



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

JANUARY 15, 2021

Tribe doubles COVID-19 testing capacity



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde recently received a second COVID-19 virus test analyzer that will allow the clinic to double its testing capacity from 28 to 56 tests a day during a Wednesday, Jan. 6, Facebook Live event.

“This gives us the ability to react quickly when

someone is sick,” Rowe said.

Rowe gave an overview of the Tribal Health & Wellness Center’s continuing efforts to deal with the virus. She said that as of Tuesday, Jan. 5, the clinic has conducted 1,625 tests with 1,502 of them being negative, 50 positive and 73 being retests. At the time, there were 17 active cases

See COVID-19
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Health & Wellness Lab Assistant Kateri Marrufo prepares a test sample to be run through the second COVID-19 virus test analyzer received by the Tribe on Tuesday, Jan. 12. The unit will allow the clinic to double its COVID testing capacity.

Schools weighing options to re-open

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

After Oregon Gov. Kate Brown lessened stringent statewide restrictions for in-person learning in an effort to have more students return to the classroom by Feb. 15, local school districts that educate Grand Ronde Tribal students are weighing their re-opening options.

Beginning on Jan. 1, the governor’s instructions for returning to school became “advisory rather than mandatory,” according to a letter sent to the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority on Dec. 23.

“Moving forward, the decision to resume in-person instruction must be made locally, district by district, school by school,” Brown said. “In addition to schools continuing to adhere to required health and safety protocols and working in close consultation with their local public health authority in understanding and considering the metrics, teachers, school staff, parents and students should be engaged in this decision-making process to allow schools to make the best choice for their community and their students.”

However, schools in areas with high COVID-19 case counts, such as Yamhill, Marion and Polk counties, are still essentially required to follow all of the same rules in the “Ready Schools, Safe Learners,” guidance set by ODE and OHA, and work with local public health officials to ensure guidelines are followed. The guidance is expected to be updated on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

“We will be working on our plan

See SCHOOLS
continued on page 9

Grand Ronde Tribe preparing to open two medication-assisted treatment clinics

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is preparing to open two medication-assisted treatment facilities this year, the first Tribally owned and operated programs in the state to combat opioid addiction.

In December, Portland resident Jennifer Worth was hired as the Operations Director for both clinics.

“I’m really excited just to be able to be of service to the community and helping others,” Worth says. “What is really exciting about these clinics is that we will also be able to offer spiritual and cultural aspects as well as medication-assisted therapy.”

Worth earned a master’s degree in social work from Portland State University and has several years of experience working as a health care consultant across Oregon, including assisting with opening a medication-assisted treatment facility in Seaside.

“What spurred me to accept this job with the Tribe was the sense of community and connection I feel here,” she says.

Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe says Worth’s priorities will be effective operations management and services.

“(She will) ensure the MAT program services are responsive to Tribal and community needs, are the highest quality of care, and in compliance with all state,



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Medication-Assisted Treatment Clinic Operations Director Jennifer Worth was onsite at the new clinic in Salem on Wednesday, Jan. 6. The Tribally operated clinic, along with one in Portland, will help people dealing with opioid addiction.

local and federal regulations, and that they contribute to the Tribe’s holistic health and wellness objectives for patients and families.”

The Tribe began looking into offering medication-assisted treatment in the wake of the opioid crisis that swept through the United States beginning in the early 2000s. The crisis led to millions of people with addiction problems, some of whom were not helped by traditional abstinence-based, 12-step programs.

A recent project update on the

Tribe’s website describes why it is pursuing these efforts.

“Medication-assisted treatment is one of the most effective forms of treatment for substance abuse because it combines behavioral therapy with carefully managed medications,” it states. “For the past year, the Tribe has been exploring ways to expand its current health services to include medication-assisted

See CLINICS
continued on page 8

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 7

Being held remotely using the Zoom teleconferencing program.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Jan. 27.....	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 10.....	10 a.m.

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

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals:

Deb Haaland is a citizen of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe and one of two Native American women elected to Congress. If things go well, she might be the first Native American to lead a Cabinet-level agency.

According to a *New York Times* article, she would oversee a sprawling department responsible for some 500 million acres of public lands, including national parks, oil and gas drilling sites, and endangered species habitat.

Nominated by Joe Biden, she still has to face confirmation by the Senate. But what an honor and what a long time coming!

Finally, some good news from 2020.

Judith Pettibone
Roll No. 717

Dear Smoke Signals:

My name is Samantha Dala. I have a problem. I moved out of my house so that Housing could do their job and fix the ceiling in the bathroom and in the bedroom. I was told by other people, "If you move everything out, then Housing will get you back in sooner than late winter."

Look, I am an Elder well over 70 years and I am on the street and nobody cares. Well, I think that if this is the way you all treat your Elders. Then you need a little piece of wisdom. You should remember when your parents told you growing up to respect your Elders. There is no respect for us anymore and that is a sad thing.

I made things for the Elders. I made blankets, scarves and even Christmas ornaments for the tree. I even played secret Santa for some of our Elders. But look at us now. Some of us have no way of getting around because the younger people just don't care. We are nothing to this place anymore. Why mistreat Elders? We are good people, but I have a surprise for the Tribe. I have a rent bill for the Tribe to pay back to me. So far it is \$1,500. If I had my own place, I would not have to do this.

