

Canoe Journey prep photos pg. 8





SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Memorial Day remembrance honors fallen and living

By Nicole Montesano Smoke Signals staff

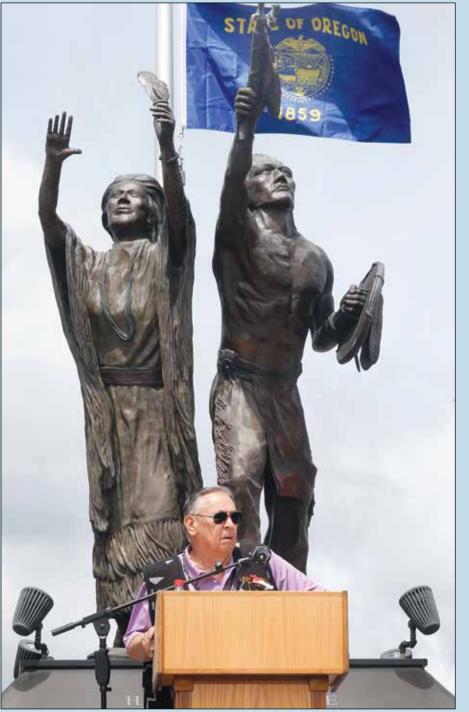
rand Ronde Tribal members honored the Tribe's soldiers on Memorial Day with a ceremony at West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus.

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Reyn Leno spoke to the crowd and said he hopes Tribal Council will consider partnering with Courtney Place Veterans Housing in Salem.

"Looking at the flags in the cemetery, you can see how many of our people went to war for this country, and fought and died," Leno said.

He recalled being on Tribal Council when the memorial was first proposed. The Tribe held spaghetti dinners, bake sales and other events to raise money for the memorial, designed by the late Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Steve Bobb Sr., who walked in 2022. It features a man and a woman in traditional Native attire, standing side by side and reaching toward the sky.

Speaking under a partly sunny sky with a light breeze billowing the flags overhead, Leno told the modest crowd that in addition to the fallen, it's important to recall, and care for, living veterans. He recalled that his father, also a veteran, rarely left Grand Ronde, noting that getting him to travel to Portland for care "wasn't going to happen." Instead, Leno said, the Tribe was able to obtain au-



Senators, governor raise concerns about health services, Medicaid

By Nicole Montesano Smoke Signals staff writer

bipartisan group of senators, including Oregon's Jeff Merkley, have been raising the alarm about staffing shortages in the Indian Health Service.

Merkley, a ranking member of the Senate Interior-Environment

Appropriations Subcommittee, was joined recently by Senate Indian Affairs Vice Chairman Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Senate Indian Affairs



Kelly Rowe

Chairman and Senate Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) in demanding that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. ensure the Indian Health Service has the necessary resources and staffing to fully deliver health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives, as required by federal law.

In a letter to Kennedy in early May, the group called for IHS to immediately halt any further actions affecting Tribal health care delivery without first engaging in "meaningful Tribal consultation."

Grand Ronde Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said in an email that approximately one-third of the Tribe's Health & Wellness Clinic funding comes from IHS while the remaining two-thirds comes from third-party revenue. "While the freeze at IHS is very concerning for Indian Country, there have been no impacts to our

See MEMORIAL DAY continued on page 9

Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Reyn Leno speaks during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 26.



See IHS CUTS continued on page 6

Bureau of Indian Affairs election set for July 9

Registration forms must be received by 3 p.m. Monday, June 2

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

ribal members who wish to vote in the upcoming Bureau of Indian Affairs constitutional amendment election Wednesday, July 9, must register to vote, even if they are already registered to vote in Tribal elections.

If approved, the constitutional amendment

would remove the BIA from future constitutional amendment elections.

In order to amend the Tribal Constitution, it must be approved by at least two-thirds of the voters, provided that at least 30% of eligible voters cast ballots.

Registration forms must be received by the BIA Secretarial Election Board's office in New Mexico by 3 p.m. Monday, June 2. Registration may be sent by priority mail to ensure timely delivery. Forms should be sent to: Secretarial Election Board, P.O. Box 44607, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, 87174-9931.

Tribal members should have received their registration packets in the mail. Voters must be at least 18 by or on election day.

In April, the Tribal Council authorized an election to amend the Tribe's Constitution, to remove BIA oversight from future elections

See ELECTION continued on page 3

Tribal Council nominations

11 a.m. Sunday, June 29

Tribal Council Chambers

All nominations are required to be done in-person. Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 800-422-0232 for more information.

weanesday, June		4 p.m.
Wednesday, June	25	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,

Regarding removing the BIA from our election process – It is a bad idea to remove the BIA from conducting election oversight, which ensures regulations and guidelines are adhered to in the conduct of our elections.

With questions about national and global election integrity, stolen elections, voter fraud, ballot harvesting, corruption, threats to democracy, media manipulation, intimidation of election workers, partisan meddling, motivations to obstruct or delay election results, to name a few issues...You have to ask why anyone wants to remove the one source we have to protect election integrity? What really is the reason? Why now? And why the rush?

