



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

DECEMBER 1, 2020

## Restoration: ‘Let’s be thankful and grateful’



Smoke Signals screenshots by Timothy J. Gonzalez

**A photo of Tribal ancestors that was included during the 37th Restoration video presented on Sunday, Nov. 22.**

**At left, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy welcomes viewers inside achaf-hammi plankhouse during the 37th Restoration video presented virtually.**

**By Danielle Harrison**

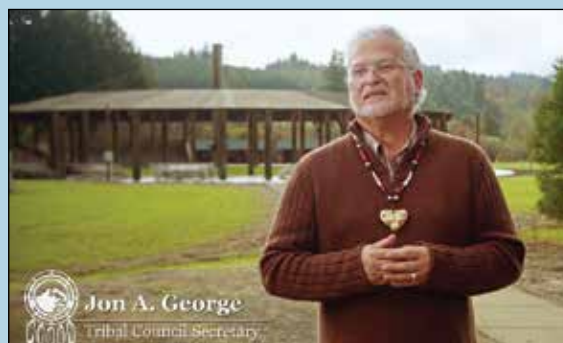
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**T**he Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde’s 37th Restoration Celebration was the first ever to be virtual, but some of the traditions, like raffles and gifts, remained an important part of the event.

Restoration began at 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, with a pre-recorded message from Tribal Council posted to the Tribe’s website.

The video opened with Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy welcoming attendees virtually at achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse. Behind her sat Tribal Council

members Jack Giffen Jr., Secretary Jon A. George, Kathleen George, Steve Bobb Sr., Lisa Leno and Denise Harvey. After an invocation by Bobb, Kennedy reflected on Nov. 22, 1983, when the Tribe was restored by the federal government, and all of the work that



**Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George during the 37th Restoration video.**

had gone into the battle to achieve it.

“Over 37 years ago, our people fought a good fight,” Kennedy said. “A fight for our Restoration, to be federally recognized and sit among all the Tribal Nations across the United States. It was a long battle, but we were successful. Thanks to those who worked intimately in this struggle, led and gathered together by Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes. These are the ones we call our founding fathers.”

Restoration was moved online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and state and Tribal restrictions on large gatherings. Ken-

**See RESTORATION continued on page 6**

## Census: Tribe leads Oregon in getting members counted

**By Danielle Harrison**

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**D**espite a global pandemic, wildfires and an extended census deadline abruptly cut short by 16 days, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde still managed to count more of its members than any other Tribal nation in Oregon with a 78.5 percent response rate.

This is a more than 17 percent improvement over the 2010 census count. Additionally, the Tribe fared better overall than the state, which

had a 69.2 percent response rate, according to Census Bureau data. Nationally, the Tribal response rate was approximately 41 percent.

“Tribal nations are historically undercounted in the United States census counts,” Grand Ronde Housing Administrative Program Manager Joan Dugger said. “The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde joined forces with our regional census representatives to make this year more successful.”

Dugger said that when the Tribe receives its final response rate in

December, she is expecting it to be more than 80 percent.

In the 2010 census, Native Americans and Alaska Natives living on Reservations were undercounted by 4.9 percent, according to Census Bureau data.

To help increase participation, Dugger organized the Tribal Complete Count Committee. Other members included Social Services Manager Dana Leno, Employment Program Manager Michael Herin, Local Census Representative Rita LaChance and Employment

Program Administrative Assistant Angella Schultz.

“This was such a collaborative effort,” Dugger said. “There were so many people involved in so many ways. It’s been a huge privilege to be able to work with everyone and have the support of Tribal Council.”

During a virtual presentation to Tribal Council on Wednesday, Nov. 18, Dugger and committee members discussed the results

**See CENSUS continued on page 8**



# General Council meeting

## 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

Being held remotely using the Zoom teleconferencing program.

### NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Dec. 2.....	1:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 16.....	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 30.....	10 a.m.

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

### ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS ON THE TRIBAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)/DISABILITY (SSD) & MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAMS

It's time to send us a copy of your "2021" Social Security award letter  
\*If you haven't received your "2021" Social Security award letter yet, please contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213 or online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)  
\*Your "2021" SSA award must reach our office by **5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, 2021**, to avoid future delays in your benefits.

Please send a copy of your "2021" SSA letter to:  
CTGR Member Services  
Attn: Shannon Simi  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

E-mail: [Shannon.simi@grandronde.org](mailto:Shannon.simi@grandronde.org) – Fax: 503-879-2480 –  
Phone: 503-879-1358 or 1-800-242-0232, ext. 1358

**NOTE:** It is the responsibility of the Tribal member to notify the Tribe of any changes in your benefits from the Social Security Administration SSI/SSD program. Failure to submit your annual SSA letter and/or notify the Tribe of any changes may result in an obligation to repay ineligible benefits received and/or interrupt or delay your Tribal Supplemental Security Income & Disability payments and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

# Holiday lights



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

**Aaron David, a stagehand with Showcall Events Services of Portland, works on installing holiday lights around the trees at Spirit Mountain Casino on Thursday, Nov. 12. While typically working indoors, the**



**crew is working outside more often due to all of the events being canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. At left, Todd DeHart, a stage technician with Showcall Events Services of Portland, works on installing holiday lights around the trees.**

## Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closing noon Thursday, Dec. 24, and closed on Friday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas. Offices also will be closing noon Thursday, Dec. 31, and closed Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, in observance of New Year's Day.

# smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
FRIDAY, DEC. 4.....	DEC. 15, 2020
FRIDAY, DEC. 18.....	JAN. 1, 2021

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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



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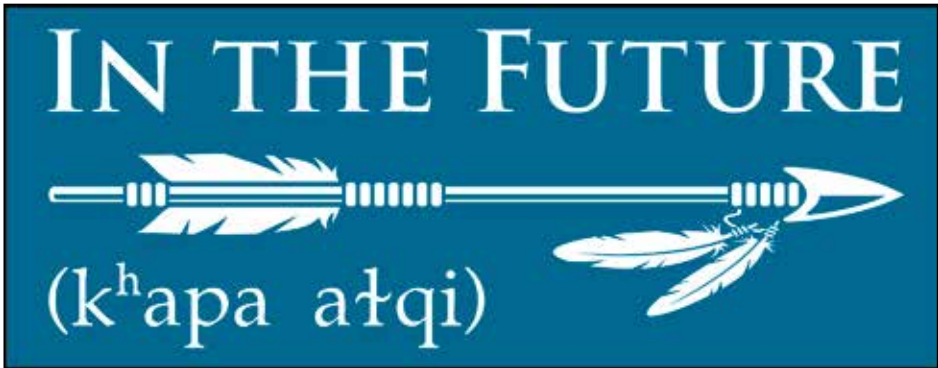
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December

- Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Tribal Council meeting, 1:30 p.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, Dec. 6 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., using the Zoom teleconferencing application. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, Dec. 6 – Tribal Council Christmas Party. CANCELED.
- Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Friday, Dec. 25 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

January

- Friday, Jan. 1 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.
- Sunday, Jan. 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., using the Zoom teleconferencing program.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, Jan. 18 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
- Wednesday, Jan. 27 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

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

Tribe's eldest Elder walks on at 101

By Dean Rhodes  
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Elder Ruby Geraldine Bigoni walked on at the age of 101 on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Ruby was born on March 18, 1919, in Tillamook, Ore., to James and Emma Langley. Her grandparents were Israel and Mary Langley. Her other grandfather, Andrew Zuercher, moved to Tillamook from Bern, Switzerland, when he was a young man.

