

Community Fund
clears \$87 million in
giving — pg. 7



SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Cherry picked for Tribal Council

**Newcomer joins Kennedy, George
in securing new three-year terms**

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

First-time Tribal Council candidate Michael Cherry joined incumbents Cheryle A. Kennedy and Jon A. George in securing



Michael Cherry new three-year terms during the Saturday, Sept. 11, election. Cherry, who is Spirit Mountain Community Fund's executive director, received 661 votes. She follows in the footsteps of her mother, Candy Robertson, who served on Tribal Council from 1984 to 1994, and her sister, Angie Blackwell, who served on

Tribal Council from 2004 to 2007.

"I am greatly pleased and honored to be elected to represent the Tribal membership as a council member," Cherry said. "A responsibility I do not take lightly and will not take for granted. I want to sincerely thank all of the Tribal members

See **ELECTION**
continued on page 11

Casino's vaccine mandate dominates Facebook Live event

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A decision by Spirit Mountain Casino to mandate that its 934 employees all become vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus dominated the Thursday, Sept. 9, Facebook Live event held by the Tribe.

Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Bruce Thomas and Human Resources Director Camille Mercier explained the decision that was arrived at after consultation with Tribal Council and the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors.

Thomas said the decision was to prevent a "runaway situation" at the casino that could affect so many employees that Spirit Mountain Casino would have to shut down like the Siletz Tribe's Chinook Winds Casino did in late August.

"The vaccination program was our only viable option that we had," Thomas said, adding that testing doesn't solve the problem or protect the casino from loss of employees to the disease.

The vaccination mandate was discussed by Tribal Council on Wednesday, Sept. 1, and approved

See **FACEBOOK LIVE**
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Smoke Signals screenshot

Human Resources Director Camille Mercier and Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Bruce Thomas discuss the casino's vaccination mandate for all employees during a Facebook Live event held on Thursday, Sept. 9.



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth talks about the services available to patients on Tuesday, Sept. 7. The medication-assisted opioid treatment program is the first Tribally owned and operated clinic in Oregon.

Roads to Recovery *Help is available for Tribal members*

(Editor's note: This is the sixth and final in a series of Smoke Signals stories in 2021 that examines addiction and recovery.)

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal members seeking drug and alcohol recovery services have a multitude of options.

In Grand Ronde, they can make an appointment with Behavioral Health for an intake and assessment. Once that is

See **RECOVERY**
continued on page 8

Grand Ronde chemical dependency treatment options

Great Circle Recovery: For more information about the medication-assisted treatment clinics in Salem and Portland, contact Jennifer Worth at Jennifer.worth@grandronde.org or call 503-983-9900. The Salem clinic is located at 1011 Commercial St. N.E., Suite 110. Walk-ins are allowed and clinic business hours are 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday. The Portland clinic is not open for clients yet.

Behavioral Health: For more information on various services, contact 503-879-2026.

Medication-assisted treatment in Grand Ronde: Services are located inside the Health & Wellness Center. Call Medication Assisted Treatment Coordinator Linda Gehrke at 503-879-2032 or e-mail her at linda.gehrke@grandronde.org to request more information. ■

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3

Tribal members can participate remotely through the Zoom application.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Sept. 15.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 29.....	4 p.m.

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

Tribe receives \$825,601 grant for Portland clinic

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will receive an \$825,601 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that will support its opening of a medication-assisted treatment clinic in east Portland.

The grant will help the Tribe start, implement, evaluate and improve the Great Circle Recovery opioid treatment clinic.

The Tribe closed on a Portland property at 3580 S.E. 82nd Ave. in July 2020. The 20,000-square-foot lot includes a former dental office and parking lot, and is located west of Interstate 205 and southeast of Mount Tabor Park. The purchase price was \$1.4 million.

The Tribe closed on a Salem property at 1011 Commercial Street N.E. in May 2020, according to the Marion County Assessor’s Office property records. The purchase price was listed as \$5,556,740 and includes a 29,246-square-foot, two-story office building and parking lot. It opened earlier this year as the first Tribally operated medication-assisted treatment center in Oregon. ■

Health & Wellness offering vaccinations

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations for youths 12 to 17 years of age, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe announced on June 15.

The Tribe is using the Pfizer vaccine for youths. To schedule an appointment, contact the clinic at 503-879-2032.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control recently expanded the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine to adolescents, meaning the two governmental organizations determined that clinical trials show the vaccine is safe and effective for children in this age range.

According to www.grandronde.org, the Tribe has vaccinated more than 20,700 people since it started receiving the two-dose Moderna vaccine in late December with more than 9,950 of those people being Elders 55 and older. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Friday, Sept. 24, in observance of National Native American Day.

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!

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](https://twitter.com/CTGRSMOKE SIGNAL)
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SMOKE SIGNALSCTGR/
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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
THURSDAY, SEPT. 23.....	OCT. 1, 2021
THURSDAY, OCT. 7	OCT. 15, 2021
MONDAY, OCT. 25	NOV. 1, 2021
MONDAY, NOV. 8	NOV. 15, 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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TRIBALCOUNCIL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **CHERYLE A. KENNEDY**
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN
— EXT. 2352
CHERYLE.KENNEDY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **JACK GIFFEN JR.**
— EXT. 2300
JACK.GIFFEN@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **CHRIS MERCIER**
TRIBAL COUNCIL VICE CHAIR
— EXT. 1444
CHRIS.MERCIER@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **DENISE HARVEY**
— EXT. 2353
DENISE.HARVEY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **JON A. GEORGE**
TRIBAL COUNCIL SECRETARY
— EXT. 2355
JON.GEORGE@GRANDRONDE.ORG


■ **MICHAEL LANGLEY**
— EXT. 1777
MICHAEL.LANGLEY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **KATHLEEN GEORGE**
— EXT. 2305
KATHLEEN.GEORGE@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **LISA LENO**
— EXT. 1770
LISALENO@GRANDRONDE.ORG

■ **MICHAEL CHERRY**
— EXT. 4555
MICHAEL.CHERRY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

- kwayts-mun (September)**
- Wednesday, Sept. 15 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
 - Friday, Sept. 24 – Tribal offices closed in observance of National Native American Day.
 - Wednesday, Sept. 29 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

- taɬlam-mun (October)**
- Sunday, Oct. 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Zoom teleconferencing program. 503-879-2304.
 - Monday, Oct. 11 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
 - Wednesday, Oct. 13 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
 - Saturday, Oct. 16 – 26th anniversary of the opening of Spirit Mountain Casino.
 - Wednesday, Oct. 27 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 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.)

Massage at Health & Wellness Center

Mind, Body & Soul Therapeutic Massage started at the Health & Wellness Clinic.

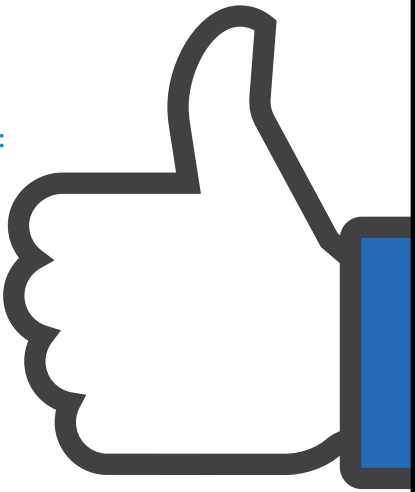
Remember: Appointments for massage are not managed by the Health & Wellness Center staff.

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

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Construction begins



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Heavy equipment prepares the site of the future Creekside Elder Housing project on Wednesday, Sept. 8. Tribal Council approved a contract with Willamette Valley Excavating Inc. of Turner, Ore., on Aug. 11 to construct the infrastructure and utilities to support the development at the southwest corner of Grand Ronde and Hebo roads. The project will add 24 new homes for Elders in Grand Ronde.



An excavator loads a truck with dirt near the Tribal recycling area that is being used on the Creekside Elder Housing site on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

New construction will mean some traffic delays

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe is starting site work on the Rink 2 property north of McPherson Road and east of the Grand Meadows housing division for the new home ownership site.

The contractor will be building new streets, sidewalks and utilities to serve the new housing development. During construction there will be intermittent lane closures along McPherson Road as a street is built. This project will last for approximately six months.

Also in the works is an infrastructure project at the current AGZ property located near Grand Ronde

Road and south of Hebo Road (north of existing Elder housing).

The contractor is constructing new streets, sidewalks and utilities to serve the new Creekside Elder Housing units. During construction, there will be intermittent closures of the sidewalk on the west side of Grand Ronde Road from Blacktail Drive to Hebo Road, as well as intermittent lane closures along Grand Ronde Road. This project will last for approximately six months.

For more information, contact Tribal Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb at 503-879-2404 or Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org. ■



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?
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To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

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 a continuing reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold September food box distributions on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“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.

The Food Bank continues to seek volunteers to help with repacking food, putting food on the shelves, handing out food boxes, end-of-month inventory and picking up food donations at area stores.

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly 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@marionpolkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets 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 is 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 17, using the Zoom teleconference application. Chair: Mia Prickett. 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: Harold Lyon.
- **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 Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. 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.)



2016 – Tribal Council appointed members to the Tribe’s first Youth Council. Raven Harmon, Isabelle Grout, Madalyn Volz, Payton Smith, Dominik Briant and Jason Page were appointed to serve terms ending in March 2018 or when they graduated high school. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said the installment of the first-ever Youth Council was a “moment in history” for the Tribe.



2016 File photo

2011 – The Grand Ronde Tribe signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy to manage the Table Rocks area in Medford. The memorandum ensured that the area retains the culture that the Tribe’s ancestors established there for thousands of years until treaties with the U.S. government in the 1850s ended their relationship to the land. In 1856, the Table Rock people (later included among the Rogue River Tribes) were marched on the Oregon Trail of Tears to the Grand Ronde Reservation so that miners could work the Rogue River area.

