



Pajama Jam
photos — pg. 11

JANUARY 15, 2025



SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Hidden heritage carries pride and pain

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Blond-haired and blue-eyed, Tribal Elder Bradley Kowing never knew while he was growing up that he was Native American. His grandmother, Cecil Russell, never mentioned it, nor did his parents.



Bradley Kowing

When he finally learned about his heritage in his 30s, Kowing said it gave him a foundation that he welcomed, and he threw himself enthusiastically into helping with the Tribe's Restoration efforts and its journey to reclaim its land.

He only wishes he could have known about his heritage sooner.

Kowing grew up in Willamina, surrounded by Tribal members, but unaware of his own heritage.

"We were all just children; it didn't matter if some were a little darker, and some us were blond and blue-eyed," he said. "As a child, we often visited with aunts — the Leno family, the Mercier family — the godmother to all of us was Berna Larson, Ed Larson's mother. The Larson family was big in our lives; we visited often out there, often with members of the family more associated with the Native American side. But we didn't talk about it in that manner and up until the Tribe started working hard to get itself back together and become a federally recognized Tribe again is when everybody in the family worked as hard as they could and dug through archives and stuff," he said.

But looking back, Kowing believes his aunts and uncles must have known about their Tribal heritage. One of his uncles, Riley Porter, worked as a drug and alcohol counselor for the Tribe.

Porter, a WWII and Korean War veteran, was a Tribal Elder who later served on several Tribal committees, in addition to his counseling work.

During the efforts to restore the Tribe's federal



Contributed photo

Tribal Elder Bradley Kowing learned his grandmother, Cecil Rose Russell Porter, spent time at Chemawa Indian School while tracing family history for enrollment after the Tribe was restored in 1983. In 1908, she was taken from her home in Tiller, Ore., by the state of Oregon and sent to the Salem school.

recognition, Kowing said, Porter put together some paperwork tracking the family back to the 1800s.

See BOARDING SCHOOL continued on page 7

Judge denies PGE, Tribe's requests for summary judgement

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — A federal district court judge has denied requests to dismiss a lawsuit brought by Portland General Electric against the state of Oregon and Department of State Lands over 5 acres of land at Willamette Falls, meaning the case will most likely go to trial in the spring.

Trial is scheduled to begin on Monday, April 21, at the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland.

Historically, Willamette Falls, located between Oregon City and West Linn, was a significant fishing and trading site for Tribes but the Willamette Falls Electric Company built a hydroelectric dam on the site in the late 1800s. It became Portland General Electric in 1891.

In 2018, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde received approval from the Department of State Lands to build a removable fishing platform at the falls that it uses to harvest 15 ceremonial fish annually, at the culturally appropriate time of year. It also harvests lamprey at the site, and salmon from the shoreline, during times when the river is lower. The Tribe's platform has been contested by several other Tribes.

In 2021, PGE sought to purchase the property from the Department of State Lands. When that effort failed, it filed a lawsuit against the state in 2022, seeking to take ownership through eminent domain by condemning the property. The

See PGE continued on page 5

Grand Ronde Tribe asking for dam drawdowns

Editor's note: Salmon, rain and conifer forests are symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In a three-part series, "The salmon situation," Smoke Signals examines how the region's signature fish is heading for extinction, with little time left to reverse course and save these ancient species, which are crucial to both the ecosystem and Tribal culture. In the end, the Tribe's best hope to prevail may lie in winning an epic battle with bureaucracy. Part three will run in the Feb. 1 edition.



The salmon situation Part 2 of 3



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

One of the biggest problems facing Pacific Northwest salmon is lack of access to suitable habitat. The fish require gravel spawning beds and cold, clear, moving water for their young, but are shut away from most of their historical range by dams built 50 to 60

years ago with no fish passage.

Although the state of Oregon operates massive fish hatcheries to keep numbers high for fishermen, both hatchery and wild-born juvenile fish face the same problem: Increasingly warm,

See SALMON continued on page 8

Fall Creek Reservoir in Fall Creek is shown in deep drawdown on Tuesday, Jan. 7. It is expected to be in deep drawdown until Jan. 15. Since 2021, the Army Corps of Engineers has been under a federal court order to improve fish passage and water quality at several of its Willamette River Basin dams for both spring Chinook and winter steelhead.

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2

Monarch Hotel & Convention Center,
12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas

Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 800-422-0232 for more information.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Jan. 22.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19.....	4 p.m.

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

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

Grand Ronde Tribal Elder Veronica Gaston's life was truly a life well lived, in so many exemplary ways and especially over such a shortened lifespan.

There needs to be more Veronica Gastons amongst us all, definitely — and especially now.

Because of her example, I'm believing there will be.

Les Ruark,

Arlington, Oregon

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.

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, Jan. 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
OFFSITE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Sunday, February 2

Monarch Hotel
12566 SE 93rd Ave.
Clackamas, OR 97015

Sunday, April 6

Lane Community College Longhouse
4000 E. 30th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405

Followed by Community Input Meeting.

www.grandronde.org

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Thursday, Jan. 23	Feb. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Feb. 6	Feb. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Feb. 20	Mar. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Mar. 6	Mar. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

Smoke Signals, 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.

Smoke Signals 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 Smoke Signals.

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

ixt-mun (January)

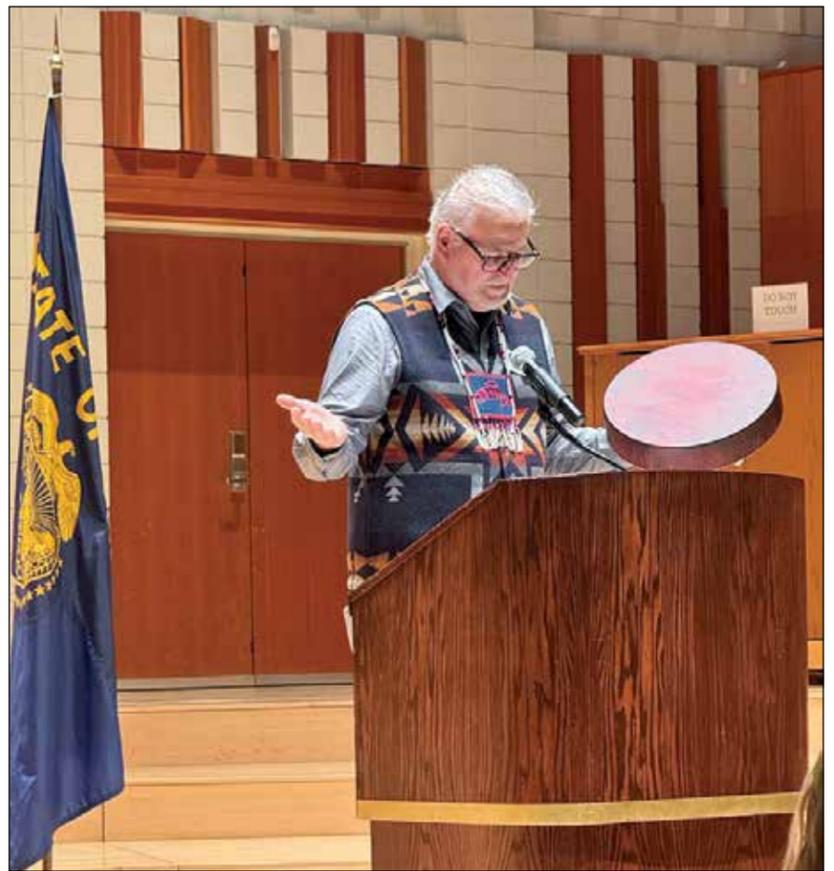
- Monday, Jan. 20 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- UPDATED:** Wednesday, Jan. 22 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

makwst-mun (February)

- Sunday, Feb. 2 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Monarch Hotel & Convention Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- UPDATED:** Wednesday, Feb. 5 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Feb. 17 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.
- UPDATED:** Wednesday, Feb. 19 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

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

Read's invocation



Contributed photo

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George gives the invocation during Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read's oath of office ceremony at Willamette University's Hudson Hall in Salem on Monday, Jan. 6. "It is a great honor to stand in front of you as Oregon's Secretary of State. I take very seriously the trust that people have placed in me and my team and I'm ready to get to work," Read said during his inaugural address. He added, "Oregonians deserve a government that enables them to build the lives they want, one that earns their confidence not by its words, but by its actions." Read is the state's 30th Secretary of State and his top priorities are restoring accountability and trust in the agency and protecting Oregonians' right to safe and secure elections. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Tribal Council member Denise Harvey also attended the ceremony.

Tribal nonemergency text

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.

