



Annual Love
Rocks event
— pg. 8



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Tribal member Angie Blackwell named general manager

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Angie Blackwell has been selected as the new general manager for the Grand Ronde Tribe. Her start date was Monday, Feb. 12.

Blackwell, 56, worked as the Tribe's Early Childhood Education Program Manager, a position she held for several years.

She has also served as a Tribal Council Vice Chair and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director. Additionally, Blackwell has worked as a family life educator through her business Blackwell Family Resources LLC.

"My favorite thing about working



Angie Blackwell

Blackwell said. "When we were first restored, there were only a handful of paid employees. To see how far we have come reminds me just how strong we are. As a sovereign nation, we have so much opportunity and I look forward to what the future brings."

The general manager, who is a di-

rect report to the nine-member Tribal Council, exercises direct authority over most Tribal departments in carrying out day-to-day operations of the Tribal government.

Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno served as interim general manager since January 2023, and said several times it wasn't a goal of his to remain in the position permanently.

One of Blackwell's first official functions in her new job was to attend a Tuesday, Feb. 13, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

"I want to thank Tribal Council for the opportunity and I'm grateful to be here and I have a lot to learn," Blackwell said.

"I want to welcome you and you're

going to do a great job," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said.

Vice Chair Chris Mercier added that Blackwell's long tenure with the Tribe would help in her new role.

"You've been with the Tribe forever and have a lot of organizational knowledge that will serve you well," he said.

Blackwell earned a bachelor's degree in policy administration and communication from Western Oregon University, an associate degree in early childhood education from

See **GENERAL MANAGER**
continued on page 5

Record turnout for 2024 ATNI Winter Convention



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Regional Office Director Bryan Mercier gives an office report during the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2024 Winter Convention on Monday, Jan. 29, held at the Hyatt Regency Portland Convention Center.

New Tribal embassy opened in Portland

By Sherron Lumley
Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2024 Winter Convention opened Monday, Jan. 29, at the Hyatt Regency Portland Convention Center.

More than 500 people attended, representing 33 of 57 Tribes from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Northern California, Southeast Alaska and Western Montana.

"We are looked upon as a force within on a national level," ATNI President Leonard Forsman said. "Our traditions, our way of life is important to this nation."

Grand Ronde Tribal Council members in attendance were Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Kathleen George, Jon A. George, Denise Harvey, Lisa Leno and Brenda Tuomi, who was a flag bearer in the opening procession.

George was sworn in as the second vice pres-

See **ATNI**
continued on page 7

Cheer champion

Tribal member Kihya Bailey wins national title

By Sherron Lumley
Smoke Signals staff writer

As a cheerleader at McMinnville High School, Grand Ronde Tribal member Kihya Bailey won state and national titles with her team in 2021 and 2023.

This year, she began traveling to compete nationally year-round with an Oregon Dream Team Icons cheer team, winning competitions throughout the U.S.

Her father, Tribal member Jeremy Bailey, doesn't exactly describe himself as a cheer dad but he does happen to have the T-shirt. He and his wife, Kimberley, travel to various cheer competitions with the entire family in tow to support their daughter, who trains three to four hours every day.

"It takes a lot of dedication," Kihya said. "I'm at the gym every day, three to four hours a day. It is way more competitive and a lot of work throwing girls. You have to have really good stamina. Sometimes after a stunt, I feel like I'm going to pass out."

The competitive routine of two minutes and 30 seconds that her co-ed 4.2 level team performs includes stunting, dance and tumbling. A team's level indicates the degree of difficulty allowed in the competition, with 6.0 being the highest level.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Kihya Bailey, 17, has won multiple medals cheering competitively. Her team, Oregon Dream Team Icons, won first place in the senior co-ed category at the All Things Cheer Bellevue Grand Nationals in Bellevue, Wash., last month.

See **CHEER**
continued on page 9

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, March 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

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Feb. 21.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20.....	4 p.m.

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals:

My family and I have watched for many months now to see when the Tribal Council would move forward with the lineal descent vote that was taken last year.

I know the council is busy and I am very proud of the steps that have been made in the past to bring our Tribe to where it is today: So many wise moves to ensure a good and healthy future for Tribal members.

But as we, the older generation, look ahead we also hope to see our children recognized as proud members of this Tribe, each one able to contribute their knowledge and time and in return, gain back a heritage that was taken from the Native American so long ago.

Thank you for your thoughts and your actions on the lineal descent issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith E. Nesbit

Roll No. 1823

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 on Monday, Feb. 19, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.



The Confederated
Tribes of Grand Ronde
OFFSITE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

11 A.M. Sunday, April 7, 2024

Lane Community
College Longhouse

4000 E. 30th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405

Followed by Community
Input Meeting.

www.grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
FRIDAY, FEB. 23	MARCH 1
FRIDAY, MARCH 8	MARCH 15
MONDAY, MARCH 25.....	APRIL 1
TUESDAY, APRIL 9	APRIL 15

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email 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

2024 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

- makwst-mun (February)**
- Saturday, Feb. 17 – Winter stories night, doors open at 4:30 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m. and stories to follow, at the Tribal plankhouse. Email zoey.holsclaw@grandronde.org to RSVP.
 - Monday, Feb. 19 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs’ Day.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
 - Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Youth Lifeways, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Tribal Community Center, for youth ages 16 to 24. Dinner is provided.
- ṭun-mun (March)**
- Sunday, March 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
 - Wednesday, March 6 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
 - Wednesday, March 6 – Youth Lifeways, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Tribal Community Center, for youth ages 16 to 24. Dinner is provided.
 - Friday, March 8 – Native Youth Wellness Day, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-1471.
 - Friday-Saturday, March 8-9 – Agency Creek Round Dance, Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.
 - Wednesday, March 20 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
 - Wednesday, March 20 – Youth Lifeways, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Tribal Community Center, for youth ages 16 to 24. Dinner is provided.
- To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit www.smokesignals.org/calendar.*

Seeking two Elders for a once-in-a-lifetime experience at New York’s American Museum of Natural History

Elder Lottery drawing will be conducted by Tribal Council staff and/or Executive Office staff via Google Wheel of Names.

- New York facts:**
- Prepare for ample amounts of walking: The average New Yorker walks 6,000 to 10,000 steps per day – or 2.5 to 4.5 miles per day.
 - There are five boroughs: Manhattan, The Bronx, Queens, Staten Island and Brooklyn.
 - Top three specialties to try: Pizza, pretzels and pastrami.
 - Free activities include: Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, visit Grand Central Station and ride the Staten Island Ferry.
 - New Yorkers speak more than 800 languages.
 - The original people of New York were the Lenape.

- Screening criteria for signing up:**
- Minimum age is 60 years old.
 - No health conditions that may prevent walking. (Should a companion be needed to assist with medical/mobility reasons, they must pay for their airfare and per diem. Elder and companion are responsible for making arrangements).
 - Must have an operational cell phone.
 - Must provide drop-off and pick-up contact information, if different from emergency contact information.
 - Must be willing to tip any and all service staff – dining/bellhop/taxi/Uber.
 - Must sign an agreement outlining representative duties and expectations.

What is covered / provided?	What is NOT covered / provided?
a. Round-trip, direct flight b. Lodging c. Per diem d. Mileage to/from airport	e. Souvenirs f. Mobility needs g. Parking* h. Baggage fees* i. Uber/taxi/subway* *possible reimbursement

Screening criteria determined by Tribal Council and Staff Chaperones.

- Tentative schedule:**
- January through February: Enter name for lottery drawing.
 - March through April: Tribal Council staff and/or Executive Office staff to select participants via Google Wheel of Names.
- Criteria meeting participants report to Chelsea Baranski in Tribal Council to complete important travel information – current license/ID, valid vehicle insurance, emergency contact(s), primary care physician, list of medications and any dietary restrictions.
- May: Dinner with interns and delegation.
 - June: Pick up travel packets.
Delegation travels to New York for CTGR Tomanowos Meteorite Ceremony.
 - July: Submit receipts – lodging/baggage; parking/taxi/Uber if any.

Elders can sign up for the lottery at the Elder Activity Center or chelsea.clark@grandronde.org.

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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[facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR](https://www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR)

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:
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Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:
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Grand Ronde Education Programs:
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Grand Ronde Employment Services
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CULTURAL EDUCATION

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

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

Open to Tribal and Community members. Join us!

Search Facebook for Grand Ronde Cultrual Education
Tribal Calendar // www.grandronde.org/tribal-calendar



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 February 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.

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 email 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 503-879-3663 or fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkʰmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23 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 first and 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. 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.



2019 – Tribal member Bryan Mercier was the first new Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) senior regional official in 40 years. Mercier previously worked for the Bonneville Power Administration for 10 years as a fish and wildlife division director. The former Tribal youth crew worker attended University of Oregon, and was awarded a Hatfield Fellowship in 2003, serving as principal legislative staff on federal Indian policy for Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith. He later became a financial advisor for the U.S. Treasury and a program analyst for the Forest Service. “Being the first new regional director in 40 years can be intimidating, but I want to make this area the crown jewel of BIA operations in the country,” Mercier said.



2019

File photo

2014 – The Oregon chub, a small floodplain minnow, was the first fish removed from the federal government’s list of endangered species thanks to the success of cooperative efforts to prevent extinction. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Transportation, municipalities, private landowners and others participated. Habitats for the Oregon chub – sloughs, swamps, beaver ponds and tributaries – were reduced by the construction of Willamette River flood control dams, river channelization and draining of wetlands for agriculture and development. Non-native game fish, such as bass and bluegill prey on the chub, were listed as endangered in 1993 when less than 1,000 existed. This increased to 150,000 by 2014.

