**NOVEMBER 15, 2023** 

# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA, MOLALLA, ROGUE RIVER, KALAPUYA, CHASTA

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

# Lineal descent amendment vote on the horizon

By Dean Rhodes

 $Publications\ coordinator$ 

rand Ronde Tribal members will be voting in 2024 on a major overhaul to the Tribe's membership requirements, potentially moving away from blood quantum toward lineal descent.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier read an announcement during the Oct. 25 meeting outlining the plan.

"During a work session on Oct. 12, Tribal Council met with staff regarding the advisory votes on enrollment," Mercier said. "Based on the results of the vote, council has decided how to prioritize our work on the next constitutional election for enrollment. We will be focusing on



**Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier** 

lineal descendancy, including exploring options that will address the '99 amendment issue. Staff is already working on putting these options together."

Mercier added that Tribal Council would discuss the options during the week of Nov. 6 and plan for engagement with the membership.

In response to an online question from Tribal member Eric

Bernando, Mercier said he expected another Bureau of Indian Affairs-supervised election to occur in early 2024 after the holidays conclude. "The last time we've tried doing a constitutional amendment around Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, BIA has not always been amenable to do that," Mercier said.

During the Sept. 9 Tribal Council election, Tribal members were asked five questions regarding enrollment.

The results found that more than 70 percent of Tribal members who voted - 1,295 for a 29 percent turnout – favored changing current enrollment requirement and more than 65 percent supported moving toward lineal descendancy for enrollment.

Lineal descendancy also was the most favored

See VOTE continued on page 8

# **Kennedy receives Community Visionary Award**

By Sherron Lumley

Smoke Signals staff writer

rand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy received a standing ovation on Friday, Nov. 3, while accepting the 2023 Community Visionary Health Impact Award from Salem Health West Valley Foundation.

The award is in recognition of her distinguished career and exemplary contributions to improve health care in the region.

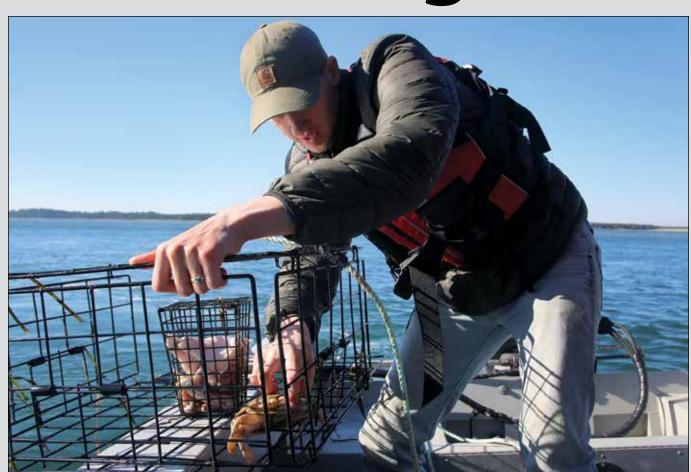
> See AWARD continued on page 9



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

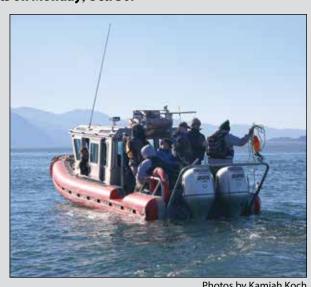
**Tribal Council Chairwoman Chervle** A. Kennedy was awarded the Salem **Health West Valley Foundation Community Visionary Health Impact** Award during the Community **Health Impact: Spotlight on Polk County event held at Western Oregon University in Monmouth on** Friday, Nov. 3.

# Harvesting crab



Tribal Dental Assistant Sam King reaches into a crab trap to release a female crab back into the water during the Grand Ronde Fish & Wildlife Committee crabbing trip in Netarts on Monday, Oct. 30.

The Tribe's Natural Resources Department employees set up traps on four boats in Netarts Bay to collect crab for harvest on Monday, Oct. 30, during the Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Committee crabbing trip. The four boats were not enough for all the Tribal members and staff who attended this year's trip. Some boats took turns switching out attendees so everyone had an experience on the water. Most of the Tribal members received their shellfish licenses through the Natural Resources Department, after a memorandum of agreement was signed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in 2022, permitting Tribal members to harvest shellfish under a special gathering permit rather than a recreational shellfish license in the Trask Hunting Unit and the ocean adjacent to the unit.



Photos by Kamiah Koch

**NOVEMBER 15, 2023 SMOKE SIGNALS** 

# **General Council meeting**

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3

Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 503-879-2304 for more information.

# NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings Wednesday, Nov. 15.....

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. In-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

# **Gas discount in Grand Ronde**

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount.

# Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

# TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday-Friday, Nov. 20-24, in observance of Restoration Day and the Thanksgiving holiday.

# ATTENTION GRAND RONDE TRIBAL MEMBERS

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE **DECEMBER 2023 PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION**

## Deadline Dates for December 2023 Per Capita

- Change of Address: Monday, November 27, 2023 BY 5 P.M.
- Change of Direct Deposit: Monday, November 27, 2023 BY 5 P.M.

## PER CAPITA DIRECT DEPOSIT

# Forms can be found:

- Online at: www.grandronde.org
- Or by contacting Kalene Contreras at 503-879-2204 or Kalene.contreras@grandronde.org

## **ADDRESS CHANGES**

## Changes can be made by:

- Calling the Member Services Department at 503-879-2116
- If you get voicemail your address will still be changed if you clearly state your:
  - Name
  - Roll #
  - Date of Birth
  - Last 4 digits of SS#
  - New Address



# smok signəlz

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**DEADLINE DATE** FRIDAY, NOV. 17.....DEC. 1 FRIDAY, DEC. 8 ......DEC. 15 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27 ...... JAN. 1, 2024

# **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

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.

Members of: ■ Indigenous Journalists Association

■ OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

■ 2022 IJA GENERAL EXCELLENCE

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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# IN THE FUTURE (khapa ałqi)

### tałlam-pi-ixt-mun (November)

- Wednesday, Nov. 15 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Saturday, Nov. 18 Holiday food box distribution, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Grand Ronde Food Bank, 9675 Grand Ronde Road.
- Sunday, Nov. 19 40th Restoration Day celebration at Spirit Mountain Casino, 26820 Salmon River Highway, Grand Ronde. Doors open at 10 a.m., meal served at 12:30 p.m., powwow begins at 5:30 p.m. publicaffairs@grandronde.org.
- Monday-Friday, Nov. 20-24 Tribal offices closed in observance of Restoration Day and the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Wednesday, Nov. 29 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

### ta†lam-pi-wakwst-mun (December)

- Friday, Dec. 1 Missing & Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Dinner, 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.
- Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1-2 Elder Committee Holiday Bazaar, Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, 8720 Grand Ronde Road. Friday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 3 General Council meeting, 11 a.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Saturday, Dec. 9 Tribal Council Holiday Party, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino, 26820 Salmon River Highway, Grand Ronde. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Dec. 13 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, Dec. 25 Tribal offices closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- Wednesday, Dec. 27 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

To stay abreast of future Tribal events, visit www.smokesignals.org/calendar.

# Find us on



# OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

## **Smoke Signals:**

facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:

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facebook.com/GRHWC

**Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:** 

facebook.com/CTGRCFS

**Grand Ronde Royalty:** 

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Grand Ronde Education Programs:

facebook.com/CTGREducation

**Grand Ronde Youth Council:** 

face book.com/CTGRY outh Council

Grand Ronde Station:

facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

**Grand Ronde Social Services Department:** 

facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices

Grand Ronde Food Bank:

face book.com/Grand Ronde Food Bank

Spirit Mountain Community Fund:

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**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:** 

facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education
Grand Ronde Community Garden:

Grand Ronde Community Garden:

facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:** 

face book.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department

Grand Ronde Employment Services

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

# Lumley joins *Smoke*Signals as staff writer

# By Sherron Lumley and Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff

Sherron Lumley joined the staff of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's award-winning newspaper *Smoke Signals* on Monday, Nov. 6, as the new staff writer for the independent publication.

Lumley brings more than 20 years of experience in news and feature writing, broadcasting and print media. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and was previously a news writer for ABC World News and North America producer for France Television.

Born in St. Helens, Ore., she began her journalism career in radio, volunteering for Oregon Public Broadcasting and writing music stories for *Willamette Week*, an alternative weekly newspaper in Portland.

She was later the editor for the *Source Weekly* in Bend, and a contributing writer for regional and local magazines. Her writing and producing includes feature stories, series and documentaries for numerous media outlets, including PBS and CNN International Radio.

The Lumley family moved to Grand Ronde from Phoenix, Ore., arriving around 1960. Her late grandparents, father and uncle made lifelong friends in the community, which helped to build the Nazarene Church on Grand Ronde Road where her grandfather was called to pastor.

"I grew up hearing legendary tales of the kindness of the people of Grand Ronde, who worked together to help each other in very difficult times," Lumley said. "It is an honor to return to the people and the place my family held so close to their hearts."

Smoke Signals is led by Danielle



**Sherron Lumley** 

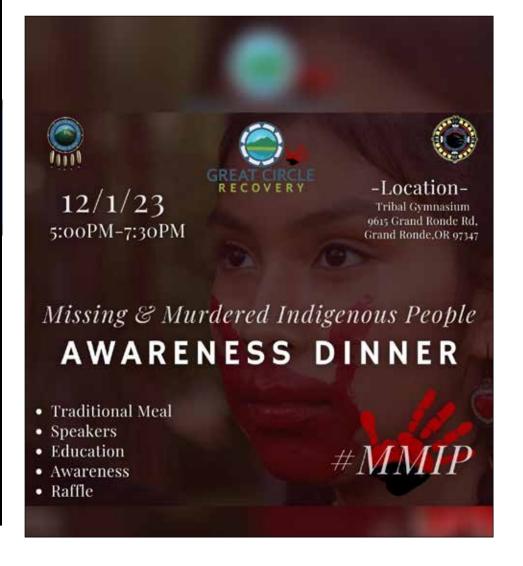
Harrison, who was promoted to editor in July, succeeding Dean Rhodes, who is retiring in January after 16 years at the helm.

"We had numerous applicants for the staff writer position at *Smoke Signals* and the entire interview panel agreed that Sherron was the ideal choice," Harrison said. "She also has a personal history in Grand Ronde. That, combined with her journalism experience, makes her a valuable addition to the news staff."

"I concur with Danielle that Sherron will be a valuable asset to the Tribe and its newspaper," Rhodes said. "She has a varied and versatile background in journalism and once she gets up to speed, I think she will help take *Smoke Signals* to the next level. In addition, it's great that her family has a history in the community. I think she will be most welcome."

In her spare time, Lumley enjoys hiking, camping, kayaking, gardening and spending time with friends and family.

She can be contacted at 503-879-1463 or via email at Sherron. Lumley@grandronde.org. ■



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# **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 November food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

Due to the Tribal offices Thanksgiving week closure Monday, Nov. 20, through Friday, Nov. 24, the normal Friday distribution will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18. There will be no Wednesday or Friday distribution during Thanksgiving week.

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

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

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

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly 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.

Contact Ambrose at fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org or call 503-879-3663 for more information or to volunteer. ■

# Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- Ceremonial Hunting Board meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshona.
- Culture Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkhmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- Editorial Board meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17, remotely via Zoom. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org.
- Education Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last 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: Carmen Robertson.
- 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. Acting Chair: Reyn Leno.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- Housing Grievance Board meets at 4 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Shayla Myrick-Meyer.
- 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 Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or danielle.harrison@grandronde.org.

# **Clothes Closet open**

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

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

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



2018 – Tribal member Bruce Thomas was hired as the Tribe's Economic Development director. Thomas was the former chief executive officer of Spirit Mountain Casino from 1993 to 2000. After leaving the casino, Thomas worked for several years for Polaris Gaming Group, which developed four Tribal casinos, two in Washington state and two in California. "This is kind of an exciting opportunity," he said. "It's working for my own Tribe and I think this is something I can do well and can help the Tribe. So I just decided to give it a shot."



2018

File photo

2013 – Tribal Council adopted a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. The new ordinance set the framework under which new Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Greg Azure would work. It also created a five-member TERO Commission, which would oversee his work and be the ordinance's enforcing regulatory body. The ordinance was designed to create more jobs suited for Tribal members.

2008 – New state rules allowed Grand Ronde Tribal members to use Tribal identification cards as proof of legal presence in the United States when trying to obtain, renew or replace a drivers license or state ID card. This meant less hassle for Tribal members, who could simply present their Tribal ID card instead of having to present a birth certificate or passport.

**2003** – Representatives from Grand Ronde and Oregon's eight other Tribes gathered at the annual government-to-government summit in Corvallis. While there for the two-day event, they met with Gov. Ted Kulongoski and other elected officials to discuss several important issues. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy attended on behalf of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

1998 – Hundreds of Tribal members, staff, Elders, Tribal Council members and elected officials flocked to the grand opening of the Tribe's Governance Center. They gathered in the main ceremonial area of the 40,000-square-foot structure to honor what represented a monument to Tribal achievements since the Tribe's Restoration 15 years before in 1983. "I never dreamed we would come this far," Tribal Council member Val Grout said. "I can remember going with my mom to the old building when they canned foods in the kitchen and there was a back room where Tribal Elders used to quilt. ... If they could see this now."

1993 – The Tribe prepared to celebrate its 10th anniversary of Restoration by looking back on accomplishments that had taken place during the previous decade. These included providing an abundance of human, financial and educational services to its membership. "People are beginning to realize this is a Tribe rooted in tradition, but its members are not afraid to consider the future of their children and Elders," an article stated.

1988 – The Tribe received several grants in the areas of administration, health and social services. The Tribal Health Department received a grant to conduct a feasibility study on establishing a health clinic in the Grand Ronde area. It included developing a funding plan, an implementation plan and schedule for the clinic. "We know there is a need for a clinic," Health Director Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "There should be a physician for every 10,000 people, but the area lacks that ratio."

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

# Funding would amend I-84 kiosks with Tribal input

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Travelers along Interstate 84 in eastern Oregon may soon see rest area informational kiosks that add a Tribal perspective about the Oregon Trail.

The 2024 fiscal year Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill that cleared the U.S. Senate includes \$220,000 for the Travel Information Council to install panels at 12 rest areas that are Tribally approved.

"The funds will be used to update the text of these kiosks to be more accurate and more comprehensively describe the landscapes and the people along the Oregon Trail – both those newly arriving as well as those who had already lived here for millennia," said Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden in a joint Nov. 2 press release.

The bill will head to the U.S. House of Representatives and if approved will then go to President Joseph Biden to be signed into law.

Both Merkley and Wyden urged the House to take up the legislation "without delay."  $\blacksquare$ 

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# Tribe seeks input for possible 2024 opening of charter school

By Katherine Warren

 $Smoke\ Signals\ staff\ member$ 

About 30 people attended a 90-minute community input meeting regarding the Tribe opening a charter school on Thursday, Nov. 9, in Tribal Council Chambers.

Curriculum and Personal Development Program Manager Justine Flynn and Shawash Academic Teacher Adam Langley were the presenters with Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez managing the ZOOM link.

The Grand Ronde Tribe has been thinking of opening its own charter school since at least 2019 when Tribal members voted in favor of the idea 643-549 during an advisory vote.

In January, Tribal Council approved a professional services agreement for a charter school feasibility study with GLAS Architects of Eugene. The firm was contracted to examine options, such as opening a kindergarten through fifth-grade or kindergarten through 12th-grade school, and also examine operational models and funding possibilities.

Flynn said there are three phases that staff have determined and provided a QR code to a survey link for community members to provide input as to what they would like to see as well as what they think about the phased process.

Phase 1 would feature kindergarten through sixth-grade students attending a full day with three full-time teachers, three assistants and one special education case manager. Flynn said the school could start teaching Tribal students as early as the 2024-25 school year with full days looking like 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first phase has its challenges, she added, such as staffing increases as well as what to do about food services.

Phase 2 would be open enrollment across kindergarten through sixth grade having one classroom per grade. Educational offerings would continue with the language/culture model with math and science instruction included and having a homeroom staff. It would require hiring four more teachers and four more assistants. The second phase also would mean expansion of food services as well as transportation.

During these two phases, Flynn said the Tribe will need to continue to push for legislation with the state of Oregon for school compacts that are



similar to Tribal compacts in Washington state. Staff are also investigating infrastructure that supports seventh- through 12th-grade students and how to support athletics whether on the Tribal campus or with a local school district, such as Willamina.

Flynn said a compact school is a model that needs to pass through state legislation and would operate similar to state-Tribal compact schools in Washington. It would authorize federally recognized Tribes to create schools through a compact with the state and the Tribe would maintain full control of the school while having guidance and regulations directly with the state.

Phase 3 is dependent on infrastructure at the Early Education building, Flynn said. The Tribe already has two staff members who teach social studies and language. The Tribe also has other departments that can help support Tribal student needs, such as Natural Resources for science and Culture for art.

The next step for Phase 1 is a survey for community members to fill out and working with the Language Program staff to plan expanded days, Flynn said.

Tribal member Peter Grout asked if the Grand Ronde Tribe was looking at partnering with other Tribes to get more footing with potential legislation?

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey said that some Oregon Tribes have a charter school and they have a contract and can't get out of it for quite some time, such as the Umatilla Tribe in eastern Oregon.

"Lisa Leno and I will be at the NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) conference and there will be Tribes from Washington so there will be people we can talk to about these issues," Harvey said.

Education Manager Angela Fasana said the Tribe is on the right path to open a charter school in September 2024. ■

# Tribal 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. ■

# Tribal Council approves sixth supplemental budget

By Danielle Harrison

 $Smoke\ Signals\ editor$ 

Tribal Council approved a sixth supplemental budget for calendar year 2023 of \$1.87 million during its Wednesday, Nov. 8, meeting to cover costs for funding the construction of five houses in the home ownership development project east of Grand Ronde Road off McPherson Road.

A lending misunderstanding affected five potential buyers, who were incorrectly notified that the Housing & Urban Development Section 184-approved lender 1st Tribal Lending would not provide loans for new construction on Grand Ronde Tribal lands despite HUD guidelines stating that new construction is eligible for the federally-backed loans.

With the Tribe approving the supplemental budget, the five homes will not be classified as "new construction" and that will streamline the lending process with 1st Tribal Lending or another approved Section 184 lender for the families seeking to own homes in the project.

The new supplemental budget, along with a \$2.326 million supplemental budget approved in August, means the Tribe will own the first 20 homes being constructed by Scholten Construction.

Interim General Manager and Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno has said that when the Tribe eventually sells the homes, the proceeds will then come back to the Tribe.

In other action, Tribal Council:Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity with Apple

Agreements so that the Tribe's

Information Systems Department can continue to use the software to manage Apple devices for the Tribe;

- Approved an application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services grant program for \$112,506 for the purchase of two visual rolling vault systems;
- Approved an application to the Oregon Department of Education Integrated Community Partnerships grant program for \$292,384 to provide funding for an academic coach, field trip costs and family literacy nights;
- Approved appointing Tiffany Keppinger to the Education Committee with a term ending on March 31, 2025;
- Approved a \$1.5 million contract with Portland general contractor Lease Crutcher Lewis for remodeling work at the Sheridan Inn, which will be converted into a residential treatment facility for Tribal members. The Tribe purchased the property for \$1.8 million in June;
- Declared a per capita payment distribution date of Tuesday, Dec. 12;
- And approved Tribal Council member Lisa Leno as a delegate to the National Congress of American Indians, all other Tribal Council members as alternates and approved annual membership dues of \$30,000.

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



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# General Council briefed on 2024 draft budget

By Danielle Harrison

 $Smoke\ Signals\ editor$ 

Finance Officer Chris Leno briefed Tribal members on the draft budget for calendar year 2024 during the Sunday, Nov. 5, General Council meeting held in a hybrid format at the Governance Center and on Zoom.

The draft budget portion of the meeting was held in executive session, which limits how much *Smoke Signals* can report on the details.

Leno's draft budget presentation ran approximately 45 minutes and he fielded 12 questions and comments regarding next year's Tribal spending plan.

Tribal members interested in obtaining the slides of Leno's presentation should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2304.

The November *Tilixam Wawa* also features a detailed look at the 2024 draft budget and adult Tribal members have until 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, to submit written comments.

The final 2024 budget will be adopted on or before Dec. 31. Written comments can be submitted to 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347; or emailed to chris.leno@grandronde.org.

In other action, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier announced that the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, with a report to be determined. The meeting will again be in a hybrid format.

Kathie Levine, Ashley Tuomi, Ron Tuomi, Catrina Palachuk and Veronica Gaston won the \$50 door prizes.

Lyliana Rideout, Andrea Knight and Darlene Aaron won the \$100 door prizes.

Ron Tuomi and Gaston donated their winnings to the Grand Ronde Food Bank.

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. ■

# Reservation Act amendment to fix Thompson strip error approved in House of Representatives vote

By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

WASHINGTON, D.C. – An amendment to the Grand Ronde Reservation Act that would fix a mistake incorporated into the act in 1994 was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, Nov. 8.

The amendment now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The Bureau of Land Management discovered a survey error on the Grand Ronde Reservation that dated back to 1871. The error was discovered after passage of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1988 that returned 9,811 acres to the Tribe.

Surveyor David Thompson had incorrectly surveyed the eastern boundary of the Reservation, leaving 84 acres unsurveyed. The land also was excluded from a 1904 sale of unallotted lands within the Reservation and Grand Ronde was not compensated for it.

Until the error was discovered, BLM treated the land as Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands and permitted private companies to harvest timber on the acreage.

After being informed of the survey error, the Grand Ronde Tribe determined the parcel, called the Thompson Strip, was unmanageable because of narrow boundaries and divided ownership interests. The Tribe agreed to accept a 240-acre parcel of grant lands adjacent to the Grand Ronde Reservation in exchange and surrender its claims to the Thompson Strip.

However, the Department of the Interior in 1994 "developed broad language that relinquished any future claims of this type within the state of Oregon" by the Grand Ronde Tribe.

House Resolution 1722 replac-

es the phrase "state of Oregon" with the phrase "84 acres known as the Thompson Strip" in the Grand Ronde Reservation Act. It also would prohibit any property obtained by the Grand Ronde Tribe as part of a land claim settlement from being used for gaming activities.

Oregon Rep. Andrea Salinas introduced legislation to fix the mistake on March 22. Her bill was co-sponsored by Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Earl Blumenauer, Val Hoyle and Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

"Today is a monumental day," Grand Ronde Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "We are grateful that the U.S. House of Representatives has helped pass legislation for the Grand Ronde Tribe that will help right this historic wrong. Words cannot express what this means to us and the gratitude that we have for Sen. Merkley and Rep. Salinas, who championed this legislation from the beginning."

The bill, if signed into law, would allow the Grand Ronde Tribe to pursue future fixes within the state if other errors are found.

In the House, the bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, which passed it out of committee to the full House in September.

A companion bill also was introduced in the Senate in March by Merkley and heard by the Committee on Indian Affairs in July.

The Committee on Indian Affairs advanced similar legislation in July 2020 and it was approved by the entire Senate. However, it was not passed by the House of Representatives and the bill died at the end of the 117th Congress.

# **Tribal trick-or-treating**



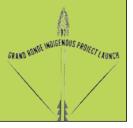
Photo by Danielle Harrison

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie, dressed as a squirrel, hands out candy to eager trick-or-treaters on Monday, Oct. 30, at the Tribal Governance Center. Approximately 75 youth participated in the annual event, which also included stops at the Tribal gym, Community Center, Youth Education, Elder Activity Center, Adult Foster Care, Housing, Tribal Police, Human Resources, Health & Wellness and Procurement. It was sponsored by the Tribe's Youth Enrichment Program.



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

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# Kotek issues Native American Heritage proclamation

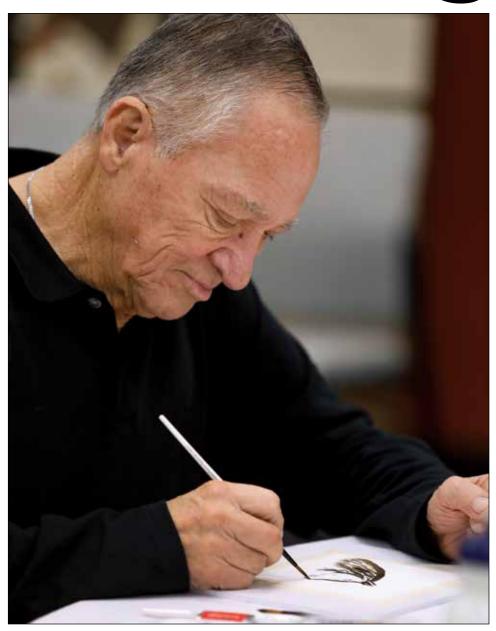
Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek issued a proclamation in honor of Native American Heritage Month in November.

The proclamation reads: "The state of Oregon recognizes the rich and diverse heritage of Native American communities who have called this land home since time immemorial; and Oregon is home to many Native peoples including the members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes: Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of (the) Grand Ronde Community, Klamath Tribes, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes are sovereign nations whose inherent rights are not only grounded in legal obligation, but represent a moral imperative that requires acknowledging the rights of Native American Tribes to self-govern and make independent decisions about the lands, laws, resources and cultural preservation; and Oregon reaffirms our commitment to support Tribal sovereignty and promote respect for the people who first called our great state home."