Elders desire a lot in life, and I mean not being homeless. The Tribe put me up at the hotel for 12 days. I have paid for all the other days. My cost so far is \$1,600 and I just don't have this kind of money. I am without my apartment because I made one mistake in my life. So sue me.

Housing is the one that tells me no, I can't have my apartment back. The money is not coming out of your pocket. And my unit is still empty after Monday evening. I am on the street again.

We Elders are so well taken care of. Look at me (no car, no home and no respect).

Samantha Dala
Roll No. 382

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

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

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

Clothes Closet open Friday afternoons

The Clothes Closet is open from 3 to 6 p.m. Fridays on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive.

The change in hours will better serve the community so people do not have to choose between going to the Grand Ronde Food Bank or the Clothes Closet. It also will be open and available to those who work.

The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances, small 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. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day. Offices also will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.

smok signalz

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OR 97347
1-800-422-0232, FAX: 503-879-2173

WEBSITE: WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

E-MAIL: NEWS@GRANDRONDE.ORG

EDITORIAL.BOARD@GRANDRONDE.ORG



TWITTER: CTGRSMOKE SIGNAL

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SMOKE SIGNALSCTGR/

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCMDXDTZFgJZJ_3NPPCrtCW

DEAN RHODES
PUBLICATIONS
COORDINATOR
503-879-1463
DEAN.RHODES@GRANDRONDE.ORG

DANIELLE HARRISON
STAFF WRITER
503-879-4663
DANIELLE.FROST@GRANDRONDE.ORG

TIMOTHY J. GONZALEZ
PHOTOJOURNALIST
503-879-1961
TIMOTHY.GONZALEZ@GRANDRONDE.ORG

SAMUEL F. BRIGGS III
GRAPHIC DESIGN
SPECIALIST
503-879-1416
SAMUEL.BRIGGS@GRANDRONDE.ORG

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
PAGE
DESIGNER
503-879-2190
JUSTIN.PHILLIPS@GRANDRONDE.ORG

KAMIAH KOCH
SOCIAL MEDIA/
DIGITAL JOURNALIST
503-879-1461
KAMIAH.KOCH@GRANDRONDE.ORG

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
MONDAY, JAN. 25.....	FEB. 1, 2021
MONDAY, FEB. 8	FEB. 15, 2021
MONDAY, FEB. 22	MARCH 1, 2021
MONDAY, MARCH 8	MARCH 15, 2021

EDITORIAL POLICY

smok signalz, 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 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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TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN
— EXT. 2352
CHERYLE.KENNEDY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **JACK GIFFEN JR.**
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JACK.GIFFEN@GRANDRONDE.ORG

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— EXT. 1444
CHRIS.MERCIER@GRANDRONDE.ORG

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— EXT. 2353
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— EXT. 1770
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— EXT. 4555
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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

January

- 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.

February

- Sunday, Feb. 7 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., using the Zoom teleconferencing program.
- Wednesday, Feb. 10 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, Feb. 15 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs’ Day holiday.
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 – 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.)

Certified Application Assisters at the Health & Wellness Center

Cassandra Rhamey is available to assist with recertification and applications for the Oregon Health Plan. She can be reached at 503-879-1359 or cassandra.rhamey@grandronde.org. Leah Bailey also is a Certified Application Assister available to help. She can be reached at 503-879-2197 or leah.bailey@grandronde.org. ■

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
*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 – 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.

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.

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

THE 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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

General Council briefed on Tribe’s education efforts

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

Education Department Manager Angela Fasana briefed Tribal members on the department’s various programs and accomplishments during a Sunday, Jan. 3, General Council meeting held via the Zoom video conferencing application.

During the meeting, Fasana discussed the changing methods and challenging aspects of delivering services during a global pandemic.

“This year has been challenging and humbling for our staff in responding to our families,” she said. “Since March, it has all been a COVID response plan. We immediately had to shift and make changes.”

Fasana said that the Education Department’s response plan is available on the Tribal website at www.grandronde.org.

“We’re also working on a re-opening plan,” she said. “We had to do a lot of research and sift through a lot of federal policies to see how to safely re-open.”

Fasana said that the technology assistance grant, which provided \$500 for a laptop, tablet or desktop, was a huge help to both students and Elders. The grant, which was funded from federal CARES Act dollars, originally expired Dec. 31. In total, 563 students and 341 Elders were able to access the grant.

Fasana said that this year was also a time to work on creating consistency and cohesiveness within the Education Department.

“We’re trying to create more efficiency in how we run the department,” she said. “There are lots of individual silos within it. One of the main things I ask is are we providing the best services we can?”

She said that holding regular virtual

community input meetings has been helpful in answering that question.

Fasana also provided an overview of the early childhood, youth and higher education programs, as well as an update on library services during the pandemic.

