRIVE: TUESDAY MARCH 25TH BY 2PM**

**DEPART: FRIDAY MARCH 28TH BY 11AM**

**CAMP WESTWIND OTIS, OREGON**

**TRADITIONAL GAMES & CRAFTS**

**COASTAL JAM & SALMON BAKE**

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TRIBES PREVENTION PROGRAM DOWN BELOW

**SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER OR CLICK THIS LINK**

**REGISTRATION FOR PREVENTION CAMP**  
Password: Prevention

**QUESTIONS?**  
SHANNON 503.879.1489 OR ANGEY 503.879.4533  
[ANGEY.RIDEOUT@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:ANGEY.RIDEOUT@GRANDRONDE.ORG)

**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** (open to all community members)

**Tribal Member Review Board** (must be an enrolled CTGR Tribal member)

**If you would like to volunteer:**

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

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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





## Watchlist: ‘Missing from Fire Trail Road’ 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*

Many Tribes across America have heard the phrase: “That’s the road we believe she was last seen.”

To the Tulalip Tribal community just outside Seattle, Fire Trail Road is the last known sighting of Mary Ellen Johnson-Davis.

A new documentary called “Missing from Fire Trail Road,” available on Hulu, follows the search for Johnson-Davis and explains why Native people go missing at alarming rates.

“Native women like Mary Ellen are missing because they are easy prey,” a woman says in the documentary’s two-minute trailer.

Without definitive answers, a series of people throughout the documentary theorize what happened to Johnson-Davis and investigate her disappearance.

“Tribal governments do not possess criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians,” Indigenous Attorney Gabe Galanda says. “That rule has created havens on reservations for murderers and rapists.”

The trailer shows several flyers posted on telephone poles of missing Indigenous women from all across Washington state.

“We have a high record of non-Native men assaulting Native women,” a speaker says.

To one woman in the documentary, these cases of murdered and missing women is considered genocide and it must be acknowledged. To combat it, Native communities are seen gathering with posters of their missing relatives and marching in cities.

You can watch the “Missing from Fire Trail Road” trailer on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gr\\_t4glsRw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gr_t4glsRw). You can also watch the entire documentary on Hulu. ■

## Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellow applicants

Applications for the 2025-26 Hatfield Fellowship program funded by Spirit Mountain Community Fund are being accepted 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 [thecomunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship](http://thecomunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship) or go to [youtu.be/7TOnNoFgUYs](http://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. ■

## Free household hazardous waste disposal event set April 12

The Tribal Natural Resources Department is hosting a free household hazardous waste collection event from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, at the Tribal Procurement Department, 9635 Grand Ronde Road, building “V.”

Products must be securely sealed and in original containers when possible. Do not use garbage bags. Materials will be collected from the trunk, cargo area or trunk bed. Drivers are asked to stay in their vehicles and not to bring additional passengers or pets. Smoking is not allowed.

Acceptable products are pesticides and poisons, thermometers, thermostats, mercury and items with it, fluorescent lights/ballasts, polishes, household cleaners, pool chemicals, rust remover, antifreeze, parts cleaners, automotive fluids, paint and paint thinners, and batteries. Non-accepted products are radioactive waste, asbestos, ammunition, explosives, Sharps products, pharmaceuticals and electronic waste.

For more information, contact Lindsay McClary at [Lindsay.mcclary@grandronde.org](mailto:Lindsay.mcclary@grandronde.org) or 503-879-2387. ■

## Volunteers Wanted



### Volunteers Wanted

Grand Ronde Tribal Emergency Services is looking for Volunteers

If you are interested in helping to service your community, please apply by visiting

[Emergency Services](http://www.Grandronde.org)

at

[www.Grandronde.org](http://www.Grandronde.org)

### Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Firefighter
- Water Tender Driver
- EMS
- Auxiliary
- Chaplaincy

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Emergency Services

9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347 503-879-3473



## Fishing Pole Giveaway

April 12, 2025

11am to 3pm

Englund Marine

880 SE Bay Blvd.,

Newport, OR

97365



Fishing Poles for Kids Oregon Coast will be handing out 450 fishing poles to children under 14 years old



[Fishingpolesforkids.com](http://Fishingpolesforkids.com)  
[fishingpolesforkidsoregoncoast@gmail.com](mailto:fishingpolesforkidsoregoncoast@gmail.com)

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

### 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. ■

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Prevent contamination & ensure your family's safety today

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Support wherever and whenever you need it.