The proclamation was signed and dated on Tuesday, Nov. 7. ■

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# Honoring veterans



Tribal Elder and Army veteran David Leno paints a horse during the paint a picture portion of the Veterans Day Luncheon held at the Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center gym on Wednesday, Nov. 8. A lunch of elk stew, salad, fry bread and dessert was served. In addition to painting, there was a photo booth, prizes for "Best Dressed" and "Best Branch of Service" representation and

door prize drawings. About 50 people attended the event hosted by the Tribe's Tribal Veterans Service Office.









Veterans Honorary Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig, right, and Junior Miss Grand Ronde Marie Quenelle, second from right, prepare plates with salad and fry bread during the Veterans Day Luncheon. In the background, Senior Miss Grand Ronde Anavey Smith, left, and Cultural Resources Department Senior Administrative Assistant Tammy Cook, second from left, serve elk stew.



Air Force veteran Jim Wyffels of McMinnville is given his prize by Tribal Community Support Specialist Isabell Bobb, right, for being voted "Best Branch of Service" representative during the Veterans Day Luncheon.



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# Tribe held five meetings hoping for a potential resolution

VOTE continued from front page

enrollment option during the advisory votes, garnering 45 percent out of four options given.

The Tribe's preliminary 2024 budget also includes funding for a constitutional election regarding enrollment.

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When the Grand Ronde Tribe's Constitution was adopted on Nov. 30, 1984, after Restoration occurred approximately a year earlier, membership requirements were relatively straightforward.

"The membership of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon shall consist of all persons who are not enrolled as members of another recognized Tribe, band or community," it stated, adding that the person's name had to appear on the official membership roll prepared under the Grand Ronde Restoration Act and that the person must possess 1/16th or more degree Indian blood quantum from a federally recognized Tribe or Tribes and be descended from a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe.

"For purposes of this section, descent from a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon shall include lineal descent from any person who was named on any roll or records of Grand Ronde members prepared by the Department of the Interior prior to the effective date of this Constitution."

Those membership requirements, including blood quantum, held firm for 15 years until 1999. In response to an increasing number of enrollment applications prompted by the

financial success of Spirit Mountain Casino and the beginning of per capita payment distributions, Tribal members approved an amendment that restricted membership.

The biggest change was that the applicant had to be born to a parent who was a member of the Tribe at the time of their birth and who, unless they had walked on, was a member of the Tribe when the applicant filed an enrollment application.

The amendment is now viewed as the main cause of several contentious enrollment problems facing the Tribe, including split families in which siblings with the same heritage are and are not Tribal members. In 2019, Tribal voters favored resolving the split-family problem with 63.5 percent supporting an amendment, but the two-thirds majority required by the Tribal Constitution nullified the effort.

And, as Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and other Tribal Council members have cited numerous times in public meetings, Grand Ronde's enrollment problems predate Termination in 1954 and Restoration in 1983.

Indian agents employed by the federal government assigned Tribal members blood quantum amounts at their whim with little to no scientific or genealogical data to support the numbers. The Tribe inherited those blood quantum numbers when it was restored and has since then been dealing with the multi-generational problems they have created.

Earlier this year, *Smoke Signals* surveyed the enrollment requirements of 48 federally recognized

Tribes in the continental United States. Using the Department of the Interior's list of Tribes, staff searched for Tribal constitutions and enrollment ordinances on the respective Tribes' websites and found that myriad membership requirements are employed nationwide. Since Tribes are sovereign nations, they set their own criteria for membership.

Other Tribes mostly use a combination of lineal descent and blood quantum in their enrollment requirements with most required blood quantum amounts ranging from 1/4th to 1/16th.

For instance, to become a member of Oklahoma's 17,000-member Comanche Nation, an applicant must trace their ancestry back to a Tribal member who received a land allotment in 1900 and possesses 1/8th quantum of Comanche blood.

Closer to home, the 5,700-member Klamath Tribes in southern Oregon require that applicants be named on or be descended from someone on the official 1954 final roll and possess 1/8th degree or more of Klamath, Modoc or Yahooskin Indian blood.

Examples of Tribes that use direct descendancy include the 10,000-member Delaware Tribes of Indians in Oklahoma, which requires an applicant link back to an ancestor on the 1904 Pratt Roll. "Your parents and grandparents do not have to be enrolled," the Delaware Tribes' enrollment requirements state.

In Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians' Tribal code states that a person is eligible for membership if their name is on the Jan. 1, 1940, census roll or the person is a lineal descendant of a person listed on the roll. There is no

blood quantum requirement. "Nor have we ever," said Enrollment Specialist Debbie Bossley about blood quantum.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which has approximately 223,000 members, has perhaps one of the most streamlined membership requirements in its constitution. "The Choctaw Nation ... shall consist of all Choctaw Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls of the Choctaw Nation approved April 26, 1906, and their lineal descendants."

The Grand Ronde Tribe held five meetings earlier this year hoping to find consensus for a potential constitutional amendment and conducted surveys on its governmental website www.grandronde.org about going with a 4/4 proposal or lineal descent. The 4/4 blood quantum proposal was rejected by a majority of voters during the Sept. 9 election.

The Grand Ronde Constitution requires two-thirds of those who register for and cast ballots in a BIA-supervised election must approve any proposal for it to change the Tribe's governing document. An effort to remove the federal government from Tribal constitutional amendment elections was rejected by voters in 2014.

In addition to the problematic 1999 amendment, Tribal members have only agreed in sufficient numbers on two other proposals – in 2008 when they increased the relinquishment period from one to five years and in 2022 when they agreed to ban disenrollment actions unless fraud or dual enrollment can be proven.

Of the 12 constitutional amendment proposals voted on since 1983's Restoration, three have received 66.7 percent or more of the votes. ■

# MMIP commission sends recommendations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Not Invisible Act Commission, a cross jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, Tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors, sent its recommendations to the Department of the Interior, Department of Justice and Congress on Wednesday, Nov. 1. Federal responses to the commission's recommendations are due within 90 calendar days.

The commission was created by the Not Invisible Act. Its mandate was to develop recommendations on actions the federal government can take on six focused topics to help combat violent crime against Indigenous people and within Indian lands, and to address the epidemic of missing persons, and murder and trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples, as specified under the law.

"I am so grateful to the members of the Not Invisible Act Commission for the time and effort they have given to this work and this report over the past two years. Indian Country will be safer, and lives will be saved because of this commission's work," Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland said. "Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. Crimes against Indigenous peoples have long been underfunded and ignored, rooted in the deep history of intergenerational trauma that has affected our communities since colonization. I look forward to reviewing the recommendations, which will help us continue to galvanize attention and resources toward these tragic epidemics."

"These recommendations will play an important role in our shared work to address the violence Tribal communities face," Attorney General Merrick Garland said. "I am grateful to the commissioners for approaching this critical and difficult work with the urgency and thoughtfulness it deserves. The Justice Department is committed to working with the Department of the Interior, Congress, and our state, local and Tribal partners to address the commission's recommendations and respond to the public safety challenges facing American Indians and Alaska Natives."



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# Sharing soup



Genna Trejo, 7, serves herself a taste of chicken spinach dumpling soup during the Warm Your Soul Soup Share held in the Tribal Community Center on Thursday, Nov. 9. Fifteen people entered soups to share and be judged in chili, vegetarian, beef, pork or chicken categories. Entrants

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were given a \$30 gift certificate for use at Albertsons or Safeway to purchase ingredients. About 25 people attended the event and judged the soups and prizes were awarded for each category winner. The event was sponsored by the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center's Diabetes Prevention and Education Program.

# 'My interest in medicine began with my grandparents'

AWARD continued from front page

Western Oregon University President Jesse Peters presented the award during the Foundation Community Impact dinner held on the Monmouth campus.

"It was my honor to award Cheryle Kennedy the Community Visionary Health Impact Award on behalf of the Salem Health West Valley Foundation," Peters said. "Her career has been dedicated to serving the needs of her community, region and state. The work she has done to promote health within Indigenous communities, the nation of Grand Ronde, and the state of Oregon speaks to her continued commitment to the well-being of others. Her leadership is an example to us all."

The foundation supports the work of West Valley Hospital in Dallas to improve the health of people in the region it serves, including Tribal members. Focus is placed on programs and initiatives addressing community needs, fundraising for vital hospital equipment, and providing scholarships for local students to pursue health careers.

A healing garden dedicated to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde adds a peaceful place for people at the hospital to meditate and pray.

Kennedy, a former board member of the West Valley Hospital Foundation, was Tribal Health Director for 15 of her 30-year career. She has also served on the Oregon Health Board and as commissioner of the Rural Health Council of Oregon. She was named Health Administrator of the Year by the

Department of Public Health, Indian Health Service, and an Outstanding Leader in Health Care by the Oregon Department of Health.

"My interest in medicine began with my grandparents," says Kennedy. "My grandfather was a medicine man and an expert in medicinal uses of plants. My mother knew medicine through her father, and she showed me where to look for the plants that are healing. In this way, she showed me it was my calling. I do believe there is a purpose for everyone."

The Salem Health Foundation and the Salem Health West Valley Foundation awarded \$119,275 in scholarships in 2022 to 131 students from Polk County pursuing degrees in any discipline in the health field.

"I always felt very good that we were helping in the health care field, but also in these families to raise their standard of living," Kennedy said.

The Community Impact Dinner at Western Oregon was attended by leaders from Polk County and featured speaker Chris Gibbons, who delivered the keynote address "Public Health Impact on Street Fentanyl." He is the executive director of the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Tribal Council member Lisa Leno, as well as other community members, family and colleagues attended the award ceremony.

"She was the only award winner who got a standing ovation from her peers," said Leno, adding it was a "special evening and I was glad I got to witness it − I'm very proud of her." ■

# Grand Ronde Editorial Board position opening

The Grand Ronde Editorial Board, a Tribal board assigned the duty by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde ("Grand Ronde") of overseeing its independent Tribal press (*Smoke Signals*), invites applications to serve on the Grand Ronde Editorial Board. There will be one (1) open board position occurring in March 2024.

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 Indigenous Journalists Association. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred, as well as dedication to protecting and advancing a free press for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

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

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members.

Submission deadline: 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

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

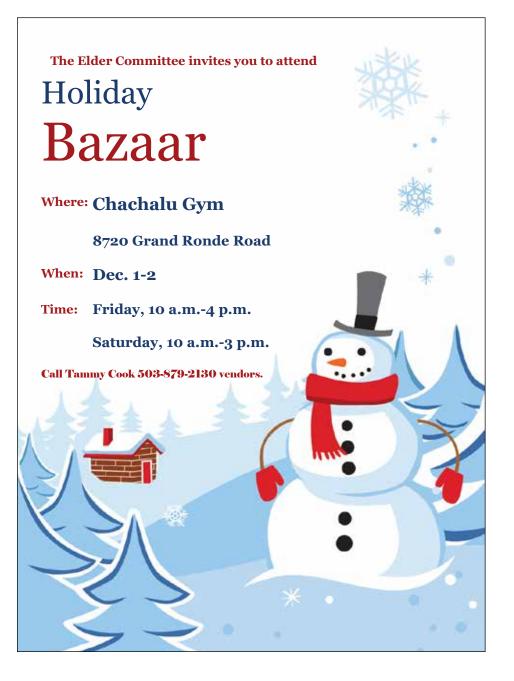
9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347 Phone: 503-879-4663

Email: editorial.board@grandronde.org

# **MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT**

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

Contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■



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# Museum pulling human remains from exhibits

**By Dean Rhodes** 

Publications coordinator

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City, with which the Grand Ronde Tribe has a 23-year-old agreement regarding Tomanowos, announced that it is removing human remains from public display, including those of Indigenous peoples.

In addition, the museum said it will change how it maintains its collection of body parts with the aim of eventually repatriating as much as it can and respectfully holding what it can't.

The museum holds about 12,000 sets of remains, including the bones of Indigenous people that were amassed in the 19th and 20th centuries by researchers looking to prove theories about racial superiority and inferiority through physical attributes.



"I think it's fair to say that none of these people set out or imagined that their resting place would be in the museum's collection. And in most of the cases, there also was a clear differential in power between those who were collecting and those who were collected."

> ~ American Museum of Natural History President Sean Decatur

Museum President Sean Decatur said the remains were acquired without clear consent of the dead or their descendants.

"I think it's fair to say that none of these people set out or imagined that their resting place would be in the museum's collection," he said. "And in most of the cases, there also was a clear differential in power between those who were collecting

and those who were collected."

The process of pulling human remains from public display will affect six of the museums galleries.

The concept that human remains and artifacts taken from other cultures should be returned is not new. In 1990, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which created a legal process for Native Tribes to recover ancestral remains from museums and other institutions. In a letter sent to museum staff, Decatur said about 2,200 sets of remains fall under that category.

In 1999, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde sought return of Tomanowos – the Willamette meteorite – through usage of the act.

In 2000, the Tribe and museum reached an agreement that kept the 15.5-ton meteorite in New York City, but provides Tribal members annual access to it for private religious ceremonies.

An estimated 870,000 Native American artifacts, including remains, that should be returned to Tribes under federal law are still in possession of colleges, museums and other institutions in 2022.

"For centuries, the bones of our ancestors have been treated as things to be studied, but the bones of our ancestors should not be kept from their relatives or locked behind glass," said Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy. "We commend our friends at the AMNH for removing all human remains from public view and applaud their continued work to return those that it can. We hope that other institutions will follow their lead and do what it right."

Other remains held by the New York City museum belong to Black people whose graves were unearthed during construction projects and those of very poor people that were used for teaching anatomy at New York City medical schools.

It's never too late to heal from addiction.

Have a courageous spirit. Reach out now, for you and your children.

# **Christmas Parade set for Dec. 6**

This year's Christmas Parade will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 6, with the gathering area near the Governance Center, said organizer Veronica Gaston. Participants should begin gathering at 5:30 p.m.

The parade route will include Elders housing, the Tribal apartments off Tyee Road, Tilixam Circle and then on to Raven Loop.

There also will be a meet-and-greet beforehand from 4 to 5 p.m. with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and Smokey the Bear.

"I want to see as many people as possible involved," she said. For more information, contact Gaston at mawich69@gmail.com. ■

# REMINDER

# TRIBAL MEMBERS ON THE TRIBAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/DISABILITY & MEDICARE PART B PROGRAMS

# IT'S TIME TO SEND US A COPY OF YOUR 2024 SOCIAL SECURITY AWARD LETTER

• If you haven't received your 2024 Social Security award letter yet, please contact the Social Security Administration at

1-800-772-1213 or online at www.ssa.gov.

Your current SSA award letter must reach our office by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, to avoid any future delays in your benefits.

Send a copy of your 2024 SSA letter to:

CTGR Member Services

Attn. Shayla Myrick-Meyer

9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Fax: 503-879-2480 - Email shayla.myrick-meyer@grandronde.org - 503-879-1364 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1364

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



# **The Confederated Tribes** of Grand Ronde

November 22, 2023



November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals



# 40 Years of Restoration



# Nov. 22, 2023, marks 40th year of Restoration

# Ruby anniversary a time to remember those who made it happen

By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

ov. 22, 2023, marks the most important day in modern Grand Ronde history: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Ronald Reagan signing House Resolution 3885, which became Public Law 98-165, the Grand Ronde Restoration Act.

President Reagan's signature officially ended 29 years of the federal government not recognizing what many Grand Ronde Tribal members knew deep in their hearts – that they were Native Americans and the federal government had responsibilities to uphold because of that status.

"The fact that the federal government doesn't extend recognition doesn't mean that you're not a Tribe, or not indeed a government," said attorney Don Wharton in a 2008 interview with *Smoke Signals*.

Or, as former Tribal Council member Reyn Leno has said many times about Grand Ronde during the Termination years, just because the federal government doesn't recognize you doesn't mean you are not Indian.

In the late 1970s, Wharton founded Oregon Legal Service's Native American Program, which assisted terminated Oregon Tribes pursuing Restoration.

"The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde existed as a Tribe and a government; they just didn't have federal recognition," he said.

At its Ruby Anniversary of Restoration, members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Spirit Mountain Casino celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in business in October 2020 and is successfully competing with another Tribal casino that is closer to the Portland metropolitan market. The proceeds from that successful gaming enterprise provide the financial foundation for important educational, health and social benefits for more than 5,600 Tribal members today.

Since the 35th Restoration celebration in 2018, the Tribe successfully navigated the COVID-19 pandemic that caused the casino to close for the first time ever. The Tribe also purchased the 23-acre Blue Heron Paper Mill site at Willamette Falls, renaming the site Tumwata Village and reclaiming land that was once a home of Tribal ancestors.

The Tribe has continued its nation building, starting a home ownership project on Tribal land east of Grand Ronde Road and



Photo courtesy of Cultural Resources Department

From left, Tribal members Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes started the Tribe's Restoration effort in the early 1970s.

taking over fire and emergency medical services for the entire West Valley area.

Culturally, the Tribe is resurgent. More and more Tribal youth participate in powwows and learn to speak Chinuk Wawa in school. There is even a Chinuk Wawa app developed to help interested Tribal members learn their language.

Tribal members young and old learn traditional crafts, such as basket weaving and making hand drums, through culture classes. Tribal youth have participated in the annual Canoe Journey experience since 2005 when they first paddled to Port Angeles, Wash.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment in the last five years is the Tribe is continuing to chip away at the consent decree that stripped it of hunting and fishing rights in the 1980s in return for state support of its Reservation Plan.

In 2014, the Tribe regained greater control over the take of fish and wildlife on Reservation and trust lands and the state Fish & Wildlife Commission voted in 2016 to allow ceremonial fishing by Tribal members at Willamette Falls.

Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center re-opened in 2018 and displayed 16 items from the long-sought-after Summers Collection held by the British Museum in London. Chachalu fulfills the longstanding goal of the Tribe telling its own story and history.

Not all has been positive in the last five years, however, as enrollment issues continue to plague the Tribe and a solution acceptable to two-thirds of the membership remains elusive.

But there's much to look forward to as Tribal Council and Tribal members seek to improve Tribal services and diversify the Tribe's economy. The Tribe purchased the Multnomah Greyhound Park site in Wood Village in 2015 and is seeking to place the land into trust should the state of Oregon ever abandon its current policy on Indian gaming and allow Tribes to have more than one casino located not on Reservation land. After almost 20 years, Chemawa Station in Keizer is finally being developed and bringing in rental income from businesses locating on the jointly owned property with the Siletz Tribe.

And the Tribe has opened two medication-assisted treatment centers in Salem and Portland that are helping to combat the epidemic of opioid addiction in Oregon and the lack of facilities available statewide to help people overcome those addictions.

Remembering the Restoration effort, the almost 30 years of Termination and the tortured history of the bands and Tribes that form the foundation of every living Tribal member is appropriate at 40.

## Tribes rounded up

In the early 1850s, the ancestors of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde signed seven ratified treaties with the federal government that ceded most of Western Oregon, from the California border to the Columbia River and up the Columbia River Gorge to Mount Hood, in return for promises of a reservation and federal services.

Members of several Native American Tribes and bands were rounded up by the U.S. Cavalry and walked under armed guard to the Table Rock Reservation near present-day Medford in 1853-55. The area was a temporary gathering place for Native peoples before the 33-day, 265-mile journey north to the Grand Ronde Indian Reservation that occurred in February and March of 1856.

Chief Bogus, late Tribal Elder

Nora Kimsey's grandfather, died on the march to Grand Ronde, which occurred during cold and wet conditions. In all, seven Tribal members died and seven were born on what would become the Rogue River Tribe's Trail of Tears.

Grand Ronde ancestors who lived in the Willamette Valley spoke dialects of Molalla, Kalapuya, Clackamas, Chinook and other languages from neighboring Tribes. Those from the Rogue River Valley spoke dialects of Athabascan, Penutian and Hokan. In all, reservation residents spoke more than 25 different dialects from at least four different language families when they arrived in Grand Ronde.

The only Native language in common was Chinuk Wawa, which became the primary language for most reservation residents. While many of the ancestral languages were spoken for generations after relocation, eventually Chinuk Wawa became the common Native language for the Tribe and today is the recognized Native language for Grand Ronde. In 2012, the Tribe published a Chinuk Wawa dictionary, "Chinuk Wawa: As our elders teach us to speak it."

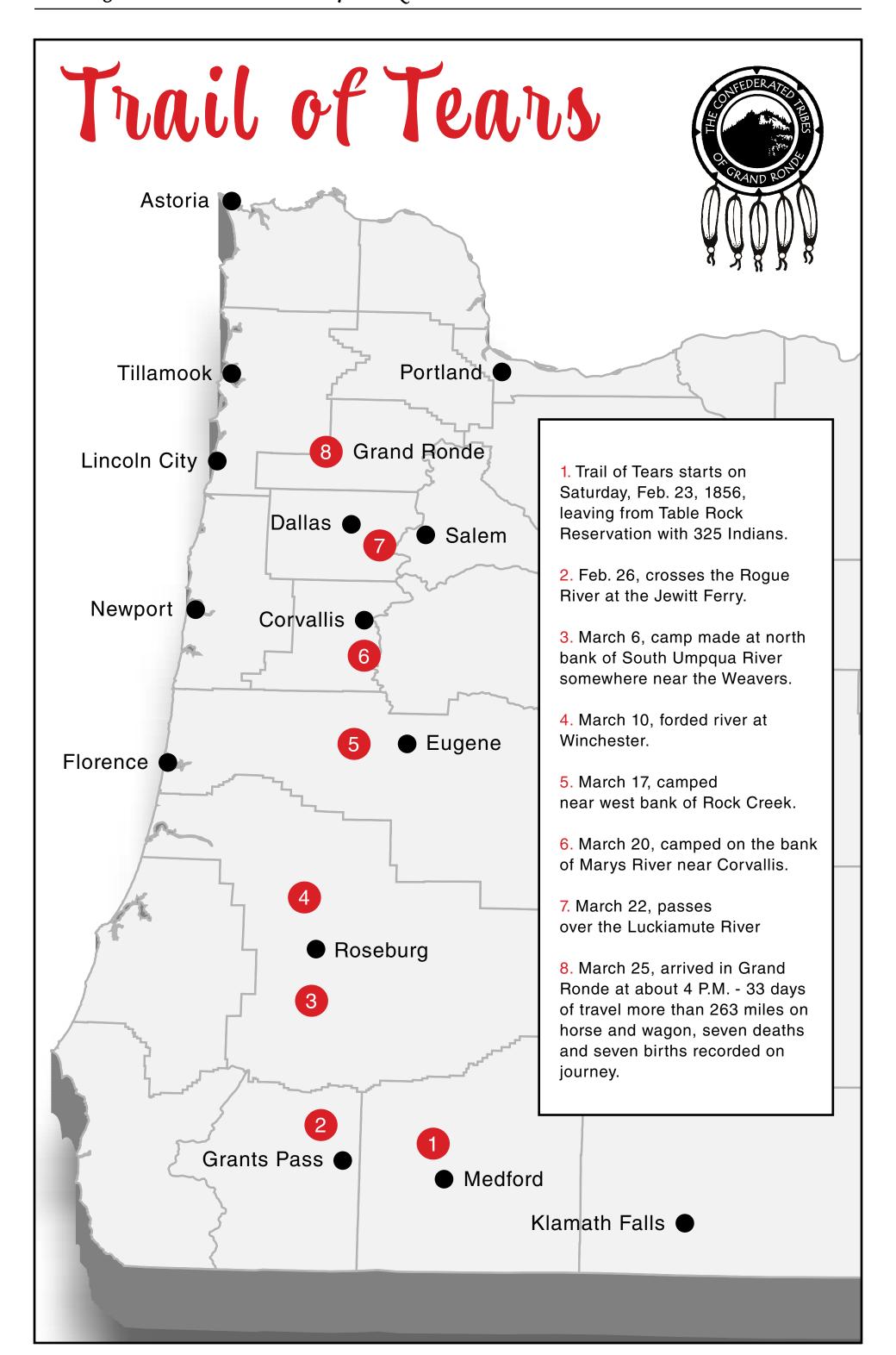
Despite relocation to the supposed safety of the Grand Ronde Reservation, the assault on the Tribal ways of life continued unabated by the influx of white settlers to Oregon.

The 69,100-acre Grand Ronde Reservation granted by President James Buchanan's Executive Order in 1857 survived only until the value of the timber and mineral resources were recognized.

The 1887 General Allotment Act divided more than 35,000 acres of the reservation – almost half – into 270 allotments of land to Indians at Grand Ronde. The goal was to make farmers out of Indians and the act allowed Tribal members to live on their land tax free while it was held in trust. At the end of 25 years, the land was transferred from trust status to fee status and became taxable in an attempt to allow the Native families to eventually own the land.

However, most of the allotments went out of Indian control with "alarming rapidity," according to the Tribe's 1985 Reservation Plan. "This was true not only at Grand Ronde, but across the nation wherever allotments had been made under the General Allotment Act."

See Nov. 22 continued on page 4



# Nov. 22 continued from page 2

In 1901, following negotiations initiated by federal Indian Inspector James McLaughlin, the federal government declared 25,909 acres "surplus," and purchased it from the Indians for \$1.10 an acre or a per capita of \$72. Much of that land was then sold to local timber interests.

Many of the allotments that remained in Tribal member possession were eventually lost as indecipherable tax laws pushed some Tribal members to forfeit their land, while others sold out, raising money to survive. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs would sell Tribal lands and not allow children to inherit the land.

The Indian Reorganization Act of 1936 enabled the Tribe to again purchase land on which to build homes for Tribal members on the reservation. Six ranch properties and one building site totaling 537 acres were purchased by the Tribe with IRA funds.