Democracy requires the losing side to accept election results. Recent attempts to change the results of the new constitutional amendment were not successful thanks to the involvement of the BIA.

Election Boards change. Tribal Council will change. Keep our elections safe. Keep the BIA.

Sincerely, Joan Walker Anderson Roll #2929

Tribal Election office hours

The Tribal Election Board will be holding office hours at the Tribal Community Center for the upcoming constitutional amendment election to remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the Tribal election process. Hours will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Monday, June 30. The election is Wednesday, July 9.

Office hours will also be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, June 3-5, for any challenges to the voter list.

The board may be reached at 503-879-2271 or by emailing election. board@grandronde.org. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Thursday, June 19, in observance of the Juneteenth commemoration.

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DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE MEMBERS OF:

Thursday, June 5	June 15
Friday, June 20	July 1
Wednesday, July 2	July 15
Wednesday, July 23	August 1

Indigenous Journalists Association Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc. 2022 IJA General Excellence 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 of smoke Signals. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smoke Signals.

2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

Contest Powwow vendors wanted!

The Grand Ronde Contest Powwow Committee is seeking vendors for the 2025 Contest Powwow, which will be held Friday, Aug. 15 to Sunday, Aug. 17.

Interested vendors are asked to apply online at www.grandronde.org.

For more information or assistance call:

503-879-5211 • 503-879-2037 503-879-4533



tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

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LISA LENO — ext. 1770 lisaleno@grandronde.org

DENISE HARVEY — ext. 2353 denise.harvey@grandronde.org



taxam-mun (June)

(k^hapa ałqi)

- Wednesday, June 11 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Thursday, June 19 Tribal offices closed in observance of the Juneteenth commemoration.
- Tuesday, June 24 Community Smudge Walk, 5 p.m. Meet at the Visionaries statue in front of the Governance Center. All are invited.
- Wednesday, June 25 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, June 29 Tribal Council nominations, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

sinamakwst-mun (July)

- Thursday-Friday, July 3-4 Tribal offices close at noon July 3 and remain closed July 4 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- Monday, July 7 Elder Honor Day, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino. Doors open at 9 a.m. Lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. and bingo will begin at 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be raffled throughout the day. RSVP by Friday, June 13, to melanie.monson@grandronde.org.
- Wednesday, July 9 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Friday-Sunday, July 11-13 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow. uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 SW Hebo Road. Grand entries traditionally start at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Wednesday, July 23 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

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

The Natural Resources Department in partnership with the Cultural Resources Department, cordially invites you to join us in celebration of fishing at Chankawan Conservation Area. This site sits on just over 425 acres along the North Santiam River with 1.5-mile river frontage presenting an additional opportunity for Ceremonial Fishing.

This event will celebrate Grand Ronde's perseverance in fishing notwithstanding the challenging PGE Willamette Falls legal battle.

The picnic and fishing site is a short one-mile country walk. The primitive gravel/dirt road lends itself to a leisurely walk. Please arrive early.

Safety is of the upmost importance. To support attendance, shuttle service will be available from the designated parking area at Chankawan to the trail.

Results will be known same day as election

ELECTION continued from front page

on constitutional amendments. It passed with a 5-2 vote.

All ballots must be received at the Grand Ronde Post Office by 4:30 p.m. election day. Results will be posted the same day at the Tribal Community Center, Tribal Governance Center and the BIA Northwest Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Ave., Portland.

For more information, call Secretarial Election Board Chairman Gene Hughes at 971-277-4087 or Gene.Hughes@bia.gov.

The Tribe's Election Board will hold office hours to answer questions from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through the end of June. Office hours will also be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, June 3-5, for any challenges to the voter list.

The board may be reached at 503-879-2271 or by emailing election. board@grandronde.org.

More information about the proposed amendment can also be found at www.grandronde. org/press-media/tribal-announcements/2025-constitutional-amendment/.

The last time the question of removing the federal government from the amendment process was put before Tribal voters was March 2015. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 381 to 230. ■

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 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?

Bring your picnic blanket, lunch, and come celebrate with us. Restroom facilities and bottled water will be available.

FISHING CHANKAWAN 2025: A CELEBRATION OF PERSEVERANCE

JUNE 5, 2025 11:30AM-2:00PM 17294 N. SANTIAM HIGHWAY STAYTON, OR 97383

Please **RSVP** your attendance and **mention SHUTTLE to (503) 879–2424 or send an email to** <u>NRD@grandronde.org</u>; For additional questions please contact Michele Volz at (503) 879–2376. We look forward to celebrating with you. • Are you intersted in making positive changes for future generations?

Current vacancies:

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

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 mək^hmək 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 June food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

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

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

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly email for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider. Contact Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer.

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- · Ceremonial Hunting Board meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- Culture Committee meets as needed in the Veterans House, Chair: Molly Leno.
- Editorial Board meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 20, via Zoom. Contact 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.
- · Elder Board meetings times will be updated when information is available.
- 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 Com-



2020 — Spirit Mountain Casino reopened with limited hours on June 1, after 2.5 months of being closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional safety measures included age restrictions and requiring masks at all table games. The Tribe's roughly 500 employees were also back in the office, with new protocols, including daily screening and temperature checks.