**Text Native to 741741.**  
**#WeNeedYouHere**

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**

## STRONGHEARTS Native Helpline

Safe | Anonymous | Confidential

**StrongHearts Native Helpline is a 24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.**

**Call | Text: 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)**  
**Chat online at [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)**

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

Paid ad

## 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.

the MU Concourse Gallery presents

## the collective works of

Previously shown @ Portland University, Chehalis Museum and Chelan County Community College

# 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 541.737.2415





# 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. ■

# 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). ■

# 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.

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

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

At the Grand Ronde Tribal Gym

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



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach 6-12	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Administrative Assistant – Natural Resources	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	03/17/2025
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
Dementia Care Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Employment Coordinator	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	03/17/2025
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.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Intermediate	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Engine Boss/Crew Boss/EMT	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Housing Safety Specialist Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	03/17/2025
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part-Time & On-Call * \$500 Hire-On Bonus after 120-days	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
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
Milieu Safety Technician – Sheridan – Great Circle Recovery	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Nurse Practitioner - Health & Wellness	22	\$176,393.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	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.	Until Filled
Police Officer Trainee	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Senior Records Clerk	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	03/17/2025
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland – Great Circle Recovery	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$78,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
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
Executive Steward	3/13/2025	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Mountain View Sports Bar Waitstaff	3/13/2025	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Bar Porter (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Bartender	Until Filled	\$16.50/hr. DOE + Tips
Cage Cashier	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	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
Restaurant Manager	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. 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

**Spirit Mountain Casino Job Fair**  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
1pm - 3pm

• Please check in with Goodwill Job Connections near Will Call

**\$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.



# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



## Wednesday, January 1

- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A plane crash was reported in the area of milepost six on Salmon River Highway.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.

## Thursday, January 2

- A welfare check occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 27.

## Friday, January 3

- Burglary occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 100 block of Northwest First Street in Willamina.
- Harassment was reported in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- A welfare check occurred in the 25000 block of Coyote Court.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Blair Street and Cherry Hill Road in Sheridan.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Saturday, January 4

- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Second and North streets in Grand Ronde.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 271000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 300 block of Bridge Street in Sheridan.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Sunday, January 5

- Burglary occurred in the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- A welfare check occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- A welfare check occurred in the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Trespassing occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Fort Hill Road.
- A traffic hazard was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 18.
- A vehicle crash occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 15.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Monday, January 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Red Prairie Road and Highway 18.
- Civil service occurred in the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- Criminal mischief was reported in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Found property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 9600 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Fire Hall and Andy Riggs roads.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Second and North streets in Grand Ronde.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

## Tuesday, January 7

- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred in the area of Salmon River Highway and Hebo Road.

- A protection order violation arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- A welfare check occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- A welfare check occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Drive.

## Wednesday, January 8

- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Salmon River Highway and Hebo Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Salmon River Highway and Fort Hill Road.
- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- Eluding occurred in the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Thursday, January 9

- A warrant arrest occurred in the area of Salmon River Highway and Grand Ronde Road.
- An ordinance violation occurred in the area of Blue Jay Court and Blacktail Drive.
- An animal complaint was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 16.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.

## Friday, January 10

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of North Street and Grand Ronde Road.
- A runaway juvenile was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 25000 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## Saturday, January 11

- Civil service occurred in the 48000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Criminal activity was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 300 block of Yamhill Street in Sheridan.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Sunday, January 12

- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 4000 block of Fort Hill Road.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## Monday, January 13

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 24000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Blue Jay Court and Blacktail Drive.
- A drug arrest occurred in the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.

## Tuesday, January 14

- A welfare check occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Civil service occurred in the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Wednesday, January 15

- Citizen contact occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.



# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



POLICE LOG continued from page 18

## **Thursday, January 16**

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 7.
- Trespassing occurred in the 6300 block of Salmon River Highway in Rose Lodge.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Hebo Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## **Friday, January 17**

- A driving while suspended arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred in the 9600 block of Fort Hill Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Blair Street and Bockes Loop in Sheridan.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Disorderly conduct occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Bridge and Main streets in Sheridan.
- Found property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## **Saturday, January 18**

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Disorderly conduct was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Prowling was reported in the 25000 block of Coyote Court.

## **Sunday, January 19**

- Citizen contact occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Found property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## **Monday, January 20**

- Found property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8800 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the area of South and First streets in Grand Ronde.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Northeast Oaken Hills Drive.

## **Tuesday, January 21**

- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A driving while under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Salmon River Highway and Grand Ronde Road.

## **Wednesday, January 22**

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9300 block of Steel Bridge Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Steel Bridge Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 25000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 25000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 25000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Cover was requested in the area of Edison Drive and Alvord Alley.

## **Thursday, January 23**

- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 16.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2500 block of Yamhill River Road.

## **Friday, January 24**

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 45000 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Hebo Road near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 29000 block of Edson Drive.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers requested coverage in the 900 block of Pioneer Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 25.

## **Saturday, January 25**

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- Fraud occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A crash occurred in the area of Agency Creek and Yoncalla roads.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## **Sunday, January 26**

- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Hebo Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Agency Creek and Yoncalla roads.
- Officers responded to domestic disturbance in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 31.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Trespassing occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Salmon River Highway and Hebo Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 700 block of Main Street in Sheridan.

## **Monday, January 27**

- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 800 block of Southeast Sheridan Road in Sheridan.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 53000 block of Hebo Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- Theft was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

## **Tuesday, January 28**

- A warrant arrest occurred in the area of Salmon River Highway and Rowell Creek Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 7900 block of Fire Hall Road.
- A warrant was served in the 7900 block of Fire Hall Road.

## **Wednesday, January 29**

- A drug seizure occurred in the 27100 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## **Thursday, January 30**

- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 13.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## **Friday, January 31**

- Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drugs were reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Main and Box streets in Sheridan.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the area of Salmon River Highway and Grand Ronde Road.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.



**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.

**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](#).

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**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!**

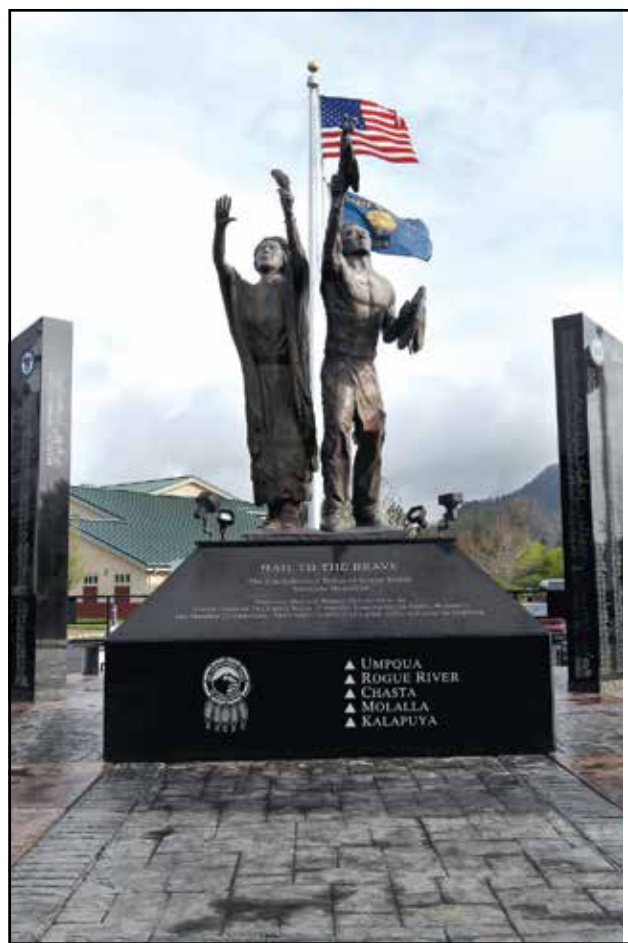
**~~FEBRUARY 6, 2025,~~**  
**SALMON & POTATOES (WITH A CHICKEN SWAP)**