Some of the highlights include:

- There are 59 students in five preschool classrooms and 39 students in the home-based program. Current instruction includes virtual learning with packets of materials dropped off to families and meals delivered, socially distanced events, student assessments conducted outdoors, and home visitors providing virtual and socially distanced events.
- The Chinuk language program has provided virtual/limited in-person instruction and classrooms for preschool through high school students, as well as a virtual community class, videos and socially distanced parades and graduation. There are nine students in the preschool class, 13 in the kindergarten to third-grade class, 15 in the middle/high school classes and 13 in the community class.
- Youth Education serves 127 students who utilize virtual academic coaches or guided study classes. Additionally, the hihi lakhaset (fun boxes) activity project continues to serve hundreds of students locally and out of the area. Youth Education employees have created a YouTube channel



Angela Fasana

with a variety of videos and also have partnered with Youth Empowerment and Prevention.

- Higher Education currently has 95 students in bachelor degree programs, 41 in graduate degree programs, 87 in community college programs, eight in non-credit classes, nine enrolled in GED programs, two in early college enrollment and 38 enrolled in Families Working with Education & Family Partnerships. There is virtual tutoring offered during the pandemic, and virtual events such as financial aid nights, career coaching and student support.
- The library served 96 participants during its fall literacy program, is providing curbside check-outs for books and DVDs, virtual book reads by Librarian Kathy Cole, and will soon have a mobile library program for those who cannot do curbside pickup.

Fasana said that re-opening the Education Department programs to full, in-person learning and activities will be a gradual process.

“We have a lot of policies in place and have drafted numerous plans,” she said. “Our goal is a gradual, safe re-opening. As vaccines roll out, that

will dictate what the road ahead looks like. I’m very proud of our staff for everything they have done.”

Fasana took seven questions from the online audience. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said the presentation was “very informative.”

“I know during COVID a lot of the students have struggled with online learning and continue to do so,” Kennedy said. “I know that the Education program will continue to evolve to meet the needs of students. I want to say thank you to your team for taking the initiative to do different things.”


In other action, it was announced that the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, via Zoom with a program report from the Health & Wellness Department.

Door prize winners were Leroy Good, Veronica Gaston, Esther Foster, Karen Page and Debi Anderson, \$50 each; and Fae Smith, Elaine Robertson and Robert Wiggs, \$100 each.

The meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Childcare Reimbursement Program

Applications accepted September 1, 2020



Purpose: Tribal Funding allocated to assist families with high costs of child care through a partial reimbursement program through the Social Services Department.

- This is a first come first serve program
- Full applications and supporting documents must be received to process application
- Approved applicants will receive the reimbursement September 1 through August 31 of the current year
- Each household will receive up to a \$100 monthly reimbursement per eligible child
- Social Services will maintain a waiting list based on date/time of application in the event that approved applicants become ineligible at any point during the current application year


Eligibility:

- The child receiving childcare must be a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) member and 12 years old or younger
- Child must attend a Certified Licensed Childcare Facility
- Parent (s) / Guardian must be currently employed at least 20 hours per week or more and /or attending school as a part-time student minimum
- Two parent/guardian household, both parents/guardians must be working or attending school
- Household must meet the income criteria of 185% of Federal Poverty Level

Documentation required:


- Completed Application
- Verification of child(s) residence or custody agreement (ie. 2019 Taxes, Rental Agreement, Snap report etc.).
- Copy of childcare facility license
- Release of Information for the childcare facility
- Copies of wage stubs for the past 30 days and current classroom schedule. For two parent/guardian households, both parents must provide documentation

Contact Social Services at (503) 879-2034




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


2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW




Smoke Signals shares the photos and videos that captured the year.

Viewable on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram







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Tribal Council adds 21 names to Restoration Roll

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council continued adding Tribal member names to the Restoration Roll by approving 21 new ones during its Wednesday, Jan. 13, meeting held in the Tribal Council Conference Room.

The 21 names added brings the number of Tribal members who have been added to the historically important roll since 2019 to 352. In 2019, Tribal Council added 204 names and added 127 names in 2020.

The Restoration Roll was the first roll compiled of Grand Ronde Tribal members after Nov. 22, 1983. However, because the membership had become so dispersed during the 29 years after 1954's Termination, all those who should have been included could not be identified at the time or were unaware that they should have had their names on the roll.

The current process, which requires Tribal members apply to Member Services for addition to the Restoration Roll, allows a Tribal member who was living on Aug. 13, 1954 – date of congressional approval of the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act – and born to a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to be added.

In November 2018, Tribal Council approved a resolution that established criteria for consistently applying the phrase “entitled to be on the membership roll of the Tribe on Aug. 13, 1954” as meaning that the person was entitled to be on the roll if that person was alive on that date and born to a Tribal member.

The 21 new names now move forward to the Department of the Interior for approval.

The Tribal Council meeting was held in the conference room because workers are installing new technology in the Tribal Council Chambers that will allow more remote interaction with the membership.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved amendments to the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance that restrict a TERO commissioner's access to records if that same commissioner is bidding on a project and requires TERO workers on construction projects work the same hours as non-TERO workers. Tribal Staff Attorney Brooks Wakeland said during the Tuesday, Jan. 12, Legislative Action Committee meeting that no comments were received from the membership regarding the amendments.
- Approved amendments to the Workers Compensation Ordinance that provide protections to Tribal employees who contract COVID-19 while on the job. The amendments were originally adopted on an emergency basis in May 2020. Wakeland said the amendments expire at the end of March and Tribal Council might want to extend them at that time.
- And approved two blood quantum corrections.