She married Orlando Pete "Bill" Bigoni on Oct. 24, 1936, in Kelso, Wash. She and Orlando are the parents of Dianne Locklear and Richard and James Bigoni, and adopted Bill Bigoni. Orlando and Bill both walked on in 1990.

According to an Elder Spotlight that appeared in *Smoke Signals*, Ruby worked in a drapery shop for more than 20 years. She also was a banquet manager for the Fraternal Order of Eagles and was installed as Grand Madam President of the Eagles in Boston, Mass., in 1971. She also worked for a number of years as a receptionist for Chinese eatery Lung Rung Restaurant.

She traveled throughout North America during her year as Ea-

gles Grand Madam President and presided over the International Convention held in Atlanta, Ga. She also was a guest on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, presenting a \$25,000 check on behalf of the Eagles.

She also volunteered for the Red Cross for 50 years and was active at St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland.

Her advice to Tribal youth was, "Be kind to your parents and Elders, say 'No' to drugs, and finish your education, as it will help you get a good job."

Bigoni's sister, Pearl Lyon, was the Tribe's eldest Elder for a while, walking on at the age of 105 in November 2017.

Ruby lived in Portland and is survived by 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

With Bigoni's passing, former Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison, who was born in March 1924, and Carmilla Faggani, who was born in July 1924, are the Tribe's eldest living Elders.

To read Bigoni's full walking on notice, turn to page 10 in this edition of *Smoke Signals*. ■

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

Mind, Body & Soul Therapeutic Massage started at the Health & Wellness Clinic last year. **Remember:** Appointments for massage are not managed by the Health & Wellness Center staff.

To schedule an appointment, call 971-237-2561. ■

Afterhours health line

Tribal members can contact the Afterhours Health Line for questions about health care concerns they may have when the clinic is not open. You can reach the Afterhours Health Line by calling 503-879-2002 and follow the prompts. The Afterhours Health Line will coordinate care and communicate with Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center providers. ■

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Grand Ronde Cultural Education:  
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Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:  
facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

CTGR Academic Advising and Coaching Important Services Update

The program has assessed the amount of requests for academic coaching and advising services and believe we have the capacity to expand these services to CTGR Tribal descendants and other Native students at our local schools we serve. Please contact the Youth Education Program for more information or to request services.

Also note that the current Internet classroom held at the Tribal gymnasium has adjusted and expanded hours of operation to serve our youth better.

Contact information: Administrative Assistant – 503-879-2101 or Devon.Mercier@grandronde.org

We look forward to hearing from you. ■

Grand Ronde Housing Department

Board seeks community input

The Grand Ronde Housing Grievance Board is seeking community input for monthly meetings. The Housing Grievance Board meets at 4 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the Housing Department conference room, 28450 Tyee Road. Its chair is Simone Auger.

For more information, contact the Housing Department at 503-879-2401. ■



# Food Bank news

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

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

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

In reaction to the continuing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold December food distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 and 11, and there will be holiday box distributions on Saturday, Dec. 19, and Wednesday, Dec. 30. The Food Bank will be closed Christmas week, Dec. 21-25, and on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

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

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

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

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

The Food Bank is continuing the Farm Share Rx program with 35 farm shares being distributed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. It is a first-come, first-served distribution until the shares are depleted. There will be no distribution on Dec. 23.

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.

The Farmers to Families food box distributions that were occurring on Tuesdays in Grand Ronde have been discontinued until a new distributor is found. Please follow the Food Bank on Facebook for updates about how and when distributions will start again.

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

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.

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

## Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkʰmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board meets monthly.** The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, using the Zoom conferencing program. Chair: Siobhan Taylor. Contact: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Chair: Tammy Cook.
- **Elders Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Penny DeLoe.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Bryan Langley.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Bernadine Shriver.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 4 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Simone Auger.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets monthly at noon at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the first Monday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Interim Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the old Elders Craft House. Chair: Rich VanAtta.

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

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



**2015** – A large contingent of Grand Ronde Tribal members participated in a long-awaited flag hanging ceremony during dual assemblies held at Willamina High School. The Tribal flag was placed next to the Oregon flag, U.S. flag and POW/MIA flag near the scoreboard in the school’s gym. “It is an honor what is happening here today,” Tribal Council member Jon A. George said. “A lot of the reason we wanted to hang our flag in your school has to do with sovereignty. Our sovereignty means that we are a government within a national government. We have partnerships and friendships with other governments.”

**2010** – The Tribe celebrated its 27th anniversary of Restoration with a ceremony, meal and powwow. The celebration began in the Tribe’s new plankhouse and moved to the Tribal gymnasium for the meal and powwow. “This is the greatest celebration that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde can ever have,” Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “Against all odds, a new nation was created on that day, and that new nation is us.”



2010

File photo

**2005** – Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrated \$30 million in giving with a party at the new Salem Convention Center. “Who would have thought that in so short a time, we could have accomplished so much?” said Community Fund Board Director Kris Olson. “Lives have been transformed. Hope has been restored.” Since 1997, its first year of giving, the Community Fund awarded 127 grants to arts and culture, 309 grants to education, 66 to environmental preservation, 163 to health, 14 to historic preservation, six to problem gambling and 77 to public safety.

**2000** – A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the future home of the Grand Ronde Veterans Memorial at the Tribal Governance Center. Approximately 100 supporters attended the event, which was led by the Grand Ronde Honor Guard bringing in the colors. “There would be no freedom in America without veterans,” Veterans Memorial Committee Consultant Gene Hancock said. “These are exciting times for the Confederated Tribes because this memorial is moving from the conceptual stage to reality.”

**1995** – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced it would establish a Housing Authority within the next several months. The authority would be similar to a nonprofit corporation and would require a Board of Commissioners to oversee all housing management and operations for the Tribe.

**1990** – Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier reported that the Tribal government was preparing to move its administrative and government functions on to Tribal land. “Naturally, our expectations for a move-in date have come and gone, and we are rapidly regrouping and targeting other dates,” he said. The most recent schedule update was to have modular buildings on the property, with utilities hooked up and the moving complete by mid-December.

**1985** – The Tribe extended its congratulations to Tribal members who were given awards in football, volleyball and cross country at an annual fall dessert banquet at Willamina High School. Those who lettered on the varsity football team were Chris Leno, Mike Colton and Steve Bobb Jr. Melanie Smith received a letter for the junior varsity volleyball team and Gregg Leno earned an award for the cross country team.

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



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



TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ORDINANCE  
OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a First Reading at the Oct. 28, 2020, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments include: (1) a provision restricting a commissioner’s access to records if the commissioner also bids on a project; (2) a provision granting limited administrative supervision of the TERO Director to the Chief of Staff or in her/his absence the General Manager; (3) a requirement that TERO workers on construction projects be afforded the opportunity to work the same hours as nonTERO workers; (4) and other minor technical changes.

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

**Comments must be received by Dec. 15, 2020.**

Washington County recognizes  
Native American Month

For the first time in history, Washington County recognized Native American Month on Nov. 3.

The proclamation was read by coach and staff member Jenny Sanchez (Grand Ronde) and student Ella Smith (Klamath) at the Washington County Commissioner’s meeting held before a mostly Zoom audience of 100 people.