2009 – Sixth-grade Tribal member Matthew Hofenbredl, 12, qualified in the 75-pound class for the USA Wrestling Middle School Dual National Championships in Danville, Ill. During wrestling season, he practiced with the middle school team five days a week and worked out with the Dallas Mat Club twice a week. His father, Tribal member Leland Hofenbredl, attended his tournaments every Saturday. His grandmother, Tribal Elder Priscilla Hofenbredl, shared her pride in her grandson. “He has a whole bunch of medals,” she said. “Ever since he started wrestling, he’s got nothing less than a fourth. Most of the time he was first.”

2004 – Public Works Director John Mercier described the jobs and facilities the department handled day-to-day for the Tribe at the February General Council meeting. There were 27 staff positions, of which 25 were filled by Tribal members. That included four managers, six maintenance technicians, 12 housekeepers, two cemetery caretakers and two seasonal groundskeepers. Those workers were responsible for 39 buildings. Challenges for the department included trying to prevent damage and misuse of property. Illegal dumping, both at the recycling center and on reservation woodlands, were immediate problems for the department.

1999 – The Grand Ronde Tribe’s success drew praise from Bureau of Indian Affairs officials as a potential model for economic development in Indian Country following a presentation by Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier. Officials from throughout the Northwest, including Alaska, listened to Mercier outline the Tribe’s journey from its struggle for Restoration and reservation lands to establishing Oregon’s most successful casino. “The Tribe has always been aggressive about working with different federal agencies,” Mercier said.

1994 – Tribal Council Vice Chair Kathryn Harrison was elected to the Native American Rights Fund board of directors. Based in Boulder, Colo., the organization was founded in the 1960s to advocate for the rights of Native Americans. Priorities included preservation of Tribal existence, protection of Tribal natural resources, promotion of human rights, accountability of government to Native Americans and the development of Indian law.

1989 – Tribal Elder Riley Porter, a member of the Tribe’s Hunting and Health committees, was featured in the Honoring our Warriors column. His 13 years of military service spanned World War II and the Korean War. During World War II, Riley served in active duty with the U.S. Navy, stationed on a mine sweeper during the liberation of the Philippines. After World War II, Riley was an instructor in the Coast Guard from 1947-1950. In 1951, he returned to naval duty off the shores of Korea on the USS Rendova, a carrier escort ship, participating in more than 60 rescue missions.

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

Kick the Habit.

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

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

TTY: 1-877-777-6534

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

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 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scheduled Appointments Only
Monday
Tuesday

Walk-In Day
Thursday

To schedule an appointment:
Call (503) 879-1424 or
CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

COMMITTEE SUMMIT

Thursday, March 14, 2024
5:30 to 8 p.m.

Dinner Provided

Spirit Mountain Casino

For questions please contact:
Shannon.Ham-Teixeira@grandronde.org



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

ATTENTION GRAND RONDE TRIBAL MEMBERS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE MARCH 2024 PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION

Deadline Dates for March 2024 Per Capita

- Change of Address: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 **BY 5 P.M.**
- Change of Direct Deposit: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 **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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribal Council approves loan for Spirit Mountain Casino virtual golf suite

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a \$893,600 construction loan to Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. at its Wednesday, Feb. 7, meeting for the construction of an indoor virtual golf simulator.

“TopGolf, the product we are looking at, is part of the national brand,” Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Operating Officer Clint Johnson said during a Tuesday, Feb. 6, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “People are probably familiar with the outdoor version but they also have a sister operation, TopGolf Swing Suite, a virtual golf simulator that you can play inside a building. These are very high-tech.”

The suite will be located inside Spirit Mountain Casino near the BetMGM Sportsbook. There will be four bays with a capacity of up to eight people per bay.

“We plan to hopefully start this later this month or early next month and expect to be done with it before the summer,” Johnson said.

Other uses for the golf suites

include renting them out for meetings, business retreats and major sporting events, as well as hosting indoor golf leagues.

“This will be a great tool for us, especially midweek as we’ve struggled to get people out here and we think this could be an amenity that will drive them out there,” Johnson said.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Declared a per capita date of Friday, March 8, for the time period of December 2023 through February 2024;
- Approved the purchase of a mortgage note from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 184 Loan for a vacant property in Grand Meadows in the amount of \$10;
- And enrolled two infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Blackwell grew up in area

GENERAL MANAGER
continued from front page

Chemeketa Community College, and is a certified family life educator and professional coach.

She is the daughter of past Tribal Council member and key Restoration figure Candy Robertson and the great-great-granddaughter of Chief Solomon Riggs.

Blackwell grew up in Willamina and Grand Ronde, and currently lives in Dallas with her husband, Darren; and three dogs, Kira, Callie and Mayzie.

The couple has five children, six grandchildren, fifteen nieces and nephews, and 11 great-nieces and nephews.

She can be reached at angie.blackwell@grandronde.org. ■

NOW ACCEPTING NEW AND EXPIRING TERM APPLICATIONS!!

TRIBAL COMMITTEE/BOARD AND COMMISSION

*DO YOU WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED WITH THE TRIBE?

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General Council briefed on Community Development Plan

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde Community Development Department Manager Kristen Svcarovich briefed Tribal members on the Tribe’s Community Development Plan during a Sunday, Feb. 4, General Council meeting held via Zoom and at the Monarch Hotel & Convention Center in Clackamas.

Approximately 50 people logged in to attend the meeting virtually and another 50 participated in-person. The meeting opened with an invocation by Tribal Council Secretary Michael Cherry, followed by a drum song.

“Thank you so much for being here today,” Svcarovich said. “It’s a pleasure and honor to talk about the Community Development Plan and the 2023 annual report.”

The Tribe launched the Community Development Plan effort in May 2018 to help guide the decisions and setting of priorities for the Tribe as the 50-year mark of Restoration approaches.

Svcarovich discussed the plan’s history, communication and outreach, 2023 accomplishments, 2024 themes and work plan, and next steps.

“This is an overview of all the 2023 activities and many happened across the organization, so a big shout-out to the department managers that are making all of this work happen and the progress we see with the Community Development Plan,” she said.

The plan began with a kickoff event in 2018, followed by more meetings in 2019 and early 2020. Subjects discussed in pre-pandemic listening sessions were Housing, Public Safety, Needed Services and Recreation, Facilities and Gathering Spaces, Health Care, Social

The Community Development Plan can be accessed by visiting grandronde.org and clicking on the “Grand Ronde 2033” link.

Services, Education, Employment and Vocational Training, as well as the past and future of Grand Ronde.

In-person gatherings were shelved in 2020 due to the pandemic, but work continued with remote and hybrid community meetings. The plan was adopted by Tribal Council in November 2021.

“The focus of the plan is to answer the question, ‘What will the Grand Ronde community look like when we gather for the Tribe’s 50th Restoration Celebration in 2033?’ and with that question in mind, there was a tremendous amount of public outreach, reviewing documents and really trying to answer that question,” Svcarovich said.

The result of this work is a 10-year plan with 77 different initiatives, 15 focus areas and 99 goals.

“Often, plans are focused on one set community,” she said. “What’s wonderful about this plan is that there was a four communities approach that was taken.”

The four communities approach includes the seat of government, a place to live, a regional economic engine and a place to connect, Svcarovich said.

“The plan really focuses on the Grand Ronde community and also includes Willamina and Sheridan as a larger community area,” she said. “Part of the reason for that is that the Grand Ronde community can be defined in many different ways. It doesn’t have a set urban

growth boundary and there’s the historic reservation boundary, the zip code or the census designated place. There’s a couple different approaches.”

During 2023, Svcarovich met with Tribal department managers, updated Tribal Council in June, attended Veterans Powwow and the Contest Powwow during the summer to solicit feedback, and met with managers again in the fall. The year closed out with a Tribal Council update in December.

The Community Development Plan can be accessed by visiting grandronde.org and clicking on the “Grand Ronde 2033” link.

Svcarovich also gave a brief presentation on the 2023 annual report.

Some highlights from the report include:

- The Tribal Lands Department had the most property acquisitions in its history, totaling nine. Five of these were in relation to the Health & Wellness Department and were funded by grant money.
- The Gathering of Native Americans was held with 80 different participants at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.
- The Cultural Resources Department continued the Indigenous Place Keeping Fellowship with five fellows, up from two in 2023. Grant funding through Meyer Memorial Trust was used for that expansion. It culminated with a two-spirit/Indigiqueer installation at Chachalu called “Shimkhin,” which received high acclaim.
- There were several openings of new projects and amenities, which include the chinuk wawa skul, shelter villages, the Community Center expansion, Creekside Elder Housing phase three, mobile medication assisted treatment clinic and Great Circle

Recovery Portland medication assisted treatment clinic.

- A child development center and fire station expansion are both under construction, and 20 residential units are underway in the Tribe’s homeownership development. The health care and vaccination clinic is expected to open later this month.
- In August, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission approved a memorandum of agreement with the Tribe that significantly expanded its ceremonial and cultural hunting and fishing areas on off-Reservation lands, and allowed the Tribe to manage this for its members in coordination with the state.
- There are new offerings and amenities in the works, including an outdoor nature playground with a native plant restoration garden, as well as increased transitional housing.

“(Those are) the highlights of the different accomplishments throughout the year,” Svcarovich said. “I encourage you to dive into the report and look more at the different accomplishments.”

After the approximately 40-minute presentation was complete, Svcarovich fielded nine questions and comments from the audience.

“Thank you for the report,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said. “When you come out to Grand Ronde, you see a lot of these things in the process of being built. It’s been really good, a lot of growth in the community and it’s really thriving.”

In other action, Mercier announced that the next General Council meeting will be a hybrid format at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 3, on Zoom and in Tribal Council Chambers, with a report about capital improvement projects.

Chris Rempel, Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Bill Stephens, Olive Adams and Val Alexander won the \$50 door prizes while Lisa Archuleta, Eric Bernando and Anthony Quenelle won the \$100 door prizes.

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. ■



LISTEN TO SMOKE SIGNALS
104 PODCASTS

TwahnaCreation at SMC Gift Shop.