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

Availability of ODOT STIF Transit Grant Funds

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is providing notice that the Tribe is reviewing options for its application (or STIF Plan) for ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) which is due Feb. 1, 2020. The Tribe is eligible for \$100,000 a year from this fund for use with public transit. The Tribe's STIF Advisory Committee was scheduled for Jan. 12 for public call in and suggestions.

Last year, Tribal staff and the advisory committee recommended creating a new public transit route between Grand Ronde and the city of Dallas and creating local collector/circulator service within the immediate Grand Ronde area. That was approved by Tribal Council and submitted. The Tribe anticipates continuing with that plan this year as well but is accepting other suggestions for options.

It is expected that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will vote on adopting the Tribe's STIF Plan on the uses of these funds at its meeting on Jan. 27, 2021, at the Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings are not open to the public. To obtain more information or to provide comments or suggestions on the STIF Plan for this meeting, contact Kim Rogers at 503-879-2250 or kim.rogers@grandronde.org. ■

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. ■

Availability of ODOT 5310 & Special Transportation Fund Transit Grants

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is providing notice that eligible transportation providers may apply for federal 5310 grant funds (\$97,571) allocated to the Tribe for the 2021-23 biennium by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Projects providing transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities are eligible for funding including those that also serve the general public. In past years, the Tribe has chosen to select internally generated proposals to use these funds in agreements for the transit service to Salem through the Tillamook County Transportation District (TCTD) and to McMinnville through the Yamhill County Transit Area.

The Tribe also will be applying for its ODOT Special Transportation Fund (STF) allocation (\$135,400) and project proposals, suggestions and comments can be provided for use of these funds as well. STF funds have been used for these same routes to Salem and McMinnville and for transit service to Lincoln City through an agreement with TCTD.

STF and 5310 applications for projects serving the Grand Ronde community must be submitted to the Grand Ronde Tribe not later than noon Feb. 5, 2021. Contact Kim Rogers at 503-879-2250 or kim.rogers@grandronde.org for more information.

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, the Tribe's Transportation Advisory Committee will meet to review 5310 and STF proposal options and make its recommendation to Tribal Council. The meeting will be by telephone between noon and 1 p.m. The public is invited to attend by calling in. Contact Kim Rogers at 503-879-2250 or kim.rogers@grandronde.org for more information including the call-in number and participant code. Meeting materials will be available for public review by Feb. 5 and can be e-mailed.

It is expected that the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which is an STF agency, will vote on the recommended uses of these funds at its meeting on Feb. 24, 2021, at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Both the STF and the 5310 applications from the Tribe to ODOT are due March 1, 2021. ■

LIHEAP program open in service area

The Tribal Social Service's LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – is open to eligible Tribal members in the six-county service area and Clackamas County.

This is a first-come, first-served program and income criteria applies.

LIHEAP is federally funded through the Department of Health and Human Services and is designed to help low-income households with home heating costs.

For more information, contact Social Services at 503-879-2034. ■

CTGR TERO ANNOUNCEMENT



TRAFFIC CONTROL FLAGGER

Due to COVID restrictions
TERO is putting on two 5 hour
Flagger Certification Classes

Classes Feb. 24-25. 10am-3pm.
9 person max per class. Mask required.

CTGR Employment Service Center
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
(Building C, Rooms A & B)

No cost for Tribal members and
\$100 for non-Tribal members.

Register with the TERO office by calling
503-879-2139 or 503-879-2188

You can also e-mail us at
tero@grandronde.org



TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

Jenness elected chair of SMGI Board of Directors

Former Tribal Council member Andrew Jenness, 55, was elected chairman of the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors on Monday, Jan. 4, succeeding former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno in the position.

Jenness holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and two master's degrees in Business Administration and Journalism, all from the University of Oregon.

Jenness has served approximately four years on the board: more than two years in the mid-2000s and since January 2020. The board oversees the operations of Spirit Mountain Casino, the Tribe's primary economic enterprise.

"I am honored and humbled to serve the casino and Tribe in this capacity and look forward to working with the casino management, the Board of Directors and Tribal Council as we support and guide our main economic engine," he said.

Jenness also served one term on the Grand Ronde Tribal Council from 1992 to '95. He also has served on the Grand Ronde Editorial Board, which oversees the editor of *Smoke Signals*, since June 2017.

His election as the first item on the Jan. 4 agenda and Jenness chaired the remainder of the meeting.

"I am an entrepreneur at heart and have started and managed several small businesses over the last 20 years," he added.

In addition to Jenness, current Board of Directors members include Tribal Council members Cheryle A. Kennedy, Kathleen George, Jack Giffen Jr. and Steve Bobb Sr., Spirit Mountain Community Fund Executive Director Mychal Cherry, Tribal members Matthew Kirkland, Lisa Watson and April Campbell, and nonTribal member Drew Mahalic, who is former chief executive officer of Sport Oregon. ■



Andrew Jenness

Tribal Council to possibly extend the COVID-19 Relief Payment Program

COVID-19 continued from front page

and 46 patients who had recovered from the virus in Grand Ronde.