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

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OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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Grand Ronde Social Services Department:

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Grand Ronde Food Bank:

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Spirit Mountain Community Fund:

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Grand Ronde Cultural Education:

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Grand Ronde Community Garden:

facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:

facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department

Grand Ronde Employment Services

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

- Do you want to be more involved with the Tribe?
- Do you have a desire to be a part of a group to plan and be involved in Tribal activities and events?
- Are you interested in making positive changes for future generations?

Current vacancies:

- Ceremonial Hunting Board – Must be a ceremonial hunter (1)
- Culture Committee (2) • Election Board (1)
- Election Board alternates (2) • Enrollment Committee (1)
- Fish & Wildlife Committee (2) • Powwow Special Event Board (1)

For questions email:

shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org

Applications available online at:

www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/

Applications also available in the Tribal Governance building:

Located at the Tribal Council office near the security desk.

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam məkʰmək haws – is operated by Marion-Polk Food Share, which has been leading the fight to end hunger since 1987 because no one should be hungry.

Recipients of SNAP, TANF, SSI or LIHEAP assistance automatically qualify for assistance at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.

“We believe that everyone deserves to have enough to eat,” Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose says. “You are welcome to get a food box at each of our regular weekly distributions. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.”

The Food Bank will hold January food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. 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 repackaging 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 as needed 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 in February via Zoom. Contact Chair Mia Prickett at Editorial.Board@grandronde.org for the meeting link.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- **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 Monday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second 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. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Raymond Petite.

To update information on this list, contact Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or danielle.harrison@grandronde.org.



2020

File photo

2020 – Three Grand Ronde Tribal Council members traveled to Tacoma, Washington to attend a rally in support of the Chinook Indian Nation’s fight for federal recognition. Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George and Tribal Council members Denise Harvey and Lisa Leno attended the rally at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. Employees from the Cultural Resources Department also attended, along with other Tribal members and government employees.

2015 – The Tribe closed on the purchase of a 91-acre parcel worth more than \$900,000 on the Chahalpam property along the North Santiam River in Marion County. The purchase, funded entirely by the Bonneville Power Administration’s Wildlife Mitigation Program, brought the Tribe’s total acreage to more than 429 acres managed for conservation purposes at the site downstream from Stayton.

2010 – The Tribe’s Natural Resources Youth Crew was named the Frank Roberts Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Project of the Year, for the fourth time in seven years.

2005 – The Tribe provided a \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Willamette Chapter’s International Relief Fund, to aid victims of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, which occurred on Dec. 26, 2004. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. More than 220,000 people died in 14 countries.

2000 – As the Tribal campus continued to grow, four offices moved locations. The Cultural Resource Protection and Office of Museum Development departments moved from the Governance Center into the newly remodeled Community Center, while the Tribe’s Small Business Development Department moved from the Human Resources Department building on Highway 18 to the Governance Center. The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission moved to a building off of Salmon River Highway, shared with Spirit Mountain Casino’s Human Resources Department.

1995 – The Tribal Council adopted a budget for 1995 that included a pension program for Tribal Elders from its timber revenues, an economic development fund, a cultural board and additional funds for education and training scholarships.

1990 – No edition available.

1985 – The Tribal Council authorized the general manager to develop and submit a proposal to the Housing and Urban Development Agency for construction of a 4,000 square-foot Social Services facility near the Depot. The Tribe’s \$250,000 proposal was competing for funding with all of the other Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

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

Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship now open

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde’s Cultural Resources Department Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship (IPKA) is now open.

It is expected that two fellows will be named in 2025. Fellows will receive \$20,000 to advance their artistic work. The fellowship exists to develop Indigenous artist capacity within the Grand Ronde Tribe’s homelands.

“The Cultural Resources Department feels that art by Indigenous people is one of the most effective and recognizable ways that Indigenous people of place can hold a place in their homelands and further their own recognition and persistence,” an email stated.

The fellowship is open to anyone who can demonstrate a verifiable Indigenous connection to the ancestral peoples of western Oregon from the lower Columbia River in the north all the way to the Klamath River in the south.

Applications are due on Monday, Jan. 20.

Full details about the 2025 Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship and how to apply are available on the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center website, chachalu.org/programs/ipka-fellowship/. ■



GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

28450 Tyee Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

**ATTENTION ALL HOUSING TENANTS AND GUEST
PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN ELDER HOUSING**

Also, please make sure and maintain low levels of music in the Elder community.

General Council briefed on Health & Wellness

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe briefed General Council on accomplishments her department made during the past year as well as future plans during a Sunday, Jan 5, General Council meeting.

“I can’t tell you how wonderful it is to be able to serve my Tribe every year,” she said. “I’ve come to talk about the things that we’ve accomplished at Health & Wellness. I lead a great team, very hard-working, intelligent and innovative people who provide these services and programs dedicated to our membership.”

Rowe said that Health & Wellness continues to grow with the opening of the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Clinic, expanding mental health services in Salem, adding a dietician, launching two new mobile medication assisted treatment units and opening Black Bear Foster Care Lodge on the Tribal campus.

In total, the department hired 58 new employees in 2024.

The department’s tush lamatsin (Good Medicine) events have continued to increase in popularity, with approximately 4,600 participants. These include monthly food distributions with 6,750 boxes given out to the Tribal community.

Lastly, Health & Wellness transitioned from Shasta Administrative Services to Forest County Potawatomi for its Skookum Tribal member healthcare.

During her presentation, Rowe shared several other accomplish-



Kelly Rowe

ments of 2024, one of which was the department becoming self-sufficient, a goal for several years. This is due largely to third-party revenue. Being self-sufficient means that the department doesn’t utilize any gaming revenue to run its services for the Tribe.

“There’s been a lot of talk about third-party revenue and how we’ve become self-sufficient,” she said. “Third-party revenue is something that is anytime we bill for our services outside of the different programs that we provide...These are services that we send out to third-party billers such as insurance or any type of payor that will provide the payout for these services that we provide to our members or other Natives. Revenue must be used for improvements to Tribal health programs.”

Other highlights of the presentation include:

Residential treatment and recovery services: The Tribe has been renovating the former Sheridan Country Inn for approximately a year and plans to offer inpatient addiction treatment and intensive outpatient services.

“It will mean no more fighting for beds,” Rowe said. “It will expand our ability to offer these services.”

There will be a total of 25 beds available for Tribal members battling addiction. The facility will

also include a workout room, family visitation room, communal dining and group areas. A cultural practice area is being developed outside.

“This gives us the ability to have control over what we can do and plays into having this whole continuum of care,” she said.

Salem detox clinic: This will be housed on the top floor of Great Circle Recovery in Salem. The expected opening date is the winter of this year. It will serve Grand Ronde Tribal members and other Natives to start with and expand to non-Natives if there are extra beds available.

“My intent is to serve our populations because we are the ones fighting the hardest for those beds,” Rowe said.

Community Transitions Program: This program offers temporary, supportive housing in both group and private settings for Tribal members seeking to make the transition into living independently. There are four different homes on four properties in Grand Ronde and one apartment complex in Salem near Great Circle Recovery with six, one-bedroom/one-bath units.

These provide for a variety of housing needs and offer services which range from building daily living skills and offering mental health supports, to cultural opportunities and preparation for

independent living.

Good Medicine events: It was the second full year of the events and the goal has been trying to improve each one. There is a tentative calendar for 2025 on the Health & Wellness Facebook page. Approximately 4,600 people attended the events in 2024.

“These are events that have really brought the community in and we’ve been able to create momentum for new events,” Rowe said.

After the 26-minute presentation, Rowe took 13 questions and comments from the audience.

“Thank you for your report and for being here,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said.

In other action, Shawn Haggerty, Bill Stephens, Kathie Levine, Dustin Leno and Diane Smith won the \$50 door prizes. Claudia Leno, David Leno and Darla Reynvaan won the \$100 door prizes.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, with a tentative location at the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, in person and via Zoom. The program report will be the Tribal Housing Department.

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

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. ■

PGE argues that it must obtain title to the property

PGE continued from front page

Tribe opposes that lawsuit because it would cut off public access to the falls for fishing.

PGE argues that it must obtain title to the property for safety reasons and that it would grant a “perpetual cultural practices easement to facilitate safe and equitable access for all Tribes with cultural ties to the falls.”

The Tribe has intervened in the lawsuit, claiming that PGE is acting in bad faith and has produced almost no evidence of its alleged safety concerns. It noted to the court that PGE made no effort to acquire the property within five years of obtaining its license to produce power at the site in 2005.

PGE pointed to internal emails from 2017 indicating safety concerns about the fishing platform. The Tribe argued that it’s not safety PGE is concerned about, but rather its business relationship with the Confederated Tribes

of Warm Springs, which opposes Grand Ronde’s fishing platform. PGE conceded that relationship was a consideration, but not the primary one, an argument that District Court Judge Michael H. Simon wrote in his judgement was “a nuanced distinction, at best.”