Spirit Mountain Casino kicked off the new year by welcoming its first Grand Ronde Tribal member visual artist, Kitana Connelly. She is selling drawings and stickers in the gift shop. Smoke Signals spoke with Connelly about her artwork and how she feels having it available to a new audience.



<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/podcast-104-spirit-mountain-casino-welcomes-first-grand-ronde-visual-artist-to-gift-shop--58592084>

Photo credit: Contributed photo / TwahnaCreation

For more information, contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org



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

Jon A. George sworn in as second vice president

ATNI continued from front page

ident, an executive board member position of the organization, which recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. He vowed to preserve aboriginal rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the U.S., and to promote health, welfare, education, culture and sovereignty of American Indians, nations, Tribes, bands and people. Later in the morning, he nominated Harvey to serve as an alternate on the Secretary’s Tribal Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the formation of the committee in 2021. STAC, as it is often called, includes a primary Tribal representative from each of 12 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions in the U.S. and one alternate from each. The vote during the convention provides an endorsement, with the final decision made by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Harvey, who serves on the Indian Gaming Association board, spoke before the convention in response to the nomination, emphasizing her commitment to advocating for Tribal children.

“I’ve learned over 10 years on Tribal Council, and 20 working for the Tribe, it is a passion and interest to be there for all of Indian Country,” Harvey said. “I thank my Tribal Council for allowing me to do this work.”

President Forsman, who serves as chairman of the Suquamish Tribe, discussed challenges and opportunities for the Affiliated Tribes. This included the White House Tribal Nations Summit in December, where he noted North-



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Jon A. George is sworn in as second vice president on the executive board of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians during the 2024 Winter Convention on Monday, Jan. 29, held at the Hyatt Regency Portland Convention Center.

west Tribes were well represented. Other important issues mentioned were natural resources, climate change, clean energy, cultural sacred places and “getting our people out to vote.”

Financial reports showed total income of \$4,768,428, including grants, allowing ATNI to hire staff and buy a building, which will serve as a Tribal embassy in Portland.

Northwest Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Grand Ronde Tribal member Bryan Mercier presented details about work to fund requests from 27 Tribes, including \$3.3 million in one-time requests.

Mercier provided background regarding the bureau’s real estate services, noting a land-back achievement of 12,000 acres in this region, which is the most in the country at nearly one-third of all land acquired by Tribes nationally. He also reported \$240 million for Tribal hatcheries and nearly \$187

million for broadband.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Bryan Newland (Ojibwe) shared stories from the Pacific Northwest, including bringing electricity to people who never had it before, clean drinking water, and repairing and improving fish hatcheries. He also said the Bureau of Indian Affairs increased procurement of goods and services purchased from Indian-owned businesses to \$1.4 billion last year.

Newland, now in his post for three years, has made six visits to the Pacific Northwest, including one with Mercier to the Metlakatla Native Community on Annette Island, Alaska’s last Native reserve. Recently featured in the Amazon series, “Alaskan Nets,” it is home to the state’s basketball champions, and Native Tsimshian fishermen.

“As someone who grew up on a little reservation, I didn’t always feel seen or heard,” Newland said. “It’s important to get on the ground to your communities. These visits are meaningful for all of us who work at the department.”

Additional national speakers followed, including National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Mark Macarro, who also serves as Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians.

Founded in 1944, NCAI celebrated its 80th anniversary last year. It advocates for Tribal governments and Tribal-federal government-to-government policies. NCAI General Counsel and Chief of Staff Geoffrey Blackwell (Chickasaw) also spoke, sharing an update on

the Tribal Supreme Court Project of the Native American Rights Fund.

“We need to be engaged in the electoral process from top to bottom,” Macarro said. “Elections matter.”

Macarro, as others before him, further touched upon pressing issues such as fentanyl and mental health, as well as generational trauma, including boarding schools.

NCAI co-organized the National Tribal Opioid Summit with the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Tribal partners in August 2023, held at the Tulalip Tribe in Washington. Fentanyl overdose deaths exceeded deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic in some Tribes. In Multnomah County, where the ATNI convention was held, overdose rates rose 533% in four years.

“We create a stronger voice when our voices are in tune with each other,” Macarro said.

He also recommended “Sugar Cane,” a recent entry of Sundance Film Festival, a movie about the St. Joseph Mission School out of British Columbia.

Casey Sixkiller (Cherokee Nation), Region 10 director of the Environmental Protection Agency completed the morning’s run of speakers. Sixkiller gave attendees a sneak peak of the Clean Water Act. He discussed the environmental toxic chemical found in vehicle tires known as 6ppd that kills fish and the need to educate people about it.

Lastly, a raffle was held for Portland Trailblazer tickets to the see the Blazers play the 76ers, won by Chad McCray, Spokane Tribe.

Following this, Yakama Nation’s Deland Olney blessed the food, with many throughout the large Regency ballroom at the Hyatt joining their voices to his powerful voice.

Meanwhile, the vendors came to life behind their tables, selling Native clothing, shoes, and beaded jewelry. More tables were staffed by employees of universities from Idaho, Oregon and Washington, as well as state and federal agencies.

Founded in 1953, ATNI is a forum for exchanging information, forming consensus and making recommendations on legislation for matters of mutual concern of member Tribes. Committees include cultural affairs, economic development, natural resources, environment, human and social services and ad hoc task forces. ■

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FAMILY

An event to promote healthy and safe families in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month

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RUN/WALK

When: Saturday, March 30th, 2024
Where: Veteran’s Memorial Statue on Tribal Campus
@ after the Easter Egg Hunt* in Housing

*Easter egg hunt will be happening at 10:00AM at the covered area on March 30th.

Child development center construction begins

Now through Dec. 31, 2024, construction is occurring for the new child development center. During this time, there will be construction traffic using the loop road around the old powwow grounds across the street from the Governance Center.

The road surrounding the old powwow grounds will have restricted access to allow the contractor adequate space to access the site, as well as store materials and equipment.

“Given the proximity of the construction site to the loop around the old powwow grounds, I am requesting all employees and community members do not use that road during construction,” Tribal Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb said in an email.

For more information, contact Webb at 503-879-2404 or Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org. ■

Tribal police offering reward for missing Tribal member

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde Tribal Police are seeking information on the whereabouts of 33-year-old Tribal member Tenatia Jackson-Crain and are offering \$1,000 for information that results in her being found.

She was last seen in Corning, Calif., in March 2023 and has ties to Portland.

Jackson-Crain was first reported as a potential missing person in July 2023 after a meeting between the Tribe’s Social Services Department and Tribal Police.

Jackson-Crain is approximately 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs 130 pounds. She has brown eyes and brown hair. Identifying marks include piercings below her lower lip on opposite ends, ear piercings and cheek bone piercings. She has a large floral tattoo on the left side of her abdomen.

“Upon reaching out to family, we learned that it was not uncommon for her to not be in contact for periods of time,” Tribal Police Detective Tokata Tehama said. “We endeavored to look for her regardless as well as looking for four other Tribal members that were believed at-risk. During these cases, we learned there are not many laws in place when an adult ‘chooses’ to go without contact with family unless there is some type of medical diagnosis labeling them as a danger to themselves or others.”

After doing further investigation, police were able to locate the four other Tribal members, but not Jackson-Crain.

A flyer with three photos and a description was sent to all Tribal employees on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

“The flyer itself was reviewed first by family and then when approved, a copy was (also) sent to that family member so that it



Tenatia Jackson-Crain

could be shared with whomever,” Tehama said.

Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight updated Tribal Council on the search efforts later that afternoon.

“Since this flyer went out, we have gotten nonstop phone calls from people in the public and it really shows that people truly care about our missing Indigenous people,” he said. “I want to take a little time and talk about her situation that we know of now. At this time, we have no reason to believe she is in danger but we just really want to talk to her. We’ve been looking for her just to have any sort of contact...We don’t care if she has warrants or any outstanding issues, we just want to know she’s safe and possibly get her services through the Tribe if she needs them.”

Tribal police have worked with the FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, California’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous People unit, the Portland Police Bureau, Tehama County Sheriff’s Office, Tehama County Probation Department and the Corning Police Department in an effort to find Jackson-Crain.

Additionally, her information has been entered into the Law Enforcement Database System and the National Crime Information Center.

Contact Tribal Police at 541-921-2927 with any information. ■

This is a developing story and will be updated.

Love rocks



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Kyleigh Johnson, 16, paints a rock during the annual Love Rocks event in the Tribal Community Center on Saturday, Feb.

10. One in three U.S. teens is affected by teen dating violence and February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. The event promotes awareness and healthy relationships within the community by

providing an informational presentation and resources to teens. The event was hosted by the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program and Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program.

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Maggie Villegas, a shelter advocate for the Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program, gives a presentation about teen dating violence during the annual Love Rocks event in the Tribal Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 10.

Community Health Program Services

Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation.



MISSING PERSON
REWARD OFFERED



NAME	TENATIA JACKSON-CRAIN - AGED 33				
HEIGHT	5'6"	WEIGHT	130 LBS	EYE HAIR COLOR	BROWN EYES BROWN HAIR
IDENTIFYING MARKS	Tenatia has piercings below her lower lip on opposite ends, both ears are pierced, and she has two piercings near her cheek bones on opposite ends. She has a large floral tattoo on the left side of her abdomen. She was last seen near Corning California, but has ties to Portland Oregon.				
A reward of \$1,000.00 is being offered for information leading to Tenatia being found. Please contact the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department if you have any information at 541-921-2927 (our non-emergency line).					



GRAND RONDE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bailey’s next competition is Feb. 16-17 in Las Vegas

CHEER continued from front page

When asked what it felt like to win a third national championship with her new team, which is what occurred at a recent competition in Bellevue, Wash., Kihya said, “It was really exciting, a lot of adrenaline.” “As parents, you’re feeling just as nervous as the athletes out there,” Jeremy said.

Kimberly agreed.