The Tribe received its first 300-dose shipment of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 22 and the Tribe will have given out between 130 to 150 doses by Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Rowe said the Tribe is still giving out doses to those in the Phase 1A class (clinic staff, Tribal first responders and adult foster care staff and residents) and hopes to soon move on to those in Phase 1B (teachers, school staff and child care workers and those 75 or older).

The Moderna vaccine must be in administered in two doses about 28 days apart to be effective. Once a 10-dose vial is thawed and opened, it is viable for about six hours, which is why the clinic ensures it has 10 people ready to be vaccinated.

Rowe said she received the vaccination and had a minor reaction. However, she said the Tribe will not offer vaccinations in the Portland area office because there is a chance that someone could have a more serious allergic reaction and there would not be the medical personnel and equipment available to treat the person in that circumstance.

"At this point, we are not looking to do that," Rowe said.

The 42-minute Facebook Live event was the 15th held by the Tribe since the COVID-19 virus became a public health concern in mid-March 2020. About 220 people signed on to hear the update on what is occurring with the Tribe.

In addition to Rowe, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Stan Dillon, General Manager David Fullerton and Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez participated in the event.

Kennedy opened the Facebook Live event by announcing the Tribe is expanding its technology grants to include all Tribal members and descendants. Previously, the grants were only available to Tribal member students and Elders.

Because the deadline to spend CARES Act funding has been extended to the end of 2021, the Tribe will be using the funds it has remaining of the \$45 million

it received to fund the \$200 per person grants.

"We believe in education," Kennedy said. "We are delivering a key to their future."

Kennedy also announced the Tribe is finalizing a loan program where Tribal members can borrow up to a \$1,000 from the Tribe and have two years to repay the loan. The interest rate is yet to be determined and applications will start to be accepted in late February.

Kennedy added that Tribal Council will be possibly extending the COVID-19 Relief Payment Program that sent adult Tribal members eight payments between April and November of last year that totaled \$4,400. The program used the CARES Act funding to help Tribal members adversely affected by the economic downturn caused by the pandemic and the suspension of two per capita payments because Spirit Mountain Casino closed for 74 days between mid-March and May 31.

Dillon said that since the casino re-opened seven months ago on June 1 that it has had a "minimal" amount of issues related to COVID-19 considering it is the most popular gaming facility in Oregon. He said the casino sees as many as 6,000 customers a day and has about 1,000 employees.

"I think that shows we are doing a good job trying to keep everyone protected," he said. "I think our protocols are working."

In response to several questions from those watching the Facebook Live event, Dillon said that table games are now limited to three players per table to ensure appropriate social distancing and that poker probably will not return until there is absolutely no fear of the virus anymore.

"I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and as we all move forward into this year, I know that we have greater strength, greater wisdom, greater resilience and greater hope. ... I know that as I look at the past year, I know that I have gained strength, I have gained more understanding and I believe that the thing that has happened with all of this is we have become a kinder, gentler people," Kennedy said.

To watch the entire Facebook Live event, visit the Tribe's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CTGRgov. ■

Optometry hours

- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday
 - 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday
 - 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday (no eye exams, optical only)
- Please call to schedule your appointment at 503-879-2097 or 800-775-0095. ■

PREVENTION CORNER

January 2021

Happy New Year



CTGR Office Closures:

- Jan. 18th MLK Jr. Day
- Feb. 15th Tribal Chiefs Day

Cooking with Shannon:

- Jan. 27th and Feb. 25th

Facebook LIVE:

- Virtual Valentines Family Event Feb. 11th in the evening

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on program activities, to win cool prizes and to participate in the fun online "LIVE" events.

ctgrouthempowerment

Grand Ronde Youth Empowerment and Prevention

As always, use the following hashtag ,and post your pictures

#ctgrwellnesswarriors

Staff Spotlight

This past October Matt Bucknell joined the YEP Program as the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grant Coordinator (TPREP). Along with supporting YEP events and activities, Matt will also be assisting the Willamina SD in delivering personal health curriculum to the school's 8th, 9th and 11th grade students. Matt has worked with our Tribal/Native youth and their families in Grand Ronde since August of 2000, and is eager to meet the challenges of his new position.



Emotional Well-Being Into the New Year & Beyond

Being emotionally healthy doesn't mean you're happy all the time. It means you're aware of your emotions. Emotionally healthy people still feel stress, anger and sadness, but they know how to manage their negative feelings. Emotional health allows you to be productive, cope with the stresses of everyday life and can help you realize your full potential. There are many ways to improve and/or maintain good emotional health. Here are some examples:

- Be aware of your emotions and reactions
- Express your feelings to others in appropriate ways
- Think before you act or speak
- Manage your stress using relaxation methods and techniques
- Strive for a healthy balance between work and play
- Take care of your physical health through exercise and diet
- Don't abuse drugs or alcohol, and be aware of excess gambling
- Connect with others, we all need positive people in our lives
- Find purpose and meaning in your daily work and life choices
- Stay positive, focus on the good and forgive yourself for mistakes

*American Academy of Family Physicians

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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

Transition to in-person instruction for older students could be lengthy

SCHOOLS continued from front page

this month, with hopes to implement changes beginning with lower grades, after the first semester (Jan. 26),” Willamina School District Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick said. “We are still required to ensure 35 square feet per person in classrooms, limit student cohort size and number of cohort participation for students and teachers, ensure face coverings are worn at all times, and keep daily logs for contact tracing.”