In December, both the Tribe and PGE requested summary judgement, a decision issued in favor of one party when the judge finds there is no genuine dispute over the facts in a case and therefore no need to go to trial.

However, Simon ruled that neither side had proved its case sufficiently to win outright.

“The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde respects the court’s decision and appreciates the careful consideration of the issues presented in this case,” Tribal Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said in a press release. “We remain committed to protecting our interests and the public gem that is Willamette Falls, and we look forward to presenting our case at trial.” ■

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For more information contact:

Katherine Warren Steffensmier at 503-879-1466 or Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org

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Tribal Council approves 2025 spending plan

By Danielle Harrison and Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff

Tribal Council held its final meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, Dec. 31, by approving the 2025 budget.

The meeting was held on Tuesday instead of Wednesday, Jan. 1, due to the New Year's Day holiday.

The Tribal spending plan included a 10.7 % increase in spending from the 2024 budget.

The 2025 draft budget was mailed to Tribal members in early November in the Tilixam Wawa and Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno briefed the membership on its specifics in executive session during the November General Council meeting.

Adult Tribal members had until Wednesday, Dec. 4, to comment on the draft spending plan.

“On behalf of staff, I want to thank council and the administration for your generosity throughout the year towards our staff, and in particular, the holiday times with the holiday gifts and ultimate generosity in that you always show a commitment to staff in terms of time off, benefits and programs,

and continuing to provide a great place for people to work,” Leno said.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved appointing Reyn Leno to the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors by a 5-4 vote, with Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy breaking the tie in favor. Vice Chair Chris Mercier and council members Denise Harvey, Brenda Tuomi and Kathleen George voted in opposition. Secretary Jon A. George, Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Lisa Leno and Matthew Haller voted in favor. The council also unanimously approved reappointing Drew Mahalic to the board. Both he and Leno have terms set to expire on Sept. 30, 2027;
- And approved the agenda for the Sunday, Jan. 5, General Council meeting, which featured a program report on the Health & Wellness Center and started at 11 a.m. in Tribal Council Chambers and on Zoom.

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

GRFFCO holiday party



Contributed photo

Grand Ronde Food & Fuel Company held their holiday party at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center on Tuesday, Dec. 17. A total of 30 people, including employees and their family members, attended the party. Two games were played and GRFFCO employee Allyssa Sheker won both games. Cashier/Fueler Kristopher Cureton (pictured) was recognized for his three years of service and Supervisor Kasy Dunkin for seven years.

TEACH our children our stories

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Tribal Council approves transit plan application

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council held its first meeting of 2025 on Wednesday, Jan. 8, with only one action item on the agenda, as it was only eight days since the final meeting of 2024.

Council approved an application to the Oregon Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund for the Tribe's 2025-27 transit plan.

The state requires a new application be sent to ODOT every two years in order for the Tribe to receive operating assistance for existing transit routes that serve Grand Ronde and neighboring communities.

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

Fresh Foods Distribution

One Box per Tribal Member Household

January 23rd	10am-2pm
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- One food box per tribal member **household** (tribal member must be present-or- complete permission slip), 3 boxes max per vehicle.
- 400 boxes are available in Grand Ronde, first come first served (distribution begins at 10 am and ends at 2pm or *earlier* if all boxes have been distributed).
- Distribution will be at the GR Procurement Building (see map for driving directions).
- 100 additional boxes are available at the Portland Office. Portland office 2 boxes per vehicle max.

Questions? Contact Public Health
 503-879-6701
publichealthdepartment@grandronde.org

Food drive for Easter boxes

Accepting donations until 4/11 at the EAC.

One raffle ticket per item donated.

Easter boxes will be handed out by the Food Pantry. Date TBD.

Termination Act implemented in 1954

BOARDING SCHOOL continued from front page

It wasn't until the newly-restored Tribe reached out to the family with an offer to seek enrollment, that Kowing and his siblings learned of their heritage. By then, Kowing was in his 30s, and he and his brothers were Vietnam War veterans.

With Restoration accomplished, Tribal officials set about re-enrolling as many members as possible, and with the aid of Porter's genealogy, 65 members of Kowing's family sought enrollment.

It was during those efforts to trace the family's history and support enrollment efforts that Kowing learned his grandmother, Cecil Rose Russell, was an Indigenous woman with roots that can be traced back to the earliest appearance of colonialism in the Pacific Northwest. Sent to Chemawa Indian School as a child, it was decades before she mentioned to her grandchildren some of what she had endured there.

The United States government formally terminated the Tribe and several others with the Western Oregon Termination Act in 1954, but the family's history has been traced to when white and Indigenous fur trappers were settling in the Willamette Valley.

"Part of my family goes all the way back to the Northwest fur trapping country," Kowing said.

Long before termination, however, the federal government had managed to break the cultural chain by sending Tribal children to abusive boarding schools intended to destroy their ties to their heritage.

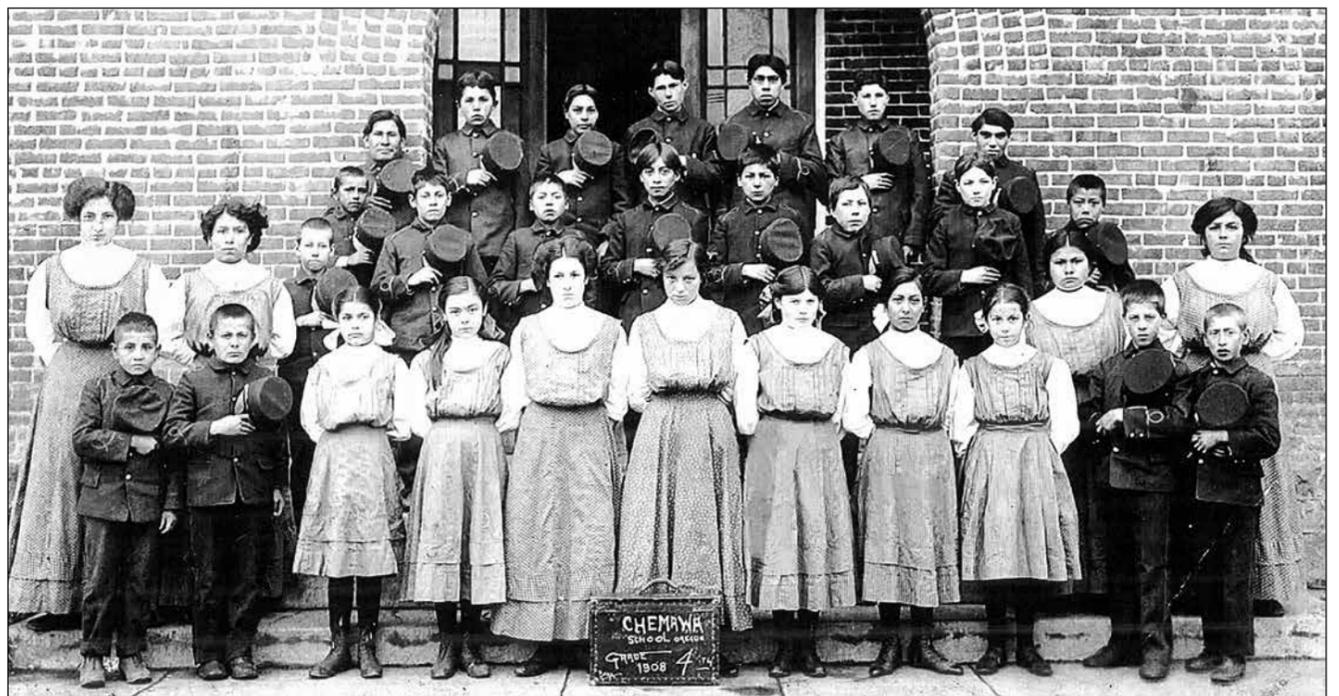
Descendants of the early fur trappers settled outside Myrtle Creek around what became the remote town of Tiller, Oregon, in the Umpqua National Forest, according to Kowing. When federal agents began forcibly moving Tribes and small bands to Grand Ronde in the 1850s, Kowing's ancestors stayed where they were. Cecil was born there in 1900, to Rosalia Quintal Nipissing Russell, who died in childbirth. Rosalia's children, Lewis, Agnes, and the infant Cecil, were taken in by her brother Sam, and lived with him for some years, Kowing said.

When Cecil was around 8 or 9, Kowing said, someone complained that the children were not being properly cared for. After investigating, the state declared both Cecil and Agnes wards of the state and sent them to Chemawa. Lewis, older than the two girls, evidently was able to remain in his home community, Kowing said.