File photo

2015 — Silviculture and Fire Protection Program Manager Jeff Nepstad retired

from the Natural Resources Department, after serving the Tribe for nearly half his life, to spend more time with his family.

2010 — The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians held its midyear conference at Spirit Mountain Casino, giving Tribal members a first-hand look at the process of determining which ideas would be pitched to Congress to potentially become law. Successful ideas would move forward to the National Congress of American Indians a few weeks later.

2005 — Native American novelist, poet and comedian Sherman Alexie (Spokane) entertained the crowd at Oregon State University's LaSells Stewart Center and granted an interview with Smoke Signals.

2000 — The Willamette Restoration Initiative was seeking to protect the remains of the Willamette River Basin. The board of directors included representatives of local businesses, local government, utilities, Tribes, academics, watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, agriculture, forestry, environmental groups and state and federal government. Board members included Tribal Council Chair Kathryn Harrison and Tribal Environmental Specialist Kathleen Feehan. The board presented its recommendations to Gov. John Kitzhaber in May 2000.

1995 — Spirit Mountain Casino, a few months away from opening, was still under construction. Meanwhile, officials were hiring management staff, beginning to advertise for general staff and financing improvements to Highway 18.

1990 — Gubernatorial candidate Barbara Roberts, who grew up in Sheridan and attended school with Tribal members, met with Oregon Tribal representatives in mid-May, along with her opponent, State Attorney General Dave Fronhmayer and congressional candidate Mike Kopetski. Frohnmayer said he was the one who had formed the state's Indian Affairs working group. Roberts defeated Frohnmayer six months later.

1985 — The powwow committee was seeking financial donations and raffle items for the summer powwow. It also was asking for volunteers to help make fry bread to help raise funds for the powwow.

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

ELDERS LIVING WITH

munity 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. Acting Chair: Reyn Leno.

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



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

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

LONELINESS

IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

WHEN ELDERS MOVE INTO ADULT FOSTER CARE, WE ASSUME THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SOCIAL LIFE THEY HAD WHEN THEY WERE LIVING INDEPEDENTLY. THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SEE THEIR FAMILY & FRIENDS, PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS, V1SIT

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

> THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

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By Danielle Harrison & Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff

Tribal Council approved its response to agencies regarding the federal government's proposals to reduce protections to Tribal resources, including water quality, at its Wednesday, May 14, meeting.

The response is essentially Tribal Council declaring a minimum standard for the federal government to uphold its treaty and trust responsibilities to the Tribe.

"This is a way of addressing the rollbacks that are coming," Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh said during a Tuesday, May 6, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "This is projected to affect the majority if not all of the resource protection laws that are in place and the system of protecting resources. This is important to the Tribe because the Tribe has treaty rights and the federal trust responsibility that the federal government owes to the Tribe. Those two things are going to remain intact despite whatever rollbacks they're going to go...I don't expect this to prevent all of the rollbacks, but I think it could be a good way for the Tribe to communicate the Tribe's values and positions, not only to the person receiving the comments but our partners at the state and regional levels of national government, and our local partners and other folks."

A staff memo sent to council went into further detail.

"The revised definition of 'waters of the United States' is just one of many rollbacks planned by the current administration on laws and regulations originally set up to protect resources important to the Tribe, according to news reports and corroborated by statements from the administration itself," it stated. "In many cases, these laws and regulations contain requirements that Tribes be fully consulted before significant actions or changes are implemented, which is not happening here."

The memo further explained that

a consultation session with federal agencies was more akin to a notification of the proposed changes.

"In March 2025, Tribal staff became aware of a notification from the agencies to the effect that the agencies plan to revise the definition of 'waters of the United States'...On March 31, Michael Karnosh and Keri Handaly from Ceded Lands attended an online consultation session hosted by the agencies. The webinar was, in fact, not a consultation at all. Instead, it consisted of employees from the agencies reading from a script, notifying us that the agencies will be revising the definition, inviting Tribes to comment on it but hinting strongly that the comments are unlikely to have any practical effect on the outcome of the rulemaking."

Written comments on the proposed changes were due Tuesday, May 20. Ceded Lands collaborated on Tribal comments with Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and the Tribal Attorney's Office.

"The larger (nationwide) issue is that the agencies and indeed the federal government including the entire Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Defense and others, are implementing a program of defunding/destaffing/ deregulation on their own organizations," the memo stated. "The intended outcome of this program, expressed by the administration and apparent from its recent actions, is to roll back the U.S. government structure to that existing in the 1920s or earlier. It probably does not need to be explained here that for most of the 1920s, private business interests ran rampant over Tribal natural and cultural resources, whether on public or private land, with no government 'interference.' Tribal consultation was never considered or practiced, Indigenous people were not guaranteed the right to vote anywhere, and in fact enrolled Tribal members were not considered U.S. citizens." In other action, Tribal Council:

ation• Approved a Tribal credit card
for Tribal Court Administrator
shawn Branson with a \$5,000

property;

limit;
Approved increasing the Procurement Department's credit card limit to \$50,000;

