

Why did the U.S.  
Army slaughter  
bison? — pg. 9



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

JANUARY 15, 2022

## Casino to host vaccination site

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Spirit Mountain Casino will host one of four Oregon Health Authority high-volume vaccination sites to provide Oregonians with easy access to COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots starting on Saturday, Jan. 15.

The casino site will be open noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 15.

The other sites in Florence, Roseburg and North Bend started on Dec. 31, Jan. 4 and Jan. 8, respectively.

“This will be the third vaccine clinic we have hosted,” said casino Sponsorship Administrator Jocelyn Huffman. “The Department of Human Services reached out to the casino due partly to our location, but also because of the long-standing relationship the Tribe and the casino have as a community partner.”

All four sites will offer all three COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson, boosters and pediatric doses. No appointment will be necessary and

See SITE  
continued on page 7

## Casino vaccine mandate effective

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Spirit Mountain Casino’s controversial vaccine mandate for its more than 900 employees has proven effective in reducing employee absences in various departments, Tribal Council member Kathleen George reported during the Tuesday, Jan. 4, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

George, who has served on the

Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors since September 2016, regularly provides updates on the board’s meetings during Tribal Council meetings.

“The good news, on the employee front, is that the vaccine mandate over at the casino while we know that it was unpopular with some, it has truly

See MANDADTE  
continued on page 7

## Rule of Law

*Tribal Court hires a new administrator*

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Shawn Branson considers the legal field to be more than just a career. “It is a passion of mine and I truly want to leave behind a legacy,” she says.

The California native and Cherokee Nation descendant is the new Tribal Court Administrator. Her first day on the job was Dec. 1.

Branson applied for the job because it was an opportunity to expand her career of the past 17 years at McMinnville Municipal Court, where she also served as court administrator.

“My training is in criminal law and not civil law, so I bring something different to the table,” she says. “This opportunity arose in Grand Ronde, and I’m excited to learn more about federal law and Tribal law.”

Before she was employed by the McMinnville Municipal Court, Branson worked as a legal assistant for five years in Humboldt County, Calif.

See TRIBAL COURT  
continued on page 6



Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Court Administrator Shawn Branson started in her new position with the Tribe on Dec. 1, 2021.

## Beer recognizes Grand Ronde’s ancestral homelands

Tribal member Leo Pichette posted to his Instagram account a tasting glass next to a can of Ruse Brewing’s “Native Land” beer which features a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde land acknowledgment on the label. Ruse Brewing crafted the beer as part of the nationwide “Native Land” beer project.

Contributed photo by Leo Pichette



By Kamiah Koch

*Social media/digital journalist*

PORTLAND — Ruse Brewing introduced a new collaboration beer called “Native Land” to its taproom at 4784 S.E. 17th Ave. in Portland on Thursday, Dec. 23.

With gold lettering that matches the color of its hazy IPA, the beer’s label reads “brewed on the ancestral homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.”

According to Ruse Brewing’s tap list, proceeds from sales of the beer

will be donated to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The “Native Land” beer project was announced on Indigenous Peoples’ Day in 2021 by Bow & Arrow Brewing, an Indigenous female-owned brewing company in Albuquerque, N.M.

Almost 35 breweries across the country are listed on Bow & Arrow Brewing’s website as participating breweries releasing

See BEER  
continued on page 8

## General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 6

Tribal members can participate remotely through the Zoom application.

### NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Jan. 26.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 9.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 23.....	4 p.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.  
Tribal members can participate remotely through the Zoom application.

## Updated addresses wanted

It is that time of the year when Finance is starting to prepare for tax season. In an effort to have current information for W2s and 1099s, we are asking everyone who has moved in the last calendar year to please update their address.

### How do you update?

- If you are a Tribal member, please contact Member Services at [memberservices@grandronde.org](mailto:memberservices@grandronde.org) or Janel Lara at 503-879-2116.
- If you are an employee, please contact HR at [compensation\\_HRIS@grandronde.org](mailto:compensation_HRIS@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-2109 and the HR reception desk will direct your call to the appropriate person. Alternatively, an employee can make any updates in the Timesheet Module as well.

If you have recently updated your address at the clinic/pharmacy, you will still need to update your information with either Member Services or HR since the pharmacy does not share your private information due to HIPAA regulations.

Please remember that even if you have direct deposit, you will need to update your address.

The Finance Department thanks you in advance for your assistance in making this year's tax season go as smoothly as possible. ■

## Letters welcome

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

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

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy. Only two letters per writer are allowed during a three-month period.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the other writer by name, should refer to the date of the letter published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters deemed in poor taste will not be printed. Send letters via e-mail to [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org), or submit in person at the Tribal Governance Center in Grand Ronde, Ore., or mail to **smok signalz**, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347.

### TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



HEALTH & WELLNESS  
CENTER

### NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

THE DESIGNATED AREA IN  
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## smok signalz

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#### DEADLINE DATE      ISSUE DATE

MONDAY, JAN. 24..... FEB. 1

MONDAY, FEB. 7..... FEB. 15

TUESDAY, FEB. 22.....MARCH 1

MONDAY, MARCH 7.....MARCH 15

## EDITORIAL POLICY

**smok signalz**, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

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

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



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■ OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

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# IN THE FUTURE



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

- lxł-mun (January)**
- Monday, Jan. 17 – Tribal offices will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
  - Wednesday, Jan. 26 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

- makwst-mun (February)**
- Sunday, Feb. 6 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Wednesday, Feb. 9 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Monday, Feb. 21 – Tribal offices will be closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.
  - Wednesday, Feb. 23 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.

- łun-mun (March)**
- Sunday, March 6 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Wednesday, March 9 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Wednesday, March 23 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.

- lxłłt-mun (April)**
- Sunday, April 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Wednesday, April 6 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Wednesday, April 20 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via the Zoom teleconference application. 503-879-2304.
  - Monday, April 25 – Community Shred Event, Noon, location TBD.

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

## Business sues state to force ruling on gaming in Grants Pass

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

TMB Racing, a company formed by Dutch Bros Coffee co-founder Travis Boersma, filed a motion to compel on Tuesday, Dec. 28, in Josephine County Circuit Court that would force the state to decide on plans for gambling at an entertainment complex adjoining a race track at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

TMB Racing claims the Oregon Racing Commission has put the horse-racing venture in financial “limbo” by failing to vote on whether to approve plans for more than 200 gambling terminals in the Flying Lark’s “hospitality center.”

The Oregon Racing Commission is the agency that would determine the fate of Boersma’s plans, but it has twice postponed voting on the Flying Lark plans and has repeatedly put off votes on whether to approve four companies that will provide the technology to the Flying Lark.