Despite pleas from both the Quintal and Norwest sides of the family for custody, Agnes and Cecil remained at Chemawa for the next nine years.

Their grandmother was sister to Frank Norwest, Kowing said, and he and his wife Mary were among those asking for custody.

"The Norwest and Quintal family both sent letters to Chemawa and the state of Oregon ... to see if she could come live with them, and it



Contributed photo

Chemawa Indian School's fourth grade class picture from 1908. Cecil Rose Russell Porter is in the front row, third from left.

was always denied," he said.

Both girls contracted tuberculosis during their time at the school, and Kowing said that Agnes never came home. In her 20s, he said, she was sent to Ohio as a nurses' aid, "to work in an infirmary there, and that's where she passed away," from tuberculosis.

Cecil, more fortunate than her older sister, remained in Oregon and made a full recovery. Ironically, Kowing said, "all her life she was a two pack a day smoker. My memories of her are always with a cigarette in her hand."

Cecil graduated from Chemawa at the age of 19 and was finally reunited with her Norwest family members but did not, apparently, reunite with the Quintal side of the family.

"There are pictures of her in regalia, loaned to her by her grandmother, Mary Norwest," Kowing said.

Cecil married Stephen Porter, who was white, and bore 10 children.

"After she got married and had 10 kids, the Native American part was no longer a part of her life. At that point, she was just a housewife taking care of the kids while grandfather was working at the sawmill," Kowing said.

Kowing's mother, Myrtle Porter, "was the middle child," he said. It's unclear whether Cecil spoke to her children about their Indigenous heritage.

"The Native American part never came out until the 1980s when Tribe was working to get its status back," Kowing said. "Maybe my aunts and uncles, and certainly Riley Porter ... they must have known about it," he said. "When we filled out our enrollment papers, the people knew my grandmother and it was their knowledge that allowed us to be enrolled."

Cecil's contribution to the enrollment effort indicated that she certainly had not forgotten her past. "She got into an old trunk that she had and pulled out some pictures of the time she was at Chemawa school and a couple pictures of her as a young girl and a couple pic-

tures when she was released from the school and got back with her family at Grand Ronde, Frank and Mary Norwest," Kowing said.

And, finally, she spoke about life at the boarding school.

"It wasn't good," Kowing said. "She talked about things like labor, like they made the kids work in a laundry. They had to go to white families' homes and do maid type work and that type of thing. She talked about the fact that Native children were not treated very well. Communication with family members was not good. They were not allowed to wear Native American stuff, not allowed to do hair that might be too closely tied to their culture," he said.

But Kowing said that most of his information came later. "The way that we found out most everything we know about my grandmother is that we were able to get hold of the national archives; they sent us a 65 page file, including letters sent back and forth between families. ... my great-great uncle Frank Norwest wanting her to be released back to him at Grand Ronde, because she was the granddaughter of his sister. But the response always that she was going to stay until she was 19 and nothing was going to change that," he said.

Kowing has tried to understand the motives behind those denials.

"I'm sure at the time that folks at Chemawa and the state of Oregon thought they were doing the right thing, once a child placed at the school to not have much contact with their families, to not revert to their Native American ways," he said.

He believes it was a cruel way to treat children and families.

"I think one of the reasons she never talked about her childhood, that she never actually talked about her Native American heritage was because of what happened to her during that time," he said. "In all of the transcripts we received, was nothing there that would lead me to believe she was maltreated. She got wonderful grades ... the only part of it that I know affected her, she was never

able in that 9- or 10-year time, to have contact other than letters, with her relatives, her aunts and uncles, who wanted her with them."

Kowing said he was proud to learn of his heritage and discovered he could use his appearance to the Tribe's advantage.

"I was sent specifically to meetings with county councils and stuff to find out what was going on, because I looked like a white person, so these county councils and members would talk to me the way they wouldn't to a Native American, and then I would go back and report," he said.

Still, he said, it would have been good to know sooner.

"I think that the lasting thing was that we missed out on many things in our childhood and early adulthood in our relationships with cousins and things like that, because she didn't have contact with one side of her family that lived in the Roseburg and Myrtle Creek area. A whole side of our family ... I think all of us could have been more proud during our lifetimes instead of just you're already halfway through your life when you find out about your ancestry," he said.

"County commissioners were saying 'We don't owe you anything, you don't deserve to be given land back or anything.' I think if members of my family had known what their heritage was, it would have been a little different in their life, maybe they would have been a little prouder of their heritage, maybe they would have gone down a different path in their life," he said.

He is particularly saddened about his older brother, who he said "was probably the most Native American" of the three children.

"He knew what part of his heritage was, but he never could actually identify and in the end, having to do with things in Vietnam that he participated in, he ended his life prematurely," Kowing said.

His sister has also embraced her heritage, he said, but there is some pain in the issue for his younger brother. ■

Dams were not built to enable salmon to bypass

**SALMON continued
from front page**

stagnant water in which they cannot thrive. The Army Corps of Engineers captures salmon returning to spawn in several locations and trucks them past the dams. But that leaves their offspring, which must migrate to the ocean, trapped behind the same concrete walls.

The Tribe, which focuses its conservation efforts on the Willamette River Basin, is advocating for a simple and inexpensive solution; return access to thousands of acres of prime spawning habitat.

It is asking the Army Corps of Engineers to draw down reservoir levels far enough to let returning fish get over the dams to spawn, and smolts escape to migrate to the ocean.

It's a solution that has also been urged for years by the National Marine Fisheries Services and the federal courts.

While arguments rage over the merits of hatcheries and their effects on wild fish, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department focuses on a different concern.

"It's not a non-issue," Tribal Aquatic Biologist Brandon Weems said. "But without that habitat, it doesn't matter what your fish are."

Thirteen concrete dams in the Willamette River Basin block access to more than 75% of the most productive salmon spawning habitat in Oregon.

"When you put a dam in, it completely changes the river," Weems said. "All these wetlands that would have held cooler water are gone, and your rivers look more like ditches, instead of the web that it used to be. A lot of wetland and off-channel habitat is just com-

pletely lost."

Instead of a free-flowing river, he said, dams create massive, stagnant, warm lakes — exactly the opposite of what salmon need.

In a press release from the National Marine Fisheries Services about a five-year review of salmon species' status, published last July, lead reviewer Annie Birnie noted that, "The fish are more vulnerable where they cannot access much of their historical habitat, which they relied on because of the cold, clean water that is important for spawning and rearing."

In addition, the dams were not built to enable salmon to bypass them, either as juveniles heading out to sea or as adults returning to spawn.

"The dams are considerably taller than hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River built specifically to generate power," NMFS noted in its press release.

The dams were put in for irrigation, flood control, recreation and drinking water, Grand Ronde Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen said, but they failed to provide for fish.

"They were put in in the late 50s and 60s, and some have no fish passage," he said. "Others have passages of sorts but they don't work well."

To get past the dams, juvenile salmon, which normally stay near the surface, must dive 50 feet or more to reach the outlets. Many die, due to what the Army Corps of Engineers calls "harsh passage conditions," including not only the depth, but spinning turbines that batter and bruise the young fish as they try to swim through.

"We were seeing mortality rates of up to 60%," Lawrence Schwabe,

the Tribe's hydrosystem expert in Natural Resources, said.

The Corps captures adult salmon and trucks them in massive tanks around the dams. It doesn't work out well.

"They get stressed out and that's not good for them," Weems said. "A thing that depends on a person doing it is never going to thrive. That depends on whether they have the budget to do it and how many people they have to do it. (Salmon) have got to be able to go themselves."

In 2011, the Corps tried a different tactic at Fall Creek Reservoir, outside of Eugene. According to the Corps website, it has "usually held Fall Creek Reservoir at a minimum of 728 feet above sea level for flood damage reduction during the rainy winter season." However, that makes it almost impossible for juvenile spring chinook to make it through the dam.

The Corps dropped the water level by about 48 feet during November and December that year, the months when salmon fry migrate to sea. That put the water just 10 feet above the outlet, a dive that was much easier for the young fish to make.

The tactic worked: The Corps website reports roughly a 10-fold increase in the adult salmon that later return to Fall Creek.

Dropping the water level also allowed material trapped behind the dam to be moved downriver.

"Plankton, aquatic plants and insects, and larger vertebrates such as fish and mammals all benefit from the cycling of nutrient-rich waters," the Corps website said. "The entire food web downstream will see a great benefit over time from the liberation of the trapped material."

Dirksen said doing the same at other dams would significantly increase salmon's access to habitat.

"Our study showed that it also benefited lamprey," he said. "It requires no construction and there are several places where they could do it immediately."