For those who stayed, life was hard.

Tribal Elder Nora Kimsey remembered making baskets to take to McMinnville in a horse-and-buggy to trade for clothes. She remembered long trips to Dallas to purchase groceries, as well as washing clothes in local creeks and catching crawfish and boiling them in tin cans.

Many Tribal members were sent to Indian schools and adopted by non-Native families, threatening the Tribe's heritage by disconnecting the youth from their history and language. However, many who attended Chemawa Indian School in Salem, such as Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison, reported that it was one of the great formative experiences of their young lives.

In 1954, when the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act was enacted by Congress, the 69,100-acre reservation granted to the Grand Ronde Tribes in 1857 had dwindled to about 400 acres. Congress passed the Termination Act without any vote or consent by the Grand Ronde Tribe.

The federal government pursued Termination because it wanted to free Tribes from any further federal management, which had kept the Grand Ronde Tribe in poverty conditions from the beginnings of the reservation. Two years later, in 1956, all Tribal land had been sold. Federal services, such as health care, ceased, and all accounts were settled between the Tribe and the federal government.

Tribal members, then numbering 882, each received a one-time check of \$35 – a payment that was supposed to replace their identity and pay for their rights under the treaties.

## Termination era

Termination came in the name of freeing Indians from reliance on the federal government, allowing them to join the fabric of American life on an equal basis with other Americans, but it also meant that the Grand Ronde people would no longer be acknowledged as Indian people



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Harrison

An early post-Restoration Tribal Council included, seated from left, Kathryn Harrison, Dean Mercier and Russ Leno, and standing, from left, Frank Harrison, Merle Leno, Darrell Mercier, Mark Mercier, Candy Robertson and Henry Petite. The Tribal Council met in the dining room of St. Michael's Catholic Church in those early days.

and would have no rights on their reservation lands.

For almost 30 years, Tribal members were virtually a landless people in their own land.

Or, as Elizabeth Furse, former Oregon Congresswoman and director of the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University, said, "It was right after the war at a time when the U.S. was trying to save money. The federal government did not want to be in the Indian business."

Termination also had the added consequence of opening vast Indian lands to development by timber and farming interests.

Furse said it was no coincidence that the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Dwight D. Eisenhower was former Oregon Gov. Douglas McKay, who had many friends in the timber industry who coveted the lumber on Native lands in Oregon, particularly the Ponderosa pine owned by the Klamath Tribe in southern Oregon.

Without federal support systems, the Grand Ronde Tribe languished and many Tribal members moved away in search of jobs. Tribal Elder Dean Mercier moved to Brookings in 1959 to feed his family while Tribal Elder Leon Tom moved his family to Colorado as part of a federal relocation program.

"People had to relocate to survive," recalled Tribal member Margo Mercier.

The relocation program tried to assimilate Native Americans into the dominant culture and through several generations of inter-marriage dilute Native blood so much that there were no longer Indians, thereby ending the government's trust relationship and responsibilities.

Within homes and families, individuals worked hard, predominantly in the logging industry, and families helped each other maintain Tribal traditions. Those who remained in the Grand Ronde area fondly recall a tight-knit community.

"We were more or less trying to survive," said former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno. "There was no money in those days. There were hard-working people here. Everybody worked." Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy remembered her grandmother, Pauline Johnson, preparing lamprey, collecting berries and weaving baskets, as well as speaking Chinuk Wawa.

Several Tribal members recall Elders speaking Chinuk Wawa not as an educational exercise, but to ensure the younger members of the family didn't know what they were saying.

"We would go around and visit in those days and soon as the old folks got together they would start talking jargon," recalled Tribal Elder Russ Leno. "They would be laughing and pointing at us."

Reyn Leno remembers learning a few words of Chinuk Wawa from his grandmother. Knowing Chinuk Wawa words was a qualification to eat at the family dinner table.

Annual, well-attended picnics held at the Tribal cemetery on Memorial Day brought Tribal members who had moved away back home at least once a year.

## **Seeds of Restoration**

As the Civil Rights movement for African-Americans reached a crescendo in the mid-1960s and Native Americans started insisting on social justice as well, President Lyndon Johnson officially spoke out against Termination as a federal policy. His successor, Richard Nixon, supported Indian self-determination as a federal policy.

The work of Grand Ronde Restoration had the humblest of beginnings. The year was 1972 and Nixon sat in the White House while the Vietnam War continued in southeast Asia.

Tribal members Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes attended a meeting held by the Association of Urban Indians in Lebanon and were subsequently inspired by other Tribal restoration efforts, such as the Menominees in Wisconsin, which became the first restored Tribe in the nation in 1973.

The trio of Tribal members

– now known as a housewife
and two truck drivers – didn't
know exactly what had to
be accomplished to achieve
Restoration and there was no
ready funding for such a time-



**Jackie Mercier Colton Whisler** 



Merle Holmes

consuming effort. During the first few years, Tribal Restoration was an after-hours, part-time project.

All that remained of the large Grand Ronde Reservation was the Tribal cemetery of approximately 2.5 acres that contained a 24-by-24-foot green shed. In June 1975, the Temporary Council of the Grand Ronde Indians started meeting. The first Treasurer's Report delivered by Vicki Lawrence said the Tribe had a balance of \$2.27 in its bank account.

Between 1975 and '79, few substantive gains were made, but those four years produced a core group of Marvin Kimsey, Merle Holmes and Margaret Provost, as well as Patti Martin, Vicki Lawrence, Darrel Mercier, Dean Mercier, Russ Leno, Les Houck and others who began laying the foundation of Tribal Restoration.

It also produced long-lasting alliances with Furse and Wharton

of Oregon Legal Service's Native American Program and Congressman Les AuCoin, Sen. Mark O. Hatfield and Oregon Gov. Victor Atiyeh.

A milestone of sorts occurred in 1979 when the first seven acres of new Tribal property – the front part of the cemetery – were purchased for \$3,250 per acre with money made at Tribal fundraisers. It came with an office building that soon became the nerve center of Restoration efforts.

Also in 1979, the Tribe received a \$90,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans, which allowed the hiring five full-time employees to work on Restoration.

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison returned to Grand Ronde in 1980 with Restoration experience under her belt, having helped the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians on the Oregon coast secure federal recognition in 1977.

"The biggest issue we had was money," Harrison recalled. "Every general meeting was a bake sale or a raffle. People were buying things from each other to raise money. The Elders always gave us their full support. I remember Esther LaBonte; she was on Social Security and every month she gave us \$20."

The effort drafted Tribal children, too. Dean Mercier brought in his daughter, Jackie Mercier Colton Whisler, who drove in from Amity to help. She, in turn, drafted her children. Mike and Doug Colton remembered picking huckleberries at South Lake for making jam that would be used to sell fry bread on the side of the road.

Children also served as waiters and waitresses at pancake feeds at which their parents were

Former Tribal Council Vice Chair Angie Blackwell, daughter of Candy Robertson, remembers being the dishwasher at many of the fundraising potlucks.

As the 1970s turned into the 1980s, a growing core of Grand Ronde Tribal members worked on Restoration and spent long days and nights in the crowded cemetery office, with neither heat nor plumbing, one phone line and a donated typewriter.

Their work was intent on satisfying the congressional criteria for federal recognition, namely that the Tribe exercised ongoing governmental functions; proving the Tribe consisted of a community of Indians belonging to a formerly recognized Tribe; that the Indians still lived in their aboriginal territory, maintaining their customs and language; and were poorer than the surrounding adjacent nonIndian population.

With the help of a grant, Jackie Provost, Margaret's daughter, was hired as secretary and conducted a census of Tribal members, going door-to-door to determine how many Tribal members lived in the Grand Ronde area. In addition, a trailer purchased from Russ Leno for \$50 was set up at the cemetery to help families

Meanwhile, Margaret Provost sought the support of other Tribal leaders, attending powwows and cultural events. The Tribes, including the Warm Springs, Siletz, Coos/Siuslaw/Lower Umpqua and Cow Creek, wrote letters of support to Congress and persuaded the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians to allow the Grand Ronde Tribe to join before being federally recognized.

To meet the federal criteria, Tribal members held government meetings, powwows and cultural ceremonies. They worked to certify blood quantum, document those who still spoke Chinuk Wawa and collect income numbers. In 1980, the first Grand Ronde Royalty was crowned with Queen Jackie Provost and princesses Margie Lafferty and Jackie Mercier Colton.

Locally, Tribal members dispelled unsubstantiated rumors and overcame opposition from neighboring communities, garnered the support of other Tribes and convinced Congress that Restoration would not be a Pandora's box, opening the way for illegitimate claims.

"There was that doubt,"
Kathryn Harrison recalled.
"People hadn't heard of us. They
thought Grand Ronde was in
Eastern Oregon."

Amongst all this, Tribal members pursued grants for funding and held fundraising activities, such as roadside fry bread stands and selling homemade jam made by Tribal Elders

To garner community support, they contacted churches, clubs and scores of organizations. Before steady funding arrived, Marvin Kimsey quit his job to devote more time to the effort.

Tribal Elders, such as Ila Dowd, Velma Mercier, Wilson Bobb and Esther LaBonte, held bake sales and donated money.

Margaret Provost recalls that every time there was a meeting, there would be a bake sale.

"If things didn't sell, they bought from each other," she said.

A nonprofit corporation was formed, and by June 1982, the Tribe had raised \$250,000 to fund Restoration efforts.

The hours were long and the work tedious enough that sometimes Restoration workers thought about quitting.

"When things went wrong, I would ask Margaret, 'Whose idea was Restoration anyway?'" Harrison recalled.

But Tribal members persevered.

## Restoration testimony

Furse and Wharton represented the Tribe as legislative liaisons. Slowly, momentum built toward a date in Washington, D.C., before Congress.

Meanwhile, an interim Tribal Council was elected, composed of Chairman Marvin Kimsey, co-Chairman Wink Soderberg, Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Colton (Whisler) and members Kathryn Harrison, Merle Holmes, Dean Mercier, Eula Petite, Jackie Provost and Margaret Provost.

By 1982, Harrison, who had worked on the Siletz Restoration effort, had become lead community organizer, mustering support for federal recognition and convincing opposition groups of the inherent justice of Restoration.

Opposition from fishing and timber organizations was first neutralized and then turned into support. Community concerns about losing land and increasing tax rates were quelled through educational meetings. In the end, the Restoration effort received more than 100 letters of support from community members, business owners, state and county representatives, and Elders of the Tribe.

Restoration leaders, such as Merle Holmes, Dean Mercier and others flew to Washington, D.C., on their own money to meet lawmakers and lobby for Restoration.

AuCoin, impressed with the Tribe's ability to enlist community support, submitted the Grand Ronde Restoration Bill on Sept. 14, 1983, while Sen. Mark Hatfield did the same in the Senate. Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh and Polk and Yamhill county commissioners voiced their support for a restored Grand Ronde Tribe.

In October 1983, Marvin Kimsey, Jackie Colton, Kathryn Harrison and her children, Frank and Karen, along with Furse made their historic trip to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Karen was a 16-year-old junior at Willamina High School when she testified.

Harrison remained proud that three-fifths of those who went to Washington, D.C., to testify on behalf of Tribal Restoration were members of her family.

They all spoke convincingly on behalf of restoring the Grand Ronde Tribe to federal recognition.

"They testified on the issue of justice," Furse recalled. "It was very impressive testimony."

The Restoration Bill passed through the House of Representatives with 57 letters of support and none in opposition. It sailed through the Senate under Hatfield's legislative guidance, receiving approval on the chamber's consent agenda on Nov. 11, 1983.

All that remained was the president's signature. Grand Ronde Tribal members had to wait 11 agonizing days for that to happen.

President Ronald Reagan signed Bill HR 3885 on Nov. 22, 1983. The restored Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde began with 2,200 members.

"We were elk hunting and we heard the announcement on the radio," Margaret Provost said. "It was very exciting."

Kathryn Harrison drove her car up and down Grand Ronde Road, honking her horn and yelling, "We did it ... we did it!"

A small crowd of Tribal members gathered at the Tribal Cemetery and toasted the event with celebratory shouts.

"It was the happiest day of my life," recalled Margo Mercier.

That was 40 years ago. In that time, several of the key players in the Tribal Restoration effort have walked on.

Merle Holmes walked on in May 2004 at the age of 70.

Jackie Mercier Colton Whisler was taken away shortly after the Tribe's 24th Restoration anniversary in December 2007 at the age of 56. Her father, Dean Mercier, walked on July 6, 2011, and Russell Leno walked on Dec. 7, 2010. Wink Soderberg, Marvin Kimsey and Margaret Provost walked on in 2018, and Kathryn Harrison joined her Restoration colleagues in May 2023.

Other important participants in the Restoration effort are still with the Tribe, Elders now in their 70s and older: Candy Robertson, Patti Tom Martin and Mark Mercier, to name a few.

### **Post-Restoration success**

In the more than 14,600 days since Restoration, those Tribal Elders have watched the restored Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde grow from owning only a 2.5-acre cemetery to obtaining almost 10,000 acres for a reservation to building Tribal Community and Governance centers to opening Spirit Mountain Casino and Spirit Mountain Lodge.

They have watched the Tribe become the largest employer in Polk and Yamhill counties.

They have watched the Tribe build its own Health & Wellness Center that provides medical services to Tribal members and residents of the surrounding community.

They've watched as new Grand Ronde Tribal members have been born, learned their heritage and culture, and matured into proud Native Americans.

They have watched housing built, allowing Tribal members to return to the reservation. They have watched an educational facility go up to teach Chinuk Wawa.

They have watched a new generation of Tribal members take the helm and guide the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde toward prosperity, self-sufficiency and control of their collective destiny.

They have watched female Tribal members become a majority on the nine-member Tribal Council.

"I think one of the real strengths that the Grand Ronde people have is that we know that our destiny is in our hands," Kennedy said. "We no longer want to be in a position where someone else has the key to whether we survive or not. We will determine our own destiny."

Harrison, who served on Tribal Council for more than 20 years and never lost an election, best summed up the years since Restoration for the Tribe.

"We are living out the dreams of our Elders and our ancestors," Harrison said.

(This article includes previously published information from "Standing Tall: The Lifeway of Kathryn Harrison" by Kristine Olson and the 1985 Grand Ronde Reservation Plan, as well as Smoke Signals articles written by Tribal members Chris Mercier and Angela Sears and longtime staff writer Ron Karten. In addition, it includes information and quotes from interviews conducted with Tribal members and Elders, as well as other key players in the Restoration effort).

November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# Consensus builders

# Kathryn Harrison and Candy Robertson discuss early post-Restoration days

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

The story of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's Restoration is a familiar one to most Tribal members. What is less known are the sometimes herculean efforts key Tribal Council members made to get aboriginal land returned for a Reservation, build a profitable casino and provide all of the services the Tribe offers today.

Smoke Signals interviewed two past longtime Tribal Council members involved in these efforts, Kathryn Harrison, who walked on in May 2023, and Candy Robertson, to reflect on those early post-Restoration years.

Harrison was the Tribe's first post-Restoration Tribal Council chairwoman and Robertson served as secretary.

### Kathyrn Harrison

Kathyrn Harrison was a frequent attendee at Tribal cultural events and celebrations, and her family credited a high activity level to her longevity. She served on post-Restoration Tribal Councils from 1984 to 2001, never losing an election.

For some of that time, Harrison served with her late son, Frank Harrison, also a key figure in the Tribe's Restoration. He walked on in 1991.

She was the daughter of Harry Jones and Ella Flemming, and the granddaughter of George A. Flemming Sr. and Elena Kal'Tane and Billy Jones and Philomene Nellie Jones.

She had 10 children: Frank Harrison, Tom Harrison, Ray Harrison, Roger Harrison, David Harrison, Patsy Pullin, Jeanette Harrison, Kathy Coley, Diane Harrison and Karen Askins.

Harrison became involved in the Tribe's Restoration efforts in 1980 when she moved back to Grand Ronde, the home of her father's people. By 1982, she became the Restoration effort's lead community organizer, having experience in Restoration after working with the nearby Siletz Tribe to achieve theirs in 1977.

Harrison described the process just after 1983's Restoration as being overwhelming at times.

"We had to figure out a place where council could meet and where to put our employees," she said. "We had to put together a Constitution. ... We researched constitutions from other Tribal governments and worked with Tribal leaders from Warm Springs and went to workshops. ... We also applied for grants for education and health care."

The Tribe's new Constitution was overwhelmingly approved on Nov. 10, 1984, with an emphasis on sovereignty, culture and Tribal identity.

Harrison said that right after Restoration, the big focus was on mounting a campaign for the return of ancestral lands, a process



Smoke Signals file photo

Kathryn Harrison sits at the entrance of the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center in October 2018. Building a cultural center was important to Harrison so that future generations would not forget where they came from.

that took four years and countless hours of work.

"We had to work with the logging companies and there was the fishing issue. ... We knew it would start an uproar. We didn't know what to do so we asked the people what was more important to them, land or fish?"

Elizabeth Furse, an employee of Oregon Legal Service's Native American Program during the early 1980s, was instrumental in helping the Grand Ronde Tribe during Restoration. She said the political climate in Oregon was not very receptive to the idea that a Tribe would receive federal lands.

"There was tremendous opposition from John Hampton, who owned Hampton Lumber," she said during a 2008 interview for *Smoke Signals*' 25<sup>th</sup> Restoration special section. "He was deeply opposed to the idea that the Tribe would receive any kind of federal lands."

But Harrison, Robertson and Mark Mercier (Tribal Council chair at the time) persevered, attending scores of community meetings to build consensus in an often rancorous environment.

"We had to show that we were going to help the larger community," Harrison said.

At the time, the Tribe had been embroiled in litigation over hunting and fishing rights initiated by local sports groups.

"We finally had a meeting with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife," Harrison said. "They asked why fishing and hunting were so important to us. We explained that those rights are like heirlooms, handed down to us from the Creator over generations."

In January 1987, the Tribe finally resolved the hunting and fishing issue by agreeing to limit

rights to the Trask Management Unit, which stretches from Mc-Minnville to the Pacific Ocean.

Finally, in September 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed legislation creating a 9,811-acre Reservation for the Grand Ronde Tribe. It included several compromises, such as restricting the Tribe's export and purchase of timber for 20 years, and a requirement that 30 percent of timber revenue be reinvested to support Tribal economic development ventures.

"I have had people ask over the years why we were so successful at this and the reason is because we always told the truth and stuck to it," Harrison said. "We (Tribal Council) agreed that if we wanted to get something done,

we needed to settle it. ... We were always willing to meet halfway."

Don Wharton, the founding director of Oregon Legal Service's Native American Program from 1979-83, assisted the Grand Ronde Tribe during its campaign for Restoration. He recalled Harrison worked in her community to build consensus among several different groups during a 2008 interview conducted for *Smoke Signals*' 25<sup>th</sup> Restoration special section.

"She brought an enormous amount of credibility and focus to this leadership," he said. "She was a very important part of coming along and adding to the Restoration effort a little later down the road. She became an icon for the Tribe and its efforts. She con-



Smoke Signals file photo

Chachalu Museum & Culutral Center Open House in Grand Ronde.

tinues to be a very important part of the history of the Tribe."

Harrison recalled that she and Mark Mercier often talked things out ahead of time to be prepared for meetings.

"He was a good chair," she said.
"He logged all of this life and if
a meeting got too late, he would
say, 'We need to end this because
I got to get up and make a living. ' "

Next up was adding to the Tribe's economic foundation by building Spirit Mountain Casino. Once again, it involved lengthy meetings with Tribal members and government representatives. Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts signed a gaming compact with the Grand Ronde Tribe in July 1993.

"We wanted to have a business to help our members, then we went and helped the whole state," Harrison said. "We took people off the welfare rolls by providing jobs at the casino and we established the Community Fund to help nonprofits."

Endowment funds were started from casino proceeds to benefit education, health care, economic, social and cultural programs.

"It was my idea to start those funds," Harrison said.

Close to her heart was culture. Harrison was a longtime advocate of building the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, the location where her interview took place.

Although her parents died when she was a child, Harrison said they gave her what she needed to sustain her for the rest of her life and she always knew she was an Indian.

"I used to say the missionaries did a 'good job' wanting us to blend in and forget our culture," Harrison said. "But Tribal members took it upon themselves to preserve our culture and start new traditions, like Canoe Journey. I really think that helped a lot of the youth stay away from alcohol and find their way."

Based on her Restoration experiences, Harrison said that people should never give up, no matter what life hands you.

"My parents died when I was 10 and I was sent away into foster care," she said. "I always thought I got a raw deal. For a while, I hated God."

After Harrison entered Chemawa Indian School, her parents' alma mater, she said she found herself by connecting with other Indians.

Her next request to the Creator was not to be lonely again.

"So he gave me 10 children and I haven't been lonely since," Harrison joked. "After I came home to Grand Ronde, I was welcomed with open arms. ... I think I have made my place here."

## **Candy Robertson**

Candy Robertson isn't one to talk much about her accomplishments.

So, when Robertson was interviewed in her Gladstone home to discuss her time on the early post-Restoration Tribal Councils, she was quick to give credit to fellow council members.

"Really, I didn't have to deal with as much as some of them did," she said with a smile. "I was lucky."

Robertson, 82, served on Tribal

Council in various capacities including secretary and vice chair, from 1984 to 1990, and 1991-94, key times in the post-Restoration era when the Tribe was attempting to secure Reservation land and provide basic services such as health care, housing and education, all while on a shoestring budget and working out of cramped quarters at the Grand Ronde Rail Depot.

Born and raised in the area, Robertson called Grand Ronde home for many years. She is the daughter of Alberta Riggs, granddaughter of Wilson Bobb and Lena Norwest, and great-granddaughter of Solomon and Jenny her time on Tribal Council, she preferred to listen rather than speak, but when she was elected vice chair in 1988, that was no longer an option. She recalled one particular time she had to make a report to a legislator.

"I was so scared," Robertson said. "But I made the report. He asked some questions and we had an answer. I ended up being very happy and relieved."

When asked why someone who preferred to work behind the scenes would agree to serve in such a public role, Robertson's answer was simple: "My people. I wanted to help and provide services for them. That was what I



Smoke Signals file photo

Candy Robertson reflects upon her role in the Restoration effort in her Gladstone home in October 2018.

George.

She attended Willamina High School and graduated in 1964, and is the mother of five children: Angie Blackwell, Debby Childers-Slack, Michael Cherry, Diana Sohappy and Brandon Robertson.

Robertson became involved in the Tribe's Restoration efforts toward the end, but sat in several meetings and was well-respected, enough to be asked if she'd consider serving on the first post-Restoration Tribal Council.

"I came into this with very limited knowledge," she said. "I wanted to serve my people, so I sat back and listened and tried to pick up on things that way."

Don Wharton recalled Robertson always gave "an enormous amount of support" during a 2008 interview for *Smoke Signals*' 25<sup>th</sup> Restoration special section.

"Candy was always in the background and always organizing things to make sure that the place was open and that the lights were on," he said. "Out of all the meetings, Candy was always in the background. She never came out front, but she was always there working hard, as were all of these people."

Robertson said she always had a passion for education and to have an on-site facility that would offer services to Tribal members.

"Education was my priority," she said. "I really wanted to be a part of that, so when a committee was established, I volunteered to serve on that as a liaison."

Tribal Council formed committees for all of its programs early on, a practice that remains in place today.

Robertson said that during

wanted from the beginning."

Robertson also became involved in the Tribe's post Pesteration

in the Tribe's post-Restoration efforts so she could learn more about all it would entail.

"I wanted to understand more about my Tribe and see what the Reservation was going to be like," she said.

At the time, the Tribe only had 2.5 acres at its cemetery, plus an additional seven it had purchased in 1979 that included an office building. The 1988 Reservation Bill included almost 10,000 acres of the original Reservation, and meant the Tribe could provide for its members through timber revenues.

"I wanted to do my part in getting things done and providing services," Robertson said. "It just mattered to me. I was mostly in the background for the Reservation Bill serving as secretary. ... Kathyrn and Mark took most of the heat on that."

Robertson was also on hand for other key moments in Tribal history, such as when Mark Mercier signed the Grand Ronde Reservation Bill.

"It was great," she said. "Just amazing."

In past *Smoke Signals* articles, Mark Mercier referred to the Reservation Bill process as "no picnic."

Robertson recalled dealing with hostile local crowds who thought the Tribe was trying to take something from them.

"The hardest thing was when people you thought of as friends turned against you," she said. "You had to force yourself to be respectful and find the right way to communicate. You had to find a way to make them understand without getting mad. ... What we were doing was really improving the quality of life for everyone (in the area)."

Robertson said she was initially approached to serve on council by Jackie Mercier Colton Whis ler and her father, Dean Mercier, instrumental in the Tribe's Restoration efforts.

"They asked me to serve and I agreed. ... That opened the door for a different type of life than I ever imagined. Going to Washington, D.C., to testify in front of lawmakers, offering services to Tribal members, starting a casino, it all just changed my life completely."

Harrison credited Robertson with making the motion to build a Tribal casino, which many would agree is one of the most important decisions Tribal Council has ever made.

"We were in Salem having a meeting and had a discussion about the casino, and the plusses and minuses to it," Robertson said. "I made the motion that we should provide one. I didn't realize at the time just what I was doing. I knew what casinos were and how they brought in money, but I had no idea what it all would become."

A month before construction began on Spirit Mountain Casino in October 1994, Robertson lost her second election.

"From then until the casino opened in October 1995, all I could do was babysit," she said. "After it opened, I started working there and stayed."