**~~FEBRUARY 20, 2025,~~**  
**STEWES & SOUPS ~ ELK STEW & VENISON**

**~~MARCH 6, 2025,~~**  
**DESSERTS ~ ICE CREAM, TARTS, & COBBLER**

**MARCH 20, 2025,**  
**HOW TO USE LEFTOVERS**

(503) 879-1484 • CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org



**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.

## Walking On...

### Dwight Ursell Summerlin

Oct. 20, 1944 – Jan. 30, 2025

Tribal Elder Dwight Ursell Summerlin passed away on Jan. 30, 2025, at the age of 80 in Tumwater, Washington.

Dwight was born Oct. 20, 1944, in McMinnville, Oregon, to Emma (Riggs) Summerlin and Ursell Summerlin.

Much of Dwight's childhood was spent between Oregon and California, often being looked after by family. He started working from the young age of six. He told many stories of picking hops, blueberries and green beans. He worked alongside his cousins and many of his first friendships were formed.

Throughout his schooling, he sold sketches for a nickel and worked in the kitchen to pay for his meals.

Dwight had a fondness for cars. One the first motors he ever built was after school with the guidance of a man named Mr. Leighton who owned a wrecking yard. He would leave written instructions every night with the motor and Dwight would work diligently completing his first built motor that sparked a lifelong love of building motors. Dwight worked through high school and graduated in 1964 from North Salem High School.

After graduation, Dwight proudly made the decision to serve his country in the United States Air force. After completing his training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, he was sent to serve in Thailand. During his time in the service, he learned to weld, with that skill he became part of Strategic Air Command as well as Studies Observation Group. Being a part of these groups was a great honor to Dwight.

Dwight told many stories of his time in the service and lots of happy memories of friends he never forgot. Dwight was also stationed in Guam, where he enjoyed cliff diving and attempted to learn scuba diving. That was cut short with his one close encounter with a great white shark. He said he swam the fastest he had ever had in his life back to shore and he walked the 20 miles back to base and that was the end of him and scuba diving. Dwight told this story and endless others in a way that would make you laugh and feel as though it was just the other day.

In 1968, Dwight finished his service and honorably discharged at March Air Force Base near Riverside, California, where he started a family with then-wife Lenore Coffey. Together they had three daughters, Maureen, Tracey and Teresa. In 1977, Dwight moved to Washington state with his family in search of more opportunities. He continued to work within the field of welding and production.

In December 1981, he married his second wife, Marjie Olmstead, and had three more children: Melanie, Dwight and Matthew.

Dwight started his career with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, in the spring of 1985. During his time there Dwight had a very fulfilling career. He had obtained a red badge security clearance and was a crew foreman. Dwight worked on many large-scale projects often working overtime for weeks straight. He did this with a sense of pride and the work ethic he developed in his youth.

In 2010, Dwight retired from his career with Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. During his retirement, Dwight enjoyed collecting models, knives and movies. He also spent time working intermittently on various projects and upgrades on his vehicles. Dwight was preceded in death by his parents and siblings. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and his beloved dog, Jack.

Funeral Alternatives of Washington assisted the family.



### LaDonna Terri Hembree (Norwest)

Dec. 31, 1968 – Feb. 22, 2025

Tribal Elder LaDonna Terri Hembree (Norwest) passed away on Feb. 22, 2025, at the age of 56 in McMinnville, Oregon.

She was born Dec. 31, 1968, in Ketchikan, Alaska. She moved with her family from Ketchikan to the West Valley area in 1971.

She attended Willamina schools and graduated in 1991 from West Valley Academy.

LaDonna worked retail at Seaway Market and The Grand Ronde Shopping Center, and in security at Spirit Mountain Casino.