2006 – Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area was dedicated in a ceremony that included Tribal Elders, Tribal Council members and others. “Our people have been waiting for this to happen for a long time,” Tribal Elder Peachie Hamm said. “From now on, this will be considered sacred ground for the Grand Ronde people.” The heritage area included several informational signs, a one-mile interpretive path and some of the original building foundations from the 1850s when it was Fort Yamhill. The park was created through the efforts of Tribal members, staff and local and state officials.

2001 – The Tribe’s Spirit Mountain Development Corp. was gathering Sabre-Tool units to send to New York City to help with rescue and recovery efforts after the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11. It was the worst act of terrorism ever to occur in the United States. The Sabre-Tool was a device used to cut through cars after accidents and also could separate twisted and compressed metal. “We are prepared to get them there any way we can,” Executive Officer Gene Hill said.

1996 – The first annual Spirit Mountain Stampede and Rodeo was held at the Grand Ronde powwow grounds and attracted large crowds. The event marked the culmination of a week-long festival at Spirit Mountain Casino, which included two Waylon Jennings concerts, a dance and barbecue.

1991 – Tribal Council election results were posted and the winners were Ray McKnight, Candy Robertson and Merle Holmes, who would serve three-year terms. Holmes was a write-in candidate with 72 votes, while McKnight and Robertson garnered 118 and 105 votes, respectively.

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

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Casino gift store seeking Tribal member artwork

The gift store at Spirit Mountain Casino is seeking Native American and contemporary art from Grand Ronde Tribal members as the store refocuses. However, there is one catch. Tribal artists must first contact the Tribal Employment Rights Office to become vendors and be defined as an Indian-owned business. “Becoming an IOB vendor is the first step in the process,” said Human Recourses Director Camille Mercier. “Once they are a qualified vendor, their pieces will need to meet a predetermined list of standards in order to have any items in the gift store.” Mercier said the target date is mid-October for the gift store to start accepting consignment items from Tribal artists. “It’s been long overdue to have our own Tribal member artwork featured,” she added. To contact the Tribe’s TERO office about being listed as an Indian-owned business, call TERO Director Harris Reibach at 503-879-1455 or send an e-mail to tero@grandronde.org. ■

Tribal Council OKs contract for Community Center expansion

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a professional services agreement with Portland-based Akana on Wednesday, Sept. 8, that will employ the firm for architectural services to design an expansion of the Community Center. The expansion will create an addition to the Community Center for the Warriors of Hope program within the Social Services Department. The program serves survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Akana has previously worked with the Tribe on the Creekside Elder Housing development that is currently beginning at the southwest corner of Hebo and Grand Ronde roads. The Community Center opened in March 1992 and was the first permanent building constructed on the Tribal campus in Grand Ronde after 1983’s Restoration.

Also included in the Sept. 8 Tribal Council packet were approved authorizations to proceed that established a \$1 lease fee at the home ownership property on McPherson Road to create an infrastructure fund to supplement the cost of future repairs and upgrades, instructed Finance Officer Chris Leno to start the supplemental budget process to fund the recent increase in minimum wage and related wage compression rate increase in the amount of \$486,000 and established the Sept. 15 per capita payment amount. Tribal Council also approved the agenda for the 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, General Council meeting, which featured an executive session presentation about Spirit Mountain Casino as well as Tribal Council election results. To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved two credit card authorizations for Torey Wakeland and Gabe Synegal as part of their work as single resource bosses for the wildland firefighting program;
- Approved a one-year contract extension with Industrial Economics Inc. so the company can continue to provide environmen-

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.



Approximately 54 percent of the casino’s staff are vaccinated

FACEBOOK LIVE
continued from front page

by the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors on Tuesday, Sept. 7. Tribal Council members also discussed the vaccine mandate during its Tuesday, Sept. 7, Legislative Action Committee meeting that can be viewed at www.grandronde.org by clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. Currently, approximately 54 percent of the casino’s staff members are vaccinated, Mercier said. The casino held two two-hour meetings with employees to explain the decision. Thomas said approximately 100 total employees attended the two meetings. Thomas said whether to get the vaccination remains a personal decision for casino employees. Employees will have a 40-day window during which they can get vaccinated and retain their employment or find another job. “We regret any employees that we lose,” Thomas said. “But we have to proceed based upon the health of all of the people involved and how that impacts the casino, which is our responsibility.” Thomas added that the casino at this time will not require proof of vaccination for guests although it has reinstated its mask-wearing rule for customers. Mercier said medical exemptions will be permitted, but they will be reviewed by Tribal health care



Photo by Kamiah Koch

About a dozen protesters gathered along Highway 18 in front of the Spirit Mountain Casino on Friday, Sept. 10, to express their opposition to the vaccination mandate for all casino employees. They held signs protesting the vaccination mandate that was approved by the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors on Tuesday, Sept. 7. General Manager Bruce Thomas said employees will have a 40-day window to get vaccinated or lose their jobs. Human Resources Manager Camille Mercier said that about 54 percent of the casino’s 934 employees are already vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

professionals before being accepted. There will not be any religious exemptions, she added. Tribal General Manager David Fullerton said the Tribal government currently is at an 86 percent vaccination rate for its employees and will not mandate all employees receive a vaccination. Only Health & Wellness Center staff are currently required to be vaccinated or be tested daily for COVID, he

added. “Our employees have done a great job stepping up,” Fullerton said. The 20-minute Facebook Live event was the 21st held by the Tribal government since March 2020. Approximately 300 people logged on to watch the broadcast, which also included Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe and Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Kennedy started the Facebook Live event by briefing attendees on COVID-19 statistics. She said the Tribe is currently tracking 37 active cases, and has tested 3,056 people with 2,904 negative results and 152 positives, which translates into a 5 percent positivity rate. So far, the Tribe has vaccinated almost 20,800 people. “We know that the COVID variant has hit not only the state of Oregon and the U.S. hard, it has hit the Tribe hard as well,” Kennedy said, encouraging others to do anything they can to spare others from this “awful, angry disease that is running rampant.” Kennedy encouraged viewers to remain socially distant, get vaccinated and wear a mask while in public. “Let’s all join this effort, this campaign, to make sure this virus is eradicated,” she said. “Be a warrior against this virus.” In response to questions from viewers, Rowe said the Tribal Health & Wellness Center is currently providing third-dose booster shots to those who are immuno-compromised and that the clinic is seeing shorter time between exposure and infection with the widespread Delta variant. Rowe added that the Tribe cannot test specifically for the Delta variant when it gets a positive result, but can send a sample to the state lab for testing if the patient is presenting different symptoms. ■

Tribe releases enrollment meeting data

By Dean Rhodes & Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde released data compiled during four community meetings regarding enrollment issues on Wednesday, Sept. 1.

More than 250 Tribal members participated in virtual and limited in-person community meetings in May and June to address the enrollment and membership issues currently facing the Tribe.

The meetings were designed to increase communication between Tribal Council and the membership regarding enrollment challenges and provide Tribal members an opportunity to share their opinions while providing feedback to Tribal Council on the path forward.

In October 2019, Tribal Council approved a \$50,000 contract with Carefree, Ariz., attorney Robert Lyttle (Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma) to research Tribal enrollment issues and conduct public meetings. Like many things in 2020, that effort was delayed be-

cause of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Lyttle's assignment finally came to fruition. Tribal members were mailed an informational packet in mid-May that included a cover letter from Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Lyttle's 20-page report that traces Grand Ronde membership and enrollment issues from the 1930s to the present.

Over the course of the meetings, comments from Tribal membership centered on eight main themes:

- **Blood quantum:** The Tribe received more than 25 comments regarding the blood quantum requirements for membership in the Tribe. Most of the comments suggested eliminating a minimum blood quantum requirement. Others supported more open requirements for membership. A few Tribal members suggested that the Tribe should allow Indian blood from other Tribes, and some people wanted to declare people on a certain list, such as the Restoration Roll, full-blood members.

- **1999 amendment to the Tribal Constitution:** The Tribe received more than 20 comments that were critical of the 1999 amendment, which added the requirements that a parent must have been on the roll at the time of a person's birth and at the time of application for membership, which created the "split family" issue. Most comments favored an outright repeal of the 1999 amendment and the added requirements. No one spoke in favor of keeping it.
- **Low voter participation/turnout in elections:** The Tribe received 15 comments expressing the need to increase voter participation and turnout in elections to amend the Constitution. People suggested researching the cause of low voter participation, using more technology to reach out to voters, developing a communication plan and forming a voter committee.
- **Two-thirds voter approval for constitutional amendments:** The Tribe received 12 comments in favor of eliminating the constitutional requirement that amendments be approved by a two-thirds majority vote. One person spoke in favor of keeping it.
- **Elimination of BIA secretarial elections:** The Tribe received seven comments in favor of eliminating the requirement for constitutional amendments to be approved at a secretarial election conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. No one spoke in favor of keeping this require-

ment. However, Tribal voters rejected getting rid of the federal oversight by a vote of 381-230 in March 2015.

- **Disenrollment:** The Tribe received seven comments against disenrollment of members of the Tribe in the future. In support of their comments, members offered personal testimony about what they view as the harmful and painful effects of past disenrollment actions. On Aug. 25, Tribal Council approved a two-year moratorium on disenrolling Tribal members except in the case of a Tribal member being dually enrolled, which is in violation of the Constitution.
- **Bundling issues on the ballot:** The Tribe received five comments objecting to the practice of bundling or grouping multiple proposed amendments to the Constitution into one question on the ballot. All comments suggested using a ballot that allows voters to decide each proposed amendment separately.
- **Enrollment records:** The Tribe received a few comments regarding the need to improve or correct flawed or missing Tribal enrollment records. Tribal members may request a complete copy of the draft summary from the community meetings by e-mailing Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde.org. Tribal Council will be accepting comments on the summary until Friday, Oct. 1. Comments also should be sent to Hernandez' e-mail address. ■

Government continues limited office access due to COVID cases

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Due to a continuing increase of COVID-19 cases in the community and among its workforce, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde government will continue its reopening pause that started in early August through at least Friday, Sept. 17.