Switching gears from Tribal Council member to casino employee did little to deter Robertson. She was still focused on service to help make the casino profitable, which in turn benefitted Tribal members.

"We were super friendly to our customers and did little things to make them feel special, like linen napkins and discounts to the buffet. ... The customers would tell us how wonderful it was and how well they were treated."

Robertson eventually moved from her job as player services representative to coordinating tour operations and logistics.

Although her time on Tribal Council ended in 1994, Robertson remained involved in the Tribe and in her commitment to education. She attended the May 2001 groundbreaking on the new education center.

"I still have my gold shovel," she said. "It was pretty neat to participate in that. ... Seeing that building begin felt like you finally see something complete and know what will happen in there. I felt that without education, Tribal people wouldn't be able to improve their lives. People need education in order to live well."

When asked if she would do anything differently, Robertson said "no."

"I can't think of anything I could have done differently," she said. "You learn that you are not the only voice on the council. You need to include everyone and get consensus."

Reprinted from Smoke Signals' 35th Restoration special section.

November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# Building a Nation - Tri



Tribal Community Center opens • March 1992



Spirit Mountain Casino opens October 1995



Natural Resources Department opens August 1997



Spirit Mountain Lodge opens December 1998



Elder Housing opens August 2000



Education Building opens August 2002



Chxi Musam Illihi housing opens June 2003



Grand Ronde Station opens December 2003



Adult Foster Care buildings open July 2006



achaf-hammi opens September 2010



Tribe buys Chahalu building in May 2011



Grand Ronde Food Bank opens December 2014



Lighthouse Community Building opens May 2016



Grand Ronde Police Station opens March 2017



Information Services/Procurement building opens November 2021

# bal Building openings



Grand Meadows opens September 1997



Health & Wellness Center opens September 1997



Governance Center opens November 1998



Housing Department opens November 2002



Tribal Library opens April 2003



West Valley Veterans Memorial dedicated May 2003



Elders Activity Center opens November 2008



Portland Area Office purchased November 2009



Grand Ronde Fire Station opens June 2010



Wind River Apartments open May 2015



Employment Services building opens June 2015



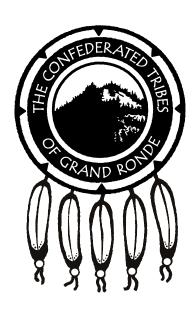
Powwow Grounds arbor dedicated July 2015



Community Programs & Veterans Services originally purchased in 1993 and converted to its current use in 2023.



Chinuk Wawa language building opens September 2023



# **Post – Restoration Tribal Councils**

**April 1984-May 1985:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Dean Mercier, vice chair; Candy Robertson, secretary; Frank Harrison, Merle Leno, Russell Leno, Darrell Mercier, Mark Mercier and Henry Petite.

**May 1985 - October 1985:** Henry Petite, chair; Mark Mercier, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Cheryle A. Kennedy, Merle Leno, Russell Leno, Darrell Mercier, Eula Petite and Candy Robertson.

**October 1985 – September 1986:** Mark Mercier, chair; Merle Leno, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Cheryle A. Kennedy, Russell Leno, Darrell Mercier, Eula Petite, Henry Petite and Candy Robertson.

**September 1986 – September 1987:** Mark Mercier, chair; Merle Leno, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Dorothy Greene, Frank Harrison, Bradley Kowing, Russell Leno, Eula Petite and Candy Robertson.

**September 1987 - September 1988:** Mark Mercier, chair; Merle Leno, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Valarene Grout, Eugene LaBonte, Russell Leno, Ray McKnight, Henry Petite and Candy Robertson.

**September 1988 - September 1989:** Mark Mercier, chair; Candy Robertson, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Valarene Grout, Merle Holmes, Marvin Kimsey, Russell Leno, Ray McKnight and Henry Petite.

**September 1989 (vacancies due to absenteeism):** Mark Mercier, chair; Candy Robertson, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Wilmadene Butler, Valarene Grout, Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight and Rick McKnight.

**September 1989 – September 1990:** Mark Mercier, chair; Candy Robertson, vice chair; Kathryn Harrison, secretary; Wilmadene Butler, Valarene Grout, Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Rick McKnight and Bob Mercier.

**September 1990 - September 1991:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Valarene Grout, secretary; Larry Brandon, Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Rick McKnight, Bob Mercier and Margaret Provost.

**September 1991 – October 1991:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Valarene Grout, secretary; Larry Brandon, Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Rick McKnight, Bob Mercier and Margaret Provost.

**October 16-30, 1991:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Valarene Grout, secretary; Larry Brandon, Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Bob Mercier, Margaret Provost and Candy Robertson.

Oct. 30 – Nov. 13, 1991 (vacancy): Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Valarene Grout, secretary; Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Bob Mercier, Margaret Provost and Candy Robertson.

**November 1991 – September 1992:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Valarene Grout, secretary; Merle Holmes, Ray McKnight, Bob Mercier, Margaret Provost, Candy Robertson and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1992 – September 1993:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Candy Robertson, secretary; Merle Holmes, Andrew Jenness, Ed Larsen, Ray McKnight, Margaret Provost and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1993 – September 1994:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Candy Robertson, secretary; Valarene Grout, Merle Holmes, Andrew Jenness, Ed Larsen, Ray McKnight and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1994 – September 1995:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Ed Larsen, secretary; Valerene Grout, Bob Haller, Andrew Jenness, Eugene LaBonte, Ed Pearsall and Leon C. Tom.

**Sept. 20 – Oct. 11, 1995:** Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Ed Larsen, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Eugene LaBonte, Ed Pearsall, Margaret Provost and Leon C. Tom.

Oct. 12, 1995 - September 1996: Mark Mercier, chair; Kathryn Harrison, vice chair; Ed Pearsall, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Eugene LaBonte, Ed Larsen, Margaret Provost and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1996 – September 1997:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Ed Larsen, vice chair; Ed Pearsall, secretary; Bob Haller, Eugene LaBonte, Reyn Leno, Mark Mercier, Margaret Provost and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1997 - September 1998:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Ed Larsen, vice chair; Ed Pearsall, secretary; Valarene Grout, Reyn Leno, Bob Mercier, Mark Mercier, Margaret Provost and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1998 – September 1999:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Ed Pearsall, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Ed Larsen, Bob Mercier, Mark Mercier and Leon C. Tom.

**September 1999 – September 2000:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Ed Larsen, vice chair; Ed Pearsall, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Earl F. LaBonte, Reyn Leno, Bob Mercier and June Sell-Sherer.

**September 2000 – September 2001:** Kathryn Harrison, chair; Ed Larsen, vice chair; Reyn Leno, secretary; Bob Haller, Cheryle A. Kennedy, Earl F. LaBonte, Ed Pearsall, Jan D. Reibach and June Sell-Sherer

**September 2001 – September 2002:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; June Sell-Sherer, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Earl F. LaBonte, Ed Larsen, Ed Pearsall and Jan D. Reibach.

**September 2002 – September 2003:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; June Sell-Sherer, secretary; Valarene Grout, Bob

Haller, Ed Larsen, Ed Pearsall, Jan D. Reibach and Valorie Robertson. **September 2003 – September 2004:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; June Sell-Sherer, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Valarene Grout, Bob Haller, Ed Larsen, Jan D. Reibach and Valorie Robertson.

**September 2004 – September 2005:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; June Sell-Sherer, secretary; Angie Blackwell, Jack Giffen Jr., Chris Mercier, Jan D. Reibach, Valorie Robertson and Wesley West.

**September 2005 – September 2006:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Angie Blackwell, vice chair; Chris Mercier, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Reyn Leno, Jan D. Reibach, Wink Soderberg, Kathleen Tom and Wesley West.

**September 2006 – September 2007:** Chris Mercier, chair; Angie Blackwell, vice chair; Jack Giffen Jr., secretary; Cheryle A. Kennedy, Reyn Leno, Valorie Sheker, Wink Soderberg, Kathleen Tom and Wesley West

**September 2007 – September 2008:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Jack Giffen Jr., secretary; Chris Mercier, June Sell-Sherer, Steve Bobb Sr., Kathleen Tom, Valorie Sheker and Wink Soderberg.

**September 2008 – September 2009:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Jack Giffen Jr., secretary; Chris Mercier, June Sell-Sherer, Steve Bobb Sr., Kathleen Tom, Valorie Sheker and Wink Soderberg.

**September 2009 – September 2010:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Kathleen Tom, secretary; Chris Mercier, June Sell-Sherer, Steve Bobb Sr., Valorie Sheker, Wink Soderberg and Toby McClary

**September 2010 - September 2011:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Kathleen Tom, secretary; Chris Mercier, Jack Giffen Jr., Steve Bobb Sr., Valorie Sheker, Wink Soderberg and Toby McClary.

**September 2011 – May 2012:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Jack Giffen Jr., secretary; Chris Mercier, Steve Bobb Sr., Valorie Sheker, June Sherer, Kathleen Tom and Toby McClary.

**June 2012 - September 2012:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Reyn Leno, vice chair; Jack Giffen Jr., secretary; Chris Mercier, Steve Bobb Sr., June Sherer, Kathleen Tom and Toby McClary.

**September 2012 - September 2013:** Reyn Leno, chair; Jack Giffen Jr., vice chair; Toby McClary, secretary; Chris Mercier, Steve Bobb Sr., June Sherer, Kathleen Tom, Cheryle A. Kennedy and Jon A. George.

**September 2013 - September 2014**: Reyn Leno, chair; Jack Giffen Jr., vice chair; Toby McClary, secretary; June Sherer, Kathleen Tom, Cheryle A. Kennedy, Jon A. George, Ed Pearsall and Denise Harvey.

**September 2014 – September 2015:** Reyn Leno, chair; Jack Giffen Jr., vice chair; Toby McClary, secretary; Cheryle A. Kennedy, Jon A. George, Ed Pearsall, Denise Harvey, Chris Mercier and Tonya Gleason-Shepek.

**September 2015 - September 2016:** Reyn Leno, chair; Jack Giffen Jr., vice chair; Cheryle A. Kennedy, secretary; Jon A. George, Ed Pearsall, Denise Harvey, Chris Mercier, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Brenda Tuomi.

**September 2016 – September 2017**: Reyn Leno, chair; Cheryle A. Kennedy, vice chair; Jon A. George, secretary; Kathleen George, Jack Giffen Jr., Denise Harvey, Chris Mercier, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Brenda Tuomi.

**September 2017 – September 2018:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Jon A. George, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Kathleen George, Denise Harvey, Michael Langley, Lisa Leno and Brenda Tuomi.

**September 2018 - September 2019:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Jon A. George, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Kathleen George, Denise Harvey, Michael Langley, Lisa Leno and Steve Bobb Sr.

**September 2019 – September 2020:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Jon A. George, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Kathleen George, Denise Harvey, Michael Langley, Lisa Leno and Steve Bobb Sr.

**September 2020 - September 2021:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Jon A. George, secretary; Jack Giffen Jr., Kathleen George, Denise Harvey, Michael Langley, Lisa Leno and Steve Bobb Sr.

**September 2021 – September 2022:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Michael Langley, secretary; Michael Cherry, Jack Giffen Jr., Jon A. George, Kathleen George, Denise Harvey and Lisa Leno.

**September 2022 – September 2023:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Michael Langley, secretary; Michael Cherry, Jon A. George, Kathleen George, Denise Harvey, Lisa Leno and Brenda Tuomi.

**September 2023 – September 2024:** Cheryle A. Kennedy, chair; Chris Mercier, vice chair; Michael Cherry, secretary; Jon A. George, Kathleen George, Matthew Haller, Denise Harvey, Lisa Leno and Brenda Tuomi.



# TRIBAL COUNCIL YEARS OF SERVICE



**ANGIE BLACKWELL** 2004-07



# SINCE 1983'S RESTORATION



STEVE BOBB SR. 2007-13, 2018-21



LARRY BRANDON 1990-91



**WILMADENE BUTLER** 1989-90



MICHAEL CHERRY 2021-present



JON A. GEORGE 2012-present



KATHLEEN GEORGE 2016-present



JACK GIFFEN JR. 2003-09, 2010-22



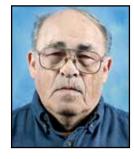
TONYA GLEASON-SHEPEK 2014-2017



**DOROTHY GREENE** 1986-87



**VALARENE GROUT** 1987-92, 93-96, 97-00, 01-04



**BOB HALLER** 1994-97, 98-04



**MATTHEW HALLER** 2023-present



FRANK HARRISON 1984-85, 86-87



KATHRYN HARRISON 1984-2001



**DENISE HARVEY** 2013-present



**MERLE HOLMES** 1988-94



**ANDREW JENNESS** 1992-95



**CHERYLE A. KENNEDY** 1985-86, 2000-present



**MARVIN KIMSEY** 1988-89



**BRADLEY KOWING** 1986-87



**EARL LABONTE** 1999-02



**EUGENE LABONTE** 1987-88, 94-97



MICHAEL LANGLEY 2017-23



**ED LARSEN** 1992-2004



LISA LENO 2017-present



MERLE LENO 1984-88



**REYN LENO** 1996-2017



**RUSSELL LENO** 1984-89



**TOBY MCCLARY** 



**RAY MCKNIGHT** 1987-94



**RICK MCKNIGHT** 1989-91



**BOB MERCIER** 1989-92, 97-00



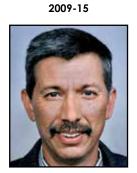
**CHRIS MERCIER** 2004-13, 14-present



DARRELL MERCIER 1984-86



**DEAN MERCIER** 1984-85



MARK MERCIER 1984-99



**ED PEARSALL** 1994-03, 2013-16



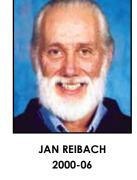
**EULA PETITE** 1985-87



1984-86, 87-89



1990-93, 95-98





1984-90, 91-94



JUNE SHERER 1999-05, 07-10, 11-14



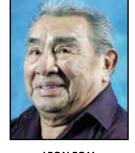
**VAL (ROBERTSON) SHEKER** 2002-05, 06-12



WINK SODERBERG 2005-11



**KATHLEEN TOM** 2005-14



**LEON TOM** 1991-99



**BRENDA TUOMI** 2015-18, 22-Present



**WESLEY WEST** 2004-07

12 40 Years of Restoration November 15, 2023 **Smoke Signals** 

# Tribal Council members discuss Restoration

### Compiled by Katherine Warren

Smoke Signals staff member

### Jon A. George How did you feel that day when we were restored?

I was down at the University of Oregon at the age of 22 and so with that I was out of the area so I didn't celebrated it due to being unaware of what was going on.

I was enrolled on Sept. 25, 1985, and I did it due to my father telling me to do it. Thanks to that it made me aware that



Jon A. George

we are a Tribe. My mom would go to the restoration meetings and she knew what was going on and would come back to tell my father. I

myself knew something was going on but didn't know the details.

### How do you feel the Tribe has grown since that day?

Leaps and bounds, from living here with nothing, no health care, no services, no commodities, and more. I only went to the doctor's once for my tonsils otherwise no health care or dental. However, we never seemed to be poor. Everyone helped each other by sharing food and clothes. We are truly blessed. It warms my heart to know that our kids won't go without health care or culture. Kids won't know what life is like without the plankhouse or Chinuk Wawa.

## What would you like to see accomplished in the future?

Create economic development; add businesses that were available worldwide to be beneficial to all members no matter where they lived. Help create financial security for no matter where they live.

### <u>Lisa Leno</u> How did you feel that day when we were restored?

I was age 15 and was aware of restoration. I knew that it



Lisa Leno

was a very big moment by how it impacted my dad and finally being able to say that I was Native. It meant a lot more than

we thought and seeing that for my dad and uncles was a very powerful thing. Of course, it affects generations differently. However, to me it was very important. However, to my dad, uncles, and others who had the experience of disenrollment for being restored was very powerful.

### How do you feel the Tribe has grown since that day?

We have a strong connection to our place and bringing back of our culture and language. Being able to connect to extended members in larger groups and have the opportunity for them to

come home.

### What would you like to see accomplished in the future?

I would like to continue to thrive as a people and build a community that acknowledges culture, location and language. To continue to heal from the Termination and having to go other places to raise kids. For people to come back home and live. Having housing and security living on our land and living the best life.

### Cheryle A. Kennedy How did you feel that day when we were restored?

As being part of a team doing 15 years of work having meetings with federal agencies, state agencies, grassroots, Rotary, Kiwanis, elder/senior homes, Elks, and many more. We would have our meetings at the Catholic Church school that used to be here. We couldn't afford to go to the Hill so we went to congressional meetings here in Oregon. I felt a sense of relief and thankfulness when I got the call while at work in Burns. It was Margaret Provost letting me know that we had been restored.

### How do you feel the Tribe has grown since that day?

We only had the cemetery with no bank account. We had been returned part of our land and



Cheryle A. Kennedy

we have had to purchase about 3,000 of it back. We now have health care facilities here, Salem and Portland. I served on the first Tribal Council and was one of

the first employees. Forty years seem short and still not at all where we had dream to be at. We will NEVER be terminated again. We will never trust anyone with us as a Tribe. We have endowments set up to remain a sovereign nation and resources. We always wanted to remain sovereign and not an organization. We govern ourselves and we take care of ourselves. All of our treaties were restored as well. We built the clinic, not the government. The government has its hand out to us, not the other way around. We are supposed to receive the same as the other federal Tribes and we don't still in 40 years. We have no money from the BIA. We have 250 homes for 6,000 members. How is that right? We need the heart piece of our Tribe and need to care for one another. Don't give up on one another.

### What would you like to see accomplished in the future?

That our land base being safe and restored to our original land. We have services for everyone to have healthy, able to live off our land, be thankful to Creator for what has been given to us. To have housing for all our people and spiritually restored to our land.

**Matthew Haller** How do you feel about

### Restoration and what it means to us as a Tribe?

Our Tribe receiving federal recognition and Restoration was detrimental to the survival of many Tribes. As a people, we were united from different bands of natives and pushed to Grand Ronde from great distances. Those ancestors are the bloodlines that make up



**Matthew Haller** 

the current general membership representing our organization of Native Americans that is now known as the Confederated Tribes of

Grand Ronde. Restoration for us holds immense significance. Prior to Restoration and federal recognition, we were diminished externally as a people. We were limited from many of our resources, and forced into a type of financial starvation that resulted in both economic and cultural limitations currently unimaginable to most. To me, restoration was the beginning of a limited social justice, and re-growth period for us, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

### How do you feel we have grown as a Tribe since you were born?

As a Tribe, we've experienced incredible growth over the years. I couldn't be more proud of the leaders that came before me and helped pave the way, not only for the future of our Tribal membership, but also for our surrounding communities. From humble beginnings and lack of resources during my lifetime ranging from modulartype, single-wide trailers acting as our only medical facilities to the success of where we stand today, our Tribe has flourished with magnitudes of new enrollments, educational and cultural opportunities. Although I believe we are still in the growth period, we have made massive strides toward the ideas of selfsufficiency as a whole.

### What would you like to see accomplished in the future?

In the future, I hope to continue our growth toward self-sufficiency by implementing extreme focus on Native food productions. Emphasizing sustainable agriculture practices and supporting Tribal farmers would aim to create a more resilient and healthy community we can depend upon. This endeavor contributes not only to our economic growth, but also to the overall well-being of our people. Enhanced food focus would aid in our everyday life needs and simultaneously provide security in emergency preparation for both our Tribe and our surrounding communities.

### Michael Cherry How did you feel that day when we were restored?

At the time of Restoration we lived in the little yellow house

just a stone's throw from the shed at the Cemetery where Tribal Council met and where a number of them were at when the news of the president signing the Grand Ronde Restoration Act. My mom, Candy Robertson, served on the first post-Restoration Tribal Council and although I don't remember the exact words that were shared that day, I do recall the joy, elation, hugs and tears that were shared. My sisters and I were in our younger teenage years and our younger siblings Brandon and Diana were just toddlers just a year apart and our older brothers were in the service. While I didn't fully grasp what Restoration meant, I understood fully that it was a good day for our Tribe and people, and that it was a long time coming.

### How do you feel we have grown since that day?

I loved growing up in Grand Ronde. It was a smaller



**Michael Cherry** 

community then and for the people that were here at that time, they understand when we say the growth is bittersweet. The government

may not have recognized us as Indian, but we mostly felt the impact of that in an economic sense. We may have been poor, but we were rich in spirit. We were always tethered to the land. Those are our best memories with our siblings, cousins who were like siblings and neighbors. We spent all day every day in nature, on Spirit Mountain, in the water, in the woods, we hunted, fished, played ball whenever we could, traveled to Kah-Nee-Ta for Pi-Ume-sha Treaty Days every year in the summer. Most importantly, we had each other. I'm pleased with the growth we've seen and celebrate what our ancestors fought so hard for.

### What would you like to see accomplished in the future?

My heart and soul is in this community. It was where I was born and raised. I was fortunate to be able to take part in the community discussions that helped shape the shawashilihi 2033 Community Development Plan. Ultimately, I want to see Grand Ronde be a thriving community where Tribal members can return home, gather, heal and just be supported in life's journey and everything that entails; the beauty, the pain and everything in-between. As a sovereign nation, we're so incredibly blessed and while I can't wait to see all the wonderful things in store for us as a Tribe and community, we can never forget where we've come from, what we've endured and the need to protect all that we hold dear.

(Editor's note: Tribal Council member Chris Mercier, Denise Harvey, Kathleen George and Brenda Tuomi did not respond to email requests for comment.)

# The history of Smoke Signals / smok signalz

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been publishing a Tribal newsletter, Smoke Signals, since at least 1979.

At its beginning, Smoke Signals was a mimeographed monthly newsletter reproduced on lettersized paper and distributed to the Tribal membership. It remained in that format until April 1987, when it first appeared in a tabloid format printed on traditional newsprint.

On Feb. 1, 1995, Smoke Signals changed from being a monthly publication to being published twice a month, approximately on the first and 15th of each month. The twice monthly publication schedule continues to this day.

Color photos started appearing in Smoke Signals in mid-1996. Smoke Signals became part of the Tribe's Public Affairs Department in 2005.

During its lifetime and through numerous staff changes, Smoke Signals has won many journalism awards from the Native American Journalists Association (now the Indigenous Journalists Association) and Oregon Newspaper Publishers

Association.

In January 2017, Smoke Signals became an independent newspaper after passage of the Independent Tribal Press Ordinance the previous month. A five-member Editorial Board that supervises the editor of Smoke Signals started meeting in June 2017.

In December 2017, Smoke Signals posted its first podcast and debuted its own Facebook page in May 2018. Its own website, smokesignals.org, debuted in February 2019.

Staff members have included Tribal members Greg Archuleta, Tracy Dugan Moreland, Brent Merrill, Justin Phillips, Kamiah Koch and Katherine Warren, as well as current and former Tribal Council members Chris Mercier and Toby McClary, a former Smoke Signals photographer.

Smoke Signals staff members also are responsible for producing the Tribe's calendar and Resource Directory, as well as supervising new media endeavors, such as the Tribal Reader Board and social media outlets on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.























**Danielle** Harrison

1979-March 1989 - No editor listed Greg Archuleta: March-July 1989 & June 1991

Brent Merrill: August 1989-May 1991 Cathy Cline: January-June 1992

Tracy Dugan Moreland: July 1992-April 2000

Brent Merrill: September 2000-2006 Siobhan Taylor: 2006-07

(also served as Public Affairs director)

Dean Rhodes: August 2007-July 2023 (remained on staff as Publications Coordinator

through January 2024)

**Danielle Harrison:** July 2023-present









Greg **Archuleta** 



**Brent Merrill** 



Cathy Cline



Dean **Rhodes** 



**SMOKESIGNALS.ORG** 



**Tracy Dugan** Moreland



Siobhan **Taylor** 









@SmokeSignals **CTGR** 







November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# **Temporary Grand Ronde Council meets in June 1975**

# Early Treasurer's Report cites bank balance of only \$2.27

### By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

The year is 1975.
Gerald Ford sits in the White House.

"All in the Family" is the most popular show on TV.

"Love Will Keep Us Together" by the Captain & Tennille tops the popular music charts.

Gas sells for about 50 cents a gallon.

And on June 8, 10 people christened "The Temporary Council of the Grand Ronde Indians" convene. Those in attendance are Chairwoman Margaret Provost, Co-Chairman Merle Holmes, Secretary Patti Martin, Treasurer Vicki Lawrence and council members Darrell Mercier, Marvin Kimsey, Les Houck, Russell Leno, Verna Larsen and Ken Hudson.

According to minutes kept by Martin, the discussion items are mostly procedural.

Among the decisions made:

- Meetings will be held on Sunday;
- General Council meetings will be held monthly;
- Bylaws of the Siletz Tribal Council will be adopted and revised to meet Grand Ronde's needs;
- And the next meeting will be held at the Kopper Kitchen in Salem.

The meeting adjourns at 4:01 p.m.

Forty-three people attended the meeting in Grand Ronde, driving from as far away as Tillamook and Portland.

From such humble beginnings, the Restoration of the Grand Ronde Tribe began.

According to Martin's minutes, taken between June 8, 1975, and Feb. 1, 1976, money to fund the effort was scarce.

For instance, the June 17 meeting held at the Kopper Kitchen is fronted by Provost. She pays \$14.75 for dinner and the meeting room and will be reimbursed when "the funds come in," the minutes state.