Before the proclamation reading, Auditor’s Office staff member Sherry Kurk (Metis) made an introduction and an in-person blessing was offered by Celeste Whitewolf (Umatilla) and a drum song was performed by Harmony Paul.

A land acknowledgement presentation was given by Grand Ronde Tribal member David Lewis. He also gave a 30-minute presentation about the Native Tualatin history of the area previous to white settlement and the changes that occurred on the Tualatin Plains during the colonization of Oregon.

Lewis reviewed the proclamation and added numerous statements, including those about the Forest Grove Indian Boarding School, destruction of Wapato Lake and removal of Tribes to Grand Ronde in 1856.

The proclamation is part of a larger ongoing project to recognize and honor the Tualatin-Atfalati peoples in Washington County. This year, the Washington County Historical Museum changed its name to Five Oaks Museum in partial recognition of Tualatin stories and the Hillsboro School District name a new elementary school after the Atfalati people.

Washington County is Oregon’s second largest county in terms of population. ■

Tribal Council OKs December  
per capita, timber payments

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal members will receive their first per capita distribution payment in nine months, as well as a \$550 timber revenue payment, on Monday, Dec. 14.

Tribal Council OK’d the payments during its Wednesday, Nov. 18, meeting. The per capita amount will not be determined until Wednesday, Dec. 2, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said during the Tuesday, Nov. 17, Legislative Action Committee hearing.

Acting Finance Officer Amy Galant said the payments will be made in two separate checks.

Quarterly per capita payments were suspended for June and September after the Tribe closed Spirit Mountain Casino for an unprecedented 74 days between mid-March and May 31 in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although Tribal members did not receive per capita payments, the approximately 4,500 adult Tribal members did receive eight COVID-19 relief payments from the Tribe using federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

Although the Tribe has not disclosed how much it has received in CARES Act funding, a Harvard study estimated the amount was approximately \$33 million based on the U.S. Treasury’s public formula for determining allocations to Tribes.

Using CARES Act funding, the Tribe dispersed \$4,400 in relief funding to adult Tribal members from April through November, which is \$250 less than the total per capita payments distributed in 2019.

The relief payments were designed to help Tribal members affected by the pandemic and the absence of two per capita distributions because Spirit Mountain Casino was closed.

Tribal Council approved the first supplemental \$1.8 million budget on April 23 and \$400 payments were mailed out and deposited directly into Tribal members’ bank

accounts on April 29.

Tribal Council approved a second \$1.9 million supplemental budget on May 21 that sent another \$400 virus relief payment to adult Tribal members.

The third \$8.1 million supplemental budget was approved on June 18 and allocated \$600 to each adult Tribal member in June, July and August.

The fourth \$7.5 million supplemental budget that funded three virus relief payments was approved in September and sent \$600 payments to adult Tribal members through November.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a maximum \$1.82 million design and build contract with Scholten Construction of Willamina for the uyxat Powwow Grounds arbor expansion. Also included in the Nov. 18 Tribal Council packet was an approved authorization to proceed allowing the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department to provide raw logs to the arbor expansion project. The estimated value of the logs and associated costs will be approximately \$94,000;
- Approved a contract with Light-Werks of Carson, Calif., to improve the audio-visual equipment in Tribal Council Chambers that will include new video displays, remote-control cameras, new speakers and the ability to interact with Tribal members remotely. The funding is coming from the CARES Act monies received by the Tribe;
- Approved the agenda for the Sunday, Dec. 6, General Council meeting. It will be held at 11 a.m. via the Zoom teleconferencing program and feature a presentation from Spirit Mountain Community Fund;
- And approved the enrollment of four infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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



### Self Care in the Changing Times

*Laughter is Good Medicine*

**December 10, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**  
**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting  
[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Meeting ID: 874 2945 1514  
Passcode: 267710  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87429451514?pwd=dEZHZDU4bEU1dTQ4S2EzUmg0OXhIU09>


Please feel welcome to log in and connect with others in the community, learn some self care tools, laugh, check-in and leave feeling uplifted.

Sponsored by Social Services  
(Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde)






Facilitated by the Native Wellness Institute  
[www.NativeWellness.com](http://www.NativeWellness.com)



Happy Birthday Joel Rock,  
We hope your birthday is amazing!!  
with love from Angella  
& all your family

Happy 2nd birthday  
**William the Warrior!**

You are such an amazing, loveable, smart little man! Thank you for choosing us to be your parents. You will do amazing things in your life! You make your sister proud every day!  
Love always,  
Papa, Momma and sister





# When Tribe terminated in 1954, only 900 on Termination Roll

RESTORATION continued  
from front page

nedy urged remote attendees to celebrate the day with immediate family members and share a meal together, provided it was done safely.

"The accomplishments that were done, what it means, today, what it means for our children, we celebrate," she said. "For the many Tribes that formed Grand Ronde, we all rejoice together."

Kennedy recalled that after the Tribe was terminated in 1954, there were only 900 members on the Termination Roll. She was one of them.

"Many of us, those Elders among us today, we need to appreciate and help them," she said. "You have to think of the feat that was accomplished. The United States, the most powerful nation in the world, admitted they were wrong and they restored us to Tribal Nation status. So today, let's celebrate, and be the thankful and grateful people we are, and remember our future is bright."

The video continued with views from inside Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center, and then featured Jon A. George near úyxat Powwow Grounds.

"(At one time) this was not a good location," he said. "We were forced marched here. It was a prison. The government tried to tell us we were no longer recognized as Native Americans. We started out with those three visionaries (Provost, Holmes and Kimsey) and in 1983, it happened. We became a Native nation once again."

In closing, Kennedy called on Tribal members to stay strong and persevere.

"Today, we know that we can all



Smoke Signals screenshots by Timothy J. Gonzalez

**From left, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Secretary Jon A. George preside over the raffle during the virtual 37th Restoration celebration on Sunday, Nov. 22.**

rejoice together," she said. "Let's continue to be a helpful people as we look to the future."

On the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Facebook page, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Jon A. George conducted a raffle for Amazon and Visa gift cards. Winners will have their prizes mailed out. Additionally, Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson has said that small gifts were being sent out to Tribal members.

"On Nov. 22, 1983, Grand Ronde's federal recognition as a Tribal government was restored when the Grand Ronde Restoration Act was signed into law," a statement on the Tribe's website said. "Every year since then, we have gathered as a Tribe, a community and a family to celebrate our Restoration. Even with our 37th celebration moving online, we want to get small gifts to our Tribal members."

Those who have not yet registered for a gift can do so by visiting [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org),

click on the "Celebrating 37 Years of Restoration" link and below there is an online form to fill out. Additionally, the video presentation and the raffle event can be viewed on the site.

Kennedy has said moving the Restoration Celebration online allowed the Tribe to honor the day while keeping Tribal and community members safe.

"We're saddened that we won't be able to gather in person for this year's Restoration Celebration," she said. "But even in this time of uncertainty, we still want to recognize this important day and honor those that made Restoration a reality for the Grand Ronde Tribe."

It was the first time since 1984 that the Tribe did not host an in-person event. The decision was initially announced in a Facebook post on Friday, Oct. 23.