The pause started on Tuesday, Aug. 3, closing the governmental campus to everyone but essential employees due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. It was the first COVID-related closure in almost three months.

"We all want to put this behind us, but the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over," General Manager David Fullerton said. "Practice social distancing, wash your hands and wear a mask. Let's work together to get past this."

Employees are encouraged to work from home if possible. Staff not able to work remotely have been given administrative leave. Beginning Sept. 7, Central Phones staff returned to the campus to assist callers who need to reach specific employees working from home. The campus remains closed to visitors and guests. Essential employees who report to work are required to wear masks.

According to the Tribal government website, www.grandronde.org, there were 37 active cases of COVID-19 being monitored by the Health & Wellness Center as of Thursday, Sept. 9, and eight new cases detected.

The increase in COVID-19 cases nationwide has been attributed to the Delta variant, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said is far more contagious than the original strain, and that some vaccinated people can get Delta in a breakthrough infection and may be contagious. However, vaccinated individuals still represent a very small amount of transmissions, and an overwhelming majority of hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.

All Tribal members and those who live in their households, other Native Americans and their household members, and Tribal employees and their household members 12 and older can schedule a vaccination through the Health & Wellness Center by calling 503-879-1900. ■

General Council briefed on Spirit Mountain Casino

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Bruce Thomas gave the first presentation of the 2021-22 General Council meeting cycle on Sunday, Sept. 12, via the Zoom teleconferencing program.

Thomas gave a 35-minute presentation in executive session and fielded three questions from Tribal members in attendance.

Since the presentation was held in executive session, *Smoke Signals* cannot publish specific details.

September's meeting marked the second year that General Council has been held virtually. Meetings have not been held in person since March 2020. There was hope that the meeting would be held in person in the Community Center, but the statewide surge in COVID-19 Delta variant cases forced the Tribe to revert to the Zoom option.

In other action, Election Board Vice Chair Michael Mercier delivered the Tribal Council election results from Saturday, Sept. 11, that saw two incumbents – Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Secretary Jon A. George –

re-elected to three-year terms. Newcomer Michael Cherry secured the third seat during her first run for Tribal Council.

The General Council meeting opened with an invocation by Steve Bobb Sr.

Kennedy announced that the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, on Zoom.

Jade Unger, Herbert "Bill" Stephens and Rita Pursley won the \$100 door prizes and Jessie Norton, Nina Shields, Rebecca Haller, Shawn Haggerty and Stephanie Craig won the \$50 prizes. Since the Tribal campus remains closed to visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, checks will be sent in the mail.

The non-executive session portion of 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.

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

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. ■

Community Fund clears \$87 million mark in giving

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals staff writer

Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants on Wednesday, Sept. 8, during its virtual check presentation event, bringing the Grand Ronde Tribe’s philanthropic giving since 1995 to more than \$87 million.

The Community Fund receives 6 percent of proceeds from Spirit Mountain Casino and awards that money to nonprofits in 11 northwest Oregon counties to fund efforts in the areas of arts and culture, environmental preservation, education, health, historic preservation and public safety, and to the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon under a Tribal Grants program.

The Community Fund was created as part of the Tribe’s gaming compact with the state of Oregon. It is supervised by a Board of Trustees that includes Tribal Council members Denise Harvey, Jack Giffen Jr. and Kathleen George.

The event was the third virtual check presentation held by the Community Fund. It opened with a prayer from Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George and video of Cultural Resources employees Jordan Mercier and Greg Archuleta performing a gathering song at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia rivers.

Executive Director Michael Cherry and Board of Trustees Chairman Chip Lazenby welcomed virtual attendees.

Cherry said she hopes the next quarterly check distribution will be conducted in-person, something that has not occurred since March 2020.

“We wish you could be here in person, but we understand and recognize this is not possible now,” Cherry said. “We yearn for normalcy and have you to thank for continuing to provide much-needed care and services for those most in need.”

She also introduced Community Fund Coordinator Angela Sears, Grants Coordinator Jim Holmes and Administrative Assistant Marissa Leno.

Lazenby, who has served on the Board of Trustees for more than 13 years, said the Community Fund makes its dollars go to “where the rubber meets the road.”

“You help our children and our Elders, and I’m so glad you’re here today and so happy to be a part of this process to help out,” he said.

Holmes showed the approximately 58 people who attended a video on the history of the Tribe.

Sears announced the grant awards and third-quarter grantee featured speaker Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley CEO Matt Sorensen.

Sorensen discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has adversely affected children who attend the club in Lane County, particularly those in underserved communities. This led to the development of the “Resetting for Resilience” mental health project to assist children

coping with adverse experiences. It is administered by Looking Glass Community Services and the University of Oregon Family Services.

“Youth were manifesting anger, stress and trauma when they would come into the club,” Sorensen said. “Now, 150 kids are having the experience of getting one-on-one mental health support.”

The next step is providing specialized training for staff members, as well as academic support and mentorship to youth.

Due to the virtual format, Sears allowed other organization representatives to briefly speak about their programs as well.

During the check distribution portion, the Community Fund awarded seven small grants, 18 large grants and eight Tribal grants.

Small grant recipients were:

- Family and Community Together of Multnomah County, \$7,500, for supporting families of youth with disabilities to engage in special education;
 - Next Step Strategies Inc. of Clackamas County, \$5,000, for staff training and a sensory play area;
 - Assistance League of Salem-Keizer, \$7,000, for Operation School Bell: Providing Tangible Needs to Youth;
 - Enlightened Theatrics of Marion County, \$4,500, for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and summer camps;
 - Maurice Lucas Foundation of Multnomah County, \$7,500, for support of student success during COVID-19;
 - Parenting With Intent of Multnomah County, \$7,000, for next level programming;
 - Albany Public Schools Foundation, \$7,500, for the Sources of Strength suicide prevention program for youth.
- Large grant recipients were:**
- Willamette Riverkeepers of Linn County, \$18,000, for its Protecting the Gems of our Rivers program;
 - Lines for Life of Marion County, \$50,000, for administration of suicide prevention mini grants;
 - March of Dimes Greater Oregon of Multnomah County, \$50,000, for expanding family support in Oregon;
 - A Smile for Kids of Marion County, \$50,000, to fund orthodontic treatment for youth from underserved communities;
 - McMinnville School District, \$22,105, for its Ready for Kindergarten program;
 - REACH Northwest of Yamhill County, \$25,000, for its foster placement stability initiative;
 - The Freshwater Trust of Clackamas County, \$40,891, for its upper Sandy River Basin restoration project;
 - Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center Foundation, \$49,740, for expanding behavior-

al health services in Clackamas County;


- Neighbors for Kids of Lincoln County, \$47,500, for its Weathering the Storm program;
- CASA of Multnomah County, \$50,000, for its Fostering Futures program;
- Family Funding Blocks of Polk County, \$50,000, to support Polk County families through relief nursery services;
- The Jim Pepper Native Arts Council of Multnomah County, \$35,000, for its Since Time Immemorial: Drum, Singer, Song, Storyteller program;
- CASA of Clackamas County, \$25,000, for its A CASA for Every Child program;
- Voz Workers Rights Education Project of Multnomah County, \$50,000, for its campaign for safety and justice;
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area, \$50,000, for its Building Great Futures program;
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley in Lane County, \$21,750, for its Resetting for Resilience mental health project;
- SPOON of Multnomah County, \$30,000, for its nutrition program;
- Tucker Maxon School of Multnomah County, \$50,000, for its speech language therapy for deaf and hard-of-hearing program.

Oregon Tribal Grant awards were:

- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, \$100,000, for its campaign for A Place for the People;
- The Klamath Tribes, \$92,500, for its water preservation efforts;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, \$100,000, for its Nixyaawii Home Lease fund;
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, \$100,000, to repair and refresh its Tribal museum;
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, \$100,000, for its Native language enhancement program;
- Burns Paiute Tribe, \$98,955, for building its economic development department;
- Coquille Indian Tribe, \$100,000, for the Coquille River Native Fisheries restoration project;
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, \$100,000, for its language education building.

The virtual event closed with Leno raffling off three beaded necklaces to The Jim Pepper Native Arts Council, Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley and the Burns Paiute Tribe. The Ikanum saddle blanket went to Parenting With Intent.

“Thank you all,” Harvey said. “You guys do amazing work in a broad area of services to all the people of Oregon, to rivers and streams and our wildlife. Oregon is a great place to be because of you.” ■



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT 2021

High School Seniors and Parents, please join us to learn all about financial aid and how to complete the FAFSA.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD
6:00 - 7:30PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82621283325?pwd=TjNUdII0QUYwUXlwUFh4ZlIdET1BiUT09>

Meeting ID: 826 2128 3325
Passcode: 992655

Melissa Palanuk
Melissa.palanuk@grandronde.org

Health & Wellness Center hours

The Health & Wellness Center is pleased to add additional access for patients during holiday weeks on Thursday mornings. The clinic will be scheduling patients at 8 a.m. every Thursday preceding or following a holiday closure.

Urgent care also will be available during this time. ■

‘We see all walks of life here’

RECOVERY continued
from front page

finished, the Tribal member is either referred to specialized services or begins outpatient alcohol and drug treatment or mental health counseling. Tribal cultural practices are integrated throughout.

There also is a medication-only treatment option after assessment by a counselor and dual-diagnosis treatment for concurrent alcohol/drug and mental health disorders.

The newest treatment option is the Great Circle Recovery Center in Salem, an outpatient clinic for those battling opioid-use disorder and the first Tribally operated facility of its kind in Oregon.

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.

Some dismiss medication-assisted treatment as “swapping one drug for another,” which Great Circle Recovery Center Operations Director Jennifer Worth says is a common misconception.