Approved modifying an easement

for the Tillamook People's Utili-

ty District on the Noble Sisters

- Approved a per capita payment date of Friday, June 13;
- Approved reappointing Ralph Baker and Steve Nuttal to the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission with terms expiring June 30, 2028;
- Approved an amendment to the Tribal Transportation Program between the Tribe and the U.S. Department of the Interior;
- Approved reappointing Tracie Meyer and Perri McDaniel to the TERO Commission, with terms ending March 31, 2028;
- Approved acceptance of the Tribal Early Literacy Grant of \$282,222, to support the Education Depart-

ment's programs engaging in early literacy activities;

smok signəlz

- · Approved appointing Darlene Aaron, Shannon Lafferty, Jennifer VanAtta and Tammy Garrison, with terms ending Mach 31, 2027, and Kimberly Contreras, Pamala Warren-Chase and Melody Wright, with terms ending March 31, 2026, to the newly-reconstituted Elder Board. Several people made comments objecting to the appointments, saying that Elders should have been able to vote in the new board members, and that the new board members will need the institutional knowledge of previous members.
- And approved the enrollment of two infants and two non-infant minors in an emergency declaration into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Hotel room rates increase

As of January 2025, the Spirit Mountain Hotel at Spirit Mountain Casino has implemented a revised pricing structure for the Elders discount, which has remained unchanged since the hotel's opening in 1997. The new discounted rates are \$99 for mid-week stays, \$109 for weekends and \$129 for holidays.

This adjustment is necessary to better align room rates with the actual cost of room upkeep, while still offering competitive pricing, according to Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier.

The Tribal member discount will reflect a 10% discount on standard room rates. The RV park will offer Elders and Tribal members a \$10 discount off the standard rate at the RV lot.

"The changes ensure that we continue to provide valuable services while maintaining financial sustainability," Mercier said. ■



TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

Position yourself for a job in archaeology by training as an archaeology assistant.



ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

One permanent full time board member position open.

Two alternate board member positions open.

Qualifications: Basic computer skills / file search / email / phone inquiries / flexible hours.

Election Board Chair: Kalene Contreras

For information contact: Shannon Ham-Texeira • 503–879–2301 shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org



Monday, Sept. 8 – Friday, Sept. 12

Portland classroom training and onsite locations at Agency Block 1.

What you will learn.

- How to work safely as an archaeologist in the field.
- Hands-on training in field survey and excavation.
- Hands-on training to identify artifacts.

What you will need to bring or wear.

- Wear long pants and a shirt with sleeves.
- Have good work boots (leather preferred), and work gloves.
- Expect to be outside each day, in the weather, rain or shine.

What is Required?

- Open to all Tribal members of any federally recognized tribe.
- Must have the ability to stand for extended periods of time and be able to get dirty.
- Must be 18 years or older with a valid driver's license and transportation.

Certificate awarded upon completion.

Lunch will be provided.



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

SMOKE SIGNALS

Concerns are with nearly \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid

IHS CUTS continued from front page

hiring at this time," she said.

Concerns ramped up in mid-May, with nearly \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid in the Trump administration's proposed budget. The cuts could end coverage for millions of people, eliminate a federal incentive to states that expanded Medicaid coverage and add work requirements.

"There is no way for us to identify the number of Grand Ronde Tribal members enrolled in Medicaid because not all Tribal members utilize the clinic and Tribal affiliation is not data collected by Oregon Health Authority," Rowe said. "However, in the state of Oregon, as of February 2025, there were 62,175 enrolled Medicaid members with the HNA (Heritage Native American) indicator designated in their file, which means they are designated as American Indian/Alaska Native."

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek issued a statement in response to the proposed cuts, saying, "I am outraged by the proposed Medicaid cuts. It's a reckless plan that will hurt people and Oregon's health care system. One in three Oregonians rely on Medicaid – the Oregon Health Plan – for their health insurance. That's 1.4 million neighbors and loved ones. Their proposal is not just shortsighted – it's morally indefensible."

The proposed budget would cut nearly \$3 billion from federal nutrition programs including the Supplemental Assistance and Nutrition Program, generally called SNAP, and transfer some of the cost to states, something Kotek has said Oregon cannot afford.

The legislation must pass the House of Representatives and then go before the Senate.

A January report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted that one in six Oregonians received assistance from SNAP in 2024, and that more than half of those were families with children. More than 41% were working families, it stated, and more than 37% were families with older adults or disabled adults. The average benefit was \$176 per household member, per month, the report said – about \$5.77 per person, per day.

An average of about 400 people in Oregon received benefits through the Food Distribution on Indian Reservations federal program. ■



PATHWAYS MEETING WITH CASINO LEADERSHIP

Tribal members are warmly invited to an informal, in-person meeting with the Spirit Mountain Casino Executive C-suite team on

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 at 2PM

in the SMC Event Center.

This gathering is a opportunity to hear updates on casino operations, learn about what's on the horizon, and engage in open, two-way conversation with the key executives. Questions and feedback are welcome as we work together to strengthen the information sharing of our enterprise.