"Grand Ronde's federal recognition as a Tribal government was restored when the Grand Ronde

Restoration Act was signed into law. Every year since then, we have gathered as a Tribe, a community and a family to celebrate our Restoration. Unfortunately, 2020 has left us in unprecedented times and we can't gather in person this year. Restoration will still be celebrated, but the celebration will look a little different because we're moving it online."

On Nov. 22, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed House Resolution 3885 restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe, which had been terminated 29 years earlier, to federal recognition. His signature on the bill officially ended the dark time of Termination.

Every year since, the Tribe has held a celebration. It includes a meal, giveaways, speeches, dancing, drumming, singing and a Restoration Powwow. Approximately 200 Tribal members, family, friends and elected officials traveled to Grand Ronde last year for the event held in the Tribal gym.

In an e-mail to all Tribal employees on Friday, Nov. 20, Kennedy said that Restoration is a bright spot in an otherwise bleak year.

"This Sunday marks the 37th Restoration of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," she said. "I am grateful that this date is a time marked in history because we all have endured dreadful situations this year: The epidemic, wildfires and personal difficulties brought on by COVID-19. (We now) have this bright spot to celebrate while keeping safe. This journey has pronounced how loyal, committed and caring staff of the CTGR are. I appreciate what you do and the sacrifice you are making. My prayers for your safety and good health are spoken daily." ■

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION**

**COOKING**  
*With Shannon*

**Facebook Live**  
**WEDNESDAYS @ 4PM**

New recipes every week, random giveaways, 10 families each week will get everything they need to cook w/Shannon...Watch the live for all the deets!

[f @GrandRondeYouth](https://www.facebook.com/GrandRondeYouth)  
[CTGRyouthempowerment](https://www.instagram.com/CTGRyouthempowerment)

**CONTACT : SHANNON @503.879.1489**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION

**Please join us for:**

**chinuk wawa**  
**p'heynt pulakhli**  
Chinuk Wawa Paint Night

**Dec. 17, 2020      6:30 pm      Via Zoom**

Join us for an evening of chinuk wawa and holiday painting! We will be sipping hot chocolate and painting a fun, simple holiday picture on 8X8 canvas while learning some chinuk wawa!

Only 10 spots are available, so send in your RSVP now to [zoey.holsclaw@grandronde.org](mailto:zoey.holsclaw@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-1443!

All necessary supplies will be provided and mailed out the week before.



# History and Culture Summit wraps up virtual events

By Danielle Harrison  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Tribe finished its annual History and Culture Summit with a virtual presentation by two Tribal members on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Like every other large indoor event in Oregon, it was presented in Zoom this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fourth event, “StoryMap: Indigenous Naming of Creeks on Marys Peak,” was presented by Grand Ronde Cultural Policy Analyst and Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta, and Tribal member and Portland State University student Jesse Norton. It was followed by a moderated discussion panel led by Tribal Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson. The event proved to be quite popular, with more than 95 people logging in to attend.

In 2018, 10 unnamed creeks on Marys Peak near Corvallis were approved for naming by the U.S. Geological Service, and included words from three different Indigenous languages, which received broad local support and participation. The process was hailed as a success story among naming efforts nationally and served as an example of how Tribes can be engaged and represented.

The project began after Marys Peak Alliance member Dave Eckert contacted the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department and asked if the Tribe would be interested in renaming the creeks. The process took approximately two years and involved input from several different groups.

“We had the opportunity this summer to visit all of the creeks, walk through them and see what they were like,” Archuleta said.



Smoke Signals screenshot

**Tribal Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson discusses the Indigenous naming of creeks near Marys Peak as part of the final virtual presentation of the annual Grand Ronde History and Culture Summit on Wednesday, Nov. 18.**

“Since time immemorial, it has been culturally significant to the Grand Ronde and Siletz peoples. It’s a sacred mountain.”

Archuleta and Norton showed various slides of their hikes to the different creeks and discussed the renaming process, which involved the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, city of Corvallis, Starker Forests Inc., Oregon State University, Spring Creek Project and Marys Peak Alliance.

“Naming these creeks makes it easier to conduct search and rescue operations rather than if they remained unnamed, to conduct scientific studies and to honor the original stewards of the land,” Norton said.

Added Harrelson, “Hopefully, this StoryMap can convey the meaning and help with understanding. ...

Naming also helps with planning efforts. We are really excited about this.”

During a question-and-answer session afterward, the panelists were asked what they enjoyed most about the naming process.

“It was great to connect with the land,” Archuleta said. “I like to visit the area and get a bigger picture of how the old stories connect to the landscape.”

Norton agreed.

“It was very special to explore Marys Peak,” he said. “Within the Grand Ronde Tribe, the Tribes that make up our confederation span such a vast landscape.”

Harrelson said he appreciated the noncontroversial nature of the process.

“With this project, we were naming unnamed creeks, so we didn’t have to convince people to change a name. Also, this was built on relationships. Our homelands are 14 million acres. When it comes to naming things, we can spend the time and effort in many places. But if changing a name will cause harm to our communities, it probably isn’t worth it.”

The first three presentations were held on Oct. 14, 22 and 26. Videos from the Oct. 14, 22 and Nov. 18 events will be available to view for three months at [www.grandronde.org/history-and-culture-summit/](http://www.grandronde.org/history-and-culture-summit/). ■

## Snowmen bound



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

**Tribal member Veronica Gaston sits with a small selection of her snowman collection in her Tribal Housing home on Monday, Nov. 16. Gaston’s collection is currently at 4,478. The Guinness Book of World Records for a snowman collection, as of March 2013, is 5,127 by Karen Schmidt of Coon Rapids, Minn. Gaston says she primarily obtains her snowmen at Goodwill stores in Dallas, McMinnville and West Salem where she is known as the Snow Queen.**

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE



TRIBAL COURT

INDIGENT DEFENSE PROGRAM

The Tribal Court is actively seeking attorneys for our *Indigent Defense Program* to represent parents and children involved in neglect and abuse cases within the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court.

If interested please contact the Tribal Court:

Shane Thomas  
Tribal Court Programs Coordinator

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
Phone: 503-879-4623  
Fax: 503-879-2269  
shane.thomas@grandronde.org

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



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





Happy 55th Birthday,  
Shelly Staubes  
Cheers to your baby Elder status!  
With love from all your family



# ‘Everyone worked so hard for so long as we felt this was so important for our Tribe’

CENSUS continued from front page

and ideas for the future, including getting Tribal youth to understand why the census is important.

“It seems like our Tribe always has a high percentage for response rates and I appreciate your coordination, camaraderie and abilities,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George said. “It’s just a testament to your ability to work together and get this data.”

The U.S. Census Bureau faced additional obstacles this year with the COVID-19 pandemic cutting back on the ability to go door-to-door to obtain information from those who did not reply by mail, phone or Internet. The bureau asked for, and received, an extension of Oct. 31 to complete the count, but the Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to cut the census short on Oct. 14.

As a result, census takers had to redouble their efforts to get people counted, especially in Tribal communities where response rates have historically been low and remained so during the pandemic as many Reservations took additional safety measures such as suspending door-knocking efforts.

With Grand Ronde Tribal offices closed for almost two months during the pandemic, and no door-to-door contact allowed, the committee had to rely on other methods to obtain responses: Multiple Tribal members were hired to phone direct to Tribal families all over the United States to conduct outreach; fliers were circulated at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, community bulletin boards and in Elder meal grab-and-go bags; and social media was utilized, virtual raffles were held for census completers and an outreach table was set up during Tribal Council elections.