She loved to go fishing and was always ready to go on an adventure. She collected vinyl records, agates and liked to bead. She loved to drive up Spirit Mountain listening to Etta James and the Eagles, reminiscing about family. She loved going to the river and being outside in nature.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Alisa and Nick Mull of Grand Ronde; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Amber Rose Norwest of Gresham; brother, Johnny Norwest of Lafayette; and sisters, Shirley Norwest of Salem, Daniele Powley of Grand Ronde, Jackie Brown of Benton City, Washington; and three grandchildren, Kaywah Norwest, Sunny Mull and Hope Mull.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marcellus and Sharon Norwest; brothers, Lonnie, Robin, Marcellus Jr., Andrew, John "Big John" Norwest and Lyle Johnson; and sister, Carmen Norwest.

A viewing was held Wednesday, March 5, at Bollman's Tribute Center in Dallas. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the Tribal gym, followed by a gravesite service at the Tribal cemetery and a meal at the Tribal Community Center.



## Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

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

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

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

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

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)



## ELDERS LIVING WITH LONELINESS IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

WHEN ELDERS MOVE INTO ADULT FOSTER CARE, WE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SOCIAL LIFE THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY. THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS, PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS, VISIT....

NEARLY 40% OF ELDERS LIVING IN ADULT FOSTER CARE SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION AND LONELINESS.



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** \$120,000-140,000/yr
- Housing Development Manager** \$100,000/yr
- Cully Economic Development Coordinator** \$60,000-65,000/yr
- Sexual Assault Advocate** \$29/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.

03/06/25

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 Kusin**, associate professor of Emergency Medicine and Medical Toxicology in the OHSU School of Medicine.

**Register:**



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



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

## GRHWC PROJECTED lush lamatsin EVENTS 2025

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">March</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 3/20 Start 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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 @Uyxat Powwow Ground Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">August</p> <p>Fun Run / Walk 8/16 - Time TBD @Uyxat Powwow Grounds 3v3 Bball Collab Fresh Foods Distribution 8/21 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">November</p> <p>Fresh Foods Distribution 11/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; 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. ■

## Inclement weather alert!

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

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

## 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. ■

## Meet Your

### Behavior Specialist

## Taylor

### About Me

Hey, I'm Taylor! I am your new Behavior Specialist! I have been in the field for 5+ years. I have worked in a variety of settings including schools, home and clinics. I have training in Positive Behavior Supports as well as Oregon Intervention Systems.

### Favorites

**Drink:** Milk!  
**Food:** Mac and Cheese  
**Color:** Purple  
**Animal:** Sea Turtle  
**Place to Visit:** The Beach  
**Song:** You've Got a Friend in Me (from Toy Story)

### Fun Facts

- I have two pet water turtles and a dog
- I love all things Buzz Lightyear
- I have a crazy large shoe collection
- I use to bowl competitively

### Book an Appointment With Me

[Taylor.gustafson@grandronde.org](mailto:Taylor.gustafson@grandronde.org)  
 503-879-1697

## SELF CARE AS A CAREGIVER

Why taking time for self care is extremely important as a caregiver

### Why is self care important?

Practicing self-care is essential for caregivers to maintain their physical, emotional, and mental health while fulfilling their caregiving responsibilities. Here are some practical ways caregivers can incorporate self-care into their daily lives:

#### Prioritize Rest

Caregivers should establish a consistent bedtime routine and ensure they are getting enough sleep. If caregiving duties are affecting sleep, consider asking for help or hiring respite care during night hours. Short naps during the day can also help recharge energy and improve alertness, especially when nighttime rest is limited.

#### Take Breaks

Caregivers should carve out time each day for brief breaks, even if it's only for a few minutes. Use this time to step outside, enjoy a cup of tea, or simply relax in a quiet space.

### Seek Support

Reaching out to loved ones for emotional support, companionship, or even just a chat can help reduce feelings of isolation. Connecting with other caregivers who understand the challenges can provide a sense of community and valuable advice. Many support groups meet in person or online.

### Practice Self Compassion

Caregivers often feel guilty or inadequate, but it's important to remember that self-care is not selfish. Practice self-compassion by acknowledging that you are doing your best and that your well-being is important too.

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. 503-879-2078



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