During the Sept. 21 meeting, Holmes announces he has applied for a \$7,800 grant from the National Indian Lutheran Board. In addition, Tribal members have approached the Small Tribes of Western Washington for admission, which would make the Grand Ronde Tribe eligible for the organization's grants.

Also in September, Kimsey moves to keep the same Tribal Council members on until September 1976 because of the work they have done and the contacts made. The motion passes.

In October at a meeting held in the conference room at Chemawa Indian School in Salem, attendance increases to 57. Provost explains the ultimate goal of the council to newly attending Tribal members – Restoration. The meeting also includes a potluck meal.

### COUNCIL MEETING OF THE GRAND RONDE INDIANS

DATE:

DECEMBER 7, 1975

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Wicki Lawrence Russ Leno Merle Holmes Marvin Kimsey Derreil Mercier Patti Martin

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Les Houck Margaret Provost Ken Hudson

### MINUTES:

Merle called the meeting to order at 1:20. Roll was called -- Margaret Provost, Ken Hudson, and Les Houck were absent.

Treasurer's report was given by Vicki Lawrence. The amount of \$21.27 was collected at the last meeting. \$15.00 was paid to the pastor for the rental of the church: \$5.00 was used for stamps, a balance was left of \$2.27. Herle motioned the treasurer's report be accepted; Marvin seconded.

Meric asked Marvin to give his report on the visitation of the lawyer, James King. He said that probably no government land could be given back. He told the people if they are on this list, they must contact the State Land Board. There is a charge of \$7.50 to get it.

The question was asked. "Is there any hope of doing something to Mr. Fuller?" The statute of limitations has run out.

Merle and Marvin attended a meeting of the task force at Siletz. There were some Indians there; but Merle said that if they did anything at all, they were very sympathetic. "But who knows?"

We want to have a meeting with Mr. Lonefight and the Public Health in order to use the dental health facilities at Chemawa. Merle said the people who are on the old rolls, and their dependents, will be recognized for this dental program.

Meric has some feeters out about low-income housing in the Grand Ronde area. The rent would be very low, because of the incomes out this way. Nothing smaller than 2 bedrooms.

Marvin said a work-shop is being held in Portland concerning the CETA Program. He hopes we will be sub-granteed by U.I.P., and have CETA monies to use in the Grand Ronde area.

There are a lot of educational grants--the main one being B.Z.O.G. The school must be Federally accredited before they will accept the grants. Marvin Rimsey twid the people that if they could get up enough men for a tree-planting crew, the CETA Program will arrange a contract between the crew and the Forest Service.

The question was asked, "Does anyone know what the cost of hooking up to the water system is?" It is an initial cost of \$300.00, and then a monthly charge of \$7.00 - \$8.00.

A show of hands also indicates interest in a health survey, which Diana Denhem and Patti Martin agree to conduct in the Grand Ronde Library on Oct. 31.

On Dec. 7, Treasurer Vicki Lawrence delivers her first report detailed in the minutes. The amount of \$21.27 was collected at the previous meeting, of which \$15 was dispersed for rental of the church and \$5 used to purchase stamps, leaving a balance of \$2.27.

Holmes reports receiving a letter from Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood.

"Since the Menominees were restored, it looks good for Siletz. We are sure that we could be restored also, because we have as many rights and needs as the others. There is also a chance for state recognition," the minutes say.

The Dec. 15 Tribal Council meeting held at a Bonanza restaurant discusses organizing a Christmas party and spaghetti feed for Native children in Grand Ronde. Several names are offered regarding who would be the best Santa, but the minutes do not reveal who the eventual Grand

Ronde Santa Claus turned out to be. However, the party is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

In January 1976, the Tribe is notified that its admittance into the Small Tribes of Western Washington is denied. An early setback in obtaining funding for the Restoration effort.

"The fact that Chinook Indians are a member, and receiving funds, is very puzzling since Grand Ronde has more than 300 Chinook Indians," the minutes state.

On the positive side, Holmes says he feels confident about receiving a \$7,800 National Indian Lutheran Board grant since ineligible groups were supposed to be notified of such by Jan. 1.

It also is announced that Ray Cross, a Mandan Indian who helped the Menominees obtain Restoration, would be taking over Grand Ronde's case with the Native American Rights Fund.

The Tribal Council also decides that all meetings should be held in Grand Ronde from now on. "The public school is open to use by the public," the minutes state. "There is no cost unless we use the kitchen. The Tribal Business Committee is filling out the necessary forms to see that the first Sunday of every month is scheduled for our meetings."

Monetarily, things are improving. The Tribal checking account stands at \$93 thanks to donations at the Christmas party. (There's no mention of Provost being reimbursed for the Kopper Kitchen expense.)

In February 1976, Holmes appoints Dean Mercier to the remainder of Ken Hudson's term on council until September elections are held. And a Bylaw Committee of Russ Leno, Dean Mercier, Darrell Mercier, Vicki Lawrence and Patti Martin forms to update the Siletz bylaws.

Twenty-eight people attend the Feb. 1 Tribal Council meeting. Most of them list Grand Ronde addresses on the attendance sheet.

Slowly, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is re-awakening in its traditional homelands as the nation's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday approaches.

Reprinted from Smoke Signals' 35th Restoration special edition.

smok signəlz 40 Years of Restoration November 15, 2023 15

# Restoration testimony

Testimony of
Kathryn Harrison
in support of
HR 3885 before
the House
Interior and
Insular Affairs
Committee, Oct.
18, 1983:



Kathryn Harrison

"Today, for the first time, I feel at peace with my ancestors, the introduction of this Restoration Bill is a beginning of an ending; a eulogy and a greeting.

"I am speaking here today, not only for people back home who are gathered together to celebrate this day, but also for those ancestors who completed our first Trail of Tears 127 years ago. Walking from Table Rock near what is now the city of Medford, Oregon, in a massive military round-up during the wintry month of February 1856. It took them 33 days to reach the present site of Grand Ronde. For those proud people who carried on, persisted, even stood alone to preserve our culture, Termination was not in their plans at all.

"Did they make that walk in vain?

"If you know anything about Indian people, especially the history of Grand Ronde Indians, a history that's not in the history books, you know we have endured much, but we have endured. With the coming of Termination in 1954, our second Trail of Tears began and is now in its 29th year, our children know of no other way of life. The economic impact was devastating and we became 'experts' on poverty; our original reservation of 69,000 acres, with proper management, could have been a continuing, on-going support for us. As a terminated Tribe, we suffer from problems in addition to issues confronting other Tribes. Without resources, we are a minority among recognized Tribes, yet not considered as equals either in the dominant society.

"It has taken a lot of hard work, depressing and discouraging at times, but there's always been the feeling that, as extensions of our ancestors, this restoration effort is the carrying out of their visions – and so we could always reach back to their strengths and wisdom.

"Because of this, we have seen organizations come and go, yet the Grand Ronde Tribe continues. Our roots are there, but we need those roots confirmed by Restoration. We are not only looking at strengthening our culture, we are also interested in working for economic betterment, and so by helping ourselves, we are helping the total community.

"Termination of Indian Tribes has been discredited by all of the U.S. presidents since President Nixon, yet my Tribe is still terminated.

"But now, Congressman
AuCoin knows and understands
our plight and has joined us in
our long walk toward rejoining
the family of Indian Nations.
By introducing our Restoration
Bill today, he is giving us new
hope that there is still 'liberty
and justice for all' in this United
States of America."

Testimony of Frank Harrison in support of HR 3885 before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Oct. 18, 1983:



Frank Harrison

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

"My name is Frank Harrison, and I am a council member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indians. I want to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to appear before you. I would like to tell you some of the effects of Termination on our Tribe.

"As you know, Termination as a policy has been repudiated

by the United States Congress since 1968, but my Tribe remains terminated.

"The idea behind Termination was for Indian people and Tribes to become self-sufficient by assimilating into the white society; to compete with white people and thus to learn to advance ourselves. The concept was that Termination would have a positive effect on the Grand Ronde Tribe.

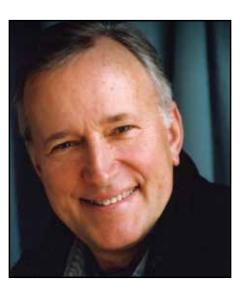
"The facts, however, show that the opposite has happened. Termination caused a great hardship to our Tribe and our people are still suffering because of it. In 1982, we hired a firm in McMinnville, Oregon, to conduct a socio-economic study of our people. This study shows that the Grand Ronde Indians are lagging behind their white neighbors in health, employment and education. I would like, Mr. Chairman, to read some of the findings of this report.

"Twenty-five percent of our Tribal members suffer from chronic health problems. Twenty-four percent are in need of medical attention but cannot afford it. Fifty-one percent have dental care needs which are not being met.

"The tragic irony of this is that not far from Grand Ronde there is the Indian Health Service facility at Chemawa Indian School. This is a modern and efficient facility, but our people cannot make use of its services because we are terminated and no longer federally recognized Indians. But the greatest loss has been our sense of identity. The loss of federal recognition affected the unity of the Tribe. Some people moved away. I remember going to other Tribes and having Indian people ask me what Tribe I was from, and having them not know Grand Ronde. This happened to me many times when I was growing up and still does today. This would not have happened if our Tribe had been federally recognized perhaps.

"In seven ratified treaties, our Tribe ceded to the United States hundreds of thousands of prime acres, making that land available for white settlement; in return the United States agreed to provide health, education and economic development services. The United States agreed to protect our people; the United States recognized our sovereignty. Our Tribe has abided by the laws of Congress and we kept our treaty promises. We never consented to being terminated and yet Termination has unilaterally abrogated many of the promises made to our Tribe by the United States. We ask today that Congress close the gap of 29 years and restore our Tribe to its former status. Thank you."

An excerpt from the testimony of U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 18, 1983. In this testimony, AuCoin urged the passage of the Restoration Bill, which he introduced.



Les AuCoin

"Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

"Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this bill. The main thing I want to stress this morning is my complete support for this legislation and what it seeks to do – and that is give the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde the tools they need to help themselves.

"I'm convinced that Tribal status is crucial to Native American people and is a cornerstone for their collective success. To non-Indians, Tribal status may seem superfluous, unnecessary and perhaps even silly. But to Indian peoples, it is the vessel for their cultural rediscovery, and a source of their cultural identity.

"Even though the Tribe was ill-prepared for the realities of Termination and many Indians floundered as unemployment soared, the Grand Rondes maintained an identity, a sense of community that persists today. It is a strong bond which may never been broken.

"These Indian people are now ready to accept Restoration of their Tribe as a federally recognized entity. They are not asking for a handout. They are determined people who have earned the dignity of being called by this nation as a Tribe once more."

November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# Kimsey recalls the road to Restoration

By Chris Mercier

Smoke Signals staff writer

here I sat at the local Food Bank.
Elder Marvin Kimsey sat before me, leaning back in the chair, calmly flicking cigarette ashes into a coffee can.

He spoke of Restoration. No, not the act of Restoration, Bill 3885, and speaking before Congress. Not the recent celebration at Spirit Mountain Casino. No, none of that.

He spoke of those first Tribal Council meetings that were like potlucks and the occasional shouting match that unfurled in a tiny office at the cemetery. To him, Restoration signified a unique struggle that he and a handful of others worked toward long ago.

He talked about Lebanon, nearly 30 years ago. Margaret Provost convinced him and Merle Holmes to attend a meeting held by some Association of Urban Indians.

"God those meetings were awful. They fought, they bickered," he said. "Some of the people, they were Kalapuyan, some of them were Sioux. Some not even Indian at all."

But despite the arguing, those people had one thing in common; an idea in hindsight that meant everything, an idea that would put Grand Ronde on the map.

The year was 1972, and the Termination Act had occurred not even 20 years ago. The idea was Restoration. Nobody knew what that meant, how long such a task would take or even if the goal was at all possible. But the idea stuck and 30 years later, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

If it could have only been that simple.

"You know, we figured it would take two or three years, tops," said Kimsey.

Well, we all know how the road toward Restoration extended a little beyond that projection, as the Tribe never really became "The Tribe" in the eyes of the federal government until 1983, 11 years after Kimsey, Provost and Holmes first attended that fateful little meeting in Lebanon.

What we don't really know is just what had to be done to achieve Restoration. Paperwork; loads and loads of paperwork. And phone calls, and letters to be written, and surveys, and enrollment numbers, and fact-finding, and people finding, coalition building, you name it – this was grassroots politics.

Names abound – Les AuCoin, Elizabeth Furse, Mark Hatfield, Don Wharton and Dean Mercier. And, yes, most people have a general idea of what happened, what with the visits to Washington, D.C., and all. But only a select few know the



**Marvin Kimsey** 

whole story, one which really goes beyond the scope of a simple article in a bimonthly publication, and might be better suited for a detailed account as a book. At least so said Kimsey.

"It is ... impossible, I mean impossible to tell you everything that went on in Restoration, and what it entailed," Kimsey said, shaking his head. "It really is. You just had to be there.

"There were a lot of sacrifices made," he continued. "We weren't always a Tribe with a casino, or a Tribe with timber even."

To be exact, they were a small group of people, with lives, with jobs not really related to a potential Tribe. There was no steady source of funding, no grants and their pooled extra cash amounted to no more than \$37. Not surprisingly for the first few years, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was an after-hours project; work away from work, unpaid for even Kimsey himself, often questionable.

"I can't say what drives a person to do it," he said. "I don't know who else would have done it, because there wasn't a whole lot of interest. Work 10- to 12-hour days for nothing. Who wants to do that?"

Well enough people wanted to do "that" to make the venture worthwhile. The first few acres of Tribal property were purchased, the cemetery no less, but coming at least with an office building. Things were cooking. Membership was estimated at more than 600 people, and there was a steady flow of volunteers to keep the ball rolling.

"A lot of people came and went," Kimsey said. "Some were really helpful for one or two months and then they left. And who can blame them? They had their livelihood, their jobs."

Kimsey called the period of 1975 to 1979 a time of "no gains whatsoever." But that time produced the core group of himself, Jackie Whisler, Merle Holmes and Margaret Provost, the four who were to be instrumental in getting the Tribe restored. And that time yielded some of

the long-lasting alliances, such as with Elizabeth Furse and Don Wharton of Oregon Legal Services, and with a strong political friend in the form of Congressman Les AuCoin.

Two other key players of note would arrive on the scene, Dean Mercier and Kathryn Harrison. Kimsey and Whisler both can remember the long days and nights spent crowded in the cemetery office, with neither heat nor plumbing, one phone line and a donated typewriter between them. Their first computer was a Commodore 64, which only one person knew how to use. Paper towels substituted for coffee filters.

"Yeah, I can remember during the long winter days, watching Jackie and Kathryn sit at their desks, wearing their coats," chuckled Kimsey.

"Gosh, I can remember those days, too," Whisler said on another occasion. "I left a Coke sitting by my desk one night and when I came back the next morning, it had frozen. We lived Restoration."

Whisler entered the fray in 1977 while living in Amity. Her father, Dean Mercier, had become involved and phoned her one night, asking when she was going to come over and "start helping her people."

Mercier himself had become involved, somewhat inadvertently, after learning at a Christmas party one night that he had been elected to Tribal Council.

"I figured if they thought enough of me to vote me in, I'd better start paying attention," Mercier said.

He, like others, had been recruited into the effort by Kimsey, of course. "Mister Restoration," Mercier called him.

Holmes, Kimsey and Mercier were in fact three of the first original Tribal chairmen. A Tribal Council did exist back then, with elections determined not by ballots, but merely by a show of hands at the General Council meetings.

"Back then nobody wanted to be on council," Whisler said. "I think if somebody was angry at somebody else, they would nominate them for council."

Perhaps nobody wanted to be on council because the positions were, like virtually every other one in those days, voluntary (read: unpaid). Council members had to be leaders, not politicians, an aspect not forgotten by the pre-Restoration group, especially Mercier.

"I never turned into a politician," Mercier said. "Though sometimes they tried to force me to. It was tough on the way to Restoration."

Indeed, Mercier's fiery personality didn't always serve his purpose too well. Whisler and her father both remember one of their early meetings with Les AuCoin, when the congressman was unusually tardy.

"He asked us if he was late," Mercier remembered. "I said, 'Oh, about two years late.'"

Whisler growled "Dad!" and gave him a sharp kick in the shin for the lack of diplomacy.

"I can remember AuCoin just looked at my dad and said, You're starting out wrong,'"
Whisler said, laughing.

Nonetheless, a sense of levity pervaded many of those early meetings. Some even look back on the occasional fistfights that erupted within the confines of Tribal functions with nostalgia, because even an overheated argument that came to blows was a sure sign of clear and effective communication. Nobody doubted another's stance after a bloody nose and row on the floor.

"The meetings were fun back then," Whisler said. "They were informative."

Just what were they doing all those years? What did all those meetings, all those long office hours need? Kimsey presented a paper from his records, a questionnaire and on it written, among others things, "Congressional Criteria for Federal Recognition."

It read:

1. The Tribe has exercised ongoing governmental functions.

2. Tribal group consists of a community of Indians belonging to a formerly recognized Tribe.

3. The Indians are still located in their aboriginal territory or on the former reservation.

4. They have maintained their customs and language.

5. The Tribal group is poorer than the surrounding adjacent nonIndian population.

"So, there you had it," Kimsey said. "The five or six steps toward Restoration. It seemed so simple, but it wasn't."

And AuCoin was the first person to tell them that.

"When we first dealt with him, he told us about all the work," Kimsey said. "And he told us, 'You've got to do the work. I'm not going to do it for you.'"

They had to hold meetings to prove governmental functions. They had to hold powwows and other rituals to demonstrate the upkeep of culture. They had to certify the blood quantum of members, document those who still spoke jargon, research families and collect numbers on income. They had to pursue grants for funding. Fry bread stands and peddling homemade jam by Tribal Elders were some of the notable fundraising activities.

At one point, Mercier said, the Tribe had an unsigned deal with United and Southwest airlines to provide them with huckleberry jam. That is until they realized the quantity demanded was way beyond their means.



Smoke Signals file photo

From left, Marvin Kimsey, Jackie Whisler, Frank Harrison, Karen Askins and Kathryn Harrison prepare to testify before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee about restoration for the Grand Ronde Tribe on Oct. 18, 1983.

Community support also had to be garnered. They contacted churches, clubs and scores of organizations, and just about anyone who would give support. They went through all manner of tedious bureaucratic work just to fulfill those obligations. Before steady funding arrived, Kimsey had to quit his job just to devote more time to the effort.

"It was like chasing a rainbow," Kimsey said. "It seemed closer, but it wasn't."

But the group got plenty of help from Tribal Elders; either through bake sales or money. Their support was monumental, Kimsey said.

"Ila (Dowd) and Velma (Mercier) helped us," he said. "And Wilson Bobb and Esther LaBonte, they donated money. It made you feel pretty good that someone believed in you," he added.

"Sometimes I think the Elders just wanted an excuse to get together," Whisler said. "To them, Restoration hopefully meant their medication was paid for."

But even with all the backing, the goal still seemed unreachable, just always out of grasp. More than once they felt like quitting.

"The hours were long and tedious," Kimsey said. "And there were times I wondered if it was worth it."

"I can remember once I wanted to quit because we didn't get this Administration for Native Amercians grant," Whisler said. "We thought we had it. But Marvin told me we didn't get it and I cried. It just seemed like this would never happen."

They got over it, and pressed on, taking solace in the slightest sliver of hope. As Whisler said, the encouragement came sporadically, and when it did, it worked.

"We would be so down

sometimes," she said. "But all it took was one phone call from somebody in Salem or D.C., telling us we had to do this or that and it would have us all fired up and working for another week."

The occasional workshop would happen, or a conference out of state, and they would have to decide who would go. Funds were that limited.

"We didn't have enough money, so we just sent one person and they would take notes for all of us," Whisler said.

Ultimately, another ANA grant came their way for \$60,000, enough to fund the whole operation for a year, and enough for the core members to quit and go full-time into Restoration.

"At that time, it was enough for all of us," said Kimsey, smiling.

More help materialized, as Elizabeth Furse, Don Wharton and Oregon Legal Services jumped on board and really got the effort going. In a clear reversal of fortune, at one point Kimsey and the others were actually turning down grants. And slowly but surely, with their newfound aid and finances, they were building up toward a date in D.C. with Congress.

But other obstacles loomed, among them opposition from Oregon Steelheaders and commercial fisheries, who feared that the special fishing rights likely given to a newly restored Tribe might encroach upon their business. Timber organizations worried federal lands loaded with troves of timber might go to Indians for reservation land. Even the Bureau of Indian Affairs proved difficult.

"Geez, you'd think the BIA would be your friend," said Whisler. "But they demanded so much from us."

Through political maneuvering, they were able to neutralize opposition or turn it into support. With AuCoin gathering support in the House and Hatfield in the Senate, plus the aid of then-Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh and assorted Polk and Yamhill county commissioners, the Tribe was only a hearing away from reality.

In 1983, Kimsey, Whisler, Kathryn Harrison and her son, Frank, and her daughter, Karen Askins, along with Elizabeth Furse made the legendary trip to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Neither Kimsey nor Whisler have forgotten that. As funds were still nowhere near the abundance they are now, the intrepid group stayed at the Davis House, not exactly a mission, and pretty far from being a hotel.

"My room, as near as I can tell, was a converted closet," Whisler said. "And I had one towel for the entire week. I had to ask for another."

The big day was truly, well ... big. Whisler wasn't really prepared for what lay ahead. The plan was originally to have Marvin and Frank speak before Congress and aides, with her looking on not uttering a peep. But Furse had other plans, telling Whisler it was imperative that she spoke.

"I freaked out," she said. "I told her there's no way I can speak in front of all those people. I told her I wasn't going to do it.

"She just looked at me and said, 'Jackie!' "Whisler said, imitating Furse with a voice similar to the way a parent might speak to a petulant child.

Later on, while walking down the halls of Congress, Whisler peeked into a side room. Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes" was conducting an interview with some political bigwig. They also met with a senator from Minnesota. She remembered vividly how he explained that some Tribes in Minnesota considered Termination one of the best things that ever happened to them.

"We didn't know what to say," she said. "I just said, 'We can't speak for other Tribes.'"

They all spoke on behalf of their Tribe. Ronald Reagan signed HR 3885 and it was passed with 57 letters of support and none opposing. And on Nov. 22, 1983, the inception of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde began, 2,200 members in all.

"The truth is, I've no interest in being back there and part of those politics that go on today," Kimsey said. "But I'm glad I was part of Restoration, and like I said, I don't know what would drive a person to do it. But if it had to be done again, I suppose I could muster up the strength."

Whisler reflects rather fondly on it as well.

"As good as we're doing now, when I think back to all the struggles then, it was so much fun," she said. "It was so ... innocent."

If Kimsey himself has any hard feelings, they are well concealed. He just hopes that someday the recognition due to his crew will come, particularly Whisler, who he thought had been largely omitted in appreciation.

"Not enough is said about Jackie," he said. "I can't even begin to tell you how important she was. Whatever we needed, she always got it done."

Reprinted from the Dec. 15, 2001, edition of Smoke Signals. Marvin Kimsey walked on March 4, 2018. November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# Important Confederated Tri

**1851:** Negotiations of 19 treaties occur with western Oregon Tribes, but none of the treaties are ever ratified.

**Sept. 10, 1853:** Treaty with the Rogue River Tribes.

**Sept. 19, 1853:** Treaty with the Umpqua-Cow Creek Band.

Nov. 15, 1854: Second treaty with the Rogue River Tribes.

Nov. 18, 1854: Treaty with the

Nov. 18, 1854: Treaty with the Chasta Costa.

Nov. 29, 1854: Treaty with the

Umpqua and Kalapuya. **Jan. 22, 1855:** Treaty with the Confederated Bands of the Willamette Valley/Kalapuya

Treaty. **1855**: U.S. Army constructs Fort Yamhill blockhouse.

Dec. 21, 1855: Treaty with the Molalla.

**Feb. 23-March 25, 1856:** Native Americans from the Table Rock Reservation near present-day Medford march to Grand Ronde. **June 30, 1857:** President James Buchanan signs an Executive Order establishing the more than 60,000-acre Grand Ronde Indian

**1860-86:** Tillamook Indians from the Salmon and Nestucca rivers are administered by the Grand Ronde Indian Agency and some remove to the Reservation.

**1862:** Father Adrian Croquet opens St. Michael's Church in Grand Ronde.

**1872:** Individual Indian families are informally allotted farmland at Grand Ronde.

**January 1873**: The Grand Ronde Indian Agency Legislature forms and elects George Sutton as president, C.D. Folger as secretary and representatives from each of the Tribes.

**1887:** Federal government passes the Dawes General Allotment Act. **1889:** 270 allotments, totaling more than 35,000 acres, are made to Indians at Grand Ronde. **1901:** Negotiations begin on sale of surplus Reservation lands. Sale consummated by lump-sum payment of \$28,500, or about \$1.10 per acre or \$72 per capita. Approximately 25,909 acres sold as surplus.

**June 18, 1934:** Indian

Reorganization Act allows Tribe to purchase land for subsistence and farming sites. About 537 acres purchased using IRA funds. **April 4, 1936:** Tribe adopts Constitution and bylaws under the IRA by an 83-13 vote and forms the Grand Ronde Business Committee.

June 9, 1953: Congress approves House Resolution 108, which establishes a policy of Termination of the federal-Tribal relationship with all Tribes.

**Aug. 13, 1954:** The Western Oregon Indian Termination Act is approved by Congress without Tribal consent.

**1956:** Federal services to western Oregon Tribes cease; all lands are sold, accounts are settled and the final Termination Roll is published. Grand Ronde members receive a \$35 per capita share.