“Many are confused by the concept of medication-assisted treatment,” Worth says. “It doesn’t mean



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Great Circle Recovery physician Danica Clark talks about the benefits of medication-assisted opioid treatment on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

replacing one drug for another. It’s a form of treatment that minimizes risk and meets all people where they are at. It cuts down on and eventually helps to end their use. Many people are overdosing and dying, or hiding in their addictions to pain medications or use of illicit opioids, like heroin, in secret due to shame. We do not judge. We work to take away stigma and meet people with a warm, caring mindset. You can’t heal until you find safety. ... Great Circle is about welcoming Tribal members and the larger community into a small holistic

healing environment.”

In addition to the medication piece, the clinic also provides a wound care center for treatment of sores and abscesses that are often a component of drug use, as well as child care, medical transport, peer support specialists, group therapy, smudging and art therapy with cultural components.

“I have amazing folks working here with lived experience,” Worth says. “They understand addiction in a way others can’t by just looking at a textbook.”

Medication-assisted treatment is

not new. Methadone, the most commonly used form, has been utilized to treat opioid dependence since the 1950s. Buprenorphine was developed in the 1960s, but not offered to patients battling drug addictions until 1995. Suboxone has been prescribed since the early 2000s. All reduce withdrawal symptoms and help control drug cravings.

Great Circle Recovery Dr. Danica Clark says the overall goal of medication-assisted treatment is to decrease illicit drug use and death rates, along with rates of syphilis and hepatitis C, which are common among intravenous drug users.

“How long a patient continues with medication-assisted treatment is very individual,” Clark says. “Some people eventually taper off and others do not.”

As far as clinic clientele goes, Worth says they have people who are addicted to opioids ranging from prescription medication to heroin.

“We see all walks of life here,” she says. “There are working class, homeless, business workers, parents and other professionals. Opioid-use disorder touches all facets of life and the cycle is vicious.”

Dispensing of the medications is highly regulated. There are 22

See RECOVERY
continued on page 9



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Ramona Quenelle, Tribal Veterans Service Officer, (TVSO) US Navy Veteran (IT2 SW)
Phone: 503-879-1484 | CTGRTribalVSO@grandronde.org

CTGR Social Services Department, Attn: Tribal Veterans Service Officer
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

VETERANS CRISIS LINE, CALL 1-800-273-8255 AND PRESS 1 OR TEXT 838255

VETERANS CORNER, September 2021:

Check out our Facebook page: @CTGRTVSO

E-mail CTGRTribalVSO@grandronde.org to sign up for important email updates, register for events and/or training links!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August to December 2021
Coffee & Chat with the TVSO

The original plan was to take you out to coffee and meet with you face to face. Due to the pandemic, that isn't possible and I do not want to risk anyone's health and safety. Because I still want to connect with you, I will be reaching out to you via phone call to speak with you about your benefits or other related veteran topics. In return for your time the TVSO will send you a gift card as a token of appreciation.

The Tribal Veterans Service Officer will call all Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Veterans to review Veteran Benefits the Veteran might be eligible for. Reviewing and applying for benefits can mean more money in your pocket and/or more benefits that you qualify to use. In some cases, spouses can also benefit in case of the Veterans passing. Let's chat!

(Via Zoom) Cultural Class #2 – Cattail Cordage
Video link, supplies, and instructions will be sent upon request.

September 22, 2021 at 10 a.m.
(email TVSO for link to register)
Mindfulness Behavioral Health Training #3

Nov. 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
Veterans Day Dinner

SAVE THE DATE CALENDAR:

Sept. 2021 (Date/Time TBD-tentative)
Paint with a Vet event (only 22 spots available)
E-mail CTGRTVSO to register.

Oct. 2021 (Date/Time TBD)
Native Wellness Behavioral Health Training #4

Dec. 2021 (Date/Time TBD)
Veterans End of the Year Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SOUTHWEST ASIA THEATER OF OPERATIONS?

The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims August 2, 2021 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service. Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office to determine if your dates of service and location of service fall within the qualifying dates.

IRAQ or AFGHANISTAN?

Did you serve in Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield, New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom? The Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible veterans and service members to document environmental exposures, such as smoke from burn pits, oil-well fires, or pollution during deployment, as well as record health concerns, through an online questionnaire.

VIETNAM VETERANS - AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE?

The list of conditions presumed to be caused by Agent Orange exposure has recently expanded. Whether

you were on land, air or sea, you may be entitled to compensation from the VA.

Blue Water Navy: Agent Orange Presumptive Exposure in the Republic of Vietnam.

1. Are you a Vietnam veteran (includes military, naval, or air service) who served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975?
2. Did you serve aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia?
3. Do you have one or more of the Agent Orange presumptive conditions listed below: IHD, type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, respiratory cancers, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, soft tissue sarcomas, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, hyper thyroidism, etc.

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office for more information.



‘Biggest thing for us is controlling diversion’

RECOVERY continued
from page 8

cameras located throughout the closely monitored facility. There are also regular inventory checks and no one is allowed to be alone in the medication room. The medicine itself is locked in a secure safe. Registered nurses dispense it under the watchful eye of a supervisor. Clients who have earned take-home doses are given their medication in lock boxes. To help prevent inappropriate use or sale, clients are subject to random callbacks where they must bring their medication box in to be inspected to ensure they are using it as intended.

“The biggest thing for us is controlling diversion,” Worth says. “That is where people are using medication in an inappropriate way such as taking half or using an illicit substance instead of medication and selling it.”

Opioid crisis hit Native communities hard

According to the National Institutes of Health, Native communities have been deeply affected by the opioid crisis, and many have been overwhelmed by opioid overdoses, deaths and a strained health care system. This has led to some communities offering a two-tiered treatment approach, which includes a culturally centered aspect combined with medication.

With that in mind, the Health & Wellness Center launched medication-assisted treatment in Grand Ronde in 2019, but also wanted to expand its health services to the two largest metropolitan areas in Oregon: Portland and Salem.

Although COVID-19 required a major pivot, medication-assisted treatment for Tribal members in the metropolitan area remained a goal of the Tribe’s Health & Wellness Center in 2020, especially as overdose numbers skyrocketed nationwide during the pandemic. A combination of pandemic-related isolation, stress, financial problems and loneliness also led to many relapses during this time.

Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project an increase of almost 30 percent in drug overdoses across



the United States, from approximately 70,000 in 2019 to 100,000 in 2020, the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded.

When someone visits Great Circle Recovery seeking help, the goal is to get them in immediately and decrease the possibility of an overdose instead of requiring them to wait days or weeks for treatment.

“We do everything possible to get them in as quickly as possible,” Worth says. “We are a rapid access clinic so that the first day you come in, you meet with a doctor within an hour of arrival.”

The Salem clinic officially opened to the public in March 2021 and the Portland clinic is expected to open in February 2022. So far, it’s been well received in the community, with 100 intake evaluations and 70 clients.

Since one of the biggest barriers

to treatment is reliable transportation, Worth is hoping to eventually have a service that can pick up clients in Grand Ronde, Willamina, Sheridan and other rural areas that lack robust public transportation.

Currently, the Tribe offers a medical transport service that members can call to arrange if drivers are available, but Worth envisions an ease-of-access transport that is similar to regular bus service.

“We want to be able to pick people up and not have another barrier in the way of treatment,” she says.

Stigma remains the biggest barrier

The biggest barrier to medication-assisted treatment continues to be fear of judgment from family, friends or others in the recovery community.

“Stigma is the biggest piece,” Worth says. “People judge what it means to be an addict, but there is no one profile to see what addiction and recovery look like. We know that people approach recovery in many ways. We don’t condone using illicit opioids or other substances, but we understand using any substance as a symptom. Many are

trying to manage pain of all kinds from physical to emotional. For us reducing use is an important part of the recovery process and we know that everyone is different in how they achieve this path.

“Most importantly the medications are lifesaving, just like insulin or any other medication for a chronic condition. We operate just like a primary care doctor’s office with more services on site. It’s tailored to the needs of each person.”

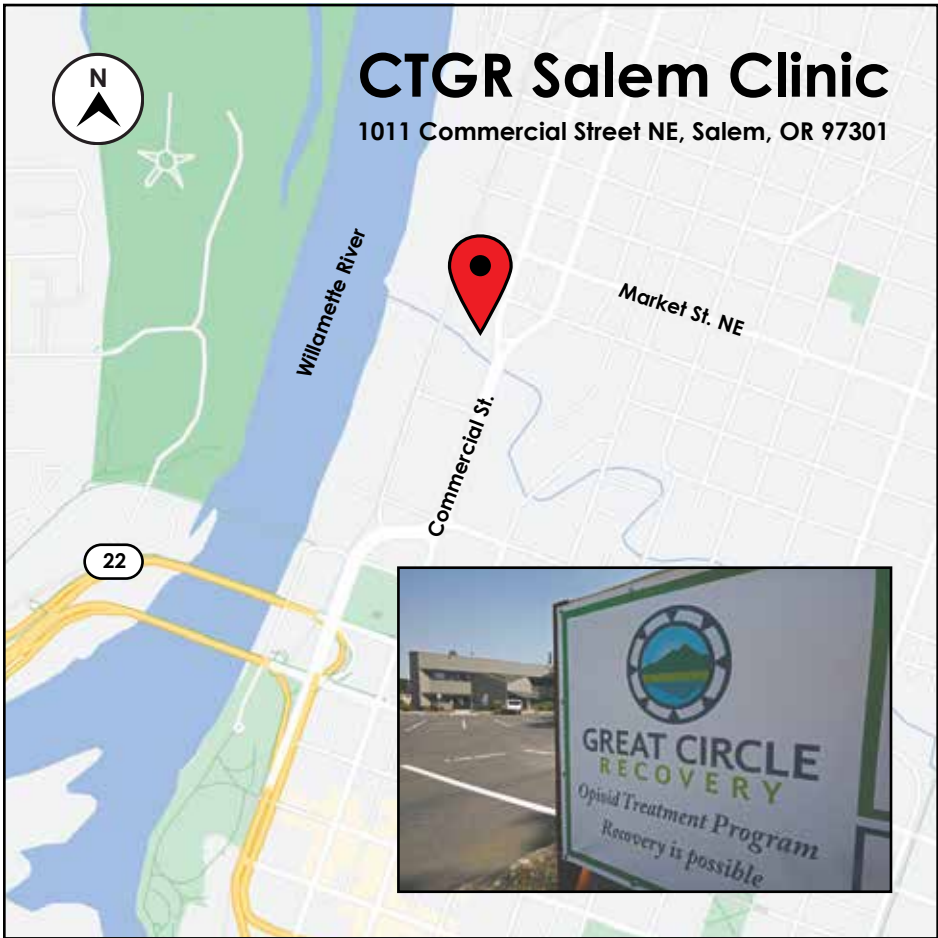
Tribal member Chris Martin works as a peer support specialist at the Salem clinic. He notes that clients who are lacking a sense of identity and searching for more positive activities enjoy the cultural components, such as smudging.