Boersma’s plans drew heated opposition from the state’s Native American Tribes, including the Grand Ronde Tribe, which argue that allowing slot-machine-like historic horse racing machines at the Flying Lark would be unfair since only Tribes are allowed to operate casinos in Oregon. Their approval, Tribes contend, would hurt not only Tribal casino revenues, but the Oregon Lottery as well.

After receiving a letters from Oregon Tribal representatives, Gov.

Kate Brown told Oregon Racing Commission members that they had a “statutory obligation” to consult with the Tribes. She also suggested that the commission seek a formal legal opinion from the Oregon Department of Justice on the legality of Boersma’s plans.

Tribal lobbyist and member Justin Martin said that Tribal consultation with the Oregon Racing Commission has not occurred yet.

“The key here is that this consultation isn’t regarding the (gaming) machines,” Martin said. “It would be to go over the ORC consultation policy, which has not been established in consultation with the Tribes as of yet.”

“They have been claiming that we are ‘stalling’ or trying to postpone these meetings. That is certainly not the case. They’ve had ample time to do this over the years and only when they need something and are running into political hurdles and a ‘slow down’ notice from the governor have they instigated this outreach. We, as Tribes, have asked for consultation on several occasions and were told that there was nothing pending and therefore there was no need to do consultation.”

Boersma originally hoped to open the Flying Lark by October and then rescheduled to February. TMB is seeking a court order compelling the state to make a decision no later than Feb. 17. ■

*Includes information from The Oregonian.*

## MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

Tribal Court is now once again issuing marriage licenses and is able to perform marriage ceremonies for a filing fee of \$40.

For questions regarding scheduling, contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

# Find us on



## OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:**  
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**Grand Ronde Community Garden:**  
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**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**  
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**Grand Ronde Employment Services**  
Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



# 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!

Search Facebook for Grand Ronde Cultrual Education

Tribal Calendar // [www.grandronde.org/tribal-calendar](http://www.grandronde.org/tribal-calendar)





# 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.”

The Food Bank will hold January food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. It will be closed on Monday, Jan. 17, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

“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@mari-onpolkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer. ■

## Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkʰmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board meets monthly.** The next meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, 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.)



**2017** – President Barack Obama signed an amendment to the Grand Ronde Reservation Act into law, which streamlined how the Tribe took land into trust. The law ended the two-part process that required the Tribe to take each piece of former Reservation land into trust with approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then request that the land be designated Reservation land by Congress. The amendment allowed the Tribe to combine the two-step process for real property that was within the boundaries of its original 69,100-acre Reservation established in 1857. It also stated that all real property taken into trust within the boundaries of the original Reservation after Sept. 9, 1988, be considered Reservation land.

**2012** – A Chinuk Wawa class debuted at Willamina High School, taught by Cultural Resources Department Manager Kathy Cole. In the past, she taught the language to both preschoolers and adults in Tribal education classrooms, as well as kindergarteners at Willamina Elementary School. The class at the high school included lessons about Tribal history and culture as well as language, and included stories about Tribal Elders.



**2012** File photo

**2007** – The Grand Ronde Tribal Council began a feasibility study to examine the possibility of building and staffing a fire department on Tribal lands, and enhancing staffing levels at the West Valley Fire District’s Grand Ronde substation. The study was authorized in response to ongoing concerns in Grand Ronde about the length of response times to emergency calls.

**2002** – The Tribe added College Counselor and Advisor Kevin Simmons, Adult Education Coordinator Joanne Carr and Administrative Assistant Deb Bachman to its Education Department staff. “This is a great job,” Carr said. “I’ve been inspired by the Education Department and their support. And I love giving away the Pendleton blankets.”

**1997** – Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison signed a gaming compact that would allow the Tribe to expand its gaming options at Spirit Mountain Casino. It would allow the casino to offer craps, roulette, sports betting and poker to customers. As part of the compact, the Tribe agreed to donate 6 percent of its annual proceeds to organizations within 11 counties in Oregon and was in the process of creating a nonprofit foundation.

**1992** – Tribal member Vivian McKnight’s dream of owning a business became reality when she opened McKnight’s Flowers & Deli in Willamina. She worked with the Tribe’s Economic Development Department on business planning for several months. The business offered deli sandwiches, soups, salads and floral arrangements.

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

## Health & Wellness offering Moderna booster shots

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center is now offering COVID-19 booster doses of the Moderna vaccine to eligible individuals, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe announced on Tuesday, Oct. 26.

To be eligible, people must be 65 or older, 18 to 64 years old with underlying medical conditions, 18 or older in a long-term care situation or 18 to 64 and older at increased risk of exposure or transmission because of their occupational setting.

The center will provide boosters to Tribal members and their spouses, other Native Americans and their spouses and families, Tribal employees and their families, and established patients.

The Moderna booster dose can be administered to eligible individuals six months or more after their second vaccine dose. To make an appointment, call 503-879-2032 to schedule a booster dose.

People also can use the COVID vaccine finder to find another vaccination site at [www.vaccines.gov/search/](http://www.vaccines.gov/search/). ■



# Tribal Council approves transitional house contract

By Dean Rhodes  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council approved a contract with Scholten Construction of Willamina to construct improvements to the Men’s Transitional House during its weather-affected Wednesday, Dec. 29, meeting held via the Zoom teleconference application.

Because of winter weather and dangerous driving conditions in northwestern Oregon, Tribal Council’s regular Tuesday morning Legislative Action Committee meeting was moved to 2 p.m. Wednesday, two hours before the regularly scheduled Tribal Council meeting. All Tribal Council members attended remotely.

Tribal governmental offices were closed the entire week of Dec. 27-31 because of the inclement weather, road conditions and the New Year’s Day holiday observation.

The \$139,622 construction contract will have Scholten install the infrastructure and utilities to support up to three modular homes at the transitional house, which

helps male Tribal members leaving prison or drug rehabilitation programs re-assimilate back into the community.

In other action during the last meeting of 2021, Tribal Council:

- Approved a purchase and sale agreement to buy the Lily’s Ranch property in Polk County. The purchase price was not disclosed during the meeting;
- And approved the enrollment of 11 individuals and one infant and the re-enrollment of two individuals into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Enrollment Ordinance and Tribal Constitution.

Tribal Council also approved the agenda for the Sunday, Jan. 2, General Council meeting, which was held at 11 a.m. on Zoom and featured a presentation by the Education Department.