“This is our first year in all-star cheer,” she said. “I’m definitely very proud of her and her dedication to her team and coaches as well as herself, even with injuries and the pressure and excitement. It makes me strive harder as a parent to be the best example I can be for her.”

Personal growth and long-time friends are two of the best rewards that have come from participating, Kihya said, and she has grown as a cheerleader and a student since the time she began cheer in kindergarten.

Her next competition will be Feb. 16-17 in Las Vegas, Nev., and the entire Bailey family will be driving there to see it. This is the fourth largest competition in the world.

Additionally, her team has also been invited to compete in Orlan-

do, Fla., at a competition known as The Summit, held May 2-5 at Walt Disney World. This coincides with Cheerleading World Championships, which is reserved for level-six squads.

Little sister Kinleigh Bailey, 11, is following in her sister’s footsteps, competing in youth cheerleading as a sixth-grader, developing competitive skills such as back handsprings and moving up each year to different levels. At her current level, a routine of 46 seconds involves a cheer, a dance and tumbling.

“I never expected to have two amazing daughters who love to cheer,” Jeremy said.

All the siblings are athletic, he said, including Keenen, 25; Kihya 17; Kason, 13; Kinleigh, 11; and Kallie, 8. Their great-grandmother was Tribal member Priscilla Hofenbredl and their grandmother is Tribal member Julie Logan.

In addition to cheer and playing softball for McMinnville, Kihya worked for the Tribe the past two summers, most recently as an emergency medical technician intern. The high school senior was just accepted into the pre-med program at University of Arizona and plans to try out for the team this April. ■

Baking day



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Claudia Leno, left, and Nutrition Program Assistant Melanie Monson frost cupcakes during an Elders baking day event at the Elders Activity Center on Monday, Feb. 12. The baked goods were sold at the Hearts for HART bake sale on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and the proceeds from the sale were donated to Horses Adaptive Riding & Therapy (HART), located in Rickreall, to help fund a new barn for the nonprofit organization.

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- Must sign a contractual agreement that you will complete the course
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Simulated Training - Tribal Campus: February 20 - March 5, 2024

Land Lab Training - Albany: March 11-15, 2024

Register for training by calling 503-879-2146 or email tero@grandronde.org

MARCH 5TH, 2024
CTGR-CASINO EXERCISE
OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Needed for Exercise

CTGR Emergency Services and Spirit Mountain Casino are getting together to put on an exercise opportunity to test response and emergency plans for a HazMat and Mass Casualty type scenario at the Casino. Volunteers are needed to play victim roles, help with moulage (make up for wounds and injuries) if needed and to observe how emergency response plans would be activated for these purposes. Decontamination tents will be set up and used for this exercise, as well as Fire/EMS, Tribal Police and Salem Hazmat teams in action to drill and test their skills and capabilities. Volunteers can sign up and register through Brandy Bishop at the CTGR Emergency Services department by emailing brandy.bishop@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-1837.

Date: 3/5/24

Time: 10:45-3:00pm
Registration at 10:45

Lunch will be served at 11:00am

Exercise starts at 12:00pm

Those wanting to play victims please bring an extra set of close and wear clothing you don’t mind getting wet.

REGISTER WITH CTGR EMERGENCY SERVICES BY 2-23-24

Willamina graduation rate rises above state average

By Sherron Lumley
Smoke Signals staff writer

New data released by the Oregon Department of Education last month shows the Willamina School District improved its on-time graduation rate to 84%, climbing above the Oregon average of 81.3%.

During the past five years, the on-time graduation rate in Willamina has risen 15%.

“The Willamina School District is proud of the improvements in our graduation rates,” Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick said. “It continues to be a work in progress.”

Willamina had 867 students in grades K-12 last year, and approximately one in three are American Indian or Alaska Native. The school district’s Title VI director works with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to review the federal forms and check for students missing from the list.

However, state data for Willamina counts a significantly lower number, just 20% of students, as American Indian/Alaska Native. This is due to the U.S. Department of Education requirements to place American Indian/Hispanic students in the Hispanic/Latino category, and mixed race American Indian students in the multi-racial category.

Zimbrick said as per district registration information, 282 students identify as Native.

“This includes students who select Hispanic/American Indian as well,” she said. “We have 237 when the Hispanic subgroup is omitted.”

Zimbrick estimates that if the district includes students who identify as Native, Hispanic and Native or multi-racial, the number is approximately 37%.

Graduation rate bucks national trend

The school district’s success in raising the on-time graduation rate appears to overcome a national and state achievement gap between rural school districts and urban ones.

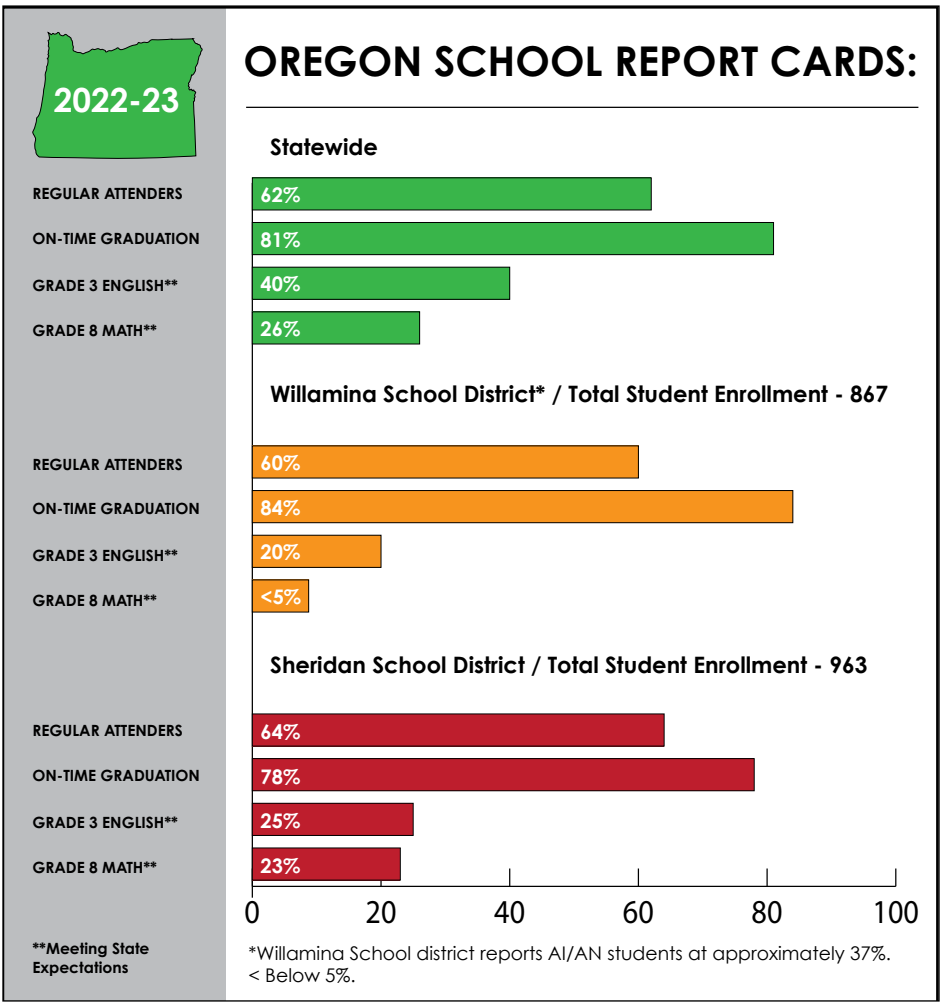
Grand Ronde Tribal member students are doing even better than most, Zimbrick said.

“The success of our Native students is a reflection of the dedicated investment in education by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde,” Zimbrick said.

The Tribe’s Education Department provides academic and cultural opportunities for students from early childhood education through college. Education Department Manager Angela Fasana said more than 1,000 Tribal members have graduated from higher education programs after graduating from high school as of 2023.

In addition to working with the Tribe to support students, the Willamina School District provides federal Title VI Indian Education, a program designed to assist educational achievement and Native cultural awareness for students. Yet, despite years of hard work and intense focus, there are ongoing areas of concern in the state statistics for Willamina, which were released in January 2024.

The state report shows a small improvement in the number of Willamina third-graders meeting state



Graph by Samuel Briggs III

expectations for English Language Arts, just 20% compared to 40% statewide.

Another benchmark, eighth-grade math, had less than 5% students in Willamina who met grade-level expectations, compared to a state average of 26%. Regular attendance is also below the state’s low average of 62%. However, Zimbrick provided more background information.

“In 2016 we were identified by the Oregon Department of Education as a district in need of improvement,” she said. “We dove into the work of implementing a full scale improvement plan. We analyzed student data to identify needs and developed a three-year plan to improve in two key areas: academic student outcomes and school culture.”

In order to address academic improvements, Willamina worked to ensure teachers had adequate resources, particularly updated curriculum.

“Improving school culture required us to start with our staff,” Zimbrick added. “We invested in RULER, an emotional intelligence curriculum. The first year began with staff training followed by classroom implementation. We also focused on an attendance initiative, family engagement activities, and expanded mental and behavioral health support.”

Tribal education staff are an integral part of Willamina’s improvement efforts, Zimbrick said. Tribal staff during the school day include academic coaches and Chinuk Wawa instructors. Programs offered by the Tribe outside of the school day include afterschool and summer programs.

In Oregon, 68.9% of American Indian/Alaska Native students graduated from high school on time in 2022, which was a record high, up from 53.5% in 2011, but still far behind the general student population. Consequently, Oregon’s education leaders, citing the disparity in educational achievement

in the state, made a decision last fall to suspend certain graduation requirements. In October, the Oregon Board of Education voted unanimously to suspend high school graduation “essential skills” requirements that had been adopted in 2008, proving proficiency in reading, writing and math.

Instead, Oregon chose to prioritize attendance and investing in culturally responsive practices for historically underserved students. Willamina is one of 38 school districts in the state with 40% or more diverse students.