“They ask questions about our culture and try to adopt that for themselves to heal,” he says. “People aren’t stigmatized. They are people here, not just a number. We have several clients who have said they feel accepted and safe. ... We treat everyone the same regardless of gender, race, demographics or socioeconomic status. People want to feel cared for. They need connection and they are starting to feel that here.”

Lead Chemical Dependency Counselor Joe Martineau has 31 years of sobriety from drugs and alcohol. He says that he used to be a believer that the worse your withdrawal was, the more likely you’d think about that when tempted to use. Over the years, he says he has changed his opinion. He visited the Salem clinic after it opened to assist staff with the cultural components of treatment so that they would feel comfortable participating in those activities with clients.

When he sees clients at Behavioral Health who tell him they want to try medication-assisted treatment but are scared of being judged, Martineau tells them to think of it as a part of their overall recovery.

“I tell people this is what you need for now and if you need something Native American to approach it with, do a ceremony with it,” Martineau says. “Treat it as medicine and pray. There is a balance with scientific benefits and spiritual. The withdrawal from drugs today is not what it used to be 30 years ago. It can kill you. I’m trying to help with education and spirituality.” ■



Map by Samuel Briggs III

Save the date! Haller Family Gathering

An afternoon of food and celebration for our family.
Please plan to come on Saturday, Oct. 2.
Details coming to *Smoke Signals* and
Haller/Menard Facebook page.

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. ■

Free Playgroup in Grand Ronde!



Children & Family
SERVICES

Family Building Blocks
Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

When: First Thursday of each month 10:00 am-11:30 am
Where: CTGR – Community Service Center 9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Who: Parents and Caregivers of children under 5 years.
Why: Come to play, have a snack and have fun!

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 is one (1) open board position with a term that expires in March 2023.

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.

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members.

Submission deadline: Friday, Oct. 15, 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

Walking On...

Carol Elizabeth Williams

July 10, 1939 – Aug. 23, 2021



Our beloved mother, Carol Elizabeth (Quenelle) Williams, 82, began her next journey on Aug. 23, 2021, in Albany, Ore. Carol was the third of 10 children born to Leonard and Lizzette (Warren) Quenelle. She grew up on the Grand Ronde Reservation and became a respected Elder member of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

She met and married Siletz Tribal member Eugene Williams Sr. in 1955 and they shared seven beautiful children: four

boys and three girls. After her husband passed away in 1977, she continued raising their children in Siletz. After the children were grown, she met and married Steve Loveland and briefly moved to Nevada before returning to Siletz to be with her family and homelands along the Oregon coast.

Carol mastered the skills of a homemaker while also completing her education and almost 30 years of sobriety on Oct. 2, 2021. She annually worked with numerous farming families to assist with cultivating and harvesting a variety of fruits, vegetables and trees. She also worked in cabinetry, bartending, housekeeping, Publisher’s Mill and for the Siletz Tribe.

Carol’s traditional and leisure activities included picking fern, peeling chittum bark, beading, cross stitch, watching soap operas, putting her Native puzzles together, caring for her plants and spending time with her three Pomeranians: Pepper, Jellybean and Chili Bean.

Carol is survived by one sister, Evelyn “Toni” Quenelle of Willamina, Ore.; sons, Eugene “Poppa” Jr. and Debbie Williams of Toledo Ore., and Duane “Scotty” Williams of Siletz, Ore.; and daughters, Nora and Randy Wood of Cottage Grove, Ore; Melody Williams and Darrel of Newport, Ore., Charmaine and Mark Hammett of Siletz Ore., and Christina Goodell and Martha Metcalf of Siletz Ore. She enjoyed generations of cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She now joins the family circle who preceded her on her journey: husband, Eugene Williams Sr.; sons, Stacy “Babe” Wade Williams and Gordon “Ab” Lynn Williams; brothers, Leonard (Chuck), Donald (Donnie) and Larry Quenelle; sisters, Charlotte, Delores and Eileen; both parents and her beloved Pomeranian, Bucky.

Her family will announce a future celebration of her life and her passing message.

Other passings

Tamara Vaun Stillman

Feb. 22, 1958 – Sept. 3, 2021

Tribal Elder Tamara Vaun Stillman, 63, walked on Friday, Sept. 3, 2021. Huston Jost Funeral Home in Lebanon, Ore., is assisting the family. As of press time, no funeral service information was available.

smok signəlz offering fast e-mail subscription

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

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

Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else?


Want to not worry about touching a newspaper that someone else might have held?

Well, here’s your opportunity.

In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, *smok signəlz* electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you’re set.

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

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



Summer's Over!

A Back-to-School Bash

**Thursday
Sept. 16th
5:30pm**

Come get to know the Youth Education Staff as we host a back-to-school Zoom party!!

[https://zoom.us/j/92471335342?](https://zoom.us/j/92471335342?pwd=REJvdkRCYnJyZ1BURDJ4SjBaRnhOUT09)
[pwd=REJvdkRCYnJyZ1BURDJ4SjBaRnhOUT09](https://zoom.us/j/92471335342?pwd=REJvdkRCYnJyZ1BURDJ4SjBaRnhOUT09)

Meeting ID: 924 7133 5342
Passcode: x4nKu2

Be there!

Tribal turnout was 28.2 percent



Cheryle A. Kennedy

ELECTION continued
from front page

who spent time with me sharing their thoughts, concerns and hopes for the future as a Tribe. I will do my best to represent you and your voice. I humbly serve you, the members, and I'm so thankful for your vote of confidence.

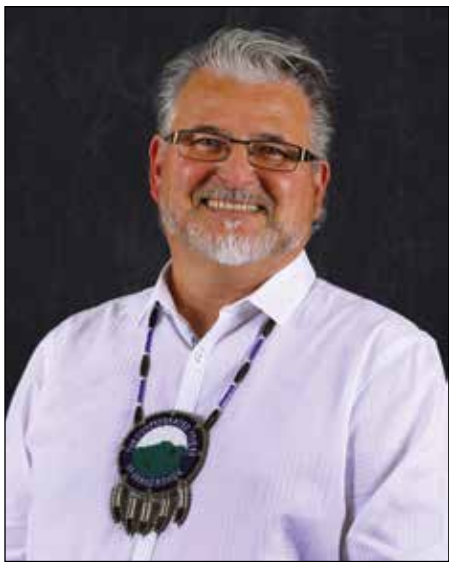
"I hope to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to an already strong group of leaders and I'm in awe of the dedication of all the candidates who ran this year. As we rest on the promises of our Creator, I will commit to working tirelessly toward our vision of being a Tribal community known as a caring people, dedicated to the principles of honesty and integrity."

Cherry's election ends a two-year streak of only incumbents being re-elected to Tribal Council. Cherry also becomes the first rookie candidate elected to Tribal Council since Kathleen George, who also was in charge of the Community Fund, finished first in 2016.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy led the field of five candidates with the most votes, receiving 869. She won her eighth consecutive term on Tribal Council dating back to 2000 and marks the fourth consecutive campaign in which she received the most votes.

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George finished second with 778 votes and won his fourth consecutive term on Tribal Council.

"I am humbled to be elected once again by my membership," George said. "With confidence I will carry on the good work of this council, and will practice the culture of



Jon A. George

honor in my role as a Tribal leader. Blessings and thanks go out to my uncle Steve Bobb for his years of service to our Tribe. You will be missed."

Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. finished fourth with 595 votes and ends his three non-consecutive terms of service on Tribal Council.

Challenger Perri McDaniel finished fifth with 350 votes. It was her fifth campaign for Tribal Council.

Tribal turnout was 28.2 percent with 1,223 votes cast by an eligible electorate of 4,336 voters. It was the lowest voter turnout since 2016.

Tribal voters also weighed in on four non-binding advisory votes. Results were:

- Should the Tribe increase the minors trust distribution age from 21 to 25? 613 yes vs. 501 no.
- Should the Tribe establish a small business loan program for Tribal member startups and businesses? 844 yes vs. 265 no.
- Should the Tribe establish an endowment for land acquisitions? 609 yes vs. 435 no.
- Should the Tribe provide expanded health services for Tribal Elders including, but not limited to, dementia care and hospice services? 1,031 yes vs. 91 no.

Kennedy, George and Cherry will be sworn into office during a Wednesday, Sept. 15, ceremony held in the Governance Center and take their seats during that afternoon's 4 p.m. Tribal Council meeting.

Tribal Council seats to be contested in 2022 are currently held by Denise Harvey, Kathleen George and Jack Giffen Jr. ■

SEPT. 11, 2021, ELECTION RESULTS

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL

CHERYLE A. KENNEDY	869
JON A. GEORGE	778
MICHAEL CHERRY	661
STEVE BOBB SR.	595
PERRI MCDANIEL	350

ADVISORY VOTE QUESTIONS

QUESTION # 1

SHOULD THE TRIBE INCREASE THE MINORS TRUST DISTRIBUTION FROM AGE 21 TO 25?

YES - 613 / 55.027% NO - 501 / 44.973%

QUESTION # 2

SHOULD THE TRIBE ESTABLISH A SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM FOR TRIBAL MEMBER STARTUPS AND BUSINESSES?