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

# Award winning



**Smoke Signals recently received the eight awards it won in the 2021 Native American Journalist Association annual contest for work published in 2020. Smoke Signals was recognized as the fourth best Tribal newspaper in its category with an honorable mention in the General Excellence competition. Smoke Signals photojournalist Timothy J. Gonzalez received second- and third-place awards in the Best Photo of Native America category for his photographs of snow falling on the Visionaries statue and geese flying over the West Valley Veterans Memorial, respectively. He also received an honorable mention in the same category for photos of Tribal members participating in a Black Lives Matter protest that was held in Dallas. Tribal member Kamiah Koch, who is Smoke Signals’ social media/digital journalist, received a third-place award in the Radio/Podcast Best Feature Story category for her podcast about the Grand Ronde community garden. She also received first- and second-place awards in the TV Best News Story category for her reports posted on YouTube about the proposed site of a new Grand Ronde gaming facility in Wood Village and the Tribe hosting a fire camp in September, respectively. Tribal member Justin Phillips, who is Smoke Signals’ page designer, received a second-place award in the Best Layout category.**

## 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. ■

**Temporary Change In Services for Optometry**

Effective October 19, 2021 through February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Health and Wellness Center will be open for glasses, adjustments to glasses and contact lens orders only, as follows:  
Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm, Friday 8am to 2:30 pm Please call to schedule a time (503) 879-2097

For patients with Shasta, we would like to coordinate services at Dallas Vision Clinic (503) 623-9233 and Central Vision Clinic in Monmouth (503) 838-1244 or you can go to an optometry provider of your choice. It will be important to take your Shasta Card to your appointment to verify coverage.

If you have a current prescription for glasses or contacts, you may be able to bring your prescription here to be filled. Please contact our optometry department with questions (503) 879-2097. For eye drop refills, please contact our pharmacy at (503) 879-2342.

**INTERESTS**

**SKILLS**

**WORK CONDITIONS**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**

*find your path* **CTGR TEMP POOL**

**ELIGIBILITY**

- **AGE REQUIREMENT**  
Candidates must be at least 18 years in age.
- **TRIBAL PREFERENCE**  
Tribal Preference applies. However, nonTribal candidates can be considered based on business need, certifications and skills required.
- **AVAILABILITY**  
Most positions work Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Part-time and full-time work is available. Specific schedules will be communicated upon job placement. Candidates will be expected to adhere to work and schedule requirements.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE MULTIPLE **CAREER PATHS?**

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*The CTGR Temp Pool was designed to fill the immediate staffing needs of CTGR Programs, and provides opportunities for participants to explore Part-Time and Full-Time job placement opportunities throughout the campus.*

*We often have opportunities in the Health & Wellness Clinic, Social Services, Facilities, Human Resources, TERO, Housing, the MAT Clinic in Salem, Adult Foster Care, and many more.*

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**ELDERS NEED COMPUTER HELP?**

We have a group that will come in and work with you one-on-one.

We ask you bring your own device so they can work with you on it.

Classes will start after the first of the year.

If you are interested, please contact Kristy Criss-Lawson @ 503-879-2018.

\*If transportation is an issue, please let us know upon calling.



# General Council briefed on Education Department

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

Education Department Manager Angela Fasana briefed Tribal members on the department's various programs and accomplishments during a Sunday, Jan. 2, General Council meeting held via the Zoom video conferencing application.

During the meeting, Fasana discussed the methods and challenging aspects of continuing to effectively deliver services during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the changes the Education Department has undergone in the past year and its future goals.

"I am really excited to share everything the Education Department has done this past year and I'm honored to work with such an amazing group of people," she said. "They managed a very difficult situation and brought the best education services they could to the membership."

Fasana described 2021 as a "rollercoaster ride."

"We re-opened in March, closed for a bit during the summer and we're back in person now," she said. "We are still in COVID-19 response and have been very busy with grant applications. ... We have also done a lot of employee support, as it has been a difficult year. We are supporting the health and wellness of our employees."

Fasana said the Education Department had undergone a reorganization during the past year and revamped Youth Education.

"We had too many functions in Youth Ed and because we were doing so many things, we were struggling," she said. "We created a new department, Youth Enrichment, and moved curriculum development to Youth Ed and career development to the Higher Education Department."

Fasana also provided an overview of the Early Childhood, Youth and Higher Education programs, as well as an update on the new



Angela Fasana

Youth Enrichment and Chinuk Language programs.

Some of the highlights included:

- There are 55 students in five pre-school classrooms and 29 students in the home-based program. Current instruction is done in person, although there have been some closures this year with a switch to virtual learning. A child care feasibility study is currently underway, with phase one complete. Other priorities include grant management, staffing and safe outdoor celebrations such as pre-school graduation.
- The Chinuk Language program has substantially increased enrollment from 50 to 70 students. Attendance at the middle/high school program has more than doubled. There are 12 students in the preschool class, 16 in the kindergarten to third-grade class, 36 in the middle/high school classes and six in the community class.
- Youth Education serves 215 students who utilize virtual and in-person academic coaches and advisers, as well as a Shawash Studies class co-taught by Guided Study/Credit Recovery Teacher Adam Langley and Children and Family Support Service Specialist Zoe Holsclaw. It focuses on historical and contemporary Native American issues, culture and language, especially as it relates to the Grand Ronde Tribe, and the resiliency of Native peoples as a whole. It is offered to all Willamina High School students, regardless of Tribal affiliation. Additionally, Tribal member Cheyanne Heidt was hired as the curriculum development specialist in September.
- Youth Enrichment continues its highly popular hihi-lakhaset (fun

boxes) activity project, which continues to serve hundreds of students every month, both locally and out of the area. Youth Enrichment employees have created a YouTube channel with a variety of videos to accompany the boxes. Employees also host summer programming, Native clubs, summer youth employment and a youth sponsorship program.

- Higher Education currently has 84 students in bachelor degree programs, 40 in graduate degree programs, 78 in community college programs, 14 in non-credit classes, five enrolled in GED programs and 22 students in education/career coaching.
- The library provided 27 packets for youth in foster care and continues its popular seasonal literacy programs. It also provides after school programming, curbside check-outs for books and DVDs, as well as mobile library services for those who cannot do curbside pickup.

Fasana said that goals for 2022 include literacy, emergency management, records management and outreach. To learn more about the Education Department, visit [grandronde.org/services/education](http://grandronde.org/services/education).

Fasana took 13 questions and comments from the online audience. Tribal Council member Michael Cherry said the outreach services offered by the department,

such as academic coaching, were even more important during the pandemic.

"I want to commend you and your staff for the services you provide," she said. "Now more than ever, the outreach portion is so important to our youth."

In other action, Spirit Mountain Casino General Manager Bruce Thomas gave an impromptu update on various casino projects, including a newly opened Italian restaurant, Amore, formally known as The Legends. There are discussions underway to add other restaurants to the casino's offerings in 2022 as well.

It was announced that the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at a location to be determined, with a program report from the Natural Resources Department.

Door prize winners were Simone Auger, Perri McDaniel, Kateri Marufo, Veronica Gaston and Shawn Haggerty, \$50 each; and Joanna Brisbois, Val Alexander and Jesse Norton, \$100 each.