Other efforts to get out the count included advertising through e-mail, *Smoke Signals* and Facebook, and working with state census representatives to narrow down the Grand Ronde Tribal members who had not yet completed their census forms.

The September wildfires that ravaged Oregon, closed Tribal offices for several days and displaced some

area residents further complicated counting efforts.

“Everyone worked so hard for so long as we felt this was so important for our Tribe,” Dugger said. “In spite of everything that was in our way, we refused to concede, give up or be discouraged. We just kept coming up with new ways to get Tribal members to respond. It was truly a great team. Everyone worked together to achieve this goal.”

Other Tribal response rates in Oregon include the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, 62.5 percent; Coquille Indian Tribe, 61.5 percent; Confederated Tribes of Umatilla, 56.7 percent; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, 61.3 percent; Klamath Tribes, 46.2 percent; Burns Paiute Tribe, 46 percent; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, 45.6 percent; and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, 39.2 percent.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey thanked the committee for its efforts and recalled the challenges when she was tasked with leading the census effort in 2010.

“Your report is amazing,” she said. “In 2010, I was a one-man band. I really appreciate all of the efforts you guys made and helping people understand why it is important.”


Dugger has said each census response is worth approximately \$3,200 to Tribal grant-funded programs that benefit members.

Going forward, Dugger says it will be important to continue to utilize Tribal media for public outreach, develop a call team, hold raffles with an increased budget for prizes, create a role for Elders, and increase outreach to younger audiences about why it is important to participate in the census.

The U.S. Constitution requires that the federal government conduct a census every 10 years to determine how many people are living in the United States. Census numbers help determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and help directs where billions of dollars in federal funding go for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads and other services. ■


## PREVENTION CORNER

December 2020



### Wellness During the Holidays

Hello ALL! Youth Empowerment & Prevention (YEP) will be starting the Prevention Corner back up again, just in time for the Holidays. We wanted to remind everyone to take care of yourselves and each other! We know things look a lot different this year. That doesn't mean we can't see our loved ones. Give them a call, or if you can video call, set up a Zoom for the holidays with family. Think about some cultural activities you can do at home together. Listen to your favorite music, take walks or work on that unfinished art project. We miss all of you and are planning big things for the future! Can't wait to see you again.



#### Coming up..

Be looking for fun things in December.

Look for our flyer in Smoke Signals for ways to participate and win prizes!

We are cooking again on the 17th ALL DAY!!!

Follow us to win prizes and keep up to date on all the things!

GrandRondeYouth  
ctgryouthempowerment

As always USE the hashtag & post your pics!!!

#CTGRWELLNESS WARRIORS

# MƏK<sup>h</sup> MƏK-MANIA

bit.ly/mekmekrmaniaregistration

12/3/20 at 6pm

Join local food experts online for an open discussion on all things food related in the West Valley Area.

Invited Speakers

- OSU Extension Services
- OSU-ES Food Hero
- OSU-ES 4H
- OSU- ES Master Gardeners
- OSU-ES Master Food Preservers
- CTGR Youth Empowerment & Prevention
- CTGR NRD - Native Plant Propagation Program

Francene Ambrose  
Grand Ronde Program Manager  
503-879-3663





ikta chxi?

## Let's Talk Education

Join us for a virtual community input meeting  
Wednesday, December 2nd @ 5:30 pm.

To join this meeting go to zoom.com and enter the meeting ID: 853 7893 3166 and passcode: 478203.

If you have any questions, contact Devin Boekhoff at 503-879-2275.



TERO Worker of the Month  
October 2020

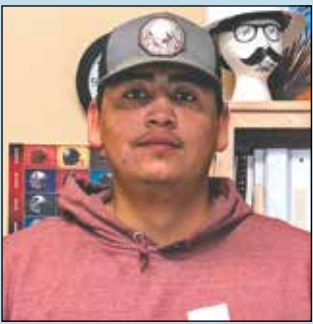
**Name:** Devree DelaRose-Wilder  
**Employer:** ACME Concrete Paving Inc.  
**Positon:** Laborer  
Devree first applied for the TERO Skills Bank in July of this year.

He was dispatched to a concrete slurry plant in Corvallis to help on an Oregon Department of Transportation project. This was Devree’s first experience with a TERO program because he is from southern Oregon and has not had access to a TERO program within his vicinity.

Devree says he has had an opportunity to learn many new things from road construction and operating since being dispatched. He is also thankful to Grand Ronde TERO for allowing him the opportunity to enroll in the BTI Heavy Equipment Operators Training he is currently in. The opportunity is offered through a collaboration between Grand Ronde TERO and Baker Technical Institute.

Devree was chosen as the October TERO Worker of the Month due to his high level of commitment to both the contractors he works for and TERO. He took the initiative to enroll in TERO’s Skills Bank program and take advantage of the many benefits it offers.

“I recommend TERO for anyone wanting to get out of their comfort zone and set themselves up for success,” he said. ■



Devree DelaRose-Wilder

Tribe receives Meyer  
Memorial Trust grant

PORTLAND — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was one of several Native American Tribes and organizations that received Meyer Memorial Trust grants in 2020.

The Grand Ronde Tribe received \$35,000 to help pay for the completion of the Chankawan Wildlife Area restoration alternatives analysis. The Tribe obtained the 425-acre conservation property in May 2016 as part of the Bonneville Power Administration’s Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

The property fronts more than a mile of the North Santiam River near Stayton in Marion County.

Other Native American Tribes and organizations receiving grants included:

- National Indian Child Welfare Association in Portland, \$180,000, for operational support of the organization dedicated to the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native children and families;
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corp. in Portland, \$50,000, to support the organization’s mission and work to strengthen Native American entrepreneurs in Oregon;
- Coquille Indian Tribe in Coos Bay, \$100,000, to address pressing health care needs by using self-directed and culturally respectful approaches;
- Red Lodge Transition Services in Oregon City, \$115,000, to operational support that provides culturally focused programs for Native Americans released from jails, prisons and treatment programs;
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society in Albuquerque, N.M., \$177,464, to improve Indigenous student success across Oregon through implementing STEM-related college and career readiness strategies;
- Native American Youth and Fam-

ily Center in Portland, \$123,333, to eliminate barriers to college and career readiness, and cultivate a stronger college-bound culture within Portland’s Native American community;

- Nez Perce Tribe of Joseph, \$138,824, to integrate Tribal knowledge into Willowa Lake management and explore reintroduction of sockeye into the lake;
- Burns Paiute Tribe in Burns, \$173,884, to help the Tribe exercise sovereignty by protecting natural systems and salmon in the waterways of the Tribe’s traditional homelands;
- High Desert Food & Farm Alliance in Bend, \$177,942, to develop and implement a plan that will establish a sustainable, culturally relevant food system in the Warm Springs community;
- Native Fish Society in Oregon City, \$85,000, to grow relationships with rural and Indigenous communities by integrating equity outcomes into ongoing environmental programs and efforts;
- Natives of One Wind Indigenous Alliance in Medford, \$46,000, to elevate the voices of Indigenous workers in the timber sector and improve statewide forest practices and workplace safety rules;
- Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, \$300,000, for redevelopment of Tistilal Village, to help low-income and formerly homeless Native families in Multnomah County;
- And the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, \$300,000, to redevelop the Lucky 7 manufactured home park with new, high-efficiency homes.