Willamina’s attendance improvement efforts include meeting with families to discuss supports the district can offer to get students to school on a regular basis. This may include providing gas cards, bus passes and rides to school, as well as incentives for good or improved attendance. The school district also receives grant funding to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students.

Twelve miles from Grand Ronde, the Sheridan School District has 963 students, and according to the state, 6% are American Indian/

Alaska Native students. The on-time graduation rate in 2022-23 was 78%. In Sheridan, 64% of students attended regularly last year, up 10% in one year.

There were 25% of third-graders meeting state expectations in English Language Arts, up 9%. Additionally, 23% of eighth-graders met state grade level for math, up 16% since 2022.

Willamina offers several career and technical education programs to students that include agriculture, woodworking, horticulture, animal science and forestry. Students who participate in career and technical education programs have consistently higher graduation rates than their peers as per the state data.


Sheridan hopes to provide its students with additional learning opportunities, such as Willamina has since 2017, with the Barbara Roberts Career Tech School. It would provide career track studies in agricultural science, manufacturing, diesel mechanics, firefighting and emergency medical technician services. With \$1.9 million in Oregon Lottery funds, Sheridan purchased the land, but lacks the \$14 million needed to build the facility.

“Education and economic development would transform this community in a positive way,” Sheridan Superintendent Dorie Vickery said to a gathering of local leaders on the site of the proposed center in January.


Politicians, educators, business owners and Tribal managers who attended expressed interest when discussing the need for a pipeline of skilled workers who would stay in the area. The question of who will pay for it remains.

Oregon has a voter-approved cap limiting the amount of property taxes that can be used for school funding. Consequently, new funding for career and technical education often must come from private philanthropists and charitable donations rather than the state.

For more information on the reports visit: www.ode.state.or.us/data/ReportCard/Reports/Index and then enter “Willamina SD 30J” or “Sheridan SD 48J” into the search bar. ■



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These hotspots were made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with the Chemeketa Community College and the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.



Rep. Davids sponsors National Tribal Colleges week legislation

U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids reintroduced legislation designating the week of Feb. 5, 2024, as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week.

The resolution recognizes the importance of these institutions to the economic, educational, and social wellbeing of Indian Country, according to a press release. Davids is co-chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus and was one of the first two Native women elected to Congress.

“Tribal colleges and universities, including Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas, provide unique educational opportunities for Native and non-Native students, and support the communities they serve through entrepreneurial and equivalency programs,” Davids said. “These institutions are critical because they develop our workforce capacity with the knowledge and skills grounded in cultural traditions and values. I am proud to lead my colleagues in re-introducing this legislation.”

“We are grateful to Rep. Davids and her colleagues in the U.S. House for recognizing the unique relationship that our Tribal colleges and universities have with the federal government by designating the week of Feb. 5 as National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week,” American Indian Higher Education Consortium President and CEO John Phillips said. “Through self-determination, TCUs were created and chartered by their own Tribal governments or the U.S. federal government to provide higher education opportunities to American Indians and Alaska Natives. We invite everyone to celebrate this week with us and learn more about the nation’s accredited TCUs as well as our emerging institutions.”

The resolution recognizes the 34 accredited Tribal colleges and universities, which serve students from more than 230 federally recognized Indian Tribes, operating on 90 campuses across 16 states. Similar legislation has passed Congress in each of the previous six congressional terms. ■

Youth Sponsorship Grant

The youth sponsorship grant application is available to enrolled CTGR tribal member students for structured activities or programs that focus on education, music, sports, recreation, enrichment or culture.

The sponsorship grant can be used up to twice a year for a total maximum amount of \$300.00. Please note that there is limited available funding.

The last day to submit your student’s application for it to apply towards the 2024 calendar year will be December 7th. Anything submitted after that date will go towards the 2025 calendar year.

Questions, or want to obtain an application?
Reach out to youthenrichment@grandronde.org
or call 503-879-2101.

AUTHOR VISIT

David Lewis with collaborator Henry Zenk

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

@ 5:30 PM

TRIBAL GYM

Join us and learn about the history of Oregon through the stories of the Indigenous peoples of the Willamette Valley

The Grand Ronde Tribal Library is hosting David G. Lewis, PhD and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, researcher, scholar, writer, and assistant professor of anthropology and Indigenous studies at Oregon State University

Book raffle & a take home meal are provided while supplies last

Health & Wellness Center entrance

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

Children & Family Services invites you to join our

RIBBON SKIRT/SHIRT MAKING CLASS

Join us as we make ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts just in time for round dance. Fabric, ribbon and supplies will be provided.

DATES:

- February 16th: 9AM - 5PM
- February 17th: 10AM-3PM
- February 23rd: 9AM - 5PM

To RSVP: Call or text: 5419210610 or email alexandria.warren-masters@grandronde.org

GR Community Center - 9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347

CFS is having a t-shirt design contest!

Help us design our 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Month T-Shirt

Design is due by March 1st. Open to native youth 0 - 24. The winner will receive a \$100 visa gift card and a hoodie with their design on it!

For questions or more information you can call 503-879-2147. Email submissions to Janel.Lara@grandronde.org



Congratulations
Casey & Michelle
on your new bundle of joy!

Brailynn E. Knight
Born on Jan. 15, 2024
7 pounds, 3 ounces, 19 inches

TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

CDL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO Department is looking for Tribal members with CDLs who are interested in current employment opportunities or Tribal members who are interested in obtaining their CDL for future employment.


- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must obtain your CDL permit before you register.
- Must show proof of completed ODOT physical and other requirements.
- Four weeks to complete.

- TERO will assist with funding CDL course.
- Employment opportunities available now.
- Schedule courses when you are ready.

Contact Jacob Boekhoff at 503-879-2146 or e-mail Jacob.Boekhoff@grandronde.org



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



NATIVE
AMERICAN
WATCHLIST

Watchlist: ‘Mexican drug cartel targets six Native American reservations in Montana’

(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

“It’s as if fentanyl is raining on our reservation,” Blackfeet Nation Tribal leader Marvin Weatherwax Jr. said in an NBC interview.

NBC News visited the Blackfeet Nation’s Tribal Reservation earlier this year to report on the Mexican cartel’s increased presence on Montana’s six Tribal reservations.

NBC reporter Cynthia McFadden says the cartel is suspected to be selling to communities and using their homes in remote areas as distribution hubs. Weatherwax says they have married into the community and now have become a problem that won’t go away.

“These are transnational criminal organizations,” Montana’s U.S. Attorney Jesse Laslivich said to McFadden. “They are sophisticated people who have a lot of resources and are as dangerous as they come.”

According to NBC, the further away from the Mexican border, the more expensive the drugs become. It’s reported that Mexican cartels can make a single fentanyl pill for less than 25 cents and sell it on Tribal reservations for more than \$100.

A recent bust on the reservation resulted in the seizure of more than 700,000 fentanyl pills, becoming the largest drug bust in Montana history.

Stacy Zinn, a former director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency operations in Montana, said the state and Tribal law enforcement responses are still limited.

“These reservations don’t have enough Tribal police to protect them,” Zinn said. “Very, very few (Tribal police) and there (are) hundreds and hundreds of acres of land. The nefarious people, the ones committing crimes, know this.”

Tribal leaders from Montana’s six Tribes said that the Mexican cartel brings other crimes such as sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse and domestic violence.

In 2022, the Blackfeet Nation declared a state of emergency after 17 people overdosed in just one week.

According to Weatherwax, the drug problem on his reservation is so serious, it is wiping out an entire generation.

You can watch this NBC News video for yourself at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vU1o8-zlehI&t=180s. ■

Baker Technical Institute
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Fall Protection Training





Learn to identify fall hazards and decide how to best protect yourself and others from dangerous and often life-threatening falls. Falls are among the most common causes of serious work related injuries and deaths in the workplace.

Date: March 7, 2024 Location: GTGR Employment Service
9615 Grand Ronde Rd
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
(Building C)

Time: TBD

Register for training by calling 503-879-2146 or email tero@grandronde.org



A Different Kind of Education



It’s never too late to heal from addiction.

Prepared by JBS International, Inc. under Grant No. 57797-1-020300-0-0151 for the U.S. DHHS, SAMHSA, CSAT



Chinuk Wawa Education Program's

IKANUM PULAK^hLI

WINTER STORIES NIGHT

SAT. FEBRUARY 17TH,
AT ACHAF-HAMMI LONGHOUSE

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30, DINNER AT 5,
STORYTELLING TO FOLLOW

email Zoey.Holsclaw@grandronde.org to RSVP

NOVEMBER 30, 2023 - MARCH 30, 2024

IKANUM



STORIES FROM THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

NATIVE YOUTH WELLNESS DAY

Hosted by Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH, 2024
8:30AM REGISTRATION
9AM-4PM

BREAKFAST, LUNCH &
SNACKS PROVIDED
TRIBAL GYM

OPEN TO ALL NATIVE/DESCENDANT YOUTH IN
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL.


19TH ANNUAL AGENCY CREEK ROUND DANCE
TO FOLLOW:
STARTING AT 5PM

RSVP AND FOR ANY QUESTIONS, EMAIL
YEP@GRANDRONDE.ORG

BIG DOOR PRIZES

FACILITATED BY NATIVE WELLNESS INSTITUTE

THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY & CULTURE BY NOT DISPLAYING
GANG AFFILIATION & BY NOT BRINGING DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR WEAPONS TO THIS EVENT.



Grand Ronde Royalty

Participating in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Royalty is an excellent opportunity for Tribal youth to learn our traditions, powwow protocol and public speaking. Participants represent the Tribe by attending powwows, events, parades, fundraisers and various community events.

Serving on the royalty court requires a considerable commitment from the participant and their parents/guardians and/or sponsor. Royalty participants (including parent/guardian/sponsor) must attend all required events and activities.