**Dec. 22, 1973:** The Menominee



Oct. 18, 1983

Tribe of Wisconsin becomes the first Terminated Tribe restored by Congress.

1975: Temporary Council of Grand Ronde Indians starts meeting in the Grand Ronde Library and at other sites in the Grand Ronde and Salem areas. Nov. 18, 1977: The Confederated Tribes of Siletz in western Oregon becomes the second Terminated

Tribe restored by Congress.

May 1, 1979: The Tribe, through extensive community fundraising efforts, buys seven acres to add to the 2.5 acres left of its land

to the 2.5 acres left of its land base – the Tribal cemetery. 1979: Oregon Legal Services' Don Wharton visits a Grand Ronde Tribal Council meeting held at

Willamina Elementary School. **1979:** Tribe receives a \$90,000 Administration for Native Americans grant, which allows it to hire five full-time employees to work on Restoration.

**1980:** Kathryn Harrison, who worked on the Siletz Restoration, returns to Grand Ronde, her father's Tribe.

**1982:** Grand Ronde Tribal members travel to Washington, D.C., to enlist congressional support for Restoration.

Dec. 27, 1982: The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians in southern Oregon is restored.

Sept. 14, 1983: Congressman.

**Sept. 14, 1983:** Congressman Les AuCoin introduces the Grand Ronde Restoration Bill.

Oct. 18, 1983: Five Tribal members – Kathryn, Frank and Karen (Askins) Harrison, Marvin Kimsey and Jackie Whisler – travel to Washington, D.C., to testify on behalf of Tribal Restoration.

**November 1983:** U.S. House of Representatives passes the Grand Ronde Restoration Act and sends it to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

Nov. 11, 1983: U.S. Senate passes the Grand Ronde Restoration Act without amendments by a voice vote. It is sent on Nov. 14 to President Ronald Reagan for his signature. Nov. 22, 1983: President Reagan signs the bill that restores federal

recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

**Feb. 11, 1984:** The Tribe holds its first post-Restoration election, electing an interim Tribal Council from 27 candidates.

**Oct. 6, 1984:** More than 1,000 people attend the first Restoration Celebration held in Grand Ronde. Keynote speaker is U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin.

**Nov. 10, 1984:** The Tribe OKs a Constitution by a 145-14 vote. **Dec. 4, 1984:** The Tribe purchases Grand Ronde Rail Depot for use as Tribal governmental offices.

**April 1985:** Roger Harrison wins the contest for designing the Tribal logo, which is still in use today.

**August 1985:** The Tribe begins holding an annual powwow. **Nov. 22, 1985:** The Tribe finishes the final draft of the Grand Ronde Reservation Plan and submits it to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

**Nov. 14, 1986:** The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission approves a consent decree with the Tribe regarding fishing and hunting rights on the proposed Reservation.

**Jan. 12, 1987:** The state of Oregon and Tribe enter into a consent decree regarding fishing and hunting rights.

**February 1987:** Tribal enrollment surpasses the 2,000 mark.

**April 1987:** The Tribal newsletter, *Smoke Signals*, is printed on newsprint for the first time.

**Aug. 10, 1987:** U.S. Rep Les AuCoin holds a hearing at Grand Ronde Elementary School regarding the Tribe's Reservation Plan.

**Sept. 12, 1987:** The Tribe elects a Tribal Council and establishes staggered three-year terms with three members up for election annually.

March 14, 1988: A new Reservation Bill is submitted by U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin, calling for return of 9,811 acres to the Grand Ronde Tribe. Smoke Signals file photo

**April 12, 1988:** U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield introduces a similar Grand Ronde Reservation Bill in the Senate.

**Sept. 9, 1988:** President Ronald Reagan signs the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, restoring 9,811 acres of the original Reservation to the Tribe.

**Oct. 17, 1988:** The National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act becomes law.

**Oct. 22, 1988:** The Tribe celebrates re-establishment of the Grand Ronde Reservation; an estimated 300 Tribal members and friends attend.

**April 1989:** The Tribe opens Nanitch Sahallie, a substance abuse treatment center for Native American youth in Keizer. **April 25, 1989:** The Tribe

the Reservation valued at approximately \$1.3 million.

1989: The Tribe purchases
5.5 acres along Highway 18 for housing the Natural Resources
Department office. It will eventually become the site of Spirit Mountain Casino.

holds its first timber sale from

**1990:** Tribe establishes a Tribal Court to uphold the Tribal Constitution and maintain the rights of Tribal members.

**Summer 1990:** Tribe receives a \$250,000 Community
Development Block Grant to help build a Community Center, which will house most community services.

**January 1991:** Tribe moves its offices from the old manor building to a new modular office complex on Grand Ronde Road. **March 1992:** Grand Ronde

Tribal Council meets in the new Community Center, the first permanent building constructed since Restoration.

Jan. 1, 1993: The Burial Fund Ordinance goes into effect. May 12, 1993: Tribal Council adopts a Gaming Ordinance, which authorizes Tribal gaming and establishes the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission.

**July 1993:** Gov. Barbara Roberts signs a gaming compact with the Grand Ronde Tribe.

# bes of Grand Ronde dates

July 1993: The first Veterans Powwow is held at the Grand Ronde Powwow Grounds.

Nov. 22, 1993: Tribe celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Restoration at Grand Ronde Grade School. Les AuCoin and Don Wharton attended the celebration.

**1994:** Tribal membership votes to pursue gaming as a revenue source at a General Council meeting.

March 1994: Tribe receives a \$270,000 Indian Community Block Grant to construct a 5,000-gallon steel water storage tank on the ridge north of Highway 18 across from the proposed casino site.

**October 1994:** Construction begins on the Tribe's casino. John Hancock Insurance Co. approves an \$18.9 million loan for the project.

**February 1995:** *Smoke Signals* starts publishing twice monthly. **April 3, 1995:** The logo for Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. designed by Sandstrom Design in Portland – a coyote leaping over Spirit Mountain – is unveiled.

**Oct. 16, 1995:** An open house provides more than 4,000 Tribal members, business vendors and civic leaders a first look inside Spirit Mountain Casino.

**December 1995:** Tribe establishes the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority. **1996:** Tribe establishes Timber Trust Fund.

May 22, 1996: Gov. John Kitzhaber signs an executive order establishing state-Tribal government-to-government relationships.

**July 4, 1996:** Phase II of Spirit Mountain Casino opens. The new area includes a steakhouse and lounge, children's SuperPlay area and banquet rooms.

**Aug. 23-24, 1996:** The first annual Spirit Mountain Stampede and Rodeo is held at the Grand Ronde Powwow Grounds.

**Jan. 10, 1997:** Gov. John Kitzhaber signs a new gaming compact with the Tribe that allows expanded gaming options at Spirit Mountain Casino.

**April 1997:** Roulette is added as a gaming option at Spirit Mountain Casino with craps tables scheduled to debut in June.

**May 1997:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund awards its first grant award to Life Flight Network for \$174,000.

**August 1997:** The Natural Resources Department moves into a new facility on Southwest Hebo Road.

**Sept. 8, 1997:** The new Health & Wellness Center opens.

**Sept. 22, 1997:** The first residents move into Grand Meadows, the Tribe's new 37-lot manufactured home park. **January 1998:** Spirit Mountain

**January 1998:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund creates the Hatfield Fellowship to honor Sen. Mark O. Hatfield.

**October 1998:** Tribal member Peter Wakeland is selected as the first Hatfield Fellow. Nov. 6, 1998: The new Governance Center is dedicated. Dec. 21, 1998: The 100-room Spirit Mountain Lodge opens. 1999: Tribal Council passes the Gaming Revenue Allocation Plan, which distributes a percentage of the casino's revenue to Tribal members.

**May 1999:** Oregon Tourism Commission says that Spirit Mountain Casino is the state's No. 1 tourist attraction.

**June 9, 1999:** Tribe signs an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service about coordinating management of 6,600 acres of national forest lands.

**June 10, 1999:** Ground broken on the Elder housing complex, which will have 38 two-bedroom apartments.

**July 1999:** First Elder Honor Day is held.

**Sept. 15, 1999:** The Tribe submits a claim to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City asking for return of Tomanowos (the Willamette meteorite) under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Jan. 27, 2000: Tribe signs a memorandum of understanding with Willamette National Forest that guarantees the forest will seek the Tribe's input and consultation on forest management practices.

June 2000: Tribe signs an agreement with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City that will ensure Tribal access to Tomanowos and permits the meteorite to remain at the museum.

**Aug. 1, 2000:** Tribe's first Elder housing development is dedicated.

**Nov. 11, 2000:** Ground broken at the Tribal Governance Center for the planned West Valley Veterans Memorial.

**December 2000:** National Indian Gaming Commission announces that the Grand Ronde Tribe is recognized for operating a self-regulating Indian casino.

**February 2001:** *Smoke Signals* joins the World Wide Web at www.grandronde.org.

April 2001: Spirit Mountain Community Fund eclipses the \$10 million mark in giving.

May 16, 2001: Tribal members make their first visit to Tomanowos at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to bless the metaorite

May 23, 2001: Ground broken for a new education complex.

May 2001: Work begins on new rodeo grounds that will be adjacent to the Tribal Governance Center.

**June 2001:** Work starts on a 5,200-square-foot expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino, which will provide space for an additional 200 slot machines.

**Aug. 1, 2001:** Tribe establishes a Court of Appeals.

**Sept. 21, 2001:** Ground broken on a new Tribal member housing development that will include 36 one- through five-bedroom

homes.

**August 2002:** Open house held in the gymnasium of the Tribe's new Education Complex.

**November 2002:** New Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority building is completed.

April 2003: Tribal Library opens.
April 4-5, 2003: First Agency
Creek Round Dance is held.
April 2003: First Tribal Wellness

Day is held.

May 13, 2003: Spirit Mountain
Community Fund celebrates \$20

million in charitable giving. **May 31, 2003:** West Valley

Veterans Memorial is dedicated on the Tribal campus.

August 2003: The Hall of Legends, which connects Spirit Mountain Casino with Spirit Mountain Lodge, is remodeled into a walk-through display showcasing the history and culture of the Grand Ronde Tribes.

June 26, 2003: Tribe's new 36unit housing development Chxi Musam Illihi ("A New Sleeping Place" in Chinuk Wawa) is

**Nov. 22, 2003:** The Tribe celebrates 20 years of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino. Singer Crystal Gayle is the headliner at the event.

**Dec. 19, 2003:** Tribal convenience store opens off Highway 18 next to Spirit Mountain Casino.

**February 2004:** Tribe receives a \$500,000 Indian Community Development Block grant to widen Grand Ronde Road.

**April 2004:** Work begins on expansion of Spirit Mountain Lodge that will add 150 rooms in five stories.

**April 2004:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses the \$25 million mark in charitable giving.

**May 18, 2004:** Key Restoration figure Merle Holmes walks on at age 70

**Sept. 1, 2004:** Tribe opens satellite office in Portland. **March 2005:** Tribe opens satellite office in Eugene. **April 23, 2005:** The 163-room expansion of Spirit Mountain

Lodge opens. **April 2005:** Round Valley becomes the Tribe's independent construction company.

June 15, 2005: Ground broken at Chemawa Station in Keizer. June 2005: Ground broken for a new 72-unit mixed-income development.

**Aug. 1, 2005:** Grand Ronde Tribe participates in its first Canoe Journey, the Paddle to Elwha, which lands in Port Angeles, Wash.

Nov. 10, 2005: Spirit Mountain Community Fund tops \$30 million in charitable giving.

April 17, 2006: Willamette University repatriates a 2.2-pound fragment of Tomanowos to the Tribe.

July 5, 2006: The Tribe celebrates the opening of three Adult Foster Care buildings.

July 15, 2006: A name-giving ceremony is held for stankiya, the

Tribe's homemade canoe.

**Sept. 1, 2006:** Spirit Mountain Casino opens The Peak.

**October 2006:** New rental units in Chxi Musam Illihi are ready for occupation in Grand Ronde.

**October 2006:** Tribe starts building a fish weir in Agency Creek.

**Feb. 5, 2007:** A groundbreaking event held for the southern expansion project at Spirit Mountain Casino.

**May 25, 2007:** A groundbreaking event held for the new Elders Activity Center on Blacktail Drive.

**Aug. 2, 2007:** Gov. Ted Kulongoski signs the first state-Tribal Proclamation, which is the first step toward giving Grand Ronde Tribal members increased access to game for ceremonial purposes.

**Aug. 24, 2007:** Spirit Mountain Casino opens the free-standing PlayWorld Events Center.

**Sept. 13, 2007:** Tribe celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spirit Mountain Community Fund, which surpasses the \$40 million mark in charitable giving.

March 2008: More than 600 Tribal artifacts from the Horner Collection returned to the Tribe.

**April 18, 2008:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission awards ceremonial hunting rights to the Grand Ronde Tribe.

**May 15, 2008:** Fourth major expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino opens, including a new Event Center and Cedar Plank Buffet.

**July 12, 2008:** First powwow is held at the Tribe's new uyxat Powwow Grounds off Hebo Road near Fort Yamhill State Park.

**August 2008:** Tribal Reader Board on Grand Ronde Road becomes operational. **Sept. 15, 2008:** Oregon

Department of Motor Vehicles starts accepting Tribal identification cards as proof of legal presence in the United States.

**Nov. 1, 2008:** Elders Activity Center opens.

**Nov. 22, 2008:** Tribe celebrates 25 years of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino. Events include a concert by Rita Coolidge. **2009:** Substantial building of

achaf-hammi, the Grand Ronde plankhouse, is completed.

Jan. 30, 2009: First Gathering

of Oregon's First Nations Powwow is held at the Oregon State
Fairgrounds in Salem.

**May 14, 2009:** Tribal flags added to the Walk of Flags area at the state Capitol in Salem.

May 23, 2009: Spirit Mountain Casino opens the Mountain View Sports Bar and Raindrops Nightclub.

**July 2009:** Tribe and West Valley Fire District sign an intergovernmental agreement to build a fire station in Grand Ronde.

**September 2009:** New baseball field, complete with two dugouts, is constructed on the Tribal campus.

Oct. 2, 2009: Oregon Fish &

Wildlife Commission re-adopts a rule granting ceremonial hunting rights to the Tribe across the Trask Hunting Unit.

**Nov. 2, 2009:** Completion of the Grand Ronde Road improvement project is marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

**Nov. 6, 2009:** The Tribe purchases a new 20,000-square-foot building at 4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd. in which to house the Portland satellite office.

January 2010: Spirit Mountain Community Fund joins Facebook. **February 2010:** Tribe receives a \$325,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant to double the size of the Tribal Library.

February 2010: Tribal staff move into the new Portland satellite office on Barbur Boulevard.

March 3, 2010: For the first time, the Tribe celebrates employees who have reached their 25<sup>th</sup> year of employment.

June 14, 2010: A Tribal

contingent celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tribe's agreement with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City by holding a ceremony with Tomanowos.

**June 25, 2010:** Grand opening of the Grand Ronde Fire Station at McPherson and Grand Ronde roads is celebrated.

**Sept. 8, 2010:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses the \$50 million mark in charitable giving.

**Sept. 17, 2010:** Grand opening is held of the new Tribal plankhouse, achaf-hammi.

**October 2010:** Tribe establishes Twitter and Facebook social media accounts.

**Dec. 9, 2010:** An open house celebrates the 4,000-square-foot expansion of the Tribal Health & Wellness Center.

**Jan. 19, 2011:** Spirit Mountain Casino becomes a three-year sponsor of the Portland Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.

**Jan. 30, 2011:** The Tribal plankhouse is christened with a name, "achaf-hammi," a Tualatin-Kalapuya word meaning "a house built of cedar planks."

**May 2011:** Tribe agrees to buy the middle school facility in Grand Ronde from the Willamina School District for \$675,000.

**June 2, 2011:** An open house celebrates the expansion of the Tribal Library.

**July 2011:** After a two-year hiatus because of difficult economic times, Spirit Mountain Stampede returns to the Tribal Rodeo Grounds.

Sept. 10, 2011: Tribe signs a memorandum of understanding with the Bureau of Land Management and Nature Conservancy regarding the management plan for Table Rock. Sept. 23, 2011: Tribe holds its first Tribal Government Day with

the city of Portland. **Dec. 7, 2011:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund tops \$55 million in charitable giving.

million in charitable giving. **Dec. 16, 2011:** Tribe holds its first Salmon Celebration.

March 4, 2012: Tribe celebrates the release of a new Chinuk Wawa dictionary, "Chinuk Wawa: As our elders teach us to speak

May 11, 2012: Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrates its

15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**July 11, 2012:** Portland formalizes coordination and consultation with Tribal governments.

**Nov. 6, 2012:** Oregonians reject two measures that would have amended the state Constitution to allow private casinos and would have specifically approved a private casino in Wood Village. **Nov. 16, 2012:** Al LaChance Jr. and Jake McKnight are sworn in as the first two members of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department.

**Nov. 27, 2012:** Two charging stations for electric cars become operational at the Grand Ronde convenience store.

**Dec. 26, 2012:** Grand Ronde Rail Depot is named to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Feb. 11, 2013:** Tribe becomes a minority owner of SAM Medical Products in Wilsonville.

**April 2013:** Tribe begins an enrollment audit to ensure its enrollment is historically accurate.

**April 2013:** The Lands Management and Cultural Resources departments merge into one entity, the new Land and Culture Department.

May 6, 2013: Tribe holds a First Salmon Ceremony at the McLean House in West Linn, marking the first time in 130 years Tribal members attend such a ceremony on the banks of the Willamette River.

**May 2013:** First Tribal students graduate Willamina High School with both high school and college credit for learning their Native language, Chinuk Wawa.

**May 29, 2013:** Mindy Lane sworn in as the first female member of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department.

**June 2013:** Tribe acquires the 338-acre Chahalpam property on the North Santiam River southeast of Salem in Marion County.

**June 9, 2013:** Tribe hosts the first four-day Veterans Summit at uyxat Powwow Grounds in collaboration with the Native Wellness Center of Gresham.

**Sept. 25-29, 2013:** For the first time in more than 100 years, a Coming of Age Ceremony is held for Tribal girls.

**October 2013:** Greg Azure becomes the Tribe's first Tribal Employment Rights Office director.

**Nov. 6, 2013:** Tribal Council adopts the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance, which is designed to create more jobs for Tribal members.

**Nov. 14, 2013:** First Tribal History Conference held in the Community Center.

Nov. 20, 2013: Tribal Council sends two proposed constitutional amendments to voters to remove Bureau of Indian Affairs oversight over Tribal constitutional elections and to institute term limits for Tribal Council members.

**Nov. 21-22, 2013:** Tribe celebrates 30 years of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino. Tribal member Jan Looking Wolf Reibach is the entertainment headliner.

**Dec. 30, 2013:** Sixteen Tribal members targeted for disenrollment because they were



Sept. 12, 2015

Smoke Signals file photo

dually enrolled remain members after a series of 5-3 Tribal Council votes.

**Jan. 15, 2014:** A Chinuk Wawa name becomes a finalist for a new car-free bridge being constructed over the Willamette River in Portland.

**Jan. 30, 2014:** Blessing ceremony held for a carved salmon packer-shaped house post erected in the Governance Center Atrium.

**April 1, 2014:** Women's Transitional House opens on Grand Ronde Road.

April 16, 2014: "Tilikum Crossing" is chosen as the new name for the car-free bridge spanning the Willamette River in Portland. The winning name came from Tribal Historian David Lewis and the Tribe's Language Program.

April 14-15, 2014: Tribe receives an award from the Native American Finance Officers Association for its \$10 million equity investment in MicroGREEN Polymers in Arlington, Wash.

**May 5, 2014:** Ground broken on a new 20-unit apartment complex.

May 14, 2014: Tribal Council requests cancellation of the upcoming constitutional election because of procedural errors at the Bureau of Indian Affair's Siletz Agency Office.

June 5, 2014: First phase of the Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center opens, fulfilling a longtime goal of the Tribe to tell its own history.

**June 27, 2014:** Grand Ronde Community Garden holds a grand opening event.

**July 2, 2014:** Tribal Council invests the Enrollment Committee with final say in determining involuntary loss of enrollment cases.

**July 21, 2014:** Ground broken on a new Employment Services building that will include 12,000 square feet and 30 offices.

**Sept. 5, 2014:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission OKs the Tribe's Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, giving the Grand Ronde Tribe greater control over fish and wildlife on its Reservation and trust lands.

October 2014: Health & Wellness Business Office Manager Tresa Mercier becomes the first employee honored for 30 years of service.

**Oct. 9, 2014:** A Chinuk Wawa language app is unveiled at

Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center.

**Oct. 22, 2014:** Department of the Interior files notice of its intention to take land into trust for the Cowlitz Tribe in southwestern Washington state.

**Dec. 5, 2014:** New Grand Ronde Food Bank on Grand Ronde Road holds its first food distribution.

**Dec. 18, 2014:** Grand Ronde Tribe appeals the Department of the Interior's decision to take land into trust for the Cowlitz Tribe in Washington state.

**Feb. 23, 2015:** Ground broken for a new arbor at uyxat Powwow Grounds.

**March 9, 2015:** Department of the Interior takes land into trust for the Cowlitz Tribe approximately 15 miles north of the Portland metropolitan area along Interstate 5.

March 14, 2015: Tribal voters defeat a measure to remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs' oversight of Tribal constitutional elections and a measure to institute term limits for Tribal Council members fails to receive the 66.7 percent approval required to pass.

**April 3, 2015:** MicroGREEN Polymers closes.

**April 19, 2015:** Opal Davidson turns 100, making the first time the Tribe has had two living centenarians in the modern era. She joins Elder Pearl Lyon.

**May 14, 2015:** Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services turns 40 years old.

**May 21, 2015:** Grand opening held for the five-building, 20-apartment Chxi Musam Illihi complex in Tribal housing.

**May 30, 2015:** Ferrell DeGarmo becomes the first Tribal Employment Rights Office Worker of the Year.

**June 23, 2015:** Willamina School Board agrees to hang the Grand Ronde Tribal flag in three district buildings.

**June 17, 2015:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses \$65 million in charitable giving.

**June 30, 2015:** New Employment Services building holds a grand opening celebration.

**July 10, 2015:** New arbor at uyxat Powwow Grounds dedicated.

**July 15, 2015:** For the first time since Restoration, Tribal Council approves Reservation hunting tags and seasons.

**Sept. 2, 2015:** Tribe accepts a 14-acre donation from the Tillamook County Board of

Commissions at Kilchis Point on the eastern shore of Tillamook Bay

**Sept. 12, 2015:** Grand Ronde representatives lead the way during the Tilikum Crossing bridge dedication held in Portland.

October 2015: Portland and Corvallis officially name the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Tribal Council approves giving Tribal governmental employees the day off as well.

**Oct. 16, 2015:** Spirit Mountain Casino turns 20.

**Nov. 4, 2015:** Tribal Council approves a \$13 million remodel of Spirit Mountain Casino.

**Dec. 6, 2015:** General Council briefing reveals that the Tribe lost more than \$28 million investing in MicroGREEN Polymers of Arlington, Wash.

**Dec. 11, 2015:** Tribe purchases the Multnomah Greyhound Park site in Wood Village.

**Feb. 12, 2016:** Grand Ronde's first police chief, Al LaChance, retires and is succeeded by Jake McKnight.

March 20, 2016: Tribal K-9 Officer Nixwa shot and killed after he attacks the family of a Tribal police officer.

April 6, 2016: Tribal Council proposes two constitutional amendments regarding removing the parent on the roll at time of birth and time of application requirements and adding language to the definition of Grand Ronde blood, as well as reducing the participation requirements for initiatives, referendums and calling special General Council meetings.

**April 22, 2016:** Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission votes to allow ceremonial fishing by Grand Ronde Tribal members at Willamette Falls.

**May 2016:** Lighthouse Community Building opens on Grand Ronde Road north of Southwest Hebo Road.

**June 1, 2016:** Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald visits the Grand Ronde Tribe.

**June 7, 2016:** Tribe participates in Cascadia Rising, a multi-state exercise to prepare for a 9.0 subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

June 8, 2016: Tribal member Andrew Freeman catches the first salmon that was netted during a ceremonial fishing harvest at Willamette Falls. It was the first fishing to occur at the falls in approximately 120 years by Tribal members.

**June 22, 2016:** A new north entrance opens at Spirit Mountain Casino.

June 15, 2016: Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses \$70 million in charitable giving. July 8, 2016: Tribal voters overwhelmingly reject two proposed constitutional amendments that would have changed enrollment requirements and expanded the definition of Grand Ronde blood, and would have changed the requirements for initiating a referendum or initiative and the calling of a special General Council meeting. **August 2016:** Tribe's Court of Appeals rules that the Tribe

took too long in its attempt to

correct the membership status of Chief Tumulth descendants and remanded the cases back to Chief Judge David Shaw and the Enrollment Board.

Aug. 31, 2016: First Youth Council is appointed with members Dominik Briant, Isabelle Grout, Raven Harmon, Jason Page, Payton Smith and Madalyn Volz.

**Aug. 31, 2016:** Tribal Council approves a resolution supporting the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota as it protests construction of an oil pipeline adjacent to its Reservation and donates \$2,500 to the Sioux Tribe.