In fact, the Corps has been ordered to do dam drawdowns multiple times. Since 2021, the Corps has been under a federal court order to improve fish passage and water quality at several of its dams for both spring Chinook and winter steelhead — in many cases, by conducting deep drawdowns, to accommodate both outgoing salmon fry and returning adults.

The judge who issued that order, U.S. District Judge Marco Hernandez, noted in a ruling that the Corps failed to carry out similar orders from the National Marine Fisheries Service, issued in its 2008 Biological Opinion and Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives report.

"The Corps has not begun operating any of the permanent downstream passage structures required...and will not meet any of the future deadlines for doing so... has essentially abandoned plans to build a facility at Lookout Point Dam and has not begun studying

or planning to construct the fourth fish passage facility discussed in the BiOp," Hernandez said.

"Except for the annual deep drawdown at Fall Creek Reservoir, the Corps has not consistently carried out downstream fish passage measures. ... The Corps also has not constructed the water temperature control tower at Detroit Dam. ... As early as 2017, NMFS determined it was necessary and, as provided in the RPA, requested the Corps begin outplanting adult UWR Chinook salmon above Green Peter Dam. ... The Corps has refused to do so."

Hernandez ordered deep drawdowns at Lookout Point Dam upstream of Eugene, Green Peter Dam 10 miles upstream of Sweet Home, and Cougar Dam, 42 miles upstream of Eugene and Springfield.

Hernandez assigned an expert panel, consisting of two Corps employees, two experts brought in by environmental advocates, two NMFS employees and two ad hoc federal experts, to draw up plans for the drawdowns and other orders.

The NMFS press release noted that it continues to advocate for the measures it's been urging for decades.

Top recommendations include providing effective upstream and downstream passage, enacting deep drawdowns that lower levels for easier fish passage in the fall and winter, and continuing restoration of lower-lying floodplain habitat along the Willamette and its tributaries to provide refuge for juvenile migrating fish.

The Corps has been reluctant to implement more deep drawdowns, partly because nine of the 13 dams produce hydropower, which is significantly reduced during drawdowns.

"The cost of generation far outweighs the return on selling the electricity," Tribal Council member Kathleen George said, adding that the dams produce less than 5% of Oregon's hydropower.

A report published last year by ProPublica and OPB noted that "By the Corps' own estimates, the cost of hydropower over the next 30 years will outstrip revenues from electricity customers by more than \$700 million."

Congress has twice ordered the Corps to study shutting down the hydropower at the dams, most recently in 2022. The Corps submitted an initial analysis this summer.

Its conclusion: The hydropower should stay.

"The Corps' analysis shows that some elements of the dams that generate hydropower, specifically the penstock outlets and the turbines, are important for overall dam operations," the agency wrote. "Deauthorizing hydropower would require expensive structural changes to each dam to mitigate these issues for continued safe operation. These changes would not replace the need to address existing (Endangered Species Act) requirements. It would delay them and add cost." ■

Baker Technical Institute
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Heavy Equipment Operator Training

This course is for participants who want to train on Dozers, Wheel Loaders, Excavators, and more. Students will learn both in our high-tech CAT Simulator mobile classroom and in the field, running equipment side by side with our experienced instructors. This training will prepare you for a great career!

- 3-week course - some type of construction experience is preferred
- Must be 18 years of age and enrolled in the TERO skills pool
- Must sign a contractual agreement that you will complete the course
- A valid driver's license is required

Simulated Training - Tribal Campus: February 24 - March 7, 2025

Land Lab Training - Albany: March 10-14, 2025

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

Gifts for guests



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Renee Norcross puts together a beaded necklace during gift making in the Tribal Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The Tribe's Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program sponsored the event to make gifts that will be given to guests during the annual Native Youth Wellness Day happening Friday, Feb. 28, and Agency Creek Round Dance happening Friday-Saturday, Feb. 28 to March 1. Additional gift making gatherings are planned for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15; 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22; and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. Meals are provided and everyone is welcome.

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. ■

Tribe sends crews to help with Los Angeles fires

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde sent two trucks and a team of firefighters to California last week to help fight the fires that are devastating the Los Angeles area.

Emergency crews spent much of the day Wednesday, Jan. 8, determining who was available to go. Administrative Services Lt. Mariah Walters said the department sent a heavy brush rig and a structural engine, with two task force leaders, two assistant task force leaders and seven firefighters.

They joined other crews from Oregon counties, all organized through the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office.

"These resources are sent through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact," Walters said. "The compact provides help during governor-declared emergencies or disasters by allowing states to send personnel, equipment and supplies, to support response and recovery efforts in other states. The strike teams will be reimbursed directly by California. When we deploy we work with one goal in mind: Protecting people, property and critical infrastructure. Our staff's main focus down there will be to provide structural protection."

In addition, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department sent a wildland fire engine crew that was called out and began traveling on the morning of Friday, Jan. 10.

The NRD crew specializes in wildfire and natural disaster response, prescribed burning, fuel management, habitat restoration and forestry, according to Fire Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini.

According to a press release from the Fire Marshal's office, Oregon

mobilized 12 strike teams to send south.

"The Oregon State Fire Marshal has been monitoring and working with California throughout the event and received a request for assistance late Tuesday (Jan. 7) evening," the press release said. "As of midnight, the department has 12 strike teams made up of 240 firefighters and 60 engines that will be mobilizing later this morning. The agency will continue to monitor and will fill more requests as it progresses."

Later in the day, the state announced it would send three additional teams.

Altogether, it said, Oregon has sent 15 strike teams, 300 firefighters and 75 engines to assist with the fires. Crews came from Polk, Benton/Columbia, Douglas, Clackamas, Clatsop, Central Oregon, Lane, Lincoln, Linn/Polk, two from Marion, Multnomah, Rogue Valley, Washington and Yamhill counties.

"Oregon and California have a strong partnership supporting each other," Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. "We both understand that fire does not recognize map lines and we are ready to help each other whenever there is a need. During our historic 2024 wildfire season, California sent us help and in their time of need, we are working as fast as possible to lend them support during this emergency. Our hearts are with those impacted by these wildfires in southern California and we are doing everything we can to help. We are in constant contact with our partners in California to assess the resources they need to respond to this historic event."

Those looking for information about the fires should follow the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CAL Fire, or Los Angeles County, she said. ■

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION

JANUARY - MARCH 2025 EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Chinuk Winter Gathering Dates: TBD Round Dance Gift Making Dates: 1/8 - 3:30-6:30 1/15 - 11:30-1:30 1/22 - 3:30-6:30 1/29 - 11:30-1:30 Location: Community Center Stick Game Dates: 1/16 - 3:30-5:15 1/30 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	Love Rocks Date: 2/14 - 11am-2pm Location: Community Center Unity Conference Date: 2/6-2/9 Location: Arizona Youth Native Wellness Day Date: 2/28 9am - 4pm Location: Tribal Gym Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 2/28 starting at 5pm Location: Tribal Gym Stick Game Dates: 2/11 - 3:30-5:15 2/27 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 3/1 starting at 6pm Location: Tribal Gym 9 Tribes Youth Prevention Camp Date: 3/24-3/28 Location: TBD Canoe Journey Prep Dates: TBD Stick Game Dates: 3/13 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J

*All events are subject to change, please look out for our official fliers on the Youth Empowerment & Prevention Facebook page.

STORY IDEAS?

Do you have Tribal story ideas you would like to see in Smoke Signals?

Please share your suggestions at news@grandronde.org or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.



WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



ADULT FOSTER CARE

Priority is given to Grand Ronde Tribal Elders, dependent on need and acuity of all Tribal applicants

Eligibility Requirements

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

RETURN APPLICATIONS TO ALISHA PARKS SHELL,
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ADULT FOSTER CARE MANAGER
PHONE: 503-879-6542
ALISHA.PARKSSHELL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

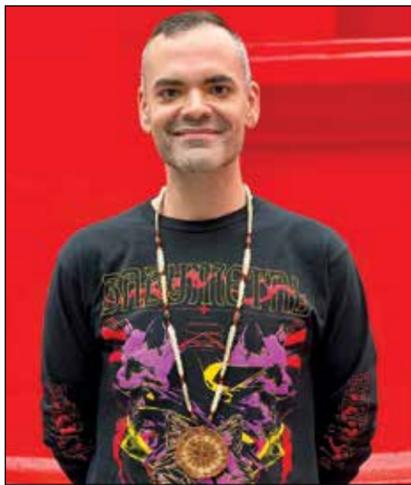
If level of need and/or safety concerns at time of admission exceed a Level 2 Classification as defined by Oregon Department of Health Services OAR 411-049-0125, the applicant will be notified of Ineligibility

Tribal member Anthony Hudson wins Spark award

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Anthony Hudson was one of two local Indigenous artists selected by the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation to receive some of the first awards in a new program intended to support the Oregon arts community.