YES - 844 / 76.105% NO - 265 / 23.895%

QUESTION # 3

SHOULD THE TRIBE ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT FOR LAND ACQUISITIONS?

YES - 609 / 58.333% NO - 435 / 41.667%

QUESTION # 4

SHOULD THE TRIBE EXPAND HEALTH SERVICES FOR TRIBAL ELDERS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DEMENTIA CARE AND HOSPICE SERVICES?

YES - 1031 / 91.889% NO - 91 / 8.111%

Created by Samuel Briggs III

Broaden Your Horizons, Deepen Your Roots:

STUDY CHINUK WAWA

Fall 2021 - Lane Community College
CW101 Beginning Chinuk Wawa
Tu/Th 4-6pm via Zoom - 4 credit hours
CW201 Intermediate Chinuk Wawa
M/W 4-6pm via Zoom - 4 credit hours

These courses will be online for the entire 2021-2022 academic year - please join us from wherever you are!

Lane Community College has two cost-saving enrollment options for students of Chinuk Wawa:
1. There is a tuition scholarship available for CW101, after completion of CW 103 and CW 108.
2. In September, students may enroll via Continuing Education for no-credits at low cost.

Enrollment questions? Contact the LCC Arts and Humanities Division.

Chinuk Wawa at LCC is presented in collaboration with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde language program

Police Department has nonemergency text line

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

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. "When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911.

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

'Summer recipe'

Royalty participants for the CTGR and Veterans SEB groups share a favorite summer recipe to help unwind from the return to school. The collections also can be found at www.facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty and www.facebook.com/CTGRVeteransSEB.



Aubrey Campbell Little Miss Princess 2021/2022

MEXICAN STREET CORN SALAD

yield: 6 SERVINGS
prep time: 5 MINUTES
cook time: 10 MINUTES
total time: 15 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS
2 Tbsp unsalted butter
4 cups corn kernels (fresh or frozen)
1 tsp minced garlic
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1/2 tsp chili powder
1/2 cup cotija cheese
1 Tbsp lime juice, fresh squeezed
1-2 Tbsp chopped cilantro (optional)
kosher salt, to taste


INSTRUCTIONS
Melt butter in a large skillet (preferably cast iron) over medium-high heat. Add corn kernels and cook, stirring occasionally, until cooked through and slightly charred, about 8-10 minutes. Add the garlic the last 2 minutes of cooking. Allow corn to cool slightly. Stir in mayonnaise, chili powder, cotija cheese, lime juice, and chopped cilantro. Season to taste with salt. Serve warm or cold. Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator.




Caesar Salad


Ingredients:
•Croutons
•Parmesan cheese (shredded or shaved)
•1-2 small heads romaine lettuce
•Caesar dressing

Directions:
In a large bowl combine chopped lettuce and dressing then mix gently. After add parmesan and croutons and mix gently. Serve.



Tasina Bluehorse Veterans Senior Queen 2021/2022





Anavey Smith Senior Miss Princess 2021/2022



My GG Lorene's Ambrosia

You need:
20 oz can pineapple
1 10 oz bag marshmallow minis
2 cans of mandarin oranges
1/2 cup of coconut flakes
1/2 cup to 1 cup of sour cream
10-12 maraschino cherries stem on

To make:
Drain all fruit, mix everything all together except for cherries. Add just enough sour cream to coat all the fruit. Garnish the top with the cherries. Put in the fridge until time to serve.

Easily double the recipe for larger groups or remove an ingredient if you don't like it.



Ila Mercier Little Miss Grand Ronde 2021/2022



Scrambled Eggs with Salsa

By Ila Mercier
Grandma taught me this recipe.
Serves 4.

You will need:
•8 Eggs
•1/2 cup Cheddar Cheese
•1/4 cup Milk
•2 TB Olive Oil
•Salt
•Pepper

Step 1: Crack the eggs into a bowl and pick out the shells. Add the salt, pepper, milk.
Step 2: Stir with a fork until nice smooth yellow color all the way.
Step 4: Heat olive oil in the pan on medium. And grate the cheese.
Step 5: Pour eggs onto hot pan and mix, mix, mix while it cooks until the eggs are fluffy.
Step 6: Plate eggs and add a little bit of cheddar to each serving.
Step 7: Serve with salsa and buttered toast.



Kalea Liebelt Veterans Jr. Queen



Ham And Cheddar Crescent Roll-Ups Ingredients

1 tube crescent roll dough
16 ham slices (deli)
8 cheddar cheese slices
3 tbsp butter, melted
1/4 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp parsley (dried)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Roll out the crescent dough pieces. Lay down two pieces of deli ham, leaving a margin of dough on both ends then place a piece of cheese on top of the ham.

Beginning from the widest end, begin to roll up the crescent dough, encasing the ham and cheese on the inside. Then place on a parchment lined baking sheet.

Bake for approximately 10 - 15 minutes or until the tops of the roll-ups are golden brown. Remove from the oven and let rest for 5 minutes as to not burn yourself on the cheese! Hope you enjoy these delicious Ham And Cheddar Crescent Roll-Ups!

2021/2022



Nacoma Liebelt Veterans Warrior



Easy Crock Pot Cream Cheese Chicken Chili

You will love this Easy Crock Pot Cream Cheese Chicken Chili Recipe! It's my family's favorite chili!

★★★★★
4.99 (from 1,042 votes)

Source: Dishes - Cuisine: American
Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 6 hours
Total Time: 6 hours 10 minutes
Serves: 4 servings Cuisines: (264) total

Ingredients
1 15-oz. can black beans
1 15.25-oz. can corn undrained
1 10-oz. can Rotel tomatoes undrained
1 package ranch dressing mix
1 tsp. cumin
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1 tsp. onion powder
1 8-oz package light cream cheese
2 chicken breasts

Instructions
1. Drain and rinse the black beans. Place chicken at the bottom of the crock pot, then pour out the whole can of corn (undrained), Rotel tomatoes, and black beans on top of chicken.
2. Top with seasonings and ranch dressing mix. Stir together.
3. Place cream cheese block on top. Cover with lid and cook on low for 6-8 hours.
4. After the cooking time is over, take chicken breasts from crock pot and shred and add back to the chili. Stir together and enjoy!

2021/2022





Kaleigha Simi

Senior Miss

Grand Ronde

2021/2022

Snickers Caramel Apple Salad

Ingredients:

- 6 Granny Smith apples (cored & chopped)
- 6 Snickers bars (cut into bite-sized pieces)
- 1 (5.1) ounce box instant vanilla pudding mix
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 cup of mini marshmallows (optional)
- ½ cup of caramel sauce
- 1 (12 ounce) container of Cool Whip

Instructions:

1. Whisk together pudding mix and milk in a large bowl. Stir in Cool Whip
2. Stir in apples, chopped snickers and marshmallows
3. Drizzle caramel sauce on top
4. Refrigerate until ready to serve





Satara Blanchard

Jr. Miss Princess



Sophia Catron

Tiny Tot

2021/2022

Our favorite summer time recipes are salads!

Taco salad is our favorite and we love adding different veggies.


Nothing beats a cool crisp salad for dinner on a hot summer day.

Desirae Hernandez

Little Miss Princess

2021/2022

Taco Lettuce Cups




Ingredients

- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tbsp. vegetable oil -kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. cumin -1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 c. tomato sauce
- 1/2 c. chicken stock
- 1/2 c. shredded Cheddar
- Large leafy lettuce (leaves separated), for serving -1 avocado, chopped
- Salsa, for serving (optional)
- Sour cream, for serving (optional)

Directions

- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions and sauté until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Then add the ground beef, stirring occasionally, and sauté until cooked through. Stir in the spices, followed by the tomato sauce and chicken stock. Let simmer for about 5-8 minutes to allow liquid to reduce and flavors to meld. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Turn off heat and set aside. Serve taco meat in lettuce cups. Garnish with cheddar, sour cream, avocado and salsa, as desired.



Leloo Quenelle

Veterans Little Queen





Marie Quenelle

Jr. Miss Grand Ronde

Ulali Quenelle

Tiny Tot

The Quenelles Quick & Easy No-Name Dinner Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 pack of hamburger
- 12 oz green beans (fresh or canned)
- 12 oz corn (fresh or canned)
- 12 oz tomato sauce (fresh or canned)
- 2 pats of real butter
- Seasonings: ½ tsp. Black Pepper, ½ tsp Salt, ½ tsp Italian Seasoning, ½ clove of garlic (minced), ½ of an onion (chopped-you use big pieces for flavor, but take them out after because not everyone likes onion pieces).

Directions:

1. Brown the hamburger with garlic and onion. Season as you like by adding more or less seasonings. Then, drain the grease. Leave in the pan and put aside.
2. Cook the corn and green beans each in their own saucepan. (Canned, just open, drain and warm up separately. Or, with fresh veggies, boil, blanch, and then drain).
3. Add the butter and some salt and pepper to the vegetables. Stir to melt the butter and mix the seasonings.
4. Add the cooked vegetables and tomato sauce to the hamburger still in the pan. Continue to heat on low until everything is warm. If more seasoning is needed at this point, please add.
5. Stir and serve--Great with any kind of starch: rice, bread, potatoes or, by itself.
6. Enjoy! 😊

2021 /2022

Health & Wellness

Center entrance

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

Thank you,

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Administration

Drop box installed

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, now has a medication drop box located in the front lobby. Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag. Tribal Police employees cannot handle the medications so the person dropping them off must repackage them. Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box. Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash. For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

WILLOW'S BLACKBERRY PARFAIT

1/2 CUP BLACKBERRIES

1/2 CUP GREEK YOGURT


1/2 CUP GRANOLA

ADD INGREDIENTS IN ANY ORDER + ENJOY!




WILLOW SQUETIMKIN TINY TOT 2021/2022





Laxayam!