The requirements lead to logistical complications when it comes to transporting students to and from school because there must be three feet of separation for each child on a bus, and students must remain masked and sit six feet away from the driver.

“So basically (it’s) one student per seat,” Zimbrick said. “Which typically we have two older students per seat and three younger per seat. Some buses carry more than 60 students, (but) with the three-foot restriction, we will likely have only 20 on a bus.”

Willamina, which has approximately 40 percent Native American or descendant students in its population, has had kindergarten students, several special needs students and students with Internet connectivity issues on the campus for in-person learning since late September.

“We have had approximately 150 to 200 students a day on campus with no COVID outbreaks among our student-teacher population,” Zimbrick said. “Our district leadership team will create a re-opening plan. We have created several over the past six months, so we most likely will revise an existing plan to meet the new requirements and allowances. Our plan will include bringing more students on site, and adding grade levels strategically, as long as no outbreaks occur.”

Sheridan School District Superintendent Dorie Vickery said the district was in the process of making plans to increase in-person instruction, beginning with students in first through third grades. Kindergarten students have already been attending in-person since

late September. A few students have remained in online learning, resulting in the teacher doing both classroom and virtual lessons.

Vickery said it is important to remember the transition to in-person instruction for older students could be a lengthy process.

“This creates a whole host of concerns, as you can probably imagine, along with setting the schools up for success in this process,” she said. “The last thing we want is an outbreak of COVID among staff and/or students. Under the advisory health metrics Yamhill County currently has COVID counts that place us in the continuation of online learning.”

In a recent letter sent to parents, Vickery said that getting students back in the classroom safely remains a priority.

“I know many families and students are anxious to start right away and we will once again need your patience and support as we work through the elements,” she said. “Thank you in advance for understanding.”

The governor’s recent announcement hasn’t affected operations in the McMinnville School District.

“At this point, our status hasn’t changed,” Communications Director Laurie Fry said. “We are continuing to plan and prepare for a possible transition to some form of in-person classes for elementary students (a process begun before the governor’s announcement), and teachers will continue teaching remotely until at least mid-January. Secondary grades wouldn’t return until February at the earliest.”

Aaron Harada, communications project manager for the Salem-Keizer School District, said the district is in discussions regarding resuming in-person learning.

“We want our kids back in school, so our goal is to welcome kids back safely,” he said. “In that regard, we are meeting with our local health authorities and ODE. We are also waiting for the updated ‘Ready Schools, Safe Learners’ guidelines to be out by Jan. 19. This will help us to further solidify our COVID protocols that we have had in place since last spring. Meanwhile, we are still moving forward with limited-in-person instruction and secondary athletic workouts.” ■

High water



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Agency Creek flowed high and fast on Wednesday, Jan. 13, after heavy rains drenched western Oregon on Tuesday, Jan. 12. The South Yamhill River near Willamina crested at 14.42 feet overnight, according to the National Weather Service’s Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service. In addition, four members of Tribal staff from Natural Resources Department and Emergency Management assisted the West Valley Fire District evacuate residents of two mobile home parks in Grand Ronde. Water also crossed over Highway 18 at Rowell Creek Road.

Grand Ronde Editorial Board position opening

The Grand Ronde Editorial Board, a Tribal board assigned the duty by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (“Grand Ronde”) of overseeing its independent Tribal press (*Smoke Signals*), invites applications to serve on the Grand Ronde Editorial Board. There will be one (1) open board position occurring in March 2021.

The five-member Grand Ronde Editorial Board is responsible to the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. It oversees the editor of *Smoke Signals* to ensure the independent Tribal press reports news free from any undue influence and free from any political interest, and that Tribal news employees adhere to the highest ethical journalistic standards.

The Editorial Board meets monthly. From time to time, additional special meetings may be held. Board members are expected to attend all meetings in person, although participation by telephone or video will be permitted. Each board member receives a monthly stipend for attending meetings. Travel reimbursement is limited to travel within the six counties of Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Multnomah and Washington.

Board members must be 18 years of age, have qualified experience in management and/or publications, be of good character and integrity, and certify that he or she will adhere to the standards of accepted ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists and endorsed by the Native American Journalists Association. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred, as well as dedication to protecting and advancing a free press for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Applicants will be interviewed by the Grand Ronde Editorial Board before a recommendation is forwarded to Tribal Council. Terms run for three years.

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members.
Submission deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2021

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest describing their qualifications, a résumé and three references to:

Grand Ronde Editorial Board
c/o Smoke Signals
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Phone: 503.879.1463
E-mail: editorial.board@grandronde.org

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. ■

Happy 1st Birthday
to my grandson,
**Odin Ryan
Nicholson**

Love you
so much!