The Elders Committee election results were also announced, with Daniel Hamm, Linda Brandon and Tammy Cook being elected to the committee.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

## 'I hope to bring a sense of collaboration to the job'

TRIBAL COURT  
continued from front page

She has an associate degree and paralegal certification from College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif., and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Western Oregon University in Monmouth.

Tribal Court handles civil cases, such as name changes and housing appeals, and juvenile cases that include adoption, abuse and guardianship. It also offers programs including the Tribal Member Review Board, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Peacemaker Program, Indigent Defense and Tribal Bar.

In 2020, Tribal Court saw 18 new cases filed, conducted 83 hearings, issued two marriage licenses and notarized 68 documents.

"I hope to bring a sense of collaboration to the job," Branson says. "I am team-oriented and I feel staff members should work together as a team to serve the Tribal community to the best of our ability. Let's see what is working well and what we can do better."

She says Julie Boekhoff, who served as the interim court administrator while the position was vacant, has been the "go-to" person for her. Former Court Administrator Angela Fasana, who developed and ran the department for many years, also has been helpful.

Short-term goals for her first year include learning about Tribal

policies, procedures and ordinances, getting familiarized with the different lawyers who practice in the court and cross-training other Tribal Court employees.

"I think of it as a puzzle," Branson says. "First you have to get your border done. Once that is completed, then you can work at filling out the middle."

Long-term goals included possibly adding other programs to the court's offerings, getting away from "snail mail," having more communications via secure e-mail and including remote services for Tribal members who have trouble appearing in person.

"I am a public servant at heart who strives to make a difference," Branson says. "I am inspired by the CTGR Mission Statement & Vision as well as the people values, and look forward to working collaboratively as a team with court staff as well as with community partners."

Branson resides in McMinnville with her husband, Danny, and dog, Rocco. She has two children, Tyler, 25 and Lexi, 23. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, photography, puzzles, crosswords, camping and family outings at the beach. She is also passionate about animal rescue, especially dogs, and advocates for elimination of high-kill shelters and encourages pet owners to spay or neuter their animals.

Branson can be reached at shawn.branson@grandronde.org or at 503-879-4596. ■



## 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!





Photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Spirit Mountain Casino is hosting a vaccine clinic starting on Saturday, Jan 15. It will be one of four sites hosting high-volume clinics in Oregon.

# Casino clinic will be located in the red lot

SITE continued from front page

people do not need to have health insurance. Oregonians age 18 or older are eligible for booster shots six months after a second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or two months after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Boosters provide added protection from serious illness from COVID-19 and its multiple variants. The casino clinic will be located in the red lot, which is the parking

lot closest to the highway and was formally dedicated to valet parking. All testing and vaccinations will be administered by Department of Human Services employees. "Signage will be onsite to direct traffic," Huffman said. "This clinic will be a walk-up venue that conducts COVID testing as well as COVID vaccinations." For more information about vaccination clinics and providers near you, visit GetVaccinated.Oregon.gov or visit the Oregon Health Authority's webpage on available clinics across the state. ■

# Vaccine mandate was announced in September

MANDATE continued from front page

stabilized their ability to conduct business," George said. George said that before the mandate, the casino was seeing dozens of people out sick or quarantined because of COVID-19, but now only five or fewer people are out sick or being quarantined for COVID-19. The vaccine mandate was announced in early September and employees were given a 40-day window in which to get vaccinated or lose their jobs. At the time, 54 percent of the casino's 934 employees were vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus while the Tribal government reported that more


than 85 percent of its employees were vaccinated. The vaccine mandate prompted a small protest in front of Spirit Mountain Casino on Friday, Sept. 10. Meanwhile, the Tribal government said that the Health & Wellness Clinic was tracking 25 active cases of COVID-19 as of Jan. 5, 2022. There were 12 new positive cases reported as the state of Oregon was experiencing its highest number of cases ever because of the new, highly transmissible omicron variant. Total, the Tribe has conducted 4,014 tests with 282 positives for a 6.8 percent positivity rate. It also has administered 22,307 vaccinations. ■

POLK COUNTY WIC

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503-623-8175 Ext 2297



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

CTGR EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Posted January 14, 2022

Job#	Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Date Posted	Closing Date
1445	Tribal Court Volunteer – Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)				09/24/21	Until Filled
1446	Tribal Court Volunteer – Tribal Member Review Board				09/24/21	Until Filled
1489	Dental Assistant (UPDATED)	7	\$19.60/hr.	\$25.42/hr.	05/14/21	Until Filled
1520	Tribal Engineering Associate	14	\$79,431.66/yr.	\$101,890.31/yr.	09/03/21	Until Filled
1537	Community Health/Adult Foster Care Manager	15	\$85,766.70/yr.	\$112,005.60/yr.	07/30/21	Until Filled
1541	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	20	\$132,948.33/yr.	\$179,793.83/yr.	07/30/21	Until Filled
1543	Physician	25	\$198,820.72/yr.	\$289,247.17/yr.	08/06/21	Until Filled
1558	Certified Medical Assistant – On-Call	8	\$21.56/hr.	\$27.90/hr.	08/20/21	Until Filled
1561	Plan Builder – SHASTA Redmond, OR				08/27/21	Until Filled
1571	AFC Caregiver – Grave Shift *	7	\$19.60/hr.	\$25.42/hr.	09/24/21	Until Filled
1572	Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – On-Call	5	\$16.53/hr.	\$21.10/hr.	09/24/21	Until Filled
1588	Shelter Advocate	10	\$26.08/hr.	\$33.65/hr.	11/05/21	Until Filled
1589	CFS Caseworker	11	\$59,678.19/yr.	\$76,856.89/yr.	11/05/21	Until Filled
1592	Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem (UPDATED)	10	\$54,252.90/yr.	\$69,982.47/yr.	11/12/21	Until Filled
1593	AFC Caregiver On-Call *	7	\$19.60/hr.	\$25.42/hr.	11/19/21	Until Filled
1594	Certified Nursing Assistant – AFC *	7	\$19.60/hr.	\$25.42/hr.	11/19/21	Until Filled
1603	Salmon Recovery Coordinator	13	\$72,210.60/yr.	\$92,742.20/yr.	12/10/21	Until Filled
1606	Clinical Manager - Salem	14	\$79,431.66/yr.	\$101,890.31/yr.	12/17/21	Until Filled
1610	Language Preservation Specialist	9	\$23.71/hr.	\$30.64/hr.	12/17/21	Until Filled
1611	Chinuk Wawa Assistant Teacher	8	\$21.56/hr.	\$27.90/hr.	12/17/21	Until Filled
1612	Chinuk Wawa K-5 Teacher	10	\$54,252.90/yr.	\$69,982.47/yr.	12/17/21	Until Filled
1613	Certified Application Assister/PRC Assistant	7	\$19.60/hr.	\$25.42/hr.	12/23/21	Until Filled
1617	Firefighter/EMT	10	\$54,252.90/yr.	\$69,982.47/yr.	01/07/22	Until Filled
1618	Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$59,678.19/yr.	\$76,856.89/yr.	01/07/22	Until Filled
1619	Firefighter Entry Level	8	\$44,837.10/yr.	\$58,040.18/yr.	01/07/22	Until Filled
1621	Central Telephone Receptionist – On-Call	4	\$16.00/hr.	\$19.23/hr.	01/07/22	Until Filled
1622	Administrative Assistant – Clinic	8	\$21.56/hr.	\$27.90/hr.	01/07/22	Until Filled
1624	Secretary - Part Time	6	\$18.19/hr.	\$23.15/hr.	01/14/22	01/20/22
1625	Optometry Receptionist	6	\$18.19/hr.	\$23.15/hr.	01/14/22	01/20/22
1616	Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	01/06/22	01/05/23