My name is Marie Quenelle and I am the 2021-2022 Junior Miss Queen. My mom and dad are Anthony and Ramona Quenelle. I am 10 years old and going into the 6th grade. I am an honorary member on Youth Council. I am involved in our tribal cultural events and all tribal events. I enjoy cooking for my family, reading, and listening to music. When I grow up, I want to attend culinary school and own a restaurant. I have been a powwow dancer since I could walk. I attended my first powwow at 6 days old! I am very honored to have been selected to represent the Junior Miss Queen crown this year. I am looking forward to attending events once they start again. I hope that everyone stays safe and healthy. Hayu masi.





Hello everyone, my name is Kaleigha Simi and I'm your newly crowned Senior Miss Grand Ronde for 2021-2022. I'm 15 years old and will be a junior at Willamina Highschool. My parents are Shannon Simi and Josh Baker, and I have 2 brothers and 1 sister. My grandparents are Janet Titus and Virginia and Lonnie Roof. My great-grandparents are Annabelle Poole and Robert Simi and Marvin and Eleanore Kimsey. My hobbies include participating in cultural activities, playing volleyball, exploring the outdoors with my dog, and spending time with my family. The reason I'm apart of royalty is to be a mentor to our indigenous youth and to represent my tribe, cultural and family to the best of my ability. I'd like to thank my tribe, family, and community for all of their support throughout my royalty years. Thank you, Hayu Masi



Łaxayam. lulut'wax nayka nim. Łat bobby mercier yaka palach nayka ukuk shawash-nim. ıla valencia mercier nayka nim k'apa basten-wawa. kakwa nayka k'wat ıla hudson dowd yaka nim. ıla hudson dowd pi nayka chich chich pearl hudson mercier ots Łaska. harry mercier nayka chup chup chup. vincent mercier nayka chup chup. michael mercier nayka chup. jordan mercier nayka papa pi amanda mercier nayka mama. nayka shawash-niŁitilixam chaku k'apa k'alapuya. cow creek ampkwa. takelma, pi Łakamas-chinuk tilixam. hayu-masi





Hello. My name is lulut'wax. Uncle Bobby Mercier gave me my Native name. In English, lulut'wax means Carries Light. My English name is Ila Valencia Mercier. I am named after my Aunt Ila Hudson Dowd who was the sister of my Great Great Grandma Pearl Hudson Mercier. My Great Great Grandpa was Harry Mercier. Vincent Mercier is my Great Grandpa and Michael Mercier is my Grandpa. My parents are Jordan and Amanda Mercier. From my Grand Ronde family, I am Santiam Kalapuya, Cow Creek Umpqua, Rouge River, and Clackamas Chinuk. I feel honored to be Little Miss Grand Ronde for 2021-2022 and I am excited to represent my tribe in this way. All the Grand Ronde Royalty girls did great with their speeches and dances this year and I hope we can all safely go to powwows together soon. Hayu Masi.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES




You can help stop the pandemic by getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

To protect our elders and our community, we need to use all our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect our health. Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so you can fight the virus.

Each tribal nation or state has its own plan for deciding who will be vaccinated first. Contact your health department or clinic to find out when and where vaccines will be available in your community.

The COVID-19 vaccine can help keep you from getting COVID-19.



COVID-19 can cause serious illness or death. All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are effective. Even if you still get the disease after you get vaccinated, the vaccine should protect you from more serious illness.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be free for you.

The United States government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people in the United States. No one should be charged for the vaccine.

Some COVID-19 vaccines need two shots.

If you are told you need two shots, make sure to get your second shot at the time you are told, so you can get the most protection.

The COVID-19 vaccine will not give you COVID-19.

The authorized COVID-19 vaccines **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19. They **do not** contain the virus that causes COVID-19. Getting vaccinated may also protect others around you.

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects.

You may have tiredness, headache, chills, and mild fever for 1-2 days. These are normal signs that your body is building protection against COVID-19. After getting the shot, you will be asked to wait for 15-30 minutes to see that you are okay.

You should still get vaccinated if you've already had COVID-19.

Even if you have already had COVID-19, it is possible —although rare—that you could get COVID-19 again. Experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after having COVID-19. Vaccination is the best protection.

If you have recovered from COVID-19, ask your health provider when you should be vaccinated.

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/

Clothes Closet open Fridays

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays during the summer on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. 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. ■

Standard Fares

Within 1 Zone\$1.50

2 Zones\$3.00

3 Zones\$6.00

Lincoln City Zone: Chinook Winds to Rose Lodge

Grand Ronde Zone: GR Community Center to Spirit Mountain

Salem Zone: Rickreall to Salem Transit Mall

Reduced Fares

First Two Children, age 0-12, with paying adult

Additional Child (0-12)

Children (13-18)

Senior (60+)

Persons with disabilities

Free

1/2 Fare

1/2 Fare

1/2 Fare

1/2 Fare

10 Trip Passes

2 zone\$30

3 zone\$60

60x- ride free with Grand Ronde or Siletz Tribal ID

70x- ride free with Grand Ronde Tribe ID only

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

No Bus Service

New Years Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

ROUTE AND SCHEDULE INFORMATION

800-815-8283

nwconnector.org

800-735-2700/TTY

RIDER ALERTS

503-842-0123

REALTIME BUS INFO: TRANSIT APP

Tillamook County Transportation District operates its programs without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, national origin, marital status, age, or disability in accordance with Title VI of The Civil Rights Act, ORS Chapter 659A or other applicable law. Alternative formats of this information are available upon request.

nwCONNECTOR

NWCONNECTOR.ORG

Visitor Pass for NWCONNECTOR

3 Days \$25

7 Days \$30

(includes a round trip to Portland or Salem and unlimited travel on NWConnector routes)

CONNECTING SERVICES

Tillamook County Transportation District

The WAVE

nwconnector.org | 503-815-8283

Lincoln County Transit

nwconnector.org | 541-265-4900

Sunset Empire Transportation District

nwconnector.org | 503-861-7433

Point Bus

oregon-point.com

1-888-846-4183

Amtrak

amtrak.com

1-800-872-7245

Greyhound

greyhound.com

1-800-231-2222

Tri-Met

trimet.org

503-238-7433

@NWConnector

nwCONNECTOR

60x

Coastal Connector

70x

Grand Ronde Express

Service Operated by The WAVE

Rates and Schedule Effective

September 1, 2021

Lincoln City to Salem:
Monday- Sunday

Salem to Grand Ronde:
Monday- Friday

60X COASTAL CONNECTOR

70X GRAND RONDE

TRANSFER LOCATIONS

ZONES

Chinook Winds (Lincoln City)

1

Rose Lodge

2

Grand Ronde Community Center

3

Spirit Mountain

4

Rickreall Fairgrounds Park & Ride

5

Edgewater @ Rosemont

6

Salem Greyhound Amtrak Station

7

Downtown Salem Transit Mall

8

EASTBOUND TO SALEM

6:20

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6:54

7:00

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8:00

Downtown Salem Transit Mall

8

Salem Greyhound Amtrak Station

7

Edgewater @ Rosemont

6

Rickreall Fairgrounds Park & Ride

5

Spirit Mountain

4

Grand Ronde Community Center

3

Rose Lodge

2

Chinook Winds (Lincoln City)

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9:02

Spirit Mountain Casino

60X 70X

4

Courthouse Square

60X 70X

8


Greyhound + Amtrak Station

60X

7

60x and 70x Service

Operated by The WAVE



Thursday, Aug. 19

- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Traffic assist performed in the area of milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- Property found in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, Aug. 20

- Stolen vehicle reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- Assist outside agency in the 500 block of Main Street in Willamina.
- Assist outside agency in the area of Yamhill River Road and Highway 18B.
- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 12 on Highway 18.
- Responded to a cover request in the 1000 block of Main Street in Willamina.
- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 35 on Highway 18.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, Aug. 21

- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 20 on Hebo Road.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 27 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 28300 block of Andy Riggs Road.

- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the area of milepost 1.5 on Agency Creek Road.

Sunday, Aug. 22

- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assist outside agency in the 300 block of Southwest James Street in Willamina.
- Drug complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespass reported in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

Monday, Aug. 23

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Aug. 24

- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of milepost 24 on Hebo Road.
- Illegal dumping complaint received in the area of milepost 3 on Agency Creek Road.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Agency Creek and Southwest Yoncalla Creek roads.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 25200 block of Blue Jay Court.
- Contempt of court arrest occurred in the area of milepost 24 on Highway 18.

Wednesday, Aug. 25

- Assist outside agency in the Willamina area.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Responded to a wanted person who fled from officers on foot in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Tyler Brown.*



TRIBAL VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICE



Office of
Tribal Government
Relations

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Veterans Service Office and the Veterans Affairs Office of Tribal Government Relations presents

Introducing the VA Portland Mindfulness Institute –
What is it and Why Does it Matter?

A Virtual Training - To register, email CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org for the link

September 22, 2021 at 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Mindfulness training was developed over 2500 years ago; shared across many cultures and called many different things. It is a skill of paying attention and way of experiencing the world, which has been shown to reduce human suffering. It is a wisdom practice, that helps us shift how we relate to the world; to work with rather than fight what we cannot control, and to change what we can. It is no magic solution. It is common sense and takes practice. Modern research has increasingly shown how learning mindfulness meditation – with different sitting and gentle movement practices – reduces stress, improves both physical and mental health, and helps us reconnect with a life that really matters.

Presented by Dr. Timothy W. Wright, Psy.D.

“Dr. Wright has a clinical psychology doctorate with specialist training in palliative care and chronic pain at VA Portland HCS. His clinical and research interests are focused on contextual cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness-based interventions with medically-involved populations. Currently, he works part-time with VA Portland, primarily as a Clinical Psychologist with the Center for Integrated Pain Clinic (CIPC), as a Whole Health Educator, and more recently, as founding Director of the Mindfulness Institute. Through his work and prior learning experiences, Dr. Wright has had the good fortune of integrating personal and professional interests in eastern/Buddhist psychology. Outside work, his main focus and practice is on surviving and thriving the rich chaos of a young family of 4 kids.”