As ever,
Grandma Lynch
and family



‘2021 Resolutions’

Goodbye 2020. Hello 2021. The 2021 Royalty participants for the CTGR and Veterans SEB groups share their goals for the coming year. Whatever you choose, remember “There’s really no limit to what you can do!”
The collections also can be found at www.facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty and www.facebook.com/CTGRVeteransSEB.



"YOU'LL NEVER GET BORED WHEN YOU TRY SOMETHING NEW. THERE'S REALLY NO LIMIT TO WHAT YOU CAN DO."

DR. SEUSS

happy
NEW
YEAR!



GOODBYE 2020.
HELLO 2021.

✌️ ❤️ 🥳



Aubrey
Little Miss Princess 2020-2021



My New Year's resolution is to be nice to my brothers

happy
NEW
YEAR!



Kalea
Little Miss Grand
Ronde
2020-2021



My New Year's resolution is to spend more time with family and friends

happy
NEW
YEAR!



Nacoma
Veterans
Warrior
2020-2021



My New Year's resolution is to spend less time on video games

happy
NEW
YEAR!



Kaleigha Simi • Veterans Sr. Queen • 2020/2021



My New Year' resolution is to travel to new places, get out of my comfort zone, and to learn a new language.

happy
NEW
YEAR!



happy
NEW
YEAR!





Leloo Quenelle
Little Miss Princess • 2020/2021

Learn Mandarin
Happy New Year!
Xinnian Kuli

happy
NEW YEAR!





Sophia Grout
Junior Miss Grand Rondo
2020/2021

In 2021 I want to be more productive by staying on top of my school work.



Marie Quenelle
Little Miss Princess
2020/2021

This year I want to
Go: to San Diego, CA
Try: a new type of food
Make: a meal for my family
Learn: how to cook better

happy
NEW
YEAR!



happy
NEW
YEAR!





ULALI QUENELLE
TINY TOT • 2020/2021

Ride a bike
with NO
Training wheels

happy
NEW
YEAR!





Isabelle Grout
Senior Miss Grand Rondo
2020/2021

My New Year's
resolution
is to do more
outdoor
activities.

happy
NEW
YEAR!





Anavey Smith
Senior Miss
Princess
2020/2021

My 2021
New Years
Resolution
is to raise
all my
grades.



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- ❖ Randy Blome, MD
- ❖ Carolyn Fairfax, MD

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Contact Information

Medication Assisted Treatment Coordinator:
Linda Gehrke, LPN (503)879-2094

Clinical Nurse Manager:
Christa Hosley, RN, BSN (503)879-4616

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) SERVICES
9615 GRAND RONDE ROAD
GRAND RONDE, OREGON 97347

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) SERVICES

GRAND RONDE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is to be the premier health and wellness choice for our Tribal members and Community, by delivering excellent care that improves health and quality of life.

GOAL OF MAT PROGRAM

Our goal is to support our patients in their work to become free of addiction and to reduce the risk of harm and overdose associated with the opioid epidemic.



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

E-Subscription Raffle Winners



Smoke Signals ran an e-subscription sign-up campaign in December that encouraged 22 readers to register to receive the Grand Ronde Tribal newspaper as a PDF via e-mail.

On Jan. 5, Smoke Signals Editor Dean Rhodes and Graphic Designer Samuel Briggs III held a raffle for winners of 10 T-shirts and one hoodie.

T-SHIRT WINNERS:

Ashton Castle, Lynn Szender, Dan Parazoo, Chris Hewitt, Steve Vincent, Ramona Quenelle, Lynn Winters, Emily Summerhays, Kevin Clark and Lisa Mercier.

HOODIE WINNER:

Lynda Plummer

To claim a prize, winners need to contact Briggs at Samuel.briggs@grandronde.org or 503-879-1416 so that we can get your size and mailing address.

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for helping the Grand Ronde Tribe be a better steward of its financial resources and help the environment by reducing the number of papers that are printed.

SmokeSignals.org

Walking On...

Jerry Castro Manangan

Jan. 27, 1959 – Dec. 9, 2020

Tribal member Jerry Castro Manangan was born in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 27, 1959, to Freddo Manangan and Rosetta Manangan (LaBonte). He passed away on Dec. 9, 2020, in his home surrounded by his family.

Jerry worked as a service manager, motorcycle mechanic and instructor. He loved to fish, jetski, take motorcycle rides and go snowmobiling. He was a gamer (he loved the slots), enjoyed target practicing, music and making people laugh (he was a comedian).

Jerry was a very generous, artistic and creative person. He has had his artwork displayed at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall and has had his artwork published in the Grand Ronde newspaper *Smoke Signals*. He held many certificates and attended many seminar training classes.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Julie Manangan; mother, Rosetta LaBonte Manangan; and siblings, Fred C. Manangan, Philameno C. Manangan, Marcia C. Manangan, Rose C. Manangan, Steve C. Manangan and Elaine C. Manangan.

A memorial service was held for him at the Lighthouse Church in Grand Ronde.



Lynda Ayn Jones

March 30, 1942 – Dec. 15, 2020

Tribal Elder Lynda Ayn Jones, great-granddaughter of Chief Alque-ma and granddaughter to Sara/Sallie Hutchins-Jones, passed away in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 15, 2020, with her three children by her side.