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde offers generous benefits and competitive pay.




\$500 Hire-On Bonus - AFC Positions \*

Caregivers and CNA's Hired after December 23, 2021, are eligible when employed for 30 days.

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

- Grand Ronde Tribal members.
  - (Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they meet the minimum qualifications of the position during the course of the interview process will be given first consideration for hire and the recruitment process will end)
- Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children and current regular employees.
- External candidates.



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
EVS Floor Technician	1/13/2021	\$18.29/hr.
Surveillance Agent I	1/13/2022	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Surveillance Technician II	1/13/2022	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Surveillance Technician III	1/13/2022	\$23.24/hr. DOE
Assistant Food & Beverage Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Baker	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Banquet Server (FT & PT On-Call)	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. DOE + Tips
Bar Porter	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Bartender – Outlets	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. DOE + Tips
Casino Beverage Waitstaff	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. + Tips
Cleaning Attendant	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr.
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Dish Machine Operator (Full-Time & Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Food Runner	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
IT Systems Administrator	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Lodge Room Attendant (Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Maintenance Technician (Limited Duration)	Until Filled	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Mountain View Sports Bar Waitstaff (FT & PT)	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. DOE + Tips
Prep Cook	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Revenue Auditor I	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE
Security Officer I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Security Officer II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Senior Audit Services Advisor	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Sports Bar Bussperson	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Surveillance Monitor	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. + Tips
Water/Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor	Until Filled	\$27.89/hr. DOE

Due to the nature of the interactions with other employees and the public we serve, Spirit Mountain Casino employees are required to provide documentation of receiving their first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine at time of hire and must have second shot of vaccine within 45 days of hire and booster vaccines are required.

**\$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions**

**\$500 Referral Bonus**

**SMC & CTGR Employees**

**EMPLOYEE REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- The candidate referred must be a first time SMC employee
- The candidate must list the referring employee's name on his/her application prior to being hired
- The New Hire must successfully complete 90 days of employment for 50% Payout to referring employee, and 180 days for Final Payout to referring employee, and the referring Employee must still be employed with SMC at the time the bonus is due.

**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

✓ Positions are offered depending on experience (DOE) within the range

✓ SMGI adheres to a Tribal hiring preference policy for enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.

✓ Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.

✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

✓ **\*\* Applicants that are hired for this position may be eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus \*\***

✉[employmentteam@spiritmtn.com](mailto:employmentteam@spiritmtn.com) <https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>

Call (503) 879-2109 for application assistance.

# 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 repackaging them in a zip-lock plastic bag. Tribal Police employees cannot handle the medications so the person dropping them off must repackaging 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. ■



# Beer is limited with only one batch brewed

**BEER continued  
from front page**

a “Native Land” beer with their respective land-acknowledgment labels through March.

Bow & Arrow Brewing’s website says that to participate, each brewery has to research which Tribe’s ancestral lands their brewery sits on and commit to donate proceeds to an Indigenous organization.

The website also states the objective of the “Native Land” project is to “further visibility of Native people and to generate resources to support Native organizations whose work focuses on ecological stewardship and strengthening Native communities.”

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier calls himself as a beer enthusiast and hopes the beer label recognizing Grand Ronde will help make the Tribe’s name more familiar.

“What I want to see is more public awareness – not just in Oregon but around the country – of the people that came before and the role the land played in their lives, cultures and histories,” Mercier said. “If this helps, then that’s a good thing.”

Ruse Brewing co-owner and brewer Devin Benware said he has been

a fan of Bow & Arrow Brewing and follows them on the social media app Instagram. When he saw the “Native Land” project posted online, Ruse Brewing quickly signed up to participate.

“We know white European people were not the first people here,” Benware said. “We are trying to learn about the people who were here before us. As little as it is, we are just trying to do something.”

Benware also said that for years he has been encouraged to make a beer that acknowledges Native Americans and their homelands by his best friend who grew up on a Reservation. When this collaboration came up, Benware thought it was perfect and said he was thinking of his friend while crafting the beer.

Ruse Brewing’s “Native Land” beer is limited with only one batch brewed, equaling around 2,500 cans and 16 to 20 kegs. It was being served at The Bitter Monk taproom in downtown McMinnville over the Jan. 8-9 weekend.

“We are a pretty small brewery. We mostly sell our beer in our taproom. Especially with beers like this, we will try to sell as much as possible out of the taproom because we make the most margins that

way so we can have the most money to give back,” Benware said.

Mercier said he thinks the craft beer culture is a defining characteristic of Oregon, but acknowledges alcohol addiction is prevalent in Tribal communities.

“I think there is a little reluctance from the Tribe because of Tribal peoples’ history with alcohol,” Mercier said. “So while this is great and I will continue to be a beer enthusiast, I can’t give an interview like this without acknowledging alcohol hasn’t always been kind to Native people and continues to be a problem in Indian Country.”

The Tribe was not involved in Ruse Brewing’s collaboration, Communications Director Sara Thompson said.

“We became aware of it in late December when they reached out about donating and have not received a donation yet,” Thompson said in an e-mail.

Benware said once all the beer is sold and the final amount is tallied, Ruse Brewing will make the donation. He also hopes his brewery will inspire larger Portland breweries to participate in the “Native Land” beer project.

“Hopefully by the time our beer is sold through, there will be a couple of breweries that will jump on,” Benware said. “I hope the breweries that are going to do it after us are a little bigger as well. We hope our little tiny brewery can help get some of these bigger guys to put it up.” ■


## Community Shred Event set for April 25

The next Community Shred Event, just in time for spring cleaning, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, April 25.


People are asked to remove paper clips and binder clips from the documents they want shredded.

The location of the event and more details will be announced soon.