We ask that everyone approach the conversation with a spirit of respect and collaboration. Let's create a welcoming space where all voices can be heard and thoughtful dialogue can take place.



All Tribal members are welcome – we look forward to seeing you there!

Light refreshments will be provided.



Mercier shows traditional Chinookan woodcarving in video

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff member

First Nations Experience, a national television network devoted to Indigenous content, featured Tribal member Bobby Mercier in a recent episode that looked at several Indigenous artists and craftspeople in Oregon, titled "This is Indian Country 111: Oregon."

Mercier, a cultural advisor in the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department, was discussing his Chinookan wood carving. It's an art form he and the handful of other practicing artists have had to teach themselves because so few examples of Chinookan art have survived.

Chinookan art was relatively rare to begin with.

"It only lives in one place, from the mouth of the Columbia down to about Tillamook and then up to The Dalles, and then to the Willamette Falls," Mercier said. "That's the only place that it lives, that it comes from. You know, when people see Pacific Northwest art, they think of Salish art, which is huge; up the West Coast, all through Washington to Alaska, where it changes some but it's still the same art form."

Salish art is best known for the iconic totem poles that dot the Pacific Northwest, but Chinookan artists did not make totem poles, Mercier said, and the styles they employed looked very different.

"It's total night and day; two different art forms," Mercier said. "You'll see a lot of triangles, zigzag patterns, more of like the anatomy, with like eye sockets and ribs carved into something, than you would with Salish art, where they just carve the body, they don't carve the inside of the body."

Figurines are lone figures, often human, rather than the stacked



First Nations Experience host Ruth-Ann Thorn, left, watches as Tribal member Bobby Mercier demonstrates his carving technique in the First Nations Experience video "This is Indian Country 111: Oregon."

configuration of totem poles, and have distinctive features - outstanding ribs and characteristic eves.

Mercier said he learned to carve as an adult.

"We started having some carving classes through our culture department, I don't even remember when, 2002 maybe, we started," he said. "I started studying the Chinookan art form and so after that, just started slowly carving stuff. I've been doing that and got into doing clothing and little bit of everything from carving to clothing to graphic design, print making, canvas art and metal sculpture.'

Mercier said he and other Chinookan artists had to study the few remaining pieces to learn the style.

"It's an art form that our family comes from," he said. "We all have Chinookan blood lines. I have (that) on my mother and my father's side, so it's just something that we kind of rediscovered, I guess, and I don't know that it came easy to us, but

NWSDS **HELP TO STAY IN YOUR HOME** it definitely drew us into it, just having that connection to it, and that connection to the place our bloodline comes from."

It is difficult even finding pieces to study.

"Most of the stuff. when we were taken from our villages and brought here to the reservation, most of our villages were destroyed; they were burnt," Mercier said. "So, most of that wood carving stuff is gone. A lot of times when we were being rounded up before being brought to the reservation, it was grab whatever you can pack and carry with you. A lot of times it wasn't a lot of things. A lot of things were left behind."

In some villages, he said, Tribes buried the items they had to leave behind, but there wasn't always the time even for that.

"There's some at the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Museum, but it's just a few pieces that were dug up at a site," Mercier said. "Other places you see like bone carving pendants, carved horn spoons, maple burl bowls, that's about it. I guess there's a handful of stone carvings, not very many, but a good handful of those, where just looking at those and the bone carvings and stuff like that, we learned those unwritten rules of how things should be, how they should be carved. ... the way the eyes are carved, the noses are carved, the heads are carved, and the different

and then adapting to the material you're carving."

In 2019, the Tribe reached an agreement with the Natural History Museum in London for a yearlong loan of Grand Ronde artifacts. The items were housed at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, where the artifacts were studied to relearn lost skills.

One of the items, Mercier said, was "a bone carved adze blade" that had belonged to his great-great-grandfather "that was sold or bartered for or taken" and wound up in the Natural History Museum.

"Just looking at those kinds of carvings helps us to understand how things were carved," he said. "We look at them and you can kind of tell, these were made with antler and stone chisels, and then you can tell when metal came into carving, because it gets a little bit more detailed. There's a little piece of history there."

Today, Mercier said, "There's probably maybe 10 of us or maybe a couple more that I don't know of that actually carve and do this style of work. You can look at them and tell what is whose. Just because of their styles."

Each artist, he said, adds some personal style to the carvings "just kind of taking those rules and putting our own thoughts into carving, but still keeping those rules."

Mercier said he and other artists are also teaching the style, hoping to pass it on so that future generations can keep it alive after it was lost for so many years to the practical necessities of adapting to life after colonization.

"I think things were only being carved out of necessity; things like they might need, like spoons or bowls or plates," Mercier said. "It wasn't really people sitting around decorating anymore. It was like, 'Hey, we gotta work to live. We've been told we have to live this way,' in a different kind of house, learning new skills such as farming."

"Carving became, 'We're going to build a house; put up walls and build tables and beds and chairs and things." he said. "People were learning to blacksmith. Their art form and the use of their hands and

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When: Friday, June 20, 2025 from 11:00 am to 1:00 PM Where: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Elder Activity Center, 48940 Blacktail Dr. Grand Ronde. **Questions:** Visit the NWSDS table at the event or call the Aging and Disability **Resource Connection** (ADRC) at 503-304-3420.