Lynda was born in Yelm, Wash., to Avery and Ethel Jones. She was the youngest of nine children. She loved music and could play the piano, guitar and accordion, and sing and would roll a carpet back and dance like nobody was watching.

She loved her family, including her cats and dogs, gardening until the sun went down and was a talented artist. She also loved exploring the outdoors, backroad country drives, snow-capped mountains and camping under the stars.

Lynda is survived by her sister, Ann Clevenger; three children, Eric Bell, Lori Markey and Lisa Hevern; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The family will plan an intimate gathering when COVID restrictions ease up and celebrate Lynda's life.



Kick the Habit.

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

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

TTY: 1-877-777-6534

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

A message about COVID-19 from your friends at PAINTED HORSE Recovery

Check on our elders via zoom & facetime!

Utilizing facetime & zoom in order to maintain safety in our community

stay connected!

Use your sacred objects to maintain connection with your culture and community while social distancing

While drumming outside, maintain social distancing. If drumming must be done inside, try to use zoom!

<https://youtube/wMtN-7XmgJs>

continue to social distance!

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How do I access my account?
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<https://www.grandronde.org/services/member-services/>

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Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Member Services Department
9615 Grand Ronde Road
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503-879-2116
memberservices@grandronde.org

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What are the minimum standards for Private Security certification?

Private security providers must be:

- At least 18 years of age
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- Must have a high school diploma or GED or a four-year post-secondary degree issued by an accredited college or university.
- Be of good moral fitness as determined by a background check, department investigation or other reliable sources. A lack of good moral fitness includes, but is not limited to, mandatory and discretionary disqualifying misconduct as described in OAR 259-060-0310

Please contact the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) at 503-879-2188 or 503-879-2127 for additional information or to register.



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Children and Grief During COVID-19

Grief: a silent symptom of COVID-19

Many children are facing sudden losses or changes in their normal lives during COVID-19, with schools closing, time with friends being canceled, and relatives getting sick and some dying. Children may also be experiencing fear as COVID-19 spreads in their communities. These feelings of loss, change, and fear can be very difficult for children, and can bring about a grieving process.

Just like adults, children experience grief after the loss of a loved one, or the loss of a routine, friendship, relationship, or feeling of safety. Children may be experiencing grief for the first time during COVID-19, and it is important for parents and caregivers to know how to support them during this time.

Recognizing the signs of grief

Grief is commonly experienced in five parts. Children may experience these five parts in a different order than the order below, experience each part more than once, or move through them faster or slower than others.

- **Denial** is when the child is in a state of shock or disbelief because life as they once knew it has changed. They may refuse to believe how much their life has changed. Once the denial and shock starts to fade, the start of the healing process begins, and the feelings that the child was holding back begin to show.
- **Anger** is a common stage for the child to think “why me?” and “life’s not fair!” The child may act out or show frustration more than normal during this stage, including what may feel like taking anger out on loved ones. This is normal.
- **Bargaining** is the stage of false hope. A child might falsely make themselves believe that they can avoid the grief by making a major change in their life. For example, they might believe if they start having better behavior, the person they lost will “come back.”
- **Depression** is the emptiness the child feels when they accept reality and realize the person or way of life is gone or over. In this stage, they might withdraw from life, feel numb, and not want to get out of bed. They might even experience suicidal thoughts. If you think your child is experiencing thoughts of suicide, call the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-8255**, visit **suicidepreventionlifeline.org** for a live chat, or text the Crisis Text Line by **texting START to 741741**.
- **Acceptance** is the stage where your child’s emotions may return to normal as they understand that they can continue with life and grow into their new situation. The child still may feel sad from time to time when reminded of their loss.



Supporting a grieving child or teen

Grief is a difficult experience, especially for children. There are many strategies for supporting a grieving child.

- **Listen to the child.** It is important for a child to have a safe space to talk and share their feelings. Be patient and understanding.
- **Allow the child to show emotion.** Children may experience anger, sadness, pain, shame, guilt, or other powerful emotions. These are all normal during grief.
- **Encourage coping skills.** Support the child by helping them find healthy ways to cope with their feelings. Try out different activities as a family: deep breathing, praying, journaling, going for walks, arts and crafts, etc.
- **Practice self-care.** Caregivers must take care of themselves in order to support their children to the best of their abilities.
- **Understand grief comes in waves.** During grief, children will have good days and bad days. Understand that this is normal, and practice compassion during the bad days.
- **Create and maintain routines.** Children need routines to feel supported and comforted during their grieving process.
- **Ask for help.** Rely on family and friends for support. Encourage the child to reach out to their friends or a trusted adult for support. If these steps are not enough, consider contacting a mental health professional or traditional healer.
- **Make new memories.** This can remind the child that it is okay to be happy and to move on with their new life. It is also important to talk about the loss in healthy ways.

For more information: www.CDC.gov/coronavirus



JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER FOR AMERICAN
INDIAN HEALTH

Effective May 1, 2020
Sources: CDC, Hospice Foundation
of America, National Alliance for
Grieving Children



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