For more information, contact Kim Mueller at [kim.mueller@grandronde.org](mailto:kim.mueller@grandronde.org). ■



# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



**Thursday, Dec. 16**

- Possession of methamphetamine arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Friday, Dec. 17**

- Assist outside agency in the 900 block of West Main Street in Sheridan.
- Fraud reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Domestic disturbance reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug complaint reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Saturday, Dec. 18**

- Responded to an alarm in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Crash reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Assisted outside agency in the 24900 block of Yamhill River Road.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- 911 hang-up reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Sunday, Dec. 19**

- Assisted outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Traffic assist occurred in the area of milepost 27 on Highway 18.
- Traffic assist occurred in the area of milepost 1 on Highway 22.

**Monday, Dec. 20**

- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of milepost 1 on Gold Creek Access Road.
- Driving complaint received in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Fort Hill and Hall roads.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 8900 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Tuesday, Dec. 21**

- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 20 on Highway 22.
- Warrant arrest occurred in the area of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.
- Possession of heroin case in the area of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.

**Wednesday, Dec. 22**

- Citizen contact occurred in the 48600 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Open door reported in the 25300 block of Blue Jay Court.
- Trespass arrest occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Thursday, Dec. 23**

- Assisted outside agency in the 25300 block of Blue Jay Court.
- Assisted outside agency in the 28800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Illegal parking reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

- Driving complaint reported the area of milepost 11 on Highway 22.
- Welfare check performed in the 9700 block of Tilixam Circle.

**Friday, Dec. 24**

- Trespass reported in the area of Agency Creek and Wind River Road.
- Driving complaint received in the area of milepost 6 on Highway 18.
- Property found in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Sex offense reported in the 9700 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Crash occurred in the area of milepost 14 on Highway 18.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Hebo and Old Fort roads.
- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Saturday, Dec. 25**

- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespass reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assisted outside agency in the area of the Gold Creek Access Road.
- Assisted outside agency in the 55700 block of Hebo Road.
- Civil complaint reported in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

**Sunday, Dec. 26**

- Unattended death reported in the 9700 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Assisted outside agency in the area of Highway 22 and Red Prairie Road.
- Criminal mischief reported in the 24600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Property found in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Assisted outside agency in the 29700 block of Edison Drive.

**Monday, Dec. 27**

- Theft reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- DUII arrest occurred in the 28400 block of McPherson Road.
- Property found in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving complaint received in the Lincoln City area.
- Driving complaint received in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Tuesday, Dec. 28**

- Welfare check performed in the 25000 block of Coyote Court.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the area of Hebo and Old Fort roads.
- Traffic assist performed in the area of milepost 26 on Highway 18.
- Suspicious vehicle reported in the 25500 block of Yamhill River Road.
- Suspicious person reported in the 25500 block of Yamhill River Road.

**Wednesday, Dec. 29**

- Assisted outside agency in the area of milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- Assisted outside agency in the 54900 block of Hebo Road.
- Assisted outside agency in the 51000 block of Hebo Road.
- Missing person reported in the 36000 block of Highway 18.
- Welfare check performed in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police  
Department Officer Tyler Brown.





## Watchlist: ‘Why the U.S. Army tried to exterminate the bison’

*(Editor’s note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those myriad videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)*

**By Kamiah Koch**  
*Smoke Signals social media/digital journalist*

Vox published an eight-minute video on July 30, 2021, in which a picture taken in 1890 shows four American soldiers posing on a porch with eight severed bison heads.

The video is called “Why the U.S. Army tried to exterminate the bison” and the narrator explains the picture was intended to depict the soldiers as “heroic defenders of an endangered and beloved American icon.” In reality, the picture and the narrative told in American history contradicts the United States’ deliberate extermination of bison as an assimilation tactic used against Native Americans.

The Vox video shows a timeline of the bison population significantly decreasing from 1800 to 1889, with just a few hundred left roaming the Plains. Overlaying the bison population, Vox shows the area inhabited by the Plains Tribes.

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes and a lecturer at California State University San Marcos, says the bison were an important resource for the people of the northern and southern Plains.

“There is absolutely everything about the buffalo that makes this animal central to these cultures,” Gilio-Whitaker says in the video.

Native Americans of that area were reliant on the bison’s meat, its hides for dwellings, fur for warmth and bones for tools. Removal of Native Americans from the land and replacing them with white settlers was central to the ideology many in America believed called “manifest destiny.”

As a tactic to eradicate the Natives, the United States devised a plan of eliminating their most important resource. By the end of the 1800s, almost no bison were left and Native people were forcefully moved onto Reservations.

In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established and the remaining bison roamed the park as a refuge.

“The same U.S. government that had driven the animal to near extinction in the first place now positioned itself as the guardian of the endangered species,” the video narrator says. “The U.S. Army who occupies Yellowstone in the early years patrolled the park for bison hunters.”

At the time of the video’s publication, Yellowstone National Park’s website still attributed the saving of the American bison from extinction as the work of the Yellowstone soldiers, when in reality history tells a different story.

On Nov. 18, 2021, the U.S. Senate approved the first Native American director for the National Park Service, Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III.

To watch this video, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHENn-P11HC0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHENn-P11HC0) or find it in the playlist “Watchlist” on the *Smoke Signals* YouTube channel. ■



## Interior sets consultations on infrastructure law

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Interior will hold nation-to-nation consultations with Tribes as it implements the Infrastructure Law and will invest more than \$13 billion directly into Tribal communities across the country to replace aging infrastructure, expand access to clean drinking water and ensure that Tribes have access to high-speed Internet service.

“The law is an unprecedented investment in Indian Country that will ensure that future generations have clean air, drinkable water, fertile soil and an overall quality of life that is currently threatened by the worsening climate crisis,” Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said. “Tribal leaders know best the needs of their people. It is critical that Tribes continue to be at the decision-making table as we implement this historic opportunity.”

The consultations will take place Wednesday, Jan. 26, through Friday, Jan. 28, and focus on climate resilience programs, water infrastructure and drought resilience, water rights settlement investments, wildfire resilience programs, ecosystem restoration and legacy pollution programs.

Tribes also can submit written comments by Feb. 4.

The Interior Department received \$466 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for infrastructure projects and climate resiliency, as well as \$2.5 billion to help fulfill pre-existing settlements on Indian water rights claims. ■

## Yamhill County commissioners support Grand Ronde bill

MCMINNVILLE – The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners voted to support a bill in the U.S. Senate that would restore ancestral hunting and fishing rights to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde on Thursday, Jan. 6.

Commissioners briefly considered a letter of support on Dec. 23, but postponed a decision to allow two of the three members to learn more about the issue. They then unanimously approved sending a letter.

Senate Bill 3126 would make it legal for the Grand Ronde Tribe to amend the restrictive, permanent agreement that was written into law when its Reservation was created in the late 1980s.