The Meyer Memorial Trust made 150 grants totaling \$21.3 million to make Oregon a more flourishing and equitable state, Director of Communications Kimberly Wilson said. ■

State’s COVID ‘freeze’ not  
affecting Tribal operations

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown’s “freeze” to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the state that went into effect on Wednesday, Nov. 18, is not affecting Tribal governmental operations.

“We are aware of the governor’s latest ‘freeze’ to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon,” said Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez in an all-employee e-mail on Monday, Nov. 16. “After careful consideration, the Tribe has made the decision to maintain its current operations for the Tribal government.”

However, Hernandez added, Tribal employees who feel it is in their best interest to work remotely can do so with approval of their supervisor.

Working remotely, if possible, is one of Brown’s “freeze” suggestions for Oregonians.

Brown also limited all bars and restaurants to takeout only, closed all gyms, restricted indoor and outdoor gatherings to no more than six people from two different households, limited capacity at grocery stores and pharmacies, and allowed churches and faith groups to accommodate indoor crowds of no larger than 25. The freeze is scheduled to last until at least Wednesday, Dec. 2, in most of the state and probably longer in more populated counties.

The “freeze” is in reaction to surging COVID-19 cases in the state that suddenly jumped to more than 1,000 for three consecutive days and have continued to grow over the Thanksgiving holiday week.

General Manager David Fullerton announced on Thursday, Nov. 5, that two Tribal governmental employees for the first time had tested positive for the coronavirus.

The two positive tests prompted Fullerton to limit campus access on Friday, Nov. 6, and Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 9-10, to only essential staff members. Other staff members were asked to work from home or granted administrative leave for the day.

Since Wednesday, Nov. 11, was Veterans Day and a Tribal holiday, the Tribal government resumed normal schedules and operations on Thursday, Nov. 12, with the exception that guests are no longer

allowed on the Tribal campus. The two positive cases within the Tribal government, which employs more than 500 people, are not the first coronavirus cases to affect the Tribe.

Spirit Mountain Casino, which employs more than 1,000 people, reported four of its behind-the-scenes employees had tested positive for COVID-19 in mid-October.

According to the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, as of Monday, Nov. 30, it has conducted 1,179 COVID-19 tests with 1,124 negative results, 28 retests and 27 positive results.

The Tribe limited access to the Tribal campus to only a skeleton crew of essential employees in mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic became a major public health concern in Oregon. After the Tribal government re-opened in mid-May, employees have had to undergo daily temperature checks, been asked to wear masks and encouraged to wash their hands frequently and keep socially distant.

“We have done a great job keeping the virus contained, but we all must do our part to protect ourselves, family and co-workers from this virus,” Hernandez said. “Wash and sanitize your hands, wear masks and social distance. We are closely monitoring the situation and we will continue to evaluate if any changes need to be made.”

The Tribal government was closed the entire week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 23-27. Tribal employees were already scheduled to have Monday, Nov. 23, off in celebration of Restoration and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27, off in observance of Thanksgiving.

Meanwhile, Spirit Mountain Casino announced a temporary suspension of smoking within the facility starting on Tuesday, Nov. 17. The smoking prohibition includes 20 feet from all entrances to the lodge, casino and lobbies.

The casino is still requiring that all guests wear face masks, which is a policy instituted in early July.

Since the Tribe is a sovereign nation, it does not have to follow state-mandated guidelines, a fact Brown acknowledged in March during the initial reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic. ■

Community Health Program

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.





Walking On...

Ruby Geraldine Bigoni

March 18, 1919 – Nov. 19, 2020

Tribal Elder Ruby Geraldine Bigoni was born March 18, 1919, in Tillamook, Ore., to James and Emma Langley. Her grandparents were Israel and Mary Langley. Her other grandfather, Andrew Zuercher, moved to Tillamook from Bern, Switzerland, when he was a young man.

Having descended from pioneer families of Tillamook, namely Zuercher and Kodad, and Native/French Canadian families of LaChance and Langlois, Ruby was the great-granddaughter of Twinisha of Winak-ske, aka Nancy of The Dalles.

She married Orlando Pete “Bill” Bigoni on Oct. 24, 1936, in Kelso, Wash. She and Orlando are the parents of James Bigoni, Dianne Locklear, Richard Bigoni and Bill Bigoni. Orlando and Bill both walked on in 1990.

Ruby had two older sisters, Pearl and Bernice, and an older half-brother, Arnold. At the time of her passing, Ruby was the oldest Tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

She loved traveling to Hawaii. In the last five years, she visited Hawaii three times, celebrating her 100th birthday there in 2019. In her lifetime, she visited Hawaii 25 times.

Ruby and Orlando enjoyed traveling on cruise ships, taking trips to Alaska, Hawaii, through the Panama Canal, Mexico, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia.

She worked in a drapery shop for more than 20 years. She was a banquet manager for the Fraternal Order of Eagles and was installed as Grand Madam President of the Eagles in Boston, Mass., in 1971. She also worked for a number of years as a receptionist for Chinese eatery Lung Fung Restaurant. She traveled throughout North America during her years as Eagles Grand Madam President and presided over the international convention held in Atlanta, Ga.

Ruby also was a guest on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, presenting a \$25,000 check on behalf of the Eagles. She also volunteered for the Red Cross for 50 years and was active at St. Charles Catholic Church in Portland.

Ruby had lived in her home in northeast Portland for more than 65 years. We are so blessed and fortunate that Ruby lived a long and wonderful life.

She is survived by nephews Harold Lyon and Robert Nagle, 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

She will be interred next to her husband Orlando.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, services will be held at a future time.

Other passings

Evelyn Rose Stevens

Aug. 1, 1933 – Nov. 23, 2020

Tribal Elder Evelyn Rose Stevens walked on Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, at the age of 87. Keith & Keith Funeral Home in Yakima, Wash., is assisting the family.

At this time, there is not a funeral service planned.

Join us for our second  
Virtual Sobriety Zoom Meeting..  
Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020  
6 - 7 p.m.

Hosted by: Post Treatment Services / Social Services  
Chris Holliday (503) 879-1452  
Michael Herrin (503) 879-4543

Download the Zoom app or enter Zoom in your browser.  
Ask to join meeting then enter the information below.  
Meeting ID: 945 4811 1618  
Passcode: 276766

If you have any questions feel free to contact Social Services at  
(503) 879-2034

Let’s get together and Support Recovery..

Did we mention there will be door prizes!!!!



TEACH our children our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.  
APPLY TO AITP  
[www.pdx.edu/aitp](http://www.pdx.edu/aitp)

AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHER PROGRAM

YOUTH EDUCATION K-12  
PRESENTS

hihi-lak<sup>h</sup>aset  
(Fun Box)

Activity boxes coming this Winter

Here's the scoop!

The Youth Education Department will continue the hihi-lak<sup>h</sup>aset program through March. Each month will include fun projects to work on from home. Information and links will be provided for students to hop on the Internet to watch a short instructional video for each activity.

Dropoff, Pickup and Delivery

Each month, an activity hihi-lak<sup>h</sup>aset (fun box) will be delivered to students (Grand Ronde, Willamina, Sheridan area). Tribal member students living out of the area can participate in this, too! We want to connect with you and have you be a part of this experience. Boxes will be mailed to you. (Boxes cannot be mailed to PO boxes.)