Hosted by NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS) in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) styles of mouths, different styles of ribs, the sternums, arms and legs, putting belts on figurines. Just looking at those different things, like the way the cuts go, you can see this is how you're supposed to do it,

stuff became something else."

Watch the FNX interview with Mercier and other cultural figures from Oregon's Indian Country at https://fnx.lightcast.com/player/57453/731384.





Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribal youth Sinamoxt-Tenas Ulestad, 1, beats on a drum while Tribal women and girls learn and practice dances behind him during protocol practice in the Tribal gym Monday, May 19. Tribal members and youth are preparing for the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey. Additional practices are scheduled to be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, June 2, 16, 30 and Monday, July 7 and 14, in the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym.

Canoe Journey prep





Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Kyoni Mercier makes a necklace during the Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program's gift making in the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Wednesday, May 14. The gift making sessions are in preparation for the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey. Items made during the sessions will be gifted to Tribes who host the Grand Ronde Canoe Family along the journey. Additional gift making opportunities are scheduled for Wednesday, June 4 and 18, from 3:30-6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, June 11, from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in the Tribal Community Center.

> Tribal Children & Family Services Program Foster Care Coordinator Audra Sherwood makes a necklace during gift making.

Photo by Kamiah Koch

Drummers listen to Tribal member Santi Atanacio, far right, explain drumming signals during protocol practice in the Tribal gym Monday, May 19. Tribal members and youth are preparing for the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey ending in Elwah, Wash., and hosted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Landing Day is Thursday, July 31 and protocol runs Friday, Aug. 1 through Tuesday, Aug. 5.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Six names added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

MEMORIAL DAY continued from front page

thorization to care for its veterans locally. Now, he said, it's important to turn attention to ensuring that veterans have housing and other services available.

Six names were added to the six pillars at the West Valley Veterans Memorial, which commemorates the names of Tribal and community warriors from Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Veterans Special Event Board Secretary and Tribal member Molly Leno, who served as master of ceremonies for the event, told the crowd there are now 2,391 names listed.

She read aloud the names that were added to the memorial this

year: Tribal member Justin Foster (Army), Rick Sardegna (Air Force), and Bruce Cohen. Arthur Lamarche. John Pitt and Leo Seidel (Navy) joined the names of those listed.

"Today, we gather with solemn hearts and grateful spirits to remember those who fell," she said.

Memorial Day holds the hearts of Tribal people, she said, because "Native people have served at a higher rate than any other group. ... While history has not always honored Natives, we stand as a beacon of resilience."

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Chris Mercier and members Brenda Tuomi, Lisa Leno and Kathleen George attended.

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle drummed and sang a memorial song. For invocation, Quenelle sang "Soldier Boy." The Royalty Court performed the Lord's Prayer and the honor guard posted the eagle staff and colors.

Before sitting down for the cer-





Vickie Rober, a member of the Willamina Veterans great significance in of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 4211, hands out poppies before the start of the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 26. The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and peace, particularly in relation to war and those who lost their lives in conflict.

> emony in front of the memorial, attendees enjoyed a lunch of lasagna, salad, bread and dessert in the Tribal Community Center at noon.

> Alvin Klausen, Board President of Courtney Place Veterans Housing, said the celebrants gathered "not just as Americans but as members of a broader warrior tradition."

Memorial Day is "a day to honor the fallen," Klausen said. "The ones who never came home. The ones who died wearing the uniform of our country, whether in the is-

Photos by Michelle Alaimo **Tribal member Anthony Quenelle** sings and drums a memorial song during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 26.

lands of the Pacific, the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq or the mountains of Afghanistan."

He continued, "But there are others we must remember, too. Those who came home bearing wounds we couldn't see. We remember the ones who took their own lives, burdened by the trauma too heavy to bear. Their names might not be etched on stone in Arlington, but their sacrifice is no less real. They died from war, even though the battlefield was within."

Klausen and Courtney Place Executive Director Andrew Holbert shared honors as the keynote speakers for the event.

Courtney Place, which opened in Salem in April 2024, is a 34-unit low-income housing community for veterans in Salem. It provides both housing and wrap-around care for veterans, in partnership with the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk counties. It provides one-and two-bedroom apartments, along with mental and behavioral health support, training in financial literacy and life skills, and outings to the coast, the zoo and other locations.

"We've partnered with groups like the Tanner Project, which is a veterans' homeless shelter in Salem and we've been working closely with the Grand Ronde, because one-third of our residents are Native, and we understand the importance of cultural representation and the honor that Grand Ronde gives to veterans in our community." Klausen said.

He called out Tribal member Trevor Aaron, who also serves on the board of Courtney Place, saying that, "His cultural leadership and passion for our mission have helped guide us and have uplifted those who needed it most."

Holbert said he had met Bobb while working with veterans advocacy groups in Yamhill and Polk counties, and Bobb insisted he attend a powwow. He said he was struck by the care with which Grand Ronde surrounded its veterans.