Participants must be within the following age categories by Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2024:

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

- General Requirements:
- Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member
 - Must be drug-, alcohol- and tobacco-free
 - Attend school regularly and be in good standing
 - Must be single with no dependents
 - Sign and comply with Royalty guidelines and agreement

For questions or for an application contact:
Shannon A. Simi, CTGR & Veterans Royalty Coordinator
Phone: 503-879-1358
Email: Shannon.simi@grandronde.org

DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Friday, March 29
Late applications will not be accepted.

Veterans Royalty

Veterans Royalty works with the Veterans Special Event Board (Veterans SEB). They attend powwows, parades, fundraisers, meetings and other events with the Veterans SEB and the Honor Guard. They interact with and represent all veterans. They also work with the Grand Ronde Royalty court during events and activities such as Restoration, parades and fundraiser. The Veterans Royalty should know what a veteran is and the different military branches.

When Veterans Royalty attend events, they are expected to stay for the entire duration of the event. This includes helping to set up events, meetings and parades and dancing during Grand Entry, inter-Tribals and staying until the flags are retired. Veterans Royalty should have their own regalia and be willing and able to dance.

GRAND RONDE VETERANS ROYALTY

Participating in Veterans Royalty is an excellent opportunity for Tribal youth to learn our traditions, powwow protocol, public speaking and work with veterans. Participants represent the veterans and the Tribe by attending powwows, events, parades, fundraisers and various community events.

Serving on Veterans Royalty requires a considerable commitment from the participant and their parents and/or sponsor. Royalty participants (including parent or sponsor) must attend all required events and activities.

Participants must be within the following age categories by Saturday, July 1, 2024:

- Tiny Tot Warriors: 4-6 years of age
- Warriors: 7 -18 years of age
- Tiny Tot Princess: 4-6 years of age
- Little Miss Queen: 7 -10 years of age
- Junior Miss Queen: 11-13 years of age
- Senior Miss Queen: 14-18 years of age

- General Requirements:
- Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member
 - Must be alcohol and drug free
 - Never married, no children
 - Attend school regularly and be in good standing
 - Sign and comply with Veterans Royalty guidelines & agreement

For questions or for an application contact:
Shannon A. Simi, CTGR & Veterans Royalty Coordinator
Phone: 503-879-1358
Email: Shannon.simi@grandronde.org

DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Friday, March 29
Late applications will not be accepted.

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN GAMING INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION OPENINGS

Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. "SMGI," a Tribal corporation chartered by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde "Grand Ronde," operates Spirit Mountain Casino – the largest casino in Oregon. Spirit Mountain Casino offers Las Vegas style slots and provides superior entertainment and resort amenities. Spirit Mountain is one of the Pacific Northwest's premier casinos. Grand Ronde invites applications to serve on the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors. Two board seats expired on Sept. 30, 2023.

The SMGI Board of Directors is responsible to the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. The board oversees strategic planning, overall fiscal accountability, budgets and operations of Spirit Mountain Casino.

The SMGI Board meets monthly. Occasionally, additional special meetings may be held. Board members are expected to attend all meetings in person, which are held at Spirit Mountain Casino – although participation by telephone will occasionally 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 have a superior understanding of and experience with financial statements, strong communication and analytical skills, experience in a hospitality or customer service driven environment, 10 years of experience in a senior management position, and a solid understanding of the Portland-metro and Salem area economies. Experience in the following areas is also preferred: Gaming, tourism, corporate finance and accounting, marketing and promotions, human resources and management of senior executives. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred.

Ability to pass a thorough background check and obtain a gaming license from the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission is required.

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members. Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest describing their qualifications, a résumé and three references to:

Stacia Hernandez, Chief of Staff
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR. 97347
Phone: 503-879-2304
Email: stacia.martin@grandronde.org

Submission deadline: Friday, March 8, 2024

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elder 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. ■

FILED
CTGR COURT
Fri Jan 26 15:13:04 PST 2024

IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON
CIVIL COURT

In the Matter of:) Case No. 23C0016
SUPPAH, PATRICIA GAIL) ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE
PETITIONER) NAME

Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Name Change filed by Petitioner on December 21, 2023;

THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOW:
☒ The Petition ☒ does ☐ does not meet the requirements of the Name Change Ordinance, Chapter 303 and the Petition is ☐ dismissed ☒ granted;
☒ The Court ☒ has ☐ does not have jurisdiction over the Petitioner and ☒ subject matter of the Petition herein;
☒ The Petitioner ☒ is ☐ is not over 18 years old;
☒ The Petitioner ☒ is ☐ is not an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;
☒ Petitioner ☐ has ☒ has not petitioned or been granted a change of name by the Tribal Court within the past twelve (12) months;
☒ The Petitioner ☐ does ☒ does not have creditors or a former spouse to whom an obligation is owed under a divorce decree.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:
☐ The Petition for Name Change is not granted and is dismissed without prejudice.
☒ The Petition for Name Change is granted and Petitioner's name is changed from PATRICIA GAIL SUPPAH to PATRICIA GAIL ALLEN.
☒ The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order to be published in the Tribal Newsletter;
☒ The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of this Order to the Grand Ronde Tribal Enrollment Office and to the State Department of Vital Statistics Office in the state in which Petitioner was born.

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.

/s/ Patrick S Melendy
Patrick S Melendy
Chief Judge



HEALTH & WELLNESS
CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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



PICK-UP
AND
DROP-OFF
ONLY

NO PARKING

Massage at Health & Wellness

Hi, my name is Shawna Ray. I have been a licensed massage therapist in the Yamhill and Polk county area for eight years. I will be at the Health & Wellness Center on Mondays providing massage therapy as an on-site contractor and I am contracted with Shasta.

Contact 971-241-4323 by text or voice message to schedule appointments. Co-pay still may apply. I'm looking forward to working with those in the community to deliver a holistic approach to pain management, relaxation and overall wellness. ■

TAKING CONTROL OF BEHAVIOR:
HOW TO CREATE CALM
THROUGH CONNECTION &
COMMUNICATION



Learn how mistakes are an opportunity for children to learn and grow, if we know how to respond effectively through listening, managing their feelings, and asking the right questions.

Parents, please join us
online, Thursday,
February 29, 2024
at 12:00 p.m.

with Kim
Demarchi,
M.Ed.

<https://bit.ly/empoweredparenting>

 [@kim.demarchi](https://www.instagram.com/kim.demarchi)



empoweredparenting.com



CTGR Wellness Warrior
Logo Design
Challenge

DESIGN WHATEVER YOU THINK REPRESENTS
WHAT A "WELLNESS WARRIOR" IS.

WINNING DESIGN WILL BE PRINTED ON
HOODIES THAT WILL BE GIVEN OUT AS
PRIZES THROUGH THE YEAR. ARTIST WILL
RECEIVE \$100 AND A HOODIE WITH THEIR
DESIGN ON IT.

WINNERS
ANNOUNCED

CONTEST
DEADLINE

@ MENTAL
HEALTH
WALK
IN MAY

MARCH
30TH

more info call 503.879.4533
Email submissions to:
Angey.Rideout@grandronde.org



West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is March 15, 2024

Name: _____		DOB: _____	
Address: _____		City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____		Gender: Male/Female (Circle) _____	
Rank: _____	Branch: _____	Honorable: Yes/No (Circle) _____	
DOE: _____	Place of entry: _____		
DOS: _____	Place of seperation: _____		
Deceased: Yes/No (Circle) _____		Place of burial: _____	
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.

Walking On...

Ronald Jeffrey Karten

Oct. 8, 1949 – Feb. 8, 2024

Former *Smoke Signals* staff writer Ronald Jeffrey Karten walked on peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, at the age of 74 at Salem Hospital.

Karten, originally from Garden City, N.Y., worked as a staff writer for *Smoke Signals* from May 2002 until his retirement in February 2015. As the staff writer, Karten received numerous awards from the then-Native American Journalists Association for both feature and news writing, and wrote thousands of stories for the Grand Ronde Tribal membership.

Before joining the Tribal newspaper, he was a public information officer for the Oregon Public Utility Commission and chief of staff for Oregon State Sen. John Lim.

He also served on the Grand Ronde Editorial Board from 2018 to 2020, returning to help the five-member group supervise the editor of *Smoke Signals*.

He was born to Everett Karten and Lois Weiss on Oct. 8, 1949, and graduated from Garden City High School in 1967. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in English and was in the master's program at the Columbia University School of Arts.

He married Catherine Thompson on July 2, 1981, in Omak, Wash., and they eventually settled in Yamhill County.

He lived south of Dayton with his wife, who survives him. He is also survived by his daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Karten (Stefan Saito), of Portland, Ore., and son, Joseph David Karten (Holly), who lives in Sydney, Australia. He also is survived by two granddaughters, Kokoro and Arcata, who live in Australia, and a sister, Barbara Karten of Boston, Mass.

During his career, Karten also was a freelance writer, a job that took him in 1999 to Myanmar (Burma), where he wrote about civil rights activist Aung San Suu Kyi. Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Karten worked for two editors while at *Smoke Signals*: Brent Merrill, who walked on in 2020, and Dean Rhodes.

"What I appreciated about Ron as a journalist was his versatility," Rhodes said. "He could handle news and features, and take photos if necessary. He always had a knack of connecting with people and eventually getting the answers and comments he needed. He was instrumental in conducting most of the interviews for the 25th anniversary of Restoration video we did in 2008."

After his retirement in 2015, Karten and Rhodes were often fixtures on Cross Creek Golf Course just north of Dallas most Friday afternoons.

"Ron was consistently getting better at golf and on his good days could play bogie golf or better," Rhodes said. "I will miss our afternoons playing golf, shooting the breeze while looking for our errant balls and talking about life over a post-round beer. I haven't made too many male friends in my later years, but I considered Ron a good friend."

"He also was an eternal optimist. Anytime we had trouble finding one of our balls around a green, he would invariably ask, 'Have we checked the hole?'"