Intake Policy

The Youth Education Department will accept registration with the Tribal intake preference policy (4 tier system.) Parents will be notified if the program is filled and added to a waiting list.

LIVE on Zoom

Youth Education will have monthly Live Zoom meetings to discuss the hihi-lak<sup>h</sup>aset activities. More details to follow.

How do I sign up? It's simple!

All you do is click on the link below to register. The winter sign-up will include the months of January, February and March.

Are there limited openings and timelines to register?

Yes, there are limited openings! Registration opens December 1, 2020.  
Registration deadline is December 15, 2020, at 4 P.M.

Questions?

Please contact the Youth Education staff at [YouthEducation@grandronde.org](mailto:YouthEducation@grandronde.org) or call us at 503-879-2101. We look forward to seeing you!

Sign up at this link:

<http://bit.ly/winter2021hihilakhaset>



# Concrete work



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

**Workers pour concrete while laying down the foundation of the new Procurement and Information Services building on Friday, Nov. 20. Tribal Council approved the construction of the new building in October 2019. The Tribe’s Procurement and Information Services employees currently work out of modular and cramped quarters in the Governance Center, respectively.**



**A worker uses a power trowel to help flatten newly poured concrete while laying down the foundation of the new Procurement and Information Services building.**

# taxayam!

Whew, here we go again ... already! 2021 is right around the corner! If you know any enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members, no matter where they live (in or out of the service area), who are in need of assistance with the following services:

- Dental Care
- Glasses/Vision Exam
- Hearing Aid
- Braces
- Lasik Eye Surgery
- Residential Drug & Alcohol Treatment

Please spread the word and have them contact one of the following staff members to discuss being added to our deferred services list for assistance in 2021.

Some services do have longer wait times and some limitations apply, but we will be happy to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Please call or e-mail:

Leah Bailey at 503-879-2197 or leah.bailey@grandronde.org  
Erica Mercier at 503-879-2080 or erica.mercier@grandronde.org  
Kayla Leno at 503-879-1406 or kayla.leno@grandronde.org  
Melody Baker at 503-879-2011 or melody.baker@grandronde.org  
hayu masi!

## High School Juniors

COME CHAT ABOUT POST HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL ATTENDEES WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$25 AMAZON GIFT CARD!

DECEMBER 10TH 2020 @ 6PM

ZOOM ID: 876 6447 7520

ZOOM PASSCODE: 497322

mayka tiki chaku-  
kəmtəks chinuk wawa?  
Do you want to learn chinuk wawa?

The chinuk wawa language program will be offering weekly virtual “wawa workshops” for Tribal employees and community members!

- Join us:
- Monday
  - 12pm -1pm
  - October 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Via Zoom

For more information or if you would like to sign up, please contact Zoey Holsclaw 503-879-1443 or zoey.holsclaw@grandronde.org



NATIVE CONNECTIONS & ILAUNCH PRESENTS:

## PARENTS COMING TOGETHER

TO LEARN, EMPOWER & CONNECT

THIS GROUP WILL MEET WEEKLY & DIVE INTO CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE:

A Trauma informed approach to parenting that helps us learn how to go from upset to calm, address both social and emotion needs while promoting Mental Wellness and behavior changes.

We will be offering this class at either of the two times listed below. When you sign up, you can indicate which time works best for you.

- Wednesday's 12:00-1:00pm
- Wednesday's 6:30-7:30pm

All families who sign up will receive a \$25 gift card and all families who finish the series will receive a gift at the end. To sign up for our parenting group please call Amber Mercier @ 503-879-1476 or Keri Kimsey @ 503-879-2476.





# SMOKE SIGNALS

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Sign Up  
To Win!

## E-Subscription Raffle



### Want to win a new Smoke Signals hoodie or T-shirt?

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive **smok signalz**?

Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

Well, here's your opportunity to do all that and potentially win a prize.

In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, **smok signalz** electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via 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 Salem printing contractor. You can read the newspaper on your computer, print out a copy or just individual pages. Also, you will receive virus-free Tribal news much faster than the current standard mailing utilized by the Tribe.

In addition, **smok signalz** will hold a drawing at the end of December. All e-subscribers will have their name included in the drawing and 11 will win either a hoodie or one of 10 T-shirts.

To receive an e-mailed PDF version of **smok signalz** and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your e-mail to [esubscription@grandronde.org](mailto:esubscription@grandronde.org). Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail.

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



# Heavy training





Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

From front, Ree Quenelle along with Devree DelaRose-Wilder, Jerry Yanez and Dennis Knight Jr. participate in heavy equipment operator training in a trailer provided by Baker Technical Institute on the Tribal campus on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Trainees learned to virtually operate excavators, a bulldozer and a loader. After two weeks on virtual training, the students will work on the actual equipment at the Knife River Holmes Rock Pit in Albany during the week of Dec. 7.

# Fee assistance

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

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





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ADULT  
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# Happy Holidays

## YEP activities for December

★ **Decorate your house, yard, windows & post pics using our hashtag #ctgrwellnesswarriors**  
To be entered into the raffle! YEP staff will do spot checks in housing.  
NOT LOCAL, post a pic using our #ctgrwellnesswarriors to be entered!

★ **December 17th - Holiday Desserts all day!**  
YEP staff will be bringing you our favorite holiday sweets! Be watching for more info on that!

★ **Post pics of you & your family being wellness warriors through the Holidays**



GrandRondeYouth



ctgryouthempowerment





# CULTURAL EDUCATION

Are you missing out on what Cultural Education has to offer? Follow us on Facebook to get detailed class information, photos from events, and updates.

Plus, check out the tribal calendar for a quick glance of upcoming events and classes.

Open to Tribal and Community members. Join us!

# TIS THE SEASON FOR READING

ALL AGES LIBRARY WINTER READING PROGRAM

**REGISTRATION STARTS NOVEMBER 30TH- DECEMBER 11TH**


- TRACK YOUR READING MINUTES
- COMPLETE READING LOGS
- EARN RAFFLE TICKETS INTO OUR PRIZE DRAWING
- WEEKLY PACKET PICKUP INCLUDES BOOK AND ACTIVITY

**REGISTER BY:**


- THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/WINTERREADINGPROGRAM](https://bit.ly/winterreadingprogram)
- PHONE: 503-879-1488
- EMAIL: [KATHY.COLE@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:kathy.cole@grandronde.org)
- COMPLETING AND RETURNING REGISTRATION FORM BY DECEMBER 11TH



Contact Kathy Cole with any questions at [kathy.cole@grandronde.org](mailto:kathy.cole@grandronde.org) or 503-879-1488



# TIS THE SEASON FOR READING REGISTRATION



## NOVEMBER 30TH-DECEMBER 11TH

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup every Wednesday at:

☐ Tribal Library 9am-5pm

☐ Tribal housing basketball court 11am-11:30am





# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG

**Friday, Oct. 30**

- Driving complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. Possible intoxicated driver leaving the area. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Assist outside agency by helping Child and Family Services in the 100 block of Wind River Drive regarding reports of child neglect.
- Warrant arrest in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road. A male was arrested for a valid municipal warrant and transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop. A report of juveniles possibly egging houses.
- Traffic assist in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18. A male was located and advised to stay out of the road.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request on a 911 hang-up in the Willamina area.