“The Spark Award for Oregon artists is a new, three-year pilot program investing \$1,500,000 in individual artists,” the foundation said in a press release. It said the program “is inspired by the foundation’s belief that the self-directed pursuit by professional artists of new ideas, opportunities and skills is essential to our state’s cultural vitality.”



Anthony Hudson

Each of the 20 artists selected received \$25,000 to enable them to pursue their work.

“I’m very grateful to be a Spark awardee and proud to be one of two Oregon Tribal members to receive one, along with Siletz playwright, cousin and colleague Amber K. Ball,” Hudson said in an email. “Like Grand Ronde’s IPKA Fellowship, the Spark Award is quite an impactful and rare one. I hope more granting organizations take notice and I hope many, many more Oregon Natives are awarded in next year’s cycle.”

Hudson, a writer, performer and filmmaker, was chosen for “interdisciplinary performance.” He often performs as Carla Rossi, known as Portland’s premier drag clown.

In September, Hudson was named Native Artist-Scholar in Residence for Lewis & Clark College in Portland. He and fellow artist and Tribal descendant Felix Furby curated an exhibit, “Transgressors,” currently on display at Chachalu Museum and Cultural Center through April.

Ball was selected for her work in music. She is also a playwright and visual artist.

“We were thrilled with the range and diversity of the applications that we received across all the performing arts disciplines,” Foundation Executive Director Carrie Hoops said in the press release. “We are heartened by the reminder of the rich and ambitious artistic work happening in our state, and excited to see the positive impact this funding will have at pivotal moments in these artists’ careers.”

The release noted that “half of the Spark Award recipients identify as Black, Indigenous or people of color,” while 60% identify as women or non-binary.

In 2025, the Foundation intends to focus the awards on literary and media arts. In 2026, the focus will be on visual artists.

“As the Miller Foundation enters its third decade of grantmaking in Oregon, we remain committed to supporting artists and arts organizations as the bedrock of vibrant, creative communities in our state,” Foundation Board President Peter Koehler said in the press release. “We are honored to invest in the creative development of this diverse roster of dancers, musicians, theater professionals and interdisciplinary performing artists.” ■

Top 50



Contributed photo

Tribal member Kaikanim Mercier, 18, left, was selected to participate in the 2024 7th annual Indigenous Bowl. The bowl was hosted by the 7G Foundation and played on the Soboba Indian Reservation in San Jacinto, Calif., Dec. 18-21, 2024. On the right is his father, Tribal member Bobby Mercier. “He represented his Tribe well,” Bobby said. To be selected for participation, players had to be within the top 50 in Indian Country and seen as future leaders. The Indigenous Bowl has been held for the past seven years in California. Kaikanim, a senior at Willamina High School, has a goal is to play college football, preferably for the University of Oregon Ducks. He plays the linebacker, tight end and fullback positions.

Tribal Court Programs Coordinator
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

503-879-4623
CourtPrograms@grandronde.org

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking volunteers for two of our programs:

Court Appointed Special Advocate **Tribal Member Review Board**
(open to all community members) (must be an enrolled CTGR Tribal member)

If you would like to volunteer:

1. Indicate which program you are interested in (mark one of the boxes above).
2. Fill out the form below with your contact information.
3. Mail, drop-off or email the completed form to Tribal Court Programs Coordinator.

Full Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Visit our website for more information and the qualifications for each program:
grandronde.org/government/tribal-court/court-programs/



Contaminants removed at tumwata village

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Removing leaking underground storage tanks and tracing the network of underground pipes has been the focus of work over the last year at tumwata village at Willamette Falls, Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said during a Wednesday, Jan. 8, Zoom meeting. The meeting was intended to update the Tribe on work at the 23-acre site of the former Blue

Heron Paper Mill, which the Tribe purchased in 2019. The Tribe has set a goal of cleaning up decades of environmental pollution, restoring the landscape and returning public access to the site.

The Tribe received an \$800,000 multipurpose grant from the Environmental Protection Agency in 2021 for site assessment and cleanup and has now spent approximately 75% of it.

Webb said it was an important number.

“What the EPA allows you to do is that when you get to 70% of your grant, you can apply for additional cleanup grants,” he said.

In addition, the grant came with an EPA specialist assigned as a project manager.

“And they provide a lot of technical expertise to us,” Webb said. “The Tribe, I’ve said this before, but the Tribe is not in the business nor has been in the business of brown-field cleanup work.”

The Tribe will be seeking additional grants as well.

The multipurpose designation of the grant was important, Webb said, because it allowed the Tribe to use the money for both site assessment and cleanup, both of which were needed.

Somewhere between 40-50% of the more than 50 buildings onsite have been demolished, mostly before 2024.

Work over the last year was focused on the complex system of underground stormwater collection pipes and fuel storage tanks, many of which were leaking, Webb said.

The Tribe put in monitoring wells and performed extensive testing of inlets and manholes to check for groundwater contamination, and put cameras and smoke into the pipes, to trace where they led to, and where there were breaks. In addition, chemical inventory was conducted.

Fifty-five-gallon drums of chemicals were found throughout the site, along with buried railroad tanker cars.

“Somebody thought it was a good idea to bury (those) under the ground and then use them as an underground storage tank,” Webb

said. “Railroad tankers were never designed to be underground storage tanks.”

Not surprisingly, these leaked, contaminating the soil. That requires the Tribe to remove the contaminated soil, as well as the tanks.

“It’s those types of complexities that we’re always unearthing,” Webb said.

Throughout the work, the Tribe has also watched for cultural relics.

Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich noted that the site is ancient, far pre-dating the past century or more of industrial use.

“We know that the Tribe has creation stories that go back to events like the Missoula Floods, which happened 13,000 to 18,000 years ago ... think about like 500 generations being connected to this place,” Svicarovich said. “What we’re really trying to do is also broaden the public’s understanding of (the) Grand Ronde Tribe’s connection to this place over time. Cultural protection onsite is really important and is certainly a part of our activities under the grant. We know that there are known cultural resources on site, archaeological deposits dating back to 1700 years ago. They’re petroglyphs.”

The Tribe’s plan is available online at www.tumwatavillage.org. It includes public access to Willamette Falls, shops and restaurants, and habitat restoration for wildlife.

“(Willamette Falls) is the second largest water pool waterfall in North America by width and volume and so to have this hidden gem here in Oregon City is really an amazing feature,” Webb said. ■

Pajama jammin’



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Mila Linton, 9, dances during the Pajama Jam held in the Tribal gym on Friday, Jan. 10. A few hundred people attended the jam where there was drumming, singing, dancing, a cake walk, raffle prizes and Olive Garden was served for dinner.

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@CTGRsmokesignals



Children play a game of keep away while also keeping the balloon from hitting the floor during the Pajama Jam held in the Tribal gym on Friday, Jan. 10.

JANUARY IS CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers for women in the world, and it is very preventable!

Join us on Turquoise Thursday

When: January 23rd, 2025
(lunch and education from 12-1 pm)

Where: GRHWC - Public Health Building

What: An event to raise awareness of cervical cancer in our community.

We will be offering HPV vaccines and cervical cancer screenings all day at this event. Call 503-879-1396 to schedule your appointment.





2025 Veteran Human Library Project

Seeking up to eight Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde tribal member veterans to participate

What is this project?
 This project is intended to provide a platform for tribal member veterans to share their personal story about their military service. The interview will be simple and straight-forward with pre-approved questions. The interview is from your perspective and will only contain what you feel comfortable sharing.

Why?
 1) These videos will be for veterans to keep and share with their families. 2) We would also like to submit a copy into the Tribal archives for future generations to look back and hear directly from you and 3) We would like to be able to play these videos around campus at the museum or the Casino.

What is the timeline?

January 2025	Signs ups for this project will be advertised. Would like to find at least 8 tribal veterans who wish to talk about their military service and are willing to record an interview.
February 2025	Finalize list of participants and begin question review with participants
March & April 2025	Take portraits & Record interviews which will be at: Grand Ronde Powwow Grounds, Achaf Hammi, or CTGR Community Center
May 2025	Videos should be ready (if not sooner)

How do I sign up or get more information?

Email CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org or call (503) 879-1484.

4 Part Basic Cooking Skills Class

What: Join your Registered Dietitian Nutritionist for a 4-Part Basic Cooking Skills Series

When: 4 Wednesdays in Winter 2025 from 5-7 PM: January 15th, February 5th, February 26th, March 12th

Where: Public Health Community Room/Teaching Kitchen

Who: CTGR Tribal members and GRHWC-eligible patients ages 16+ interested in enhancing their cooking skills (limited to 12 participants per class series so class can be hands-on).