For more information please contact the CTGR Tribal VSO - Ramona Quenelle at (503) 879-1484

ATNI receives \$225,000 economic development grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians received a \$225,000 federal grant to assist with job creation and capital investment strategy, according to a press release from Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley that was released on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

The funding will support the ATNI Economic Development Association Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and support ATNI member Tribes meet their economic development goals, facilitate interTribal economy building, support Tribal entrepreneurs and build an ecosystem of Tribal economic development professionals, said Amber Schulz-Oliver, executive director of ANTI Economic Development Association.

“I am pleased that this funding will help Tribes here in the Northwest exercise their self-determination and sovereignty to create jobs and tackle the critical economic issues that affect their communities,” Merkley said. ■

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HELP KEEP TRIBAL COMMUNITIES SAFE ONE DROP AT A TIME

For more information, contact your local tribal utility or the ITCA Operator Training Program at 602.307.1548.

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer. This material is based upon work supported under a grant by the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utilities Service. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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BACK TO SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The 2021-2022 school year is around the corner and the BACK-TO-SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM is now available to Tribal Member students. Please see below for more details.

Who:

Tribal Member K-12 students (Enrolled in the 2021-2022 School year).
Qualified tribal member applicants are eligible for up to \$300 for school supplies and school clothing.

Receipt Verification

The applicant will be required to provide copies of receipt(s) of approved purchases within 30 days of the processed check.

Registration Information

Sign-ups begin on August 2, 2021 and closes at 5pm on September 17, 2021. Please allow up to two weeks to process applications and checks once your application has been received.

Complete the application and send back to the Youth Enrichment Program.
Please note: Incomplete applications may delay the processes and approval.

Applications are available at the following locations:

The Youth Education building on campus (Mon-Friday 8am-12 & 1pm-5pm)
Tribal Website (Under the Youth Education page)
Contact the Youth Enrichment program and one can be emailed to you.
Please see email and phone contact below.

Have questions, need an application or other?

Please contact 503-879-2101 or YouthEnrichment@grandronde.org



Watchlist: Experience a traditional whale hunt in Alaska

By Kamiah Koch

Social Media/Digital Journalist

With 18.4 million subscribers on National Geographic’s YouTube channel, sharing a video on traditional Native whale hunting in Alaska is bound to get some views.

“Prayer for the Whale” is a nine-minute film posted on Nov. 27, 2018, as part of the Short Film Showcase, a collection of short “captivating” videos selected by National Geographic’s video team.

The video in an immersive experience following the Inupiat people as they hunt for whales. The only audio is the words of an Elder expressing gratitude for the whale, singing and the sounds of the harsh northern Alaskan sea ice.

The documentary-style video shows the Native whalers sitting at the water’s edge, patiently waiting in freezing temperatures for the whales. Conditions do not look comfortable as their shelter is constantly blowing in the wind and a polar bear begins to stalk nearby. At one point a commotion occurs and the polar bear is killed.

The Native hunters are constantly watching the horizon for the whales to breach. The actual killing is never shown, but in the next shot a whale is seen floating lifelessly. They impressively bring the whale up on to the ice by hand and with the help of the entire community.

The video has beautiful images of life on ice. A bird’s-eye-view camera shot shows how they process the gray and red pieces of the whale against the white ice.

The video ends with the community sharing a meal and celebrating the harvest that will feed them through the winter.

“Prayer for the Whale” shows a way of life not many have seen. The video garnered almost 2 million views on YouTube since its publication.

To watch the video yourself, you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIYag5MWhPU> or find it linked on the *Smoke Signals* Watchlist playlist on the *Smoke Signals* YouTube channel. ■

GRIEF, LOSS AND HEALING

An hour long conversation about the stages of grief, coping skills and traditional ceremonies.

September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

To sign up email ilaunch@grandronde.org or call 503-879-1697

First 30 families to sign up will receive a \$25 Safeway gift card and a smudge kit.

Brought to you by Social Services, Behavioral Health and iLAUNCH


Lux named Apprentice of the Year

PORTLAND – Tribal member Matt Lux was recently named the Oregon-Columbia Laborers JATC 2021 Apprentice of the Year through the Northwest College of Construction.


The college is a privately funded nonprofit technical facility promoting lifelong learning by delivering craft, supervisor and management education and career placement services in the construction industry.

“Each year this award is presented to the student who has best proven their abilities in the way of exceptional performance both on the job and in the classroom consistently throughout their apprenticeship,” Lux’s plaque read.

Lux, 38, lives in Sheridan. He graduated in 2021 as Oregon journeyman laborer. ■



WIFI HOTSPOTS







NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT AT THE TRIBAL LIBRARY!

For patrons without access to reliable internet, 10 T-Mobile hotspots have been made available for use. Devices provide access within the T-Mobile coverage area.

To borrow a hotspot library cardholders must be 18 years or older and have their library account in good standing. Parents/guardians are responsible for the use of the hotspot by minors.

For additional terms and agreements please contact the library
Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org
503-879-1488



Smoke Signals receives three ONPA awards

LAKE OSWEGO — The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association announced the winners of its Associate Member contest on Friday, Sept. 10, and *Smoke Signals* received three awards.

Graphic Design Specialist Samuel Briggs III received a first-place award in the Graphics category for his “How to Access Tribal news” advertisement. “This ad has amazing graphics and logo, and I really appreciate the amount of room given to all the elements,” the judges wrote. “It does not feel crowded and the use of color is fantastic. Very effective and attractive.”

Briggs also received a third-place award in the same category for his ad promoting *Smoke Signals* attire for sale. “Fantastic use of space and color,” the judges wrote. “So effective; it made me want to buy things.”

Photojournalist Timothy J. Gonzalez received a second place in the Best News Photo category for his photo of 2020 Tribal graduates at Willamina High School. “This is a great shot,” the judges wrote. “I love the mylar balloons in the forefront that seem to try to put a big, shiny spin on the year 2020. The graduate’s wistful smile can’t hide the truth that this isn’t how it was supposed to be.”

Smoke Signals competed against 21 other Associate Member publications in Oregon and was once again the only Tribal newspaper in the state honored by ONPA for work published in 2020.

Smoke Signals previously received eight awards from the Native American Journalists Association for work published in 2020. The Grand Ronde Tribal newspaper has now won 110 awards from NAJA and ONPA since 2007. ■

THIS YEAR, A LITTLE NERVOUS IS NORMAL.



After so long away, bells, hallways, clubs and quizzes aren’t second nature anymore. That’s why Oregon schools are kicking off with a focus on restoring the care, connection and community that come with in-person learning. Visit Oregon.gov/readyschools to learn more.





HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS



Mobile Mammography

Convenience, Privacy, Certified woman technologists, State of the art equipment and now offering 3D imaging




To schedule an appointment please call:

Kandee Little 503-879-2089

Date: Wednesday Sept. 29, 2021

Location: Upper clinic parking lot




Must be 35 years of age or older
Must not be pregnant
Must be at least 1 year since last mammogram
Must not have breast fed in the last 6 months
OHSU HMC Breast Health Services are not a preferred provider for Kaiser
No known breast lumps, discharge or breast pain



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SCHOOL SUCCESS MONTH

Here are some back-to-school affirmations!

- I AM READY FOR SCHOOL.
- I AM CONFIDENT, BRAVE, AND FRIENDLY.
- I LIKE MY FRIENDS, AND I AM READY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS TOO.
- I AM HELPFUL AND KIND.
- I CAN REMEMBER NEW THINGS.
- I AM READY TO WORK HARD.
- I AM GOING TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH, AND I WILL DO GREAT.
- I AM EXCITED TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW.



Brought to you by Project i-LAUNCH

READY FOR SCHOOL?



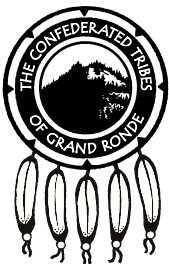
CHECK THOSE VACCINE RECORDS.

As you prepare to send your children back to school, August is a great opportunity to get your child caught up on routine vaccines. Do not delay vaccination because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you, your child, or other family members have fallen behind on routine immunizations, talk to a healthcare provider as soon as possible to catch-up.

national
IMMUNIZATION
awareness month

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY HEALTH

COVID-19 Relief Community Health Representatives



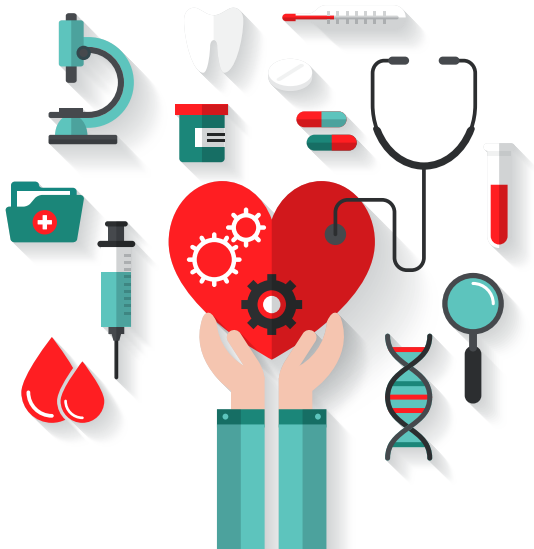
Community Health is pleased to announce the creation of a new program provided to the community. The COVID-19 Relief Community Health Representatives provide service to all Tribal members who have needs or questions regarding COVID-19.

The services provided include:

- Provides education on COVID-19 and preventive measures.
- Contact your primary care physician regarding questions about testing or exposure.
- Provides client services that promote holistic health and wellness practices.
- Conducts home visits.
- Health screening.
- COVID-19 safety items.

Other services provided:

- Help Assess Home Safety Improvement
- Connect America Safety Pendant Information and installation
- Fall Risk Prevention
- Recording vitals
- Medication Delivery



To inquire on how to get these services, please call Stephanie King at 503-879-2016 or Sam Thornsberry at 503-879-1693



SMOKE SIGNALS

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