Holbert said the work Courtney Place does in providing services to veterans beyond just housing, and the social outings, are a crucial part of the care.

"It is pretty isolating and lonely to move into an apartment complex," he said.

Reyn Leno noted that the agency hopes to build more housing, prompting his hope that the Tribe will join the partnership.



Army Corps seeking comment on Detroit Lake drawdown and hydropower

PORTLAND — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public comment on two requirements: A deep drawdown for Detroit Lake in fall 2026 and studying a permanent end to hydropower production at Willamette Valley dams.

Comments will be accepted until Friday, June 6, and may be submitted by mail, email or in public meetings by filling out comment cards.

The Tribe has been demanding that the Army Corps follow congressional directives to study removing hydropower from its dams, and court and federal orders to implement more deep drawdowns to enable juvenile spring Chinook and winter steelhead to pass through the dams so they can migrate to the ocean. The measures are considered critical for the survival of both species.

To read more about this topic, visit www.smokesignals.org and type "The salmon situation," into the search bar.

Send comments to Willamette.eis@usace.army.mil or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CENWP-PME-E/ Willamette EIS, P.O. Box 2946, Portland, OR 97208-2946. There will be an in-person meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway St. NE, Salem.

SUMMER WALKING CHALLENGE STRONG Sign-ups open May 16th Close on June 5th LEGS HEALTHY LUNGS

riday June 6th 5pm-6:30pm come to the community center for a 5:15pm dinner and short orientation and pick up your FITBIT/or bring Fitbit, Bring Youth too.

ontact Shannon Lafferty to SIGN UP or if you have any questions ell # 971-901-1946 or Email: shannon.stant onde.org

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Wildfire season expected to be severe

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Forecasters are expecting a sizzling summer with potential for significant wildfires this year. Grand Ronde fire officials said that they're prepared.

The National Interagency Fire Center issues monthly predictions for fire agencies. Its most recent prediction on Thursday, May 1, said the western United States is likely to see above normal temperatures and drier-than-normal conditions through August.

Tribal Fire Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini said in an email that he's expecting the season to be "probably not as significant as last year's record-setting fire season, but significant nonetheless."

He noted that "Oregon's snowpack above 5,000 feet in elevation remains at 130 to 160% of the median, which is good, and will likely result in a later start to fire season than we saw last year."

However, Puerini said, "It could also result in additional fuel loading, and when cured, increased fire danger. Washington was not as lucky with snowpack, so I would expect fire season to kick off earlier to the north of us."

Gov. Tina Kotek noted in an early May press briefing that "record-setting wildfire seasons across the west are getting longer and more devastating. What we know to be an 'average fire season' has long passed. ... We are preparing for what is likely to be an even more aggressive and increasingly difficult to control wildfire season this year."

Oregon Forestry Department lead meteorologist Pete Parsons, who provides three-month seasonal

Tribe offers defensible space assessments to help prepare

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Oregon Fire Marshal's office conducts defensible space assessments for property owners and this year, the Grand Ronde Tribe is offering a defensible space program as well.

Tribal Resilience Officer Kaylene Barry said the Tribe's Emergency Services Department offers free assessments for homes and properties, and mitigation services for qualifying properties.

For information about the program, call Grand Ronde Emergency Services at 503-879-3473, or email kaylene.barry@grandronde.org.

Barry provided a list of suggestions to help reduce risk from wildfires:

- Keep roofs and gutters clean from leaves, conifer needles and other debris.
- Keep vegetation at least 5 feet from homes and other buildings.
- Remove bark mulch, deadwood and other debris from under eaves, and around and below decks and fences.
- Keep driveways clear of debris and obstructions, in compliance with height and width requirements and clearly mark road signs, bridges and culverts.
- Store small barbecue tanks at least 30 feet away from homes or in an outbuilding when not in use.
- Cover exterior attic vents, soffit vents and areas below decks and patios with 1/8 inch wire mesh. ■

climate forecasts for the state Agriculture Department, said in his most recent forecast released on Thursday, May 15, that temperatures are likely to warm quickly and may hit triple digits by the end of June, with rainfall expected to be near or below average.

Parsons bases his forecasts on previous years with similar conditions and patterns over the course of each season.

July and August are also likely to be very hot, Parsons wrote in his forecast and are typically very dry months in western Oregon. He noted there are likely to be drier-than-average conditions, with "heightened chances for lightning episodes to cause a significant number wildfire starts."

Locally, Puerini said, "Our area will have some risk of large wildfire, mostly in the month of August. Fire danger will increase during intermittent drying/drought, significant weather events, and from human ignitions. We trust the community to assist our team by not starting preventable fires during periods of high fire danger and especially during red flag warnings. The Reservation forest is a hub for recreation in our area and so we continue our efforts in seasonal wildfire patrols. The best way to communicate wildfire in our areas is to call 911."

After an unusually dry April, Tribal Natural Resources Manager Colby Drake said in an email that, "We are seeing slight drought conditions for western Oregon going into the summer months. We are expecting more significant fire behavior and activity in the months of July and August."