**Saturday, Oct. 31**

- Assist outside agency with a cover request on a traffic stop in the area of milepost 29 on Highway 18.
- Attempt to locate hit-and-run vehicle in the area of highways 18 and 18B. Officers were unable to locate the suspect vehicle.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8900 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Reported trespass in the area of Big Buck campground.
- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 26 on Highway 18. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A male was arrested for felony driving while suspended and transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.

**Sunday, Nov. 1**

- Attempt to locate a stolen vehicle in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18. The vehicle was located at a later date.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request for a domestic dispute in the Willamina area.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request for a disturbance in the Willamina area.
- Warrant arrest in the Willamina area. A male was arrested for the warrant and possession of methamphetamines. He was transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.
- Possible trespass reported in the Steel Bridge Road area. Officers searched the area and found nothing.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A female was cited and released for possession of methamphetamines and heroin.
- Assist outside agency with a domestic disturbance in the Willamina area.
- Assist outside agency with a report of suspicious activity in the Sheridan area.

**Monday, Nov. 2**

- Report of two dogs left in a vehicle in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Traffic assist performed in the area of milepost 25 on Highway 18. Report of an object in the roadway. Officers were unable to locate it.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A female was located and cited for theft.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Blacktail Drive.
- Vehicle assist performed in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A motorist was locked out of his vehicle.
- Assist outside agency with a report of suspicious vehicles in the area of milepost 15 on Highway 18.

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**

- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 9 on Highway 22. A vehicle was located and the driver was cited for multiple violations.
- Traffic stop occurred in the area of Tyee and Grand Ronde roads. A male was cited for felony driving while suspended.
- Report of a burglary in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Traffic crash in the area of milepost 20 on Highway 18. A male was arrested for DUII.
- Emotionally distressed person reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road. A male believed people were after him. Officers spoke with him until he felt better.

**Wednesday, Nov. 4**

- Traffic stop occurred in the area of milepost 22 on Highway 18. A male was arrested for misdemeanor driving while suspended and for a valid detainer. He was transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.
- Assist outside agency by helping Children & Family Services with contact in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle. A male and female were cited for second-degree child neglect.
- Assist outside agency with cover on a traffic stop in the area of Grand Ronde Road. Two males were arrested for valid warrants and possession of methamphetamines.

- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Thursday, Nov. 5**

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Possible sex abuse reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen assist in the 47000 block of Eagle Loop. The person was locked out of his or her home.
- Found property in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop. Report of a loud explosion was unfounded.
- Assist outside agency with a report of a car fire in the area of milepost 18 on Highway 18. The vehicle was abandoned on the roadside and was secured until Oregon State Police could arrive.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. Two males were arrested for criminal mischief, possession of methamphetamines and valid detainers. Both were transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.

**Friday, Nov. 6**

- Animal complaint reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A driver needed help starting his vehicle.
- Report of fraudulent money in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Report of theft in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. The issue was handled civilly.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A female was cited and released for possession of a forged instrument and forgery.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request in the area of Highway 18 and Harmony Road.

**Saturday, Nov. 7**

- Suspicious activity reported in the area of Gold Creek Road.

**Sunday, Nov. 8**

- Report of harassment in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 3 on Highway 18. Officers located the vehicle and saw no violations.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Agency Creek and Yoncalla Creek.
- Assist outside agency with a single vehicle crash involving a deer in the area of milepost 28 on Highway 18.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Monday, Nov. 9**

- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency with an emotionally distressed person in the Sheridan area.
- Welfare check performed in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency with a suspicious person in the area of McPherson Road.

**Tuesday, Nov. 10**

- Domestic disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. A female was arrested for strangulation and a valid warrant, and a male was arrested for a valid warrant. Both were transported to the Polk County Jail in Dallas.
- Report of a telephonic harassment in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Telephonic harassment reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Found property in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Wednesday, Nov. 11**

- Assist outside agency with a cover request in the Willamina area.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Assist outside agency with a traffic hazard in the area of milepost 15 on Highway 18.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request in the area of Mill Creek Road.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Yamhill River and Gold Creek roads.
- Assist outside agency with a domestic dispute in the 27600 block of Andy Riggs Road.

**Thursday, Nov. 12**

- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Attempt to locate vehicle involved in a pursuit. Officers were unable to locate.
- Found property in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency with a cover request on a warrant arrest in the area of highways 18B and 18.
- Traffic hazard in the area of milepost 18 on Highway. Fallen tree on the roadway.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal  
Police Department Officer Clint Cardwell.*





# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## Flu shots are in!!!

The Health & Wellness Center now has flu shots. Due to social distancing and keeping everyone safe and healthy, we ask you to please call medical at **503-879-2032** to make an appointment to get a flu shot. An appointment will be required before entry.

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccination each year.



The Health & Wellness Center is still open. We are taking every precaution to keep our staff and patients safe. Remember that masks are required (not a face shield) at all times during your visit, continue social distancing as well as washing/sanitizing your hands.

If you have ANY COVID symptoms, please do not come in the building, even if it is for a regularly scheduled appointment. Call 503-879-2002 and they will give you instructions.

- The symptoms include:
- Dry cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - A temperature 100.4 or greater

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are taking the safety of everyone very serious.

Hayu masi,

- Know when to quit
- Don't chase your losses

Prevention, harm reduction, treatment and safe gambling



We can help with responsible gambling

Are you having problems with gambling?

Please meet Sergio Gutierrez, CADAC-1, CGAC-1 Chemical Dependency and Gambling Addiction Counselor. Sergio works at the CTGR Behavioral Health Department twice a month from 8:00-5:00pm. Sergio has been practicing since 1997 and is versatile in his knowledge pertaining to gambling addiction. He is ready and eager to help our members in any way he can.

The odds can be in YOUR favor!!

Call now for availability and to make your appointment:

503-879-2026

Gambling Hotline:

1-877-MY-Limit (1-877-695-4648)  
or Text 503-713-6000

### Focus on The Senses 5,4,3,2,1

- Find 5 things you can see.
- Find 4 things you can touch.
- Find 3 things you can hear.
- Find 2 things you can smell.
- Find 1 thing you can taste.

### Embrace The Arts

- Color or draw.
- Look through recipes.
- Listen to a calming playlist.
- Play an instrument.
- Sing.

### Move

- Take a walk.
- Do a few yoga poses.
- Jump on a trampoline.
- Run in place.

### Connect to Nature

- Go outside and walk barefoot through the grass.
- Sit outside in a relaxed lotus position: legs crossed, hands with palms open on knees. Do slow, deep breathing.

### Nurture

- Water plants.
- Clip dead leaves.
- Gather seeds for growing or sharing.
- Pick flowers.
- If you have a garden, pick fruits or veggies or weed.

## Calming Strategies for Adults

### Control The Environment to Calm The Senses

- Turn down the lights for a few minutes.
- Turn on soothing music or sounds.
- Light a scented candle; watch the flame.
- Wrap yourself like a burrito in a regular or weighted blanket.
- Drink ice water or go warm with hot tea.
- Give yourself a mini hand massage with a fragrant lotion.

### Connect with The Animal Kingdom

- Watch fish in an aquarium.
- Do bird watching.
- Pet your furry family members.
- Fill bird feeders and see who comes to the seed buffet.
- Take a few minutes with a journal outside and track the creatures you observe.





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