Grand Ronde and the nearby Siletz Tribe are the only Tribes that still have consent decrees, which were agreed to to gain support for their Restoration efforts and the subsequent push to obtain Reservation lands.

The bill is sponsored by U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and would give the Tribe an opportunity to renegotiate the agreement with the state and federal governments.

“It is a historic travesty and injustice that the Siletz and Grand Ronde were forced to give up their traditional hunting and fishing rights as the price to restore their Reservations,” Merkley said. “The injustice is now enshrined in federal law, and it’s long past time to get it out so that the Siletz and Grand Ronde can finally exercise their traditional hunting and fishing rights.” ■

*Includes information from the Yamhill County News-Register.*

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# Baker Technical Institute

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**February 21-22, 2022**

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**Fall Protection**

**Confined Spaces**



**March 4, 2022**

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## PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE OPEN FOR COMMENT

Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a First Reading at the Dec. 1, 2021, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments will add (1) the ability for the Tribe to license dogs; (2) parking violations for safety of the community; (3) additional violations that will allow the Tribal Police to impound or tow a vehicle; and (4) other minor and/or technical changes.

Tribal Council invites comments on the proposed amendments to the Public Safety Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, or by e-mail to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org).

**Comments must be received by Jan. 15, 2022. ■**

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<https://www.grandronde.org/services/member-services/>

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



## 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 101 and CW 102.  
2. In September, students may enroll via Continuing Education for no credit 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



## IF YOU LOVE SCHOOLS, LAYER UP

Layered health and safety measures like getting vaccinated, wearing face coverings and improved airflow and circulation, can keep Oregon school doors open through the challenges of COVID-19 this winter. Learn more at [Oregon.gov/readyschools](https://Oregon.gov/readyschools).



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# 'Sharing holiday cheer'

The Royalty participants for the CTGR and Veterans SEB groups shared their holiday cheer by donating toys and food, cooking or baking for others, creating cards, and volunteering at our local food bank.

The collections also can be found at [www.facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty](http://www.facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty) and [www.facebook.com/CTGRVeteransSEB](http://www.facebook.com/CTGRVeteransSEB).



## SEASON OF GIVING

Spreading Holiday Cheer:



The joyful and generous attitude during the holidays.





This year we made Christmas ornaments, necklaces and keychains for our Adult Foster Care to spread holiday cheer.



Willow Squetinkin  
Tiny Tot  
2021/  
2022



## SEASON OF GIVING

We spread holiday cheer by helping those in need so we donated to our local food bank.

Aubrey Campbell  
Little Miss Princess

Kalea Liebelt  
Veterans Junior Queen

Nacoma Liebelt  
Veterans Warrior



## SEASON OF GIVING



2021/2022



Ila Mercier  
Little Miss Grand Ronde • 2021/2022

This is how I celebrate Chanukah. We eat a traditional food, called latkes and we dip them in apple sauce. We also make cookies and decorate them to share with friends.



## SEASON OF GIVING





## SEASON OF GIVING



We love to cook for others, everyone's happy when they have a full belly.




Sophia Catron  
Tiny Tot &  
Satara Blanchard  
Junior Miss Princess  
2021/2022



## SEASON OF GIVING

Every year my sister and I help my mom shop for the tree of giving.



Desirae Hernandez  
Little Miss Princess  
2021/2022



SEASON OF GIVING

We write and send letters and cards to our family. We make pretty drawings and cards to show our love and spread holiday cheer.

Ulali Quenelle  
Tiny Tot &  
Marie Quenelle  
Junior Miss  
Grand Ronde






Leloo Quenelle  
Veterans  
Little Miss  
Queen



2021/2022



My favorite way to spread holiday cheer is to sponsor a tree of giving tag. My family sponsors two, and both royalty groups sponsor 4 together. The holidays are about giving back to your community and this is a perfect way to do that. I hope you all have happy holidays.

SEASON OF GIVING

THIS YEAR I GIFTED MY TWO LITTLE COUSINS PRESENTS FOR CHRISTMAS. HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS!



TASINA BLUEHORSE  
VETERANS SENIOR QUEEN  
2021/2022



Kaleigha Simi  
Senior Miss Grand Ronde • 2021/2022



# Grand Ronde Royalty

- If you are interested in participating in the 2022-23 Grand Ronde Royalty please take the following steps:
- 1) E-mail [chelsea.clark@grandronde.org](mailto:chelsea.clark@grandronde.org) with name and address so we can send you the application.
    - a. Return to: CTGR Royalty c/o Tribal Council  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
  - 2) Complete the application with a parent and/or sponsor and return before April 1, 2022.

Participating in Royalty is an excellent opportunity for Tribal youth to learn our traditions, powwow protocol and public speaking. Participants represent the Tribe by attending various community events and powwows where we also work with the Veterans Special Event Board (Veterans SEB) Royalty participants.

Serving on Royalty requires a considerable commitment from the participant and their parents and/or sponsor. Royalty participants (including parent or sponsor) must attend all required events and activities: organizational meetings, powwows, parades, fundraisers and more. We encourage all Tribal youth ages 4-18 to join.

Participants must be within the following age categories by Aug. 1, 2022:

- Warriors: 4-18 years of age
- Tiny Tot (Honorary): 4-6 years of age
- Little Miss Grand Ronde: 7-10 years of age
- Junior Miss Grand Ronde: 11-13 years of age
- Senior Miss Grand Ronde: 14-18 years of age

- General Requirements:
- 1. Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member
  - 2. Must be drug-, alcohol- and tobacco-free
  - 3. Attend school regularly and be in good standing
  - 4. Must be single with no dependents
  - 5. Sign and comply with Royalty Guidelines and Agreement

SEASON OF GIVING



Volunteering at Iskam Mək'Mək-Haws helps me bring cheer to others.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to all!



Anavey Smith  
Senior Miss  
Princess  
2021/2022



## Walking On...

### Barbara Ann (Niles Voutrin) Collins

June 25, 1934 – Dec. 14, 2021

Barbara Ann Collins, 87, died on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, at Briarwood Assisted Living in Rexburg, Idaho. She was born in Vancouver, Wash., and grew up in Grand Ronde, Ore.

Barbara met and married James K. Collins in Lebanon, Ore. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and enjoyed sewing, gardening and painting.