"The world lost a good man," *Smoke Signals* photojournalist/assistant editor Michelle Alaimo said. She worked with Karten from 2008 until his retirement.

Karten's other interests included playing chess, woodworking in his garage and photography, as well as continuing to write fiction. Although he was an accomplished journalist, he took the most pride in being a father, grandfather, husband and mentor to younger members of his immediate and extended family.

"You know that picture in the Sistine Chapel of God and man with the fingers and they're about to touch? I always think of that. I love making connections. And it happens in all different places," he said in the *Smoke Signals* introductory article published in June 2002.

Karten walked on after living the life he chose.

A celebration of life is pending and will be held in March.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Dayton Volunteer Fire Department, 500 7th St., Dayton, OR, 97114, or Yamhill Community Action Partnership, 1317 N.E. Dustin Court, McMinnville, OR, 97128.



Clifford J. Gregg

July 17, 1947 – Jan. 10, 2024

Tribal Elder Clifford J. Gregg passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at the age of 76.

He was born on July 17, 1947, to Melanie (Anderson) and Earl G. Gregg in Spokane, Wash. He grew up in the Spokane Valley, graduating from West Valley High School in 1965.

Following service in the U.S. Coast Guard, Cliff took a job with Pacific Northwest Bell, a career that included being a lineman doing telephone repair, corporate training from the Midwest to the west coast and finally into management.

After more than 30 years of service, Cliff retired to property in Goldendale, Wash., where he enjoyed raising horses and became a member of the Gents Auto Club based out of Spokane, Wash.

Cliff was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, Keith R. Jeffery; brother, Kenneth R. Gregg; grandson, Robbie L. Babbitt and granddaughter, Sydney L. Gregg.

Cliff is survived by his loving wife, Veta Gregg; sister, Connie Dodge; daughters, Shelli (Dennis) Baxter and Christina (Jim) Janssen; sons, Chadwick (Georgina) Gregg and Christopher (Shannon) Gregg; 15 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Judy Davis

June 4, 1952 – Dec. 27, 2023

Tribal spouse Judy Davis passed away on Dec. 27, 2023, at the age of 71.

A full moon helped to guide a most precious woman to heaven. As our hearts were breaking, an angel was born. Judy will forever be in our hearts and remembered as a very precious soul - She was and always will be a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Judy brought a smile to everyone's face with just her presence and warmed your heart with her infectious laughter.

No matter who you are, you were always welcomed into Judy's home, with open arms and a home-cooked meal. As far as everyone is concerned, Judy cooked the absolute best bacon in the world.

Today we are mourning the loss of an amazing woman but we are celebrating the wonderful years that were spent with her.

Judy is survived by her best friend and husband, Marvin; her daughter, Lena; son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Shari; grandchildren, Alyshea, Jada and Elleigh-Ana; and great grandchildren, Uriah, Sequoia and October.

She is also survived by her brothers, Jon (Launa), Dave and her bonus stepchildren.

Judy was preceded in death by her father, Jim; mother, Betty and brother, Jim.

We love you to the "university" and beyond. Judy, you will be forever in our hearts and never forgotten.



Lanora M. Young

Oct. 18, 1936 – Jan. 29, 2024

Tribal Elder Lanora M. Young passed away on Jan. 29, 2024, at the age of 87.

Sumner Voiles Funeral Chapel in Sumner, Wash., is assisting the family. Funeral service details were not available before press time.



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



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* = DEPENDING IF YOU QUALIFY FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP). IF YOU DON'T QUALIFY, OTHER SERVICE OPTIONS AVAILABLE. SERVICE AVAILABILITY DEPENDENT ON SEVERAL FACTORS.



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Walking On...

Marlena Josephine Lancour

Aug. 17, 1951– Feb. 6, 2024

Tribal Elder Marlena J. Lancour passed away on Feb. 6, 2024, at the age of 72.

Marlena Josephine Lancour was born in McMinnville, Ore., to Joseph Sell and Emma Labonte-Sell on Aug. 17, 1951. She was the middle child of eight children.

Marlena grew up taking part in many adventures with her brothers and sisters in both Grand Ronde and Turner, Ore. In Turner, she would eventually meet and marry Ernie Lancour.



They settled down and started a family, which included Novalee, Ernie Jr. and Joe. The family split time between the Tri-Cities area of Washington state and Turner until they eventually settled down in Marion, Ore., where they raised their children.

Marlena worked at NORPAC cannery in Stayton for more than 20 years. Once her grandchildren were born, she decided to retire so she and Ernie could spend time with them. Their names are Tyler, Grace, Sam, Lauren, Emmalee, Ernie III, Riley, Eli and Peyton.

As a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Marlena loved sharing her stories of growing up on the reservation. She often spoke about all the adventures she had with her brothers and sisters.

Every year she loved to return to the August Contest Powwow with family to listen to the drumming, watch the dancing and go shopping at various vendors.

Marlena loved crocheting blankets for family and friends. She later taught her granddaughter Emmalee how to crochet. Marlena loved days out with her daughter and granddaughter, Novalee and Grace, to shop, have lunch or go get their nails done.

Marlena was always up for going on a road trip. One of her favorite spots was the fish hatchery. She was so happy when the grandkids wanted to ride along.

One of her favorite vacations was when she did a road trip with Ernie Jr.'s family to Las Vegas where they joined up with the rest of her kids and grandkids for her son Joe's wedding.

Marlena was always up for adventure with any of her grandkids who were interested in some fun. Ice cream and shopping were always a hit. To Marlena, family was everything. When she wasn't out and about spending time with her family, she loved to garden. It didn't matter if it was growing vegetables, tending flowers or even mowing her rather large lawn on her riding mower, she loved to be outdoors.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernie Lancour; father, Joseph Sell; mother, Emma LaBonte-Sell and brothers, Wayne Sell and Tom Sell.

She is survived by her sisters, Nancy (Sonny) Coleman, Leveta Sell, Theresa (David) Haller and June (Mike) Sell Sherer; brother, Bill (Donna) Sell; and her children, Novalee (Jeff) Lancour Joles, Ernie (Jillian) Lancour and Joe (Shannon) Lancour.

Bollman's Tribute Center in Dallas is assisting the family.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, at Bollman's Tribute Center, 287 S.W. Washington St.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19, at the Lighthouse Community Building, 24697 Grand Ronde Road, followed by burial at the Tribal Cemetery at noon.

smok signalz offering fast e-mail subscription

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elder Center events

March

2024

Need Assistance? Front Desk 503-879-2233 Kitchen 503-879-4625					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2
Healthy lifestyle meeting noon 4	Craft Day 11am to 1pm 5	Grocery Shopping Trip leave at 9am 6	Craft Day help get ready for honor day Noon to 2pm Massage 10am to 2:45 7	Round Dance 8	Round Dance 9
Healthy Lifestyle meeting noon 11	Art Therapy 1pm National Plant a flower day. Planting at 1pm 12	Horse Stable Visit 13	Craft Day help get ready for honor day noon to 2pm 14	St Patty's Luncheon 15	16
Healthy Lifestyle meeting noon 18	Craft Day 11am to 1pm 19	Grocery Shopping Trip leave at 9am 20	Bingo 1pm Massage 10am to 2:45 21	22	23
Healthy lifestyle meeting noon 25	Craft Day 11am to 1pm 26	Horse Stable Visit 27	Elder Trip leave at 9am 28	29	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none">For Messages please call the elder center 503-879-2233 to sign up for a time. Insurance is billed.All signup sheets are located in the elder center. If you need help signing up please call 503-879-2233					

Drop box installed

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, has a medication drop box located in the front lobby.

Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag. Tribal Police employees cannot handle the medications so the person dropping them off must repackage them.

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

STRONGHEARTS Native Helpline

Call or Text: 1-844-7NATIVE (762-8483)

Chat online at: strongheartshelpline.org

24/7 safe, confidential and anonymous domestic and sexual violence helpline for Native Americans and Alaska Natives, offering culturally-appropriate support and advocacy.

@strongheartsv

QR code



CTGR EMPLOYMENT

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



Posted February 09, 2024

Job#	Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
1793	Tribal Court Volunteer – Court Appointed Special Advocate				Until Filled
1946	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
1991	Mental Health Counselor – Great Circle Recovery - Salem	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
1999	Tribal Planner	15	\$97,858.44/yr.	\$127,796.59/yr.	Until Filled
2006	Staff Accountant	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
2014	Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
2030	Police Officer	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
2035	Enrichment Coordinator Aide - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
2036	Lodge Caregiver – Full Time	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
2039	Behavior Specialist	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
2040	Police Officer Trainee	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
2041	Budget Coordinator	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	02/19/24
2042	Applications Specialist	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
2043	Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
2046	Dementia Care Specialist – Community Health	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
2047	Elder Justice Coordinator – Community Health	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
2048	Driver/Wellness Assistant – Community Health	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
2049	Licensed Practical Nurse – Great Circle Recovery - Portland	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
2050	Academic Coach – Youth Education	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
2052	Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Great Circle Recovery - Portland	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	02/12/24
2053	Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Great Circle Recovery - Salem	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	02/12/24
2054	Project Manager – In-Training	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	02/12/24
2055	Maintenance Technician – Housing	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	02/12/24
2056	Licensed Practical Nurse – Adult Foster Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	02/12/24
2033	Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Open