You'll learn:

- BASIC KNIFE SKILLS
- FOOD SAFETY
- MEAL PLANNING
- HOW TO READ RECIPES AND FOOD LABELS
- TIPS FOR SAVING MONEY IN THE GROCERY STORE

and much more!

Dinner will be provided! Participants who attend 2 or more class sessions will be eligible to receive additional incentives (e.g., cooking equipment and cookbooks) to help keep you cooking outside of class!

Sign-up either by email
Becky.Johnson@grandronde.org
 or call 503.879.6711

Walking On...

Laila Marie Holsclaw

May 5, 2009 – Dec. 23, 2024

Tribal member Laila Marie Holsclaw passed away on Monday, Dec. 23, at the age of 15.

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

Funeral service details were unavailable before press time.

Nancy Helen Coleman

July 6, 1942 – Jan. 7, 2025

Tribal Elder Nancy Helen Coleman passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the age of 82.

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

Funeral service details were unavailable before press time.

CLEAR Clinic

All services are free*



Services Provided:

- Criminal record expungements
- Eviction expungements and tenant advocacy letters
- Court fines and fee waiver petitions
- Legal name and gender marker changes
- Referrals for other legal services

* There is an Oregon State police charge of \$33 for fingerprinting for all criminal expungements
 Cash, Card or Money order

Wednesday
15th January
@ 3-7pm

Thursday 16th
January @
12-4 pm

At the Grand Ronde Gym Grand Ronde

This is clinic is exclusively for tribal members and affiliates



GRHWC PROJECTED tush lamatsin EVENTS 2025

<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">January</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Pajama Jam 1/10 from 5-7pm @Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 1/23 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">February</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Sweetheart's Jam 2/13 from 5-7pm @ Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 2/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">March</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Foods Distribution 3/20 Start 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">April</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Earth Day Jam 4/18 from 5-7 @ Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 4/24 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">May</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fentanyl Awareness Event Mother's Day Tea Canoe Outings Fresh Foods Distribution 5/22 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">June</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Elder Canoe Day 6/18 Location TBD Father's Day BBQ Canoe Outings Fresh Foods Distribution 6/26 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building June Jam 6/27 (TBD)</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">July</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Foods Distribution 7/17 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow July 11 - 13, 2025 @Uyxat Powwow Ground Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">August</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fun Run / Walk 8/16 - Time TBD @Uyxat Powwow Grounds 3v3 Bball Collab Fresh Foods Distribution 8/21 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Canoe Journey (tentatively)</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">September</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Foods Distribution 9/18 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Every Child Matters Jam 9/20 - Location & Time TBD Canoe Races (tentatively)</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">October</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Health and Wellness Centers 28th birthday 10/ 01 Fresh Foods Distribution 10/16 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Fall Festival - TBD</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">November</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Foods Distribution 11/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">December</h3> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Foods Distribution 12/18 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building Wrap- Up 2024!</p>

*All events are subject to change, please look out for our official fliers on the GRHWC Facebook page



Watchlist: ‘Lakota Winter Count’

(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 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

Just a few years into YouTube’s existence on the internet, the Smithsonian Education channel published a video about Lakota winter counts.

According to the 2008 video, winter counts are a form of historical records created by the Lakota and Sioux people used to document events from every year’s winter.

“Every winter was given a distinctive name, which was a way of referring to a time when something happened,” National Museum of Natural History Anthropologist Candace Greene said.

Greene attributes these Lakota winter counts to their developed and formalized sense of history.

“These winter counts encapsulated that and are very strongly connected to people’s sense of identity, both in the past and in the present” Greene said.

The video shows a Lakota winter count displayed flat on the table. It looks vaguely similar to a Mayan calendar. Drawn on an animal hide, characters are organized in a spiraling circle with each character representing a winter event.

Some of the characters are of animals, people, flowers, teepees or unidentified shapes drawn similarly like the well-known Native American petroglyphs found all across the Americas.

Lakota Nation member and Associate Curator for the National Museum of American Indian Emil Her Many Horses said there was a single person responsible for making the winter counts in their community or family unit and they were called the “winter count keeper.”

“It was from that family unit that they came together to decide what event to document for that year,” Her Many Horses said. “I think by looking at the winter count you can see what was happening within that community. Their depiction of that particular year would probably spark all these other memories and things that happened throughout that time.

The winter count keeper was also responsible for remembering the years’ histories and meanings behind the figures.

Even though this video is nearing 16 years old, it still shows the recovery of Tribal histories is ongoing.

Greene says they can interpret a certain amount from the pictures based on clothing or hairstyles drawn on the people to represent different Tribes or groups of people.

“Without a text you can’t go further than that,” Greene says. “Fortunately, a number of texts were recorded directly from the winter count keepers.”

For winter counts that don’t have written texts as a companion document, historians can look at a particular event that was recorded across in all Lakota winter counts to corroborate what years are recorded.

You can watch the entire video yourself at www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNaYrAKiZmw or find it linked in the Smoke Signals “Watchlist” Playlist on our YouTube channel. ■

Happy birthday!

Happy 5th birthday to Jeffers descendant Odin Ryan Nicholson, son of Emma Bradshaw and grandson of Tribal member Joanne Lynch. Sending lots of love your way with sprinkles on top Odin! “We do not inherit the land. We borrow her from our children.”



River Reign Ruiz

Born: Dec. 9, 2024
Parents: Isabell Bobb and Vince Ruiz
Big brother: Miller Ruiz
Grandparents: Billy and Shawn Bobb
Great grandparents: Steve and Connie Bobb

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announces availability of ODOT STIF Transit Grant Funds

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Public Works provides this public notice that the Tribe intends to apply for ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Plan (STIF Plan), which is due Jan. 16, 2025. The STIF Plan assists the Tribe with funding public transit programs during the next state of Oregon biennium from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

This announcement also notifies other public transit service providers that the Tribe intends to work collaboratively to deliver safe and efficient public transit services in Grand Ronde and neighboring communities. The Tribe’s Public Works Coordinator, John Mercier, who also manages the Tribal transportation programs, will present the STIF Plan to the Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The committee was established in 2023 to assist the Tribe with transportation planning. The Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee will meet to review options with Public Works and make recommendations to Tribal Council.

Check website address below for any and all updates.

Copies of STIF Plan, meeting agendas and minutes will also be available at the website address. Any questions regarding the STIF Plan application may be directed to:

John Mercier, Public Works Coordinator

9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, Oregon, 97347

Phone: 503-879-2400

Email (preferred): john.mercier@grandronde.org

More information will be available at the Tribe’s website: www.grandronde.org/press-media/project-updates/transportation-projects. ■

YOUTH STICK GAMES

Location:
9615 Grand Ronde Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97396
Youth Education Building “J”

Join us and learn stick game, stick game songs and practice some of our cultural teachings!

Time & Dates:
01/16/25- 3:30-5:15pm
01/30/25- 3:30-5:15pm
02/11/25- 3:30-5:15pm
02/27/25- 3:30-5:15pm
03/13/25- 3:30-5:15pm

CONTACT US
503-879-2101
yep@grandronde.org

Are you moving?

Do you need help with First, Last, and Deposit?

This program has limited funding and will be a first come, first served program.

Contact Social Services for more information

(503) 879-2034 or (800) 422-0232

You can also email us at ssdinfo@grandronde.org

We want to hear from you!

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain.

Share your experience, good or bad with us. ■

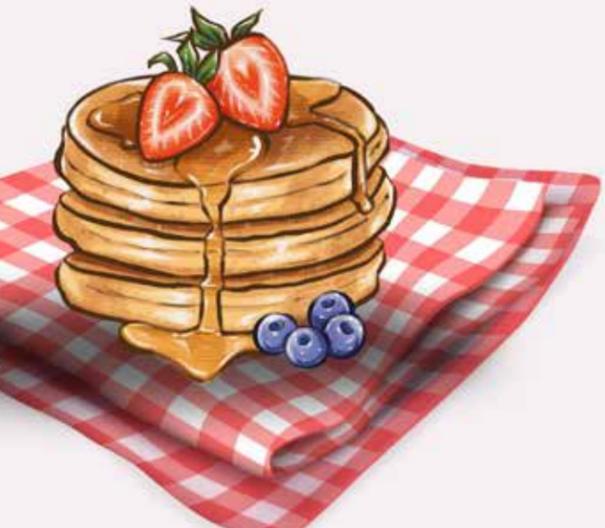


GRAND RONDE EMERGENCY SERVICES
Pancake Feed

This event is to raise money for the Total Destruction Racing Team Christmas Toy Drive.
 Entry fee will be cash or brand new toy donation.