**Sept. 14, 2016:** For the first time, women hold the majority on Tribal Council.

**Oct. 3, 2016:** Enrollment Board dismisses proceedings against 67 descendants of treaty signer Chief Tumulth.

**October 2016:** Grand Ronde ends its legal battle to stop the Cowlitz Tribe from getting a reservation north of the Portland metropolitan area.

**Nov. 27, 2016:** Grand Ronde Youth Council holds its first meeting.

Nov. 30, 2016: Staff directive ends the Tribe's practice of screening for marijuana during its pre-employment processes.

Dec. 14, 2016: Tribal Council OKs a memorandum of understanding with the city of Portland to formalize coordination and consultation.

**Dec. 14, 2016:** President Barack Obama signs amendments to the Grand Ronde Reservation Act that streamline how the Tribe can take land into trust.

January 2017: Smoke Signals officially becomes an independent Tribal press and is able to report Grand Ronde news free of supervision by Tribal Council or Tribal administration.

**March 7, 2017:** Grand Ronde Police Station on Grand Ronde Road is blessed and opens to the public.

March 23, 2017: Oregon Board of Education approves the first Tribe-school district Native mascot agreement between the Grand Ronde Tribe and Banks School District.

**April 24, 2017:** Spirit Mountain Casino loses its status as the closest casino to the Portland market with the opening of the Cowlitz Tribe's Ilani.

**May 5, 2017:** Tribe signs a memorandum of understanding with the University of Oregon ensuring government-to-government consultation between the two entities.

May 17, 2017: Tribal Council appoints the first Editorial Board that will oversee operations of *Smoke Signals*. Members are former Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor and Tribal members David Harrelson, Monty Herron, Andrew Jenness and Mia Prickett.

**May 31, 2017:** Tribal Council member Reynold Leno announces an end to his 21-year tenure on the governing board.

**June 5, 2017:** In its first meeting, the Editorial Board overturns a long-standing but unwritten prohibition against Tribal Council candidates advertising in *Smoke Signals*.

**July 29, 2017:** Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an event held at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

**Aug. 21, 2017:** A total solar eclipse envelops Grand Ronde in mid-morning darkness for 101 seconds.

**Sept. 9, 2017:** Michael Langley becomes the first Tribal Council candidate to receive more than 700 votes in an election. He received 708 votes. It also marks the first time advisory votes have been included on the Tribal Council ballot.

**Sept. 9, 2017:** The Grand Ronde Tribe receives the Elias Boudinot Free Press Award from the Native American Journalists Association during a convention held in Anaheim, Calif. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier attends to accept the award in recognition of the Independent Tribal Press Ordinance approved in December 2016.

**Sept. 18, 2017:** Gov. Kate Brown signs Senate Bill 13 into law that requires the state Department of Education to develop curriculum relating to the Native American experience in Oregon.

Oct. 6, 2017: Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Oct. 25, 2017: Grand Ronde Police Chief Jake McKnight holds the first "Chat With the Chief" event.

**Nov. 29, 2017:** Pearl Lyon, perhaps the Tribe's eldest Elder ever, walks on at age 105.

**Dec. 13, 2017:** The federal government approves amendments to the state-Grand Ronde gaming compact that will allow Spirit Mountain Casino to offer games appealing to younger customers.

Dec. 28, 2017: Smoke Signals posts its first podcast on the hosting site www.spreaker.com Jan. 24, 2018: Tribal Council adopts Enrollment Ordinance changes that return final decision making to the council regarding involuntary loss of enrollment cases.

**March 4, 2018:** Key Restoration figure Marvin Kimsey walks on at age 83.

**April 11-13, 2018:** First Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixum event is held in the Tribal Community Center.

May 1, 2018: Smoke Signals launches its own Facebook page. June 1, 2018: Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center displays 16 Summers Collection items on loan from the British Museum in London.

June 7, 2018: Lead Groundskeeper Gregg Leno becomes the second Tribal employee recognized for more than 30 years of employment with the Tribe.

**July 12, 2018:** Veterans retire the Marcellus Norwest eagle staff and donate it to Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center for future care and display.

**Aug. 28, 2018:** Tribe puts the former Multnomah Greyhound Park property in Wood Village up for sale after owning it for more than two years.

**Aug. 30, 2018:** Key Restoration figure Margaret Provost walks on at age 88.

Sept. 4, 2018: Tribal

representatives bless the site of a future fishing platform to be constructed at Willamette Falls.

**Sept. 8, 2018:** Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy sets a record for most votes received in a Tribal Council election with 712.

**Sept. 26, 2018:** Tribal Elder Dorothy "Dottie" Greene turns 100 years old.

**Sept. 28, 2018** – Portland hosts its first Tribal Nations Summit. **Oct. 3, 2018:** Tribe begins construction on a fishing platform at Willamette Falls.

Oct. 13, 2018 – Former Tribal Council member Valarene Grout walks on at the age of 83.

**Oct. 24, 2018** – Tribal Council approves a constitutional amendment vote to address the issue of siblings who are not Tribal members despite having brothers and sisters who are and have the same parents.

Oct. 25, 2018 – Tribal members begin lowering dipnets into the water of Willamette Falls from the newly installed Tribal fishing platform.

Nov. 1, 2018 – Elders Activity Center celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since opening. Nov. 14, 2018 – Tribal Council votes to reinstate the membership of 19 Chief Tumulth descendants. Nov. 18, 2018: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> year of Restoration with an event held at Spirit Mountain Casino. Former Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin

Dec. 12, 2018 – Spirit Mountain Community Fund exceeds \$79 million in giving and Board of Trustees member Sho Dozono retires after 21 years of service.

January 2019 – Tribal member Bryan Mercier becomes regional director of the Portland office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Feb. 4, 2019 – Smoke Signals' new website, www.smokesignals. org, debuts.

attends.

**Feb. 5, 2019** – Tribal Council adopts Hattie Mae Emmilee Craig as the first honorary member of the Tribe.

**Feb. 22, 2019** – Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum repatriates a 4.5-ounce piece of Tomanowos to the Tribe.

March 18, 2019 – Tribal Elder Ruby Bigoni turns 100 years old. March 22, 2019 – Tribal voters favor resolving the split sibling issue during a constitutional amendment vote, but not by the 66.7 percent majority to have the proposal change the Tribal Constitution.

May 30, 2019 – Tribal members bid a somber farewell to the 16 artifacts lent to Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center by the British Museum.

**July 2, 2019** – The Visionaries statue, featuring likenesses of Restoration figures Marvin Kimsey, Margaret Provost and Merle Holmes, is unveiled in front of the Governance Center.

July 12, 2019 – A new synthetic turf at uyxat Powwow Ground is inaugurated during the Marcelles Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

**July 24, 2019** – Tribal Council states that the 2012 enrollment audit "cannot be relied on to confirm" individual Tribal member blood quantum.

**Aug. 15, 2019** – Grand Ronde

Tribe purchases the 23-acre Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City for \$15.25 million.

**Oct. 30, 2019** – Tribal Council approves a gaming compact amendment to allow betting on sporting events at Spirit Mountain Casino.

**Dec. 9, 2019** – A blessing and groundbreaking event is held at Chemawa Station in Keizer.

**Dec. 26, 2019** – Former Tribal Council member Larry Brandon walks on at age 62.

**Feb. 27, 2020** – Bingo stops being offered at Spirit Mountain Casino because of low attendance.

March 11, 2020 – The COVID-19 pandemic starts affecting the Tribe with the postponements of the upcoming Agency Creek Round Dance and Native Wellness Day.

**March 18, 2020** – Tribal Council approves a first-ever State of Emergency.

March 19, 2020 – Spirit
Mountain Casino closes to the
public for the first time ever since
opening in an effort to stifle the
spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.
April 1, 2020 – Tribal Council
establishes the COVID-19 Relief
Payment Program to help Tribal
members during the developing
pandemic.

**April 21, 2020** – Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy becomes the longest-serving Tribal Council member since 1983's Restoration.

**May 3, 2020** – The Tribe holds its first virtual General Council meeting.

May 25, 2020 – The annual Memorial Day event at the West Valley Veterans Memorial is canceled because of COVID-19.

June 1, 2020 – Spirit Mountain Casino re-opens after being closed for 2.5 months.

**June 6, 2020** – Dorothy Greene, the Tribe's eldest Elder, walks on at 101.

**June 15, 2020** – The Siletz Tribe files an application with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to build a second casino in Salem.

June 2020 – Three Tribal students are the first to earn a biliteracy seal from Gov. Kate Brown for proficiency in Chinuk Wawa by the time they graduated from high school.

June 16, 2020 – Tribal Council declares Juneteenth as an official Tribal holiday to support the Black Lives Matter movement. July 3, 2020 – Spirit Mountain

**July 3, 2020** – Spirit Mountain Casino institutes a mask-wearing rule for its guests.

**July 6, 2020** – Ramona Quenelle becomes the Tribe's first Veterans Services Officer.

**July 22, 2020** – The annual Tribal Council Candidates Forum is held remotely for the first time. **Aug. 5, 2020** – Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center reports its first new positive COVID-19 case.

August 2020 – Grand Ronde Contest Powwow is canceled because of the pandemic. Aug. 27, 2020 – Grand Ronde Station closes after contact tracing uncovered positive COVID-19 connections to the convenience store.

**Aug. 28, 2020** – Spirit Mountain Casino begins accepting wagers on college and professional sporting events.

**Sept. 9, 2020** – Tribe hosts a fire camp for firefighters battling wildfires in western Oregon, including the Echo Mountain blaze near Otis. In addition, Tribal offices are closed because of poor air quality.

**Sept. 12, 2020** – Lisa Leno becomes the first Tribal Council candidate to receive more than 1,000 votes in an election.

**Oct. 4, 2020** – In reaction to the Siletz Tribe's second casino proposal in Salem, the Grand Ronde Tribe announces it is reassessing its Wood Village property – the former Multnomah Greyhound Park – as a possible site for a gaming facility.

**Nov. 5, 2020 –** Two Tribal governmental employees test positive for COVID-19 for the first time.

**Nov. 19, 2020** – Tribal Elder Ruby Bigoni walks on at the age of 101.

Nov. 22, 2020 – The annual Restoration Celebration is held online because of the pandemic. Dec. 5, 2020 – A fire breaks out at the Tribe's Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City. A man is quickly arrested and charged with second-degree arson.

**December 2020** – The Grand Ronde Tribe receives more than \$45 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act funding in 2020.

**Dec. 22, 2020** – Tribe begins administering COVID-19 vaccinations manufactured by Moderna.

**Feb. 3-4, 2021** – Tribe hosts a two-day vaccination clinic in the Tribal gym and people drive from as far away as Reno, Nev., to get a shot.

March 22, 2021 – Tribe vaccinates 13 Portland Trail Blazers players with the COVID-19 vaccine. On the same day, the Tribe's first medication-assisted opioid treatment clinic

opens in Salem. **April 12, 2021** – Cancellations of both the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow and Contest Powwow are announced.

**April 2021** – Thirteen active COVID-19 cases shut down the Tribal government campus. **April 18, 2021** – Grand Ronde

Restoration figure Elizabeth Furse walks on at the age of 84. **May 12, 2021** – Tribe receives an \$800,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to help rehabilitate the Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City.

**May 21, 2021** – Tribe receives \$27.54 million in American Rescue Plan funds.

May 31, 2021 – The annual Memorial Day event at the West Valley Veterans Memorial returns, but is limited to 50 people with invited guests only.

June 3, 2021 – Stan Dillon steps down as general manager at Spirit Mountain Casino after an almost seven-year run. Tribal member Bruce Thomas takes over on an interim basis.

**June 7, 2021** – Tribal government ends its mask requirement for most fully vaccinated employees.

**July 1, 2021** – Tribe ends its mask mandate and temperature check stations in all Tribal buildings.

**July 11, 2021** – Spirit Mountain Casino closes the Cedar Plank

Buffet.

**July 21, 2021** – Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell visits the Grand Ronde campus for a listening session with Tribal leaders.

**Aug. 3, 2021** – Tribal campus experiences another pause due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant.

**Aug. 11, 2021** – Spirit Mountain Casino reinstates a mask mandate in reaction to increasing COVID-19 cases in Oregon.

**Aug. 13, 2021** – Tribe receives \$23.5 million more in American Rescue Plan funds for a total disbursement of more than \$51 million.

**Sept. 21, 2021** – Demolition work begins at the Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City. **Oct. 1, 2021** – Tribe assumes responsibility for fire and emergency medical services in the West Valley.

**Oct. 4, 2021** – After a two-month pause, the Tribal campus reopens to Tribal employees. **Nov. 22, 2021** – The 38<sup>th</sup>

Restoration Celebration is once

**Nov. 22, 2021** – The 38<sup>th</sup> Restoration Celebration is once again held in a virtual format because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dec. 3, 2021 – First graduating class from the Grand Ronde Firefighting Academy is honored in the Governance Center Atrium. Jan. 26, 2022 – Grand Ronde Tribal members and employees dominate a Bureau of Indian Affairs virtual public meeting regarding the Siletz Tribe's proposal to build a second casino

Feb. 11, 2022 – An Oregon
Department of Justice opinion
scuttles plans to place slot
machine-like historic horse
racing machines at a proposed
hospitality center in Grants Pass.
March 19, 2022 – Spirit
Mountain Casino drops its maskwearing requirement in line with
an Oregon Health Authority
recommendation. Mask wearing

became optional for government

employees on March 11.

in Salem.

April 16, 2022 – Tribal Housing's annual Easter Egg Hunt returns after a two-year pandemic pause.

May 5, 2022 – Corvallis School District renames one of its elementary schools after Tribal Elder Kathryn Jones Harrison.

June 28, 2022 – Former Tribal Council member Robert Haller walks on at the age of 84.

July 8-10, 2022 – Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow returns after a two-year pandemic hiatus. July 30, 2022 – Spirit Mountain

Community Fund celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Spirit Mountain Casino and tops the \$90 million mark in giving. **Aug. 10, 2022** – Tribal Council votes to send a constitutional amendment proposal to voters to limit disenrollment proceedings to only cases involving fraud or dual

**Aug. 11, 2022** – Former Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. walks on the age of 73.

enrollment.

Village.

**Aug. 19, 2022** – Grand Ronde Contest Powwow returns after a two-year pandemic hiatus. **Sept. 7, 2022** – Tribe renames the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City as Tumwata **Sept. 10, 2022** – Tribal voters make history by electing an all-female slate of candidates to Tribal Council for the first time. **Oct. 21, 2022** – Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Nov. 2, 2022** – Tribal members vote to limit disenrollments to only cases of fraud and dual enrollment in sufficient numbers to change the Tribal Constitution. **Nov. 22, 2022** – The 39<sup>th</sup>

Restoration Celebration returns to an in-person event after a two-year virtual format caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Dec. 15, 2022** – Health & Wellness Center Operations Manager Tresa Mercier marks 38 years of service to the Tribe. **Feb. 6, 2023** – Tribe opens its second medication-assisted opioid treatment center in Portland.

March 3-4, 2023 – Agency Creek Round Dance returns after a three-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Native Wellness Day returns as well. April 2, 2023 – Health & Wellness Clinic ends its mask

April 2, 2023 – Health & Wellness Clinic ends its mask mandate for employees and clients.

April 13, 2023 – Goy, Tina Ko

**April 13, 2023** – Gov. Tina Kotek sends a letter to all Oregon Tribal leaders that states that she does not support an expansion of gaming in the state and will maintain the status quo during her time in office.

May 1, 2023 – Tribal member Camille Mercier becomes the first female chief executive office at Spirit Mountain Casino.

**May 21, 2023** – Revered Grand Ronde matriarch Kathryn Harrison walks on at the age of 99.

**June 5, 2023** – Repaying of Grand Ronde Road begins. It's the first repaying work done in more than a decade.

**June 29, 2023** – After a threeyear pandemic hiatus, Tribal members travel to New York City to reconnect with Tomanowos, the Willamette meteorite, at the American Museum of Natural History.

**July 3, 2023** – Danielle Harrison is named the new editor of *Smoke Signals*, succeeding Dean Rhodes, who has been at the helm of the Tribal newspaper since August 2007.

**July 10, 2023** – Elder Honor Day returns to Spirit Mountain Casino after not being held for three straight years.

**July 2023** – The first solar-powered electric vehicle charging station becomes operational at the Tribal Governance Center.

Aug. 4, 2023 – The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife approved a memorandum of agreement with the Tribe that expands ceremonial and cultural hunting and fishing beyond the Trask wildlife management unit. Sept. 9, 2023 – Matthew Haller

defeats incumbent Tribal Council member Michael Langley by one vote in what becomes the closest Tribal Council election race in history.

**Sept. 13, 2023** – Spirit Mountain Community Fund surpasses \$95 million in giving.

**Nov. 19, 2023** – The Tribe celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Restoration at Spirit Mountain Casino.

smok signəlz 40 Years of Restoration November 15, 2023 23

# **AuCoin recalls Tribal Restoration efforts**

By Dean Rhodes

Publications coordinator

es AuCoin was Oregon's

1<sup>st</sup> District Congressman
between 1975 and 1993,
and sponsored the Restoration
bills of both the Siletz and Grand
Ronde Tribes in the U.S. House of
Representatives.

After 1973's Restoration of the Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin, the Siletz and Grand Ronde restorations occurred in 1977 and 1983, respectively. (The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians was restored in December 1982.)

AuCoin, who now lives in Bozeman, Mont., was interviewed via telephone on Sept. 10, 2008, about the Grand Ronde Restoration effort. Below is an excerpt of that interview.

Q: You were the congressman during the restoration of the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes. Could you talk about the political climate in Oregon in the late 1970s, early '80s regarding restoration of Tribes that were terminated?

A: Hostile

### Q. In what way?

**A:** The restoration proposals came not too many years after the very controversial Belloni and Boldt decisions. This allocated superior fishing rights to the Columbia River Tribes. Though the hostility of the nonIndian community was not monolithic, there was a substantial backlash against the Tribes stemming from those decisions, and it spilled over into the efforts that I undertook along with Sen. (Mark) Hatfield. In restoring the Tribal status of both the Siletz and the Grand Ronde, I think that the argument went something like this:

- One, the Tribal members are Americans and should be treated like any other American and not have "special rights";
- Two, the argument was that inherent in getting a reservation or getting a restoration it might somehow enhance their ability to assert successfully in court in ways that no one could comprehend or know, but feared, superior hunting and fishing rights.

Together those arguments had a lot of influence, and it made it difficult to do the right thing because those arguments were so easy to demagogue.

# Q. Elizabeth Furse said that you actually spilled a lot of political blood on the Siletz Restoration.

**A:** I did, I did. My first term I introduced the legislation, but it hadn't moved yet and my political opponent made exactly those arguments against my proposals for the Siletz; mainly that I was giving superior hunting and fishing rights to the Tribe, even though they didn't claim that they wanted superior hunting and fishing rights. I can remember billboards all over the district put up by my opponent that said,

"More Fish, Less AuCoin." It got really nasty. I even had mail from people that had been lifelong friends and sportsmen that were just outrageously opposed to the Tribe's restoration. I just had to talk to them. Anyone who reads Native American history knows about the wars ... the most godawful thing to happen to Native Americans was the so-called mainstreaming policy that took place in the 1950s and became yet another of the tragedies that the U.S. government inflicted on the American Indians throughout their history.

# Q. What effect did your experience working on the Siletz Restoration have when the Grand Ronde Tribe approached you about its potential Restoration?

**A:** Well, I did not know that much about the Grand Ronde and my first impression was that the Confederated Tribes might be an organization of convenience rather than a qualified confederation. Therefore, I was probably somewhat suspicious, but that went away with a little bit of research.

The next thing that I said to myself, and I will be honest about this, was, "Oh, great. Now that I have been beaten around like a piñata over the Siletz, I get to do it again with the Grand Ronde." However, that was fleeting and all too human I am afraid.

My memory went back years earlier when I took a Winnebago throughout the streets and went to the smallest of towns; it was a traveling office. We had caseworkers and folks, and we would stop at predetermined times and people would be there to greet and would have questions about Social Security or any other problems they would have with the government, and talk to me and my staff.

I remembered going to this wide spot in the road that they called Grand Ronde and meeting people and looking at the abject poverty. When this proposal came along, I saw it as an opportunity to do something, to overcome that economically bleak picture for the Grand Ronde people.

# Q. What was the biggest legislative hurdle from your perspective regarding the Grand Ronde Restoration? Was it Tribal members eliciting community support?

**A:** Yes. The Tribe came to me and Elizabeth (Furse) was consulting with them at the time. I remember Kathryn Harrison and others; I do not think that Mark Mercier was with them at that time. He became chair later. I certainly remember Kathryn and the delegation that came back with Elizabeth. Moreover, they talked to me about what they wanted to do. They seemed to be unmindful of the strenuous efforts that the Siletz had gone through to get the statements of community support, which were important for Congress. It showed that they had the support from a broader community.

Therefore, I had to be fairly

blunt with them. I had to put on a pretty stern countenance. I laid out very clearly what they had to do. Church groups, chambers of commerce, major organizations ... they had to do their homework. They had to tell their story locally. They had to gain political support on the ground and then come back. And once they did, I told them that we could go forward. That is what it took with Siletz and that is what it took with other Tribal restorations around the country. That is what it would take in their case.

You may hear it from others, but Kathryn, who is a dear friend, told me she was rather shocked about my little political tutorial. They did their jobs fabulously well and they came back with ... an incredible amount of support that outdid the opposition.

# Q. You said you were very blunt with the Grand Ronde representatives when they came to you seeking Restoration. Are there any memories or anecdotes that stand out in your mind concerning their effort?

**A:** Their efforts astonished me. They went to some of the most unlikely places to get, and won, endorsements. They had the support of Gordon McPherson, former state representative who was Republican minority leader when I was in the state Legislature as the Democratic House majority leader. One of my arch-enemies on the floor, we had a duel daily on the floor. All of the sudden I see his name up as an endorsee. I was thrilled. ... They came back with the most fertile list of church groups and mainstream business groups. It was remarkable. It was a more thorough job than even the Siletz had done and I like to hope that it was due in part to the blunt way that I put it to them, because they sure kicked it into high gear and they really delivered.

### Q. How important was it for them to have the Warm Springs on their side as well as Sen. Mark Hatfield?

**A:** Frankly, I do not think that the Warm Springs mattered so much. Having Hatfield supporting them was important because I needed to know ... well the last thing I needed was to fight the fight and get it over to the Senate and have it opposed or have it demagogued by the senior senator for the state. It would have doomed it, but the fact that it wasn't doomed on the Senate side made it pretty clear to me that if I could get it over there that it would become a bill and then it would become a law.

# Q. Regarding your legislative legacy as a congressman, two of the early restorations that occurred nationally were in your district. When you look back on your congressional career, where does that stand as far as accomplishments?

**A:** The warmest spot in my heart is the memory of the economic difference Restoration and the establishment of reservations has done for the

economic and social well-being of a people who were in dire need and had their lives changed in a very fundamental way.

When I lost my race for the Senate in 1992 and, therefore, ended my career, Mark Mercier, the Tribal chair of the Grand Ronde, wrote me this letter that just actually brought tears to my eyes. He said, "This morning I walked out across our land. Land that would not have been ours if it had not been for you, and I think about how far we have come and about how much further we will go, and will come because you believed in us. You took a chance and showed some courage." He thanked me and he said because of my efforts life would never be the same again and would be better for the Grand Ronde people. It really brought tears to my eyes it touched me so much.

It's not often that you can write a piece of legislation and actually see a community of people go from dirt poverty to a place where they are getting good jobs. In many cases incomes from the casino and that the Tribe is earning so much money that they are creating a foundation to help the broader community around them. It is phenomenal, and so I cannot compare it to very many other things. I am a congressman who got a lot done. However, the difference that my legislation made for the Grand Ronde and the Siletz is right up there with the most significant achievements in my memory book.

### Q. For Tribal members, when the 50th Restoration comes around, what do you think they really need to know about the Restoration on the part of the Grand Ronde? What do you think that they should never forget?

A: They should never forget that their Elders dared to dream, dared to believe that they could take on the forces of prejudice in their own community. They risked ridicule in the belief that they had the right to correct a historical wrong in creating an economic and social platform for their descendants to achieve things that they had never had and may not ever achieve themselves. That is what they should remember.

I think that as a nonIndian and as a congressman, my efforts should really be a footnote. I was not the one locally whose skin was a different color, a different pigmentation than the local community. I was not the one who ran into prejudice. I was not the one who challenged the status quo. It was the Tribal Elders. Therefore, my work should be seen as a footnote. ... Nevertheless, for the succeeding generations of Tribal members, I hope they will remember first and foremost the courage and tenacity and brilliance of the effort of their Elders to make life better for

Reprinted from the Tribe's 35<sup>th</sup> Restoration special edition. November 15, 2023 40 Years of Restoration Smoke Signals

# Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



Celebrating 40 years of Restoration

SAVE THE DATE • NOV. 19, 2023

# Grand Ronde Cemetery

8:30 A.M. – Atudship with Jon A. George

# **Spirit Mountain Casino**

10 A.M. – Doors open

10:30 A.M. – Program begins: Canoe Family • Steve's Buttons

12:30 P.M. – Meal served • 2:30 P.M. – Break

5:30 P.M. – Powwow begins Host drum: Bad Soul • First five drums will be paid



Specials include:
Tiny Tot • Junior Girls Fancy Dance





NOVEMBER 15, 2023 smok signəlz 11

# Justice Department reaches \$33.2 million Portland Harbor settlement

Grand Ronde Tribe participates in Natural Resources Trustee Council

By Dean Rhodes

 $Publications\ coordinator$ 

PORTLAND – The U.S. Justice Department lodged two proposed consent decrees on Thursday, Nov. 2, in federal court that will force 20 potentially responsible parties at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site to pay an estimated \$33.2 million for restoration projects.