Job#	Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
2057	Program Manager – Early Childhood Education	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	02/12/24
2060	Milleu Safety Technician – Great Circle Recovery - Portland	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	02/12/24
2061	Enrichment Coordinator	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	02/12/24
2062	Licensed Practical Nurse – Great Circle Recovery - Salem	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	02/19/24
2063	Cultural Wellness Specialist – Public Health	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	02/19/24
2064	Peer Support Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	02/19/24
2065	Community Transition Case Manager	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$94,104.26/yr.	02/19/24
2066	Housekeeper - Swing Shift	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	02/19/24
2067	Infant/Toddler Teacher ENTRY LEVEL	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	02/19/24
2068	Arts Administrator	11	\$69,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	02/19/24
2069	Advocate – Social Services	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	02/19/24
2070	Forestry Technician (Entry Level – Fire Suppress/Prevention) Seasonal	4	\$17.15/hr.	\$21.95/hr.	02/19/24
2071	Forestry Technician (Intermediate Level – Fire Suppress/Prevention) Seasonal	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	02/19/24
2072	Forestry Technician (Engine Boss, Crew Boss, EMT – Fire Suppression/Prevention) Seasonal	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	02/19/24

\$500 Hire-On Bonus - AFC Positions * Lodge Caregivers and CNA's hired after March 4, 2022, are eligible when employed for 120 days.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde offers generous benefits and competitive pay. POSTINGS ARE OPEN UNTIL FILLED & WILL BE REMOVED WITHOUT NOTICE

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:
1. Grand Ronde Tribal members.
(Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they meet the minimum qualifications of the position during the course of the interview process will be given first consideration for hire and the recruitment process will end)
2. Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children and current regular employees.
3. External candidates.
Apply online at: www.grandronde.org



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Cage Cashier (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	2/15/2024	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier	2/15/2024	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Database Marketing Manager	Until Filled	\$76,484.51/yr. DOE
Guest Services Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
IT Database Administrator	Until Filled	\$76,484.51/yr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Restaurant Manager	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Slot Technician I	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.58/hr. + Tips

\$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions

\$500 Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees

**Part-time employees are eligible for a 20% differential pay to their base wage if they are scheduled to work up to 29.99 hours per week.*

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

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

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

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

✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus

employmentteam@spiritmtn.com

<https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

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. ■



Willamina Fire Station

CHILI COOK-OFF

Cast Your Vote!

12 p.m. on Saturday, March 9th

Come meet the CTGR staff and West Valley Board!

Three shifts competing. Vote for shift A, B, or C. Only one can win!



Paid Internships in Habitat Restoration

Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting interns for its Habitat Restoration Internships for Spring and Summer 2024. This paid opportunity integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge with local conservation practices and is supported by multiple collaborative partners.

- \$3000 stipend
- 9 week training, 3 days a week
- Both classroom education and experiential service learning activities
- Choose:
 - Spring: April 1 to May 31, 2024
 - Summer: July 8 to August 30, 2024

Apply now:

elderberrywisdom.org/joinourteam



Elderberry Wisdom Farm



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Winter supplements keep you healthy



Winter is upon us so give your body the extra care to help fend off winter sickness. Supplement healthy eating and seasonal vaccines with some of the most recommended vitamins and elements to maintain health and boost your immune system.

Vitamin B is vital for metabolic function including energy production, proper functioning of the nervous system and rebuilding of muscle and skin. Vitamin B12 is not available in

plants, so if someone is a vegetarian, they are likely to be low in this. Vitamin B12 deficiency can cause a number of serious health problems and has been associated with seasonal affective disorder and other depressive symptoms.

Zinc is a mineral that helps boosts the body’s natural defenses. It supports metabolism and improves immune function. It helps maintain healthy skin, nails and hair.

Omega-3 fish oil supports your brain, heart and vision. These vitamins have been linked to lowered risk of cardiovascular disease by reducing triglycerides and lowering blood pressure. Omega-3s are also important for brain memory, eye health and fighting depression.

Deficiencies in omega-3s can cause problems like fatigue, poor memory, dry skin, mood swings, depression and poor circulation.

Fish is the best food source of omega-3. Other food sources include nuts (particularly walnuts). A simpler way to ensure you get enough is to take a supplement.

Vitamin D is so important for bone strength because our bodies can’t absorb calcium without the presence of vitamin D. The vitamin also supports immune health, muscle function and brain cell activity.

Most foods don’t have naturally occurring vitamin D, although the food industry has chosen to fortify some common items like milk and cereal with this vitamin. Vitamin D is also present in fatty fish.

The biggest way we get our vitamin D is when our skin synthesizes it. Sometimes in the summer that is sufficient, but in the winter we don’t get enough sunlight. Since it is difficult to get vitamin D from food alone, and we have limited sunshine in the winter, it is often recommended to take a supplement in order to avoid a vitamin D deficiency.

Vitamin C plays a role in supporting your immune system. Although a vitamin C boost may not stop all colds completely, the U.S. National Institutes of Health states that people who “regularly take a vitamin C supplement may experience a shorter cold or milder symptoms.” Also, vitamin C helps control infections and heal wounds. Bananas and citrus fruits are good sources of vitamin C.

According to the National Institutes of Health, the recommended daily allowance of vitamin C for adults is 90 milligrams for males and 75 milligrams for females. The upper limit is 2,000 milligrams. ■

Affects of cannabis exposure

The cannabis plant contains more than 100 compounds classified as cannabinoids. One of the compounds is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is impairing or mind-altering. Marijuana products that contain THC can have health risks regardless of how they are used (smoked or eaten) because THC is impairing and can affect memory, attention, decision-making and risk-taking.

Children can be affected although they themselves do not use cannabis. THC crosses the placenta and enters the fetal bloodstream, potentially causing future developmental problems. Additionally, THC can be passed to infants through secondhand smoke. Studies have shown that using cannabis during pregnancy can lead to a variety of negative outcomes for both the mother and the developing fetus. According to the CDC, using marijuana during pregnancy can lead to low birth weight, premature birth and developmental problems. A study by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and the University of Toronto found that infants prenatally exposed to cannabis are more likely to be born pre-term, have a low birth weight and require neonatal intensive care. Prenatal cannabis use has also been linked to an increased risk of major congenital anomalies and small-for-gestational age babies. Research suggests that using marijuana while pregnant could be linked to problems with attention, memory, problem-solving skills and behavior in children later in life.

It is recommended that pregnant women avoid using marijuana in any form both because of harm to themselves but also to the fetus. ■

Sources: 1. (CDC). (2022, November 22). Marijuana and Public Health. 2. WebMD. (2022, December 12). Marijuana and Pregnancy. 3. University of Toronto. (2021, June 16). Cannabis use during pregnancy associated with adverse birth outcomes: study. 4. National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2022, January 19) Can marijuana use during pregnancy harm the baby? 5. PLOS ONE. (2022, August 25). Prenatal cannabis exposure and risk of major congenital anomalies and small-for-gestational age.

Healthy hearts start in childhood

It’s true, healthy hearts start in childhood with healthy practices. The same things that we hear in adulthood about heart health is valid in childhood: Be active, eat healthy and maintain a healthy weight. Encourage children of all ages, even very young, to be active. Join a team, walk, play age-appropriate games. Set media free times and encourage outdoor play as much as possible.



You can use the native plate model for healthy eating. That means eating lots of vegetables, with smaller quantities of grains and proteins. Offer water rather than other drinks which may be loaded with sugar and chemicals. When children are offered healthy foods from a very young age they will develop a “taste” for it.

Since we all have an inborn preference for sugary and salty foods, pay particular attention to snack foods including all kinds of chips, sugary drinks and sweets. These snacks provide “empty calories” with little nutritional value. Anyone who has ever tried these foods can tell you how addictive they are. We can’t stop our kids from eating these completely but if they are not it the house they (and we) are less likely to eat them.

When children develop healthy patterns and habits at a young age, they are more likely to remain healthy even into older age. A combination of regular activity and healthy eating is a great beginning point for lifelong health. If you model healthy eating and staying active your kids are more likely to practice these behaviors. Your actions speak louder than words. ■

Building healthy relationships

The foundations of a healthy relationship include:

Communication: Even when you don’t agree, both partners need to be able to share opinions and perspectives without feeling judged or shamed. Each person should feel safe and heard when expressing needs. Tell your partner how you feel and make an effort to talk things through.

Trust: Building trust takes time and communication. It allows couples to be vulnerable with one another knowing that they can rely on the other person.

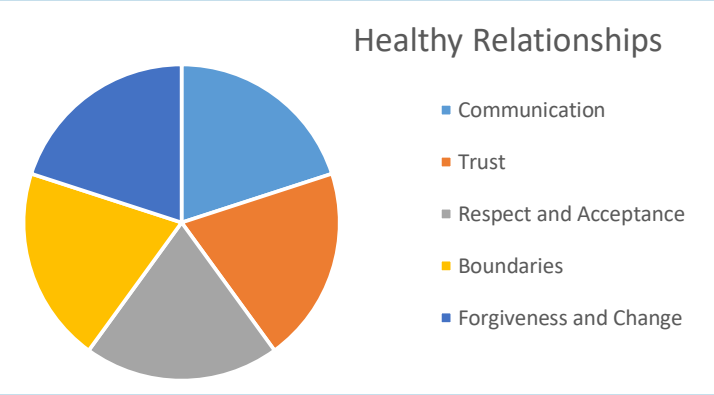
Respect and acceptance: Recognizing that each person in the relationship has a different personality, traits and needs. Neither person compromises who they are. Encouraging your partner to spend time with other friends and to take part in activities that they enjoy is a good way to express respect.

Boundaries: Having boundaries is like drawing a line. One side has the things you are okay with and the other side, those that you are not okay with, don’t feel ready for or that make you uncomfortable. This line looks different for everyone. Setting boundaries lets your partner understand your needs. You are allowed to put your needs before someone else’s needs, especially if their needs make you uncomfortable.

Forgiveness and change: We all make mistakes in how we treat others, especially in close relationships. We need to acknowledge those mistakes, ask for forgiveness and commit ourselves to not repeat the offense.

Wanting to be with someone is part of developing as a person. But starting a relationship will not fix other problems in your life like loneliness, feeling sad, or needing something new and shiny. Getting into a relationship should be all about you and the other person, rather than just the idea of having a boyfriend or a girlfriend. ■

Sources: journey woman & youth.gov





SMOKE SIGNALS

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