February 15th
7:00 am - 11:00 am

Grand Ronde Firestation




Reading volunteers needed

Children’s literacy nonprofit SMART Reading is seeking volunteers to read with students weekly at Grand Ronde Head Start. Reading is an essential skill for kids, helping them start and stay on a path to success in school and beyond, according to a press release from the organization.

“Volunteering with SMART Reading is a fun, meaningful way to impact kids right here in our community,” Michael Finlay, Interim Program Manager for SMART’s northwest area, said. “I regularly have volunteers tell me that the hour they spend at SMART is the best part of their week.”

The time commitment is one hour per week. To learn more, contact 971-634-1628 or visit www.SMARTReading.org. ■



JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 10, 2025




CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach 6-12	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Administrative Assistant – Social Services	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	01/13/2025
CFS Investigator	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Community Transition Case Manager	13	\$39.61/hr.	\$50.87/hr.	Until Filled
Compliance Manager – Gaming Commission	16	\$107,644.28/yr.	\$140,433.67/yr.	Until Filled
Employment Caseworker	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Supervisor K-5	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Health Promotion Specialist – Community Health	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
IT Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Adult Foster Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part-Time & On-Call * \$500 Hire-On Bonus after 120-days	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	01/13/2025
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Counselor – Sheridan – Great Circle Recovery	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Portland - Great Circle Recovery	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	01/13/2025
Peer Support Specialist – Behavioral Health	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Pharmacy Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	01/20/2025
Police Officer	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - Great Circle Recovery	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Registered Nurse Supervisor – Adult Foster Care	17	\$148,408.71/yr.	\$164,344.91/yr.	01/13/2025
Staff Pharmacist	19	\$137,901.74/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	01/20/2025
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland – Great Circle Recovery	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,046.00/yr.	01/13/2025
Training Coordinator – Human Resources	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	01/13/2025
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

We have transitioned to a new applicant portal system. Returning applicants will need to create a new profile in UKG. Previous log-in credentials with Acquire are no longer valid.

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 screening and 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

Now accepting applications!

Native American Habitat Restoration Internships at Elderberry Wisdom Farm – Spring and Summer 2025



The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting interns pursuing conservation career pathways for its 2025 Habitat Restoration Internships. This paid opportunity provides Native Americans and other people of color an opportunity to receive culturally tailored training, experiential service learning, and mentoring. Traditional Ecological Knowledge is integrated with local restoration practices and native plant nursery development in collaboration with mid-Willamette Valley partners.

A \$3,000 stipend will be provided for those completing the nine-week internship. Spring trainings are held three days a week from March 31 to May 30, 2025 and in Summer from June 23 to August 22 for a total of 190 hours of indoor classroom education and experiential service-learning activities.

A highlight of the internship is the emphasis upon Native American habitat restoration practices that integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge principles, climate adaptation practices, and mentoring. The service learning will help you learn to strengthen the biodiversity and sustainability of mid-Willamette Valley ecosystems at our work sites, including wetlands, oak prairie, and organic farmland, plus Elderberry Wisdom Farm’s four-acre native plant nursery and greenhouse south of Salem, OR.

There are opportunities for interns who are motivated to continue their training to become part-time employees or become emerging owners and operators of the habitat restoration or native plant nursery businesses EWF formed. Promising urban forestry and agroforestry opportunities even includes transitioning to organic farming, dry farming, and other practices that help to strengthen Native American food sovereignty as well as social and economic resilience of Native families.

To apply: Please complete the [application form](#). Visit our website at www.elderberrywisdom.org or if you have questions, feel free to leave a message at [contact us](#).



Paid ad





SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Bar Porter (*Part-Time)	1/16/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Executive Steward	1/16/2025	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor	1/16/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent I	1/16/2025	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent II	1/16/2025	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent III	1/16/2025	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Assistant Banquet Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Cleaning Attendant (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Pastry Sous Chef	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Player Services Representative I	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Slot Floor Supervisor	Until Filled	\$23.24/hr. DOE
Sportsbook Writer	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips

\$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions
\$500 Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees

NOTICE

We have transitioned to a new applicant portal system. Returning applicants will need to create a new account on UKG. Previous log-in credentials will not be valid.

***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.



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Cervical Health Awareness Month

January is recognized as Cervical Health Awareness Month, a time to highlight the importance of cervical health and encourage proactive measures to prevent cervical cancer.

Understanding cervical cancer

Cervical cancer occurs in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina. It is primarily caused by persistent infection with certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection. While most HPV infections resolve on their own, some high-risk types can lead to cervical cancer over time.

Globally, cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women, but it is highly preventable and treatable when detected early.

Key steps to maintain cervical health

1. Regular screening tests

- o The pap smear test detects abnormal cervical cells that may develop into cancer.
- o The HPV test identifies high-risk HPV infections that could lead to cell changes. Guidelines recommend starting screening at age 21, with regular follow-ups based on age and test results.

2. HPV vaccination

The HPV vaccine is a powerful tool to prevent cervical cancer. It protects against the most common cancer-causing HPV types. The vaccine is most effective when administered before exposure to HPV, ideally between the ages of 9 and 12. However, it is available up to age 45 for those who may benefit.

3. Practice safe sexual health

Using condoms and limiting the number of sexual partners can reduce the risk of HPV infection. Open communication about sexual health with partners is also essential.

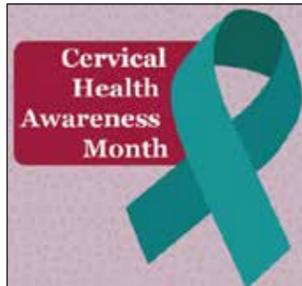
4. Follow-up care

Abnormal screening results may require additional tests or procedures. Timely follow-up ensures that any issues are addressed early, preventing the development of cervical cancer.

How you can take action

- Schedule your screening: If you're due for a pap or HPV test, make an appointment with your healthcare provider.
- Spread the word: Share information about cervical health with friends and family. Awareness can save lives.

With regular screenings, HPV vaccination, and informed choices, cervical cancer can be largely prevented, empowering women to lead healthier lives. Take action today for yourself and the women in your life — because prevention truly is the best cure. ■



Attention to Tribal members with Medicare

Previously, Shasta had a contract with Medicare to automatically roll over outstanding balances once Medicare paid. At this point in time, Forest County does not have that in place, but they are working on it. It's a contract, so it's going to take some time. Be sure to take your new cards with you to give to your providers.

If you are receiving bills from your providers after Medicare processes, you can drop them off here at the clinic (patient check-in) or you can call FCP at 715-478-4610 to provide the information or you can email them if that is an option at FCPInsurance@fcp-nsn.gov.

We know this transition has been rocky and we are right in the thick of it with you. We appreciate your patience! Hopefully we'll start seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

hayu masi,
HWC Admin

WHEN ELDERS MOVE INTO ADULT FOSTER CARE, WE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SOCIAL LIFE THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE LIVING INDEPENDENTLY. THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS, PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS, VISIT....

NEARLY 40% OF ELDERS LIVING IN ADULT FOSTER CARE SUFFER FROM DEPRESSION AND LONELINESS.

THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

What do all these people have in common?

All of these people have an increased risk of severe illness from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), an illness that affects the lungs. The RSV vaccine can protect against severe illness and is recommended for:

- Pregnant mothers between weeks 32-36 of their pregnancy
- Children younger than 2 years
- Adults older than 60 years
- Anyone with a weakened immune system

Adam, Newborn
(Born Prematurely)

Cherie, Age 67
Heart Disease

Tania, Age 5
Asthma

Levi, Age 45
Diabetes

Jamie, Age 51
Obesity

Danny, Age 1

Frank, Age 73

Call the Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center at 503-879-2002 to schedule your RSV vaccine appointment today.





SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

ALL ITEMS NOW RESTOCKED!



**T-SHIRTS • ZIP-UP HOODIES • PULL-OVER HOODIES • FLEXFIT CAPS
BEANIES • PATCHES • STICKERS • FREE SHIPPING!**

Checks, cash or money orders only please: Make payable to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Memo: Editorial Board
Please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

FREE SHIPPING!	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X-LARGE	3X-LARGE	4X-LARGE
PULL OVER HOODIE (BLACK) \$35							
ZIP-UP HOODIE (BLACK) \$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (GRAY) \$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (TEAL) \$35							Not Available
T-SHIRT (BLACK) <small>BACK GRAPHIC</small> \$15					Discontinued		
T-SHIRT (BLACK) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (GRAY) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (TEAL) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15							
T-SHIRT (CYAN) <small>FRONT GRAPHIC</small> \$15		Discontinued	Discontinued	Discontinued			

FLEXFIT CAPS \$15

BEANIES \$15

PATCHES \$5

STICKERS \$1

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____