She is survived by her sisters, Grand Ronde Tribal member Nancy Wall of Grand Ronde and Marna Smeltzer of California; brothers, Verl (Hilda) Cunningham of California and Robert Niles of Missouri; children, Michelle (Larry) Weber and Debra McDonald of Salem, Ore., and Craig (Lerrina) and Brian Collins of Moore, Idaho; grandchildren, Grand Ronde Tribal member Stephanie Mercier (Chuck) Hitchcock of Gig Harbor, Wash., Ryan (Shay) McDonald of Portland, Ore., Nicole (Chris) Oxley of Tri-Cities, Wash., Jared Mikoleit of Eugene, Ore., Jacob Mikoleit of Lincoln City, Ore., Josh (Sara) Collins of Elgin, Ore., Michael and Hannah Collins of Rexburg, Idaho, Kyle Saunders of Lebanon, Ore., Koty (Erin) Saunders of Colorado and Nathaniel Collins of Moore, Idaho; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, James, and daughter, Tanja Mikoleit.

A memorial service will be held in Salem, Ore., at a later date.



### David Lee Lomboy

Oct. 12, 1969 – Jan. 3, 2022

Tribal member David Lee Lomboy, 52, walked on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. He was born Oct. 12, 1969, the son of Victor Lomboy and Hattie Chaney.

David loved to fish and hunt. He was a man of his culture. He left us far too soon. May God be with you throughout the remainder of your journey.

He is survived by his son, Ukiah Lomboy; granddaughter, Ava Lomboy; and siblings, Shane Lomboy, Victor Lomboy, Galvin Lomboy, Angela Lomboy and Rick Kelly.

May you rest in peace now in the heavens above.

Let's please say a prayer for the ones we've lost, and for those who are still suffering. God bless.

Gresham Memorial Chapel in Gresham, Ore., is assisting the family.



### Michael Thomas Michelle

March 22, 1954 – Dec. 26, 2021

Tribal Elder Michael Thomas Michelle walked on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, surrounded by his wife and family.

He was the son of Tribal member Frank Michelle and Rosemary Underwood, both deceased. Michael is survived by his love of 40 years, Adeline "Bonzo" Winishut Michelle; sister, Carol Goodnow of Washington state; brother, Richard Michelle of Grand Ronde, Ore.; and stepchildren, Carla and Tommy Gilbert. He was preceded in death by his sister, Etla Goodnow.

Michael was born March 22, 1954, in Portland, Ore. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash. He took great pride in his veteran status and served on the CTGR Color Guard for a time.

Michael was an automobile mechanic by trade, as witnessed by his Nova that carried him and Bonzo on many adventures when they lived in Portland. He was a seasonal wildland firefighter for CTGR.

Michael and family moved from Portland to Grand Ronde into the Tribe's first family housing almost 20 years ago where he was afforded the opportunity to work in Cultural Resources. He took pride in learning how to split cedar planks in anticipation of the Tribe's first plankhouse as part of the Restoration efforts. He and Richard were recently added to the CTGR Restoration Roll.

Michael was devoted to Adeline and they enjoyed old TV shows and long drives. Together they became a first family of Grand Ronde housing. Michael was always preparing a solid foundation for she and Richard should anything happen to him. He achieved that goal.

Michael was the epitome of a Rez Uncle. He was judgment free, always had time to listen to another's struggle and offer his help in all things, including telling you the truth as he knew it. He would joke around with you and tell good stories with an infectious grin. He wasn't just your friend; he was your brother and your children were his and Bonzo's nieces and nephews. He is missed.

A memorial dinner was held Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the Lighthouse Church on Grand Ronde Road. A graveside service was held Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Willamette Veterans Cemetery, 11800 S.E. Mount Scott Blvd., Happy Valley.

His headstone will read, "Hayu Masi Uncle."

### Charlotte Gray

July 8, 1944 – Jan. 2, 2022

Tribal Elder Charlotte Gray passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, at the age of 77. She is survived by her husband, James Gray; one brother, Dennis Lynch; two sisters, Jenny Jones and Cindy Diaz; and many nieces and nephews.

Charlotte was active in the Rebekah's and also her local grange. She also attended many Tribal meetings. She made Indian crafts and sold them at the casino and in the local area. She also loved the Oregon Ducks and had many stray cats along with her dogs.

The family will hold a celebration of life in July.



### Robert Allen Nagel

June 30, 1954 – Nov. 26, 2021

Tribal Elder Robert Allen Nagel was born to the late Al Nagel and Bernice Langley Nagel in Portland, Ore., on June 30, 1954. He walked on Nov. 26, 2021.

Bob graduated from John Adams High School in Portland in 1973. He is survived by his first cousins, Harold Lyon of Dayton, Ore., Dick Bigoni of Woodland, Wash., and Diane Locklear and Jim Bigoni of Portland, Ore.

He was known as "Bob" to his friends and family. He was a proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. He served on the Fish and Wildlife Committee for many years.

Bob was a chef at Jake's Crawfish in Portland for seven years. He also worked at Stuart Anderson's as a chef. For many years, Bob made home-made wine. He made apple, strawberry, grape, blackberry and many other flavors. It was called "Nagel Deblac." He shared with family and friends for years. Bob had a big heart to serve others.

Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping, and loved gathering mushrooms in the mountains. He hunted in eastern and western Oregon for many years. He was always the cook at the hunting camps. Bob and his cousins enjoyed many years together as a family hunting.

Bob was buried at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery.

### Other passings

#### Jimmie Lee Shaw

March 11, 1953 – Dec. 25, 2021

Tribal Elder Jimmie Lee Shaw walked on Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021, at the age of 68. Crown Memorial Center in Salem, Ore., is assisting the family.

At press time, no funeral service information was available.

#### Lynn Marie Mitchum

April 12, 1957 – Dec. 31, 2021

Tribal Elder Lynn Marie Mitchum passed on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, at the age of 64. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center is assisting the family.

A private graveside service will be held at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery.

#### Curtis Shawn Spence

March 27, 1969 – Dec. 26, 2021

Tribal member Curtis Shawn Spence passed on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, at the age of 52. Macy & Son Funeral Home in McMinnville, Ore., is assisting the family.

At press time, no funeral service information was available.

#### Verle Ann Kottke

Feb. 9, 1948 – Dec. 29, 2021

Tribal Elder Verle Ann Kottke, 73, passed on Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021. Keizer Funeral Chapel is assisting the family.

The family will be holding a private service and a celebration of life will be held at a later time.

#### Brenda Michelle Latimer

July 6, 1977 – Jan. 4, 2022

Tribal member Brenda Michelle Latimer passed on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at the age of 44. North Bend Chapel in North Bend, Ore., is assisting the family.

At press time, no funeral service information was available.

#### Ellen Marie Amos

Oct. 17, 1956 – Jan. 7, 2022

Tribal Elder Ellen Marie Amos passed on Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, at the age of 65. Pearson's Funeral Home in Roseburg, Ore., is assisting the family.

At press time, no funeral service information was available.





# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Prepared by JBS International, Inc., under Grant No. 5P79-1102600-0151 for the U.S. DHHS, SAMHSA, CSAT




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# SMOKE SIGNALS

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