The potentially responsible parties will either pay cash damages or purchase credits in projects to restore salmon and other natural resources that were lost due to contamination released from their facilities into the Willamette River.

The settlement also includes more than \$600,000 in damages for the public's lost recreational use of the river, and restoration and monitoring of culturally significant plants and animals.

The settlement includes additional funds to pay for costs incurred by the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council, which includes the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and four other Tribes, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the state of Oregon and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Trustee Council has been assessing the harm to injured natural resources.

"This settlement represents years of hard work by the Portland Harbor natural resources trustees and responsible parties who cooperated to restore the harm caused by those parties' contamination," said Assistant Attorney General Todd Kim of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The resulting restoration projects funded by these agreements will provide permanent ecological benefits to help restore the biodiversity of the Willamette River system."

"Contamination has uniquely affected Tribal members because of their cultural use of and relationship with affected natural resources in and around the Portland Harbor Superfund Site," the Tribes said in a joint statement. "The five Tribes believe the collaborative process of this settlement represents the best path forward for restoring Portland Harbor natural resources for the benefit of both current and future generations."

In addition to the Grand Ronde Tribe, the other four Tribes include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Grand Ronde Tribe has been a participant in the Trustee Council since 1999, said Tribal Lands Project Administrator Brandy Humphreys. She is the technical liaison and Senior Staff Attorney Holly Partridge is the legal advisor.

"This great news is the result of many years of hard work from Tribes and agencies," Humphreys said. "While there is still a lot of work to go as we continue to work toward compensation for and reversal of the damage that has been done to our natural and cultural resources in the lower Willamette River, Grand Ronde has been partic-

ipating in this process for more than 24 years and it's important that we celebrate this exciting time."

"The trustees are very pleased that the responsible parties in this settlement have advanced restoration over litigation," said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher. "The large-scale restoration projects facilitated by this settlement will help address the most important habitat needs of fish and wildlife injured by contamination in Portland Harbor."

The Justice Department said that the use of restoration credits in four natural resource projects "is a novel and critical feature of the settlement."

Restoration credits are like ecological shares in a restoration project, and the natural resources trustees determine how many shares each project is worth. Settlement defendants can then purchase credits from the restoration project developers instead of paying cash to satisfy the ecological injury portion of their liability.

"Using this approach at Portland Harbor has produced on-the-ground restoration much sooner and at less cost than traditional cash-only settlements," the Justice Department said.

The four restoration projects – Alder Creek, Harborton, Linnton Mill and Rinearson Natural Area – provide habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and will restore habitat for other fish and wildlife, as well as Tribally significant native plants like camas and wapato.

The settlement is subject to a 45-day public comment period and final court approval. It can be viewed at www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees. ■

# White Eyes named Tribal relations director at OSU

CORVALLIS – Chance White Eyes, an assistant professor of Native American Studies at Southern Oregon University and an alumnus of Oregon State University, has been named inaugural director of Tribal relations. He starts Friday, Dec. 15.

"I am excited to return to Oregon State University," White Eyes said. "This institution is in a privileged position to serve the Tribes of Oregon and beyond. As such, I wish to advance initiatives that will promote economic, social, cultural and environmental health for the Indigenous communities of the region."

White Eyes' research focused on Indigenous research methodologies, post-secondary Indigenous student success and the history of educational policy while at Southern Oregon.

He previously served as assistant to the Tribal liaison at the University of Oregon, where he worked to strengthen ties between the university and the nine sovereign Tribal nations in Oregon.

"We could not be more excited to welcome Dr. White Eyes to Oregon State University," Scott Vignos, vice president and chief diversity officer, said. "Dr. White Eyes has spent his entire career building relationships with Tribal and Indigenous communities and working tirelessly to advance Indigenous student success. He is exceptionally prepared to lead and guide OSU's efforts to deepen and expand the university's relationships with Tribal nations in Oregon and throughout the country."

White Eyes will be a member of the government relations team in OSU's Office of the President. He will build and maintain collaborative, mutual and trusting relationships with Tribal nations within Oregon and beyond and consult with leadership, colleges and programs to advance the university's teaching, research and engagement missions.

White Eyes holds a doctorate in critical and socio-cultural studies in education from the UO and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from OSU. He is an enrolled member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. ■

# Help us look for chronic wasting disease in our herds!

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a highly infectious, fatal disease that can infect both deer and elk. **CWD has not been found in Oregon**, but has been detected in 31 states. In 2021, Idaho had two detections in their free ranging population within 30 miles of the Oregon border.

NRD will be cooperating with ODFW to collect lymph nodes of harvested deer and elk for CWD testing. Staff will be available to collect samples from animals brought to NRD during business hours and there will be an after hours drop off station at the ceremonial cooler at the lower shop at NRD. Hunters are asked to fill out a brief information card to include with the head of the animal, which requires first vertebrae below the skull. Heads will be returned upon request.

# RAFFLE for a \$50 Cabela's gift card for participation!

Natural Resources Department CWD sampling after hours drop off: 47010 S.W. Hebo Road

Contact Wildlife Biologist Marie Vicksta at 503-879-1458 or marie.vicksta@grandronde.org if you want more information.



## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TAX PREPARATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Request for Proposals is being conducted by the Member Services Department for the purpose of obtaining a licensed contractor who has at least five years of experience preparing tax returns.

Qualified applicants shall possess the ability to:

- Provide tax preparation services to Tribal Elders and foster youth living on and off Tribal lands.
- Assist Tribal members in completing tax-related paperwork.
- Serve as a resource to Tribal members who have questions regarding payment and filling of state and federal tax returns.

Preference will be given to members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and/or Indian-owned businesses registered with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO.

Contact Shannon Simi at shannon.simi@grandronde.org or 503-879-2253 for information. All proposals must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, to the following address:

Shannon Simi, Member Services Department 9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, OR 97347 **12 NOVEMBER 15, 2023 SMOKE SIGNALS** 



### **Monroe Marie Bobb**

Born: Sept. 20, 2023 6 pounds, 14 ounces Parents: Wilson and Taylor Bobb **Grandparents:** Billy and Shawn Bobb **Great-grandparents:** Steve and Connie Bobb

# Welcome to the family, Jeffers descendant **Sadie May!**

Daughter of Jeffers descendant Emma Bradshaw. Granddaughter of Tribal member Joanne Lucille Lynch. Ancestors who have walked on include Larry Lynch, Mildred Haynes, and Ira and Bertha Jeffers. May our ancestors continue to watch over you from Skyworld. May your angels and guides always be near. Hayu masi Creator for our new addition!





For Tribal members and employees

(acupuncture covered under Skookum and employee plans)





# TUE, WED, FRI/SAT

4233 S Corbett Ave Portland, OR 97239 \*\*3 blocks from CTGR Office!



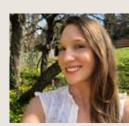
CALL 503-482-9370

# **ACUPUNCTURE**

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

### **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**





Questions or to schedule:

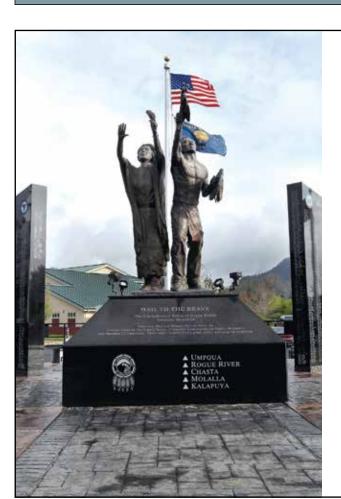
CALL OR TEXT: 503-482-9370 EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com



# Acupuncture can help with...

- pain
- headaches/migraines
- digestive issues
- women's health issues
- emotional pain & trauma
- diabetic neuropathy
- addictions
- and so much more!





# West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is March 15, 2024

Name: City: Address: State: Zip: Gender: Male/Female (Circle) Phone: Rank: Branch: Honorable: Yes/No (Circle) Place of entry: DOE: Place of seperation: DOS: Place of burial: Deceased: Yes/No (Circle) CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle) If Tribal, Roll#

\*All applicants must submit a copy of their DD214. If applicant is deceased, a family member or spouse can submit a copy of their DD214. If you are a CTGR Tribal member please attach a copy of your Tribal ID. If you are non-Tribal please attach a copy of a bill/record with your name and address showing you had lived or now reside in Grand Ronde, Willamina or Sheridan. Please send application and all documents to Grand Ronde Veterans SEB, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Clark at 503-879-1418 or e-mail: publicaffairs@grandronde.org

Any applications received after March 15, 2024, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2025.

2	IN THE TRIBAL COURT FOR THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
3	OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON
5	In The Matter of:  Case No.: 234 0013
6	Talos Davio Johnson ) NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE Petitioner. ) [ADULT]
8	NOTICE TO ANY INTERESTED PERSONS:
10	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the above Petitioner has filed a Petition with this Court on
11	the grit day of NUEMBER, 2013, requesting that Petitioner's name be
12	changed from Taxon Davio JoHuson to
13	THON DAVID BONIFACE
14	
15	The purpose of this Notice is to give all interested persons an opportunity to show cause
16	why the name change should or should not be granted. Any person objecting to the purposed
17	name change may file a written objection with the Court within 14 days from the date of
18	publication of this Notice, as to why the Court should not enter an order granting the proposed
19	change of name.
20	
21	DATED this grand day of NOVEMBER , 2023.
22	Turn
23	Petitioner
24	TALON D. JOHNSON [Print Name]

# Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

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

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

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

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



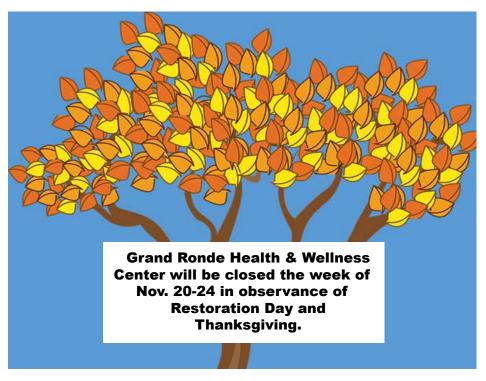
melissa.palanuk@grandronde.org

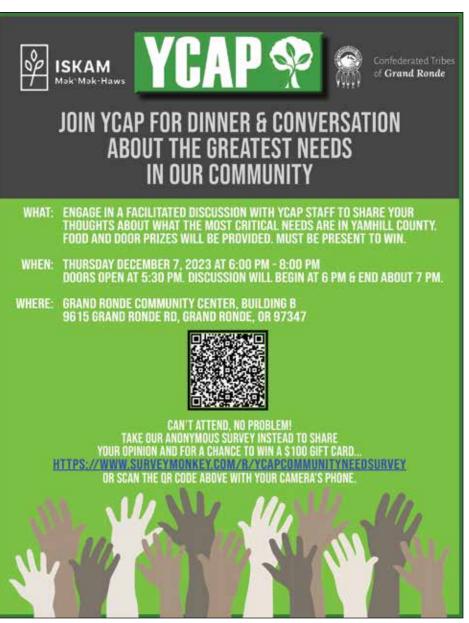
9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde OR, 97347

10am - 3pm

This event is open to the public.

2	IN THE TRIBAL COURT FOR THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES
3	OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON
5	In The Matter of Lly ) Case No.: 23COOl
6	tlelen Tobiska, ) NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE
7	Petitioner. ) [ADULT]
8	
9	NOTICE TO ANY INTERESTED PERSONS:
10	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the above Petitioner has filed a Petition with this Court on
11	the 24 day of, 20 23, requesting that Petitioner's name be
12	changed from Helen Kelly Tobuska to
13	Helen Kelly Marie Tobiska
14	The purpose of this Notice is to give all interested persons an opportunity to show cause
15	why the name change should or should not be granted. Any person objecting to the purposed
16	name change may file a written objection with the Court within 14 days from the date of
17	
18	publication of this Notice, as to why the Court should not enter an order granting the proposed
20	change of name.
21	DATED this day of
22	Smoke Signal X Melan Lelly Tobiska
23	Petitioner
24	Helen Kelly Tob1SKa [Print Name]





14 NOVEMBER 15, 2023 SMOKE SIGNALS







Offering energy savings and solutions that power your life.

Find cash incentives and resources at energytrust.org

Energy Trust of Oregon

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 smok signəlz 15

# TERO Worker of the Month October 2023

Name: Barbara Diamondbackeyez Employer: Wildish Position: Laborer

Barbara Diamondbackeyez joined the TERO workforce in November 2022. She is currently dispatched to the Highway 18 Yamhill River Bridge project in McMinnville, Ore.

Barbara was initially dispatched to help assist with dirt work and excavation work needed on the project. She is working for the prime contractor on that project, Wildish.

She has a wide range of skills including grade checking, hot saw, excavator and other equip-

ment operating experience. She said she has had the opportunity to broaden her skill set while dispatched to this employment opportunity.

**Barbara Diamondbackeyez** 

Barbara had never utilized the TERO Skills Bank program before signing up in 2022. She plans on utilizing TERO for any future work needs she has.

"TERO helped me get a better paying job and help provide for my family," she said.

Barbara was selected as October's TERO Worker of the Month because she was persistent in her pursuit of employment by consistently calling the TERO check-in line. She kept a positive attitude and trusted in the process.

Great job, Barbara. TERO is proud to have you as our October Worker of the Month. Keep up the good work!

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



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

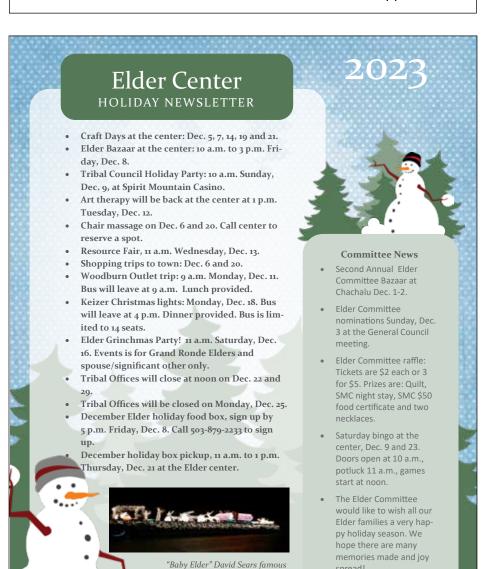
Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment



Christmas truck.



# Watchlist: 'The history behind Native American Heritage Month'

(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

Social media/digital journalist

November marks the start of Native American Heritage Month. Although it is now nationally recognized, it wasn't always the case. Kentucky news channel WHAS11 published a feature on Wednesday, Nov. 1, sharing the history of the month.

According to the video, the U.S. Senate stated that New York was the first state to pass American Indian Day in 1916.

"It was a chance to acknowledge the many contributions and achievements of the Native people," the narrator says.

By 1976, President Gerald Ford proclaimed Oct 10-16 as Native American Awareness Week.

Finally, a 1990 joint resolution passed by Congress and signed by George H.W. Bush designated November Native American Heritage Month.

A fun fact: Alaska Natives were officially included in Native American Heritage Month in 2008.

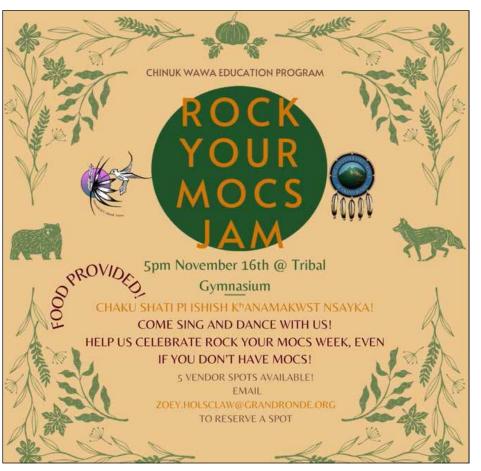
WHAS11 plans to share more Native stories on its platform throughout the month of November.

You can find more on Native American Heritage Month at www. youtube.com/watch?v=EcsadsB6erA or in the *Smoke Signals* "Watchlist" playlist on the *Smoke Signals* YouTube channel. ■

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# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



## Sunday, Oct. 1

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a missing person report.
   Monday, Oct. 2
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the 300 block of Main Street.
- Trespassing was reported at Big Buck campground.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the 25000 block of Yamhill River Road.

### Tuesday, Oct. 3

- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a prowler call.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the area of Sourgrass Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

### Wednesday, Oct. 4

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a vehicle crash on Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- Warrant service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the 29000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A traffic assist occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the area of Sheridan Road.

# Thursday, Oct. 5

- Trespassing was reported in an area of Agency Creek Road that was blocked.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 8700 block of North Street.
- An animal complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on locating a vehicle that was involved in a hit-and-run case.

# Friday, Oct. 6

- A welfare check occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 25000 block of Coyote Court.
- Harassment was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Officers responded to an overdose call in the 33800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- A driving complaint occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A property complaint was made in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Saturday, Oct. 7

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 13.
- Traffic assist occurred in the area of Fire Hall Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

# Sunday, Oct. 8

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 17.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 20.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a crash in the area of Highway 22 near Red Prairie Road.
- Harassment was reported in the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- A runaway was reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.

### Monday, Oct. 9

- A traffic assist occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a trespass call in the 7700 block of AR Ford Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on an alarm call in the 1200 block of Main Street.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a crash near milepost 15 on Hebo Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.

### Tuesday, Oct. 10

- Officers responded to a crash on Tyee Road and Raven Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A disturbance was reported in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 9400 block of Grand Ronde Road.

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a shots fired/explosion call in the area of Lincoln Street.

### Thursday, Oct. 12

- A traffic assist occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.

### Friday, Oct. 13

- A traffic assist occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a crash on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- A missing person was reported in the 24800 block of McPherson Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Warrant service occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.

# Saturday, Oct. 14

- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An animal complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Agency Creek
   Road
- An animal complaint was reported in the 29000 block of Joe Day Way.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on an alarm call in the 200 block of Washington Street.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Fire Hall and Andy Riggs roads.

## Sunday, Oct. 15

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a warrant service at the Willamina Park and Ride.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
  Suspicious activity was reported in the 8500 block of Grand
- Ronde Road.An animal complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost
- 24.
- An animal complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 29.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Coyote Court.
  Suspicious activity was reported in the 8500 block of Grand
- Ronde Road.

## Monday, Oct. 16

Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance

See POLICE LOG continued on page 17

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# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



## POLICE LOG continued from page 16

call in the 200 block of Harrison Street.

- A traffic assist occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- Fraud was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Harassment was reported in the 8700 block of North Street.
- Warrant service occurred in the 8700 block of North Street.

### Tuesday, Oct. 17

- Trespassing was reported in the 29000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 200 block of Main Street.
- Harassment was reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- An animal complaint was reported in the area of Grand Ronde and A Ackerson roads.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

### Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A traffic assist occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted on locking down the Willamina School District campus on Oaken Hills Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a shots fired call.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a menace call in the area of Fire Hall Road.

### Thursday, Oct. 19

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a barricaded subject in the area of Fire Hall Road.
- Warrant service occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Friday, Oct. 20

- A fireworks complaint was reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Warrant service occurred in the 300 block of South Street.
- A welfare check occurred in the 25200 block of Coyote Court.

# Saturday, Oct. 21

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Hall Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Blacktail Drive.
- A welfare check occurred in 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- An animal complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Sunday, Oct. 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of East Creek Road in an attempt to locate a subject.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the area of Churchman and Third streets.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a domestic disturbance call in the 8100 block of Fire Hall Road.
- A traffic assist occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.

## Monday, Oct. 23

- Trespassing was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a vehicle stop on Highway 18 near milepost 26.

## Tuesday, Oct. 24

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a crash on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on locating a vehicle on Hebo Road near milepost 20.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check was conducted in the 25100 block of Coyote Court.

### Wednesday, Oct. 25

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a suspicious activity call in the 8000 block of King Road.
- A shots heard call was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 19.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway. Officers located the vehicle and arrested the driver for DUII.

### Thursday, Oct. 26

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and arrested the driver for having their driving privileges suspended at a criminal level.
- A welfare check occurred in the 9300 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 26820 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Friday, Oct. 27

- An animal complaint was reported in the area of Blacktail Drive.
- Harassment was reported in the 25500 block of Tyee Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 300 block of Gardner Street on a reported disturbance call.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Saturday, Oct. 28

- Officers assisted an outside agency on a criminal mischief call in the area of South Street.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on an alarm call.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 400 block of Bridge Street
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a disturbance call in the 100 block of Main Street.

## Sunday, Oct. 29

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Andy Riggs Road on a reported trespass.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with locating a vehicle that was involved in a crime. Officers successfully located the vehicle and took the subject into custody.
- Harassment was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Harassment was reported in the 25200 block of Coyote Court.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a trespass call in the area of Savage and Harmony roads.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on an emotionally disturbed person call.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 100 block of Wind River
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

# Monday, Oct. 30

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8700 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on locating a subject in relation to various crimes in the 47200 block of Hebo Road.
- Found property was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

# Tuesday, Oct. 31

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 25500 block of Tyee Road.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
  A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon
- River Highway.

   Intoxicated juveniles were reported in the 27100 block of Salm-
- on River Highway.Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Warrant service occurred in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department Officer Angel Arenas. 18 **NOVEMBER 15, 2023 SMOKE SIGNALS** 



### Min. Start Wage Job# Position Title Grade Max Start Wage **Closing Date** Advocate Milieu Safety Technician - Great Circle Recovery 1808 \$20.05/hr. \$25.53/hr Until Filled 6 Portland Enrichment Coordinator 1925 8 \$23.76/hr \$30.76/h Until Filled Child & Adolescent Mental Health Therapist 1946 12 \$72,368.15/yr \$93.059.45/vi Until Filled Behavioral Health 1950 Shelter Advocate 10 \$28.75/hr. \$37.09/hr Until Filled 1959 Lodge Caregiver - On-Call \$21.60/hr. \$28.02/hr. Until Filled 1964 Project Manager 16 \$104,004.14/yi \$135.684.70/v Until Filled 1977 Enrichment Coordinator Aide - Part Time 5 \$18.23/hr. \$23.26/hr Until Filled Mental Health Counselor - Great Circle Recovery 12 1991 \$72,368.12/yr \$93,059.45/yr Until Filled Salem 1993 \$20.05/hr. \$25.53/hr Until Filled \$87,565.47/yr \$112,323.88/yr Until Filled 1996 Peer Support Specialist - Male \$26.14/hr. \$33.77/hr. Until Filled 1999 Tribal Planner \$123,474.97/yr Until Filled 15 \$94,549.22/yr Licensed Nurse Practitioner - Great Circle Reco \$44.74/hr. 2000 12 \$34.79/hr. Until Filled 2002 Clinical Supervisor - Great Circle Recovery - Salem 11 \$65.789.23/vi \$84.727.04/v Until Filled 2003 Lab Assistant 6 \$20.05/hr. \$25.53/hr. Until Filled 2004 Driver/Wellness Assistant 6 \$20.05/hr. \$25.53/hr. Until Filled 2006 Staff Accountant 11 \$31.63/hr. \$40.73/hr. Until Filled 2007 Lead Barista \$28.02/hr Until Filled \$21.60/hr 2008 Tribal Court Programs Coordinator - Part Time \$26.14/hr. \$33.77/h Until Filled Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Great Circle Recovery - Portland 10 \$77.148.67/ 11/12/23 \$30.76/h 11/12/23 Administrative Assistant - Public He \$23.76/hr Medication Assisted Treatment Coordinate 2012 \$44.74/h 11/12/23 Substance Use Disorder Therapist - Great Circle \$77.148.67/vi 10 \$59,808.39/yr Recovery - Salem Mental Health Therapist - Behavioral Health 12 \$72,368.12/yr \$93,059.45/y 11/19/23 2015 Shipping & Receiving Clerk \$18.23/hr. \$23.26/hr 11/19/23 5 \$16.00/hr 1831 Temporary Pool 2 \$16.00/hr Open

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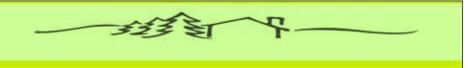
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- $\checkmark$  Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
- ✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered. ✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus

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## **GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

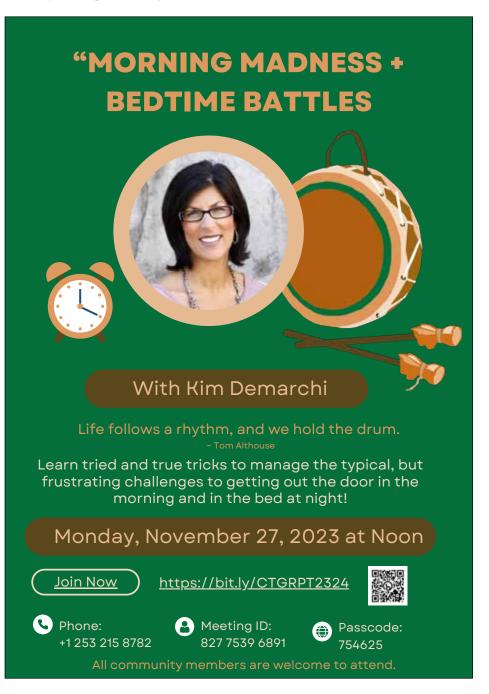
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NOVEMBER 15, 2023 smok signəlz 19



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# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA, MOLALLA, ROGUE RIVER, KALAPUYA, CHASTA

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