Despite federal cuts, Drake said, "We are anticipating large project fire response to remain the same with all of our federal, state and Tribal partners. We may see some slower response times related to smaller fires but overall, response times should stay the same. We are hoping to see more opportunities for our Tribal crews as the federal crews seem to be more impacted by the federal cuts related to hiring. We also don't expect to see any changes in our dispatch process or with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest Regional Office; they are keeping us very informed of how they have been impacted."

During Kotek's wildfire briefing, Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said a state seasonal staffing grant is expected to enable local fire agencies to hire some 1,500 seasonal firefighters. Oregon Department of Forestry Deputy Director of Fire Operations Kyle Williams said his department is hiring more than 400 seasonal firefighters.

Kotek urged Oregonians to prepare ahead for fire season.

"Preparedness is going to help us reduce cost and impact to our communities, and now is the time to do that," she said.

Drake said the Tribe will be working on fire prevention as well.

"We expect to be able to participate and lead more prescribed and cultural burns within the local area with our partners," he said. "The (Tribal) fire protection program doesn't receive much funding from the BIA so that portion also hasn't been impacted."

Puerini noted that, "There is some concern with burn scars from the 2020 fires. With several seasons of regrowth, a lot of which is invasive weeds, there is a new, highly combustible fine fuel bed in these areas. New light fuels, downed trees and standing snags could mean difficult and dangerous suppression efforts in those areas when fires occur there. Some lightning and wind could create a mess in these areas. We will hope for the best and prepare for the worst." ■



 Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eavy



- A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.
 eaves, conifer needles, deadwood,
- bark mulch, and other debris removed from the surface of, around, and below decks and fences.
- The driveway is accessible to first presponders (e.g., clear of debris and obstructions; meets local height and width requirements; has clearly marked road signs, bridges, & culverts).
- Small BBQ tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away or in an outbuilding.
- Exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios are covered with 1/8" metal wire mesh.

For more information contact your local fire agency or reach out to our Defensible Space Program for more tips on how to protect yourself and your property this wildfire season. Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org 503-879-1701







HUD announces Indian **Housing Block Grant awards**

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that it is distributing more than \$1.1 billion in Indian Housing Block Grants to Tribes and Tribally-designated housing entities, for affordable housing in Indian Country.

Grand Ronde's allocation for 2025 was \$6.2 million.

Tribes apply for grants using a federal formula that considers population, income, housing conditions and need. It is the main source of federal housing support to Tribes and is driven by treaties with the federal government. Grant funds can be used for housing construction, operation, improving existing houses and providing housing services.

Other Oregon Tribes received the following allocations for 2025:

- Burns Paiute Tribe, \$315,233
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, \$8,677,436
- · Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, \$1,873,430
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, \$2,912,747
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, \$2,645,992
- Coquille Indian Tribe, \$2,162,442
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe, \$2,354,710
- Klamath Tribes, \$3,129,909

"Today's announcement reaffirms our commitment to serve Tribal communities while working towards meeting Indian Country's housing needs," HUD Secretary Scott Turner said in a press release. "HUD has a strong partnership with Tribal nations, and I look forward to collaborating directly with Tribal leaders to expand housing opportunities and remove burdensome regulatory barriers that impede progress."

Drop box installed

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

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

The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag.

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash. For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■



Find out more:

Get as much information about foster care as you can. Children & Family Services offers opportunities to talk one-on-one with certification staff to ask questions and learn more before attending required training. You can also review our certification standards, which offers guidance and expectations of being a resource provider.

Mental walk



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Marcia Stake peruses a box of building blocks as she creates a mental health survival kit while her fiancé, Albert Moody, looks on during the Mental Health Awareness Walk at the Day Use Park on the Tribal campus Wednesday, May 21. Different ways to keep mental health strong, including cultural and spiritual self-care, were discussed. Additionally, supplies to create a mental health survival kit were provided and sandwiches from Firehouse Subs were served for lunch. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.



Mental Health Awareness Walk attendees walk the loop at the Day Use Park on the Tribal campus Wednesday, May 21. Ten walk participants received a walking stick.



Make the decision:

Becoming a resource provider will bring changes to your life. Because of that, it is important that every member of your household considers what that will mean to them. The following is a list of questions that can help you make the right decision with your family:

- Does everyone in our family believe that resource care is right for us?
- Are you comfortable maintaining and making cultural connections?
- Are you willing to attend cultural events in Grand Ronde?
- · Do we have friends or family that will support us in this decision?
- · Do we have space in our home for a child?
- · Is there an age group or gender that would work best with our family?
- Any special needs a child may have that we would not be comfortable taking on?

For information contact:

Audra Sherwood Foster Care Coordinator **Children & Family Services** 503-879-2039



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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JUNE 23 - 26, 2025

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Contact us at: YEP@grandronde.org or YouthEnrichment@grandronde.org







Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde Community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, alcohol or weapons to this event

Weed Warriors group **launches summer series**

Tribal member Amber Eastman has formed a group called Weed Warriors, who are dedicated to removing weeds from Tribal housing and other areas on the Tribal campus using natural methods instead of pesticides.

All are invited. The weeding events will occur from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, July 29 and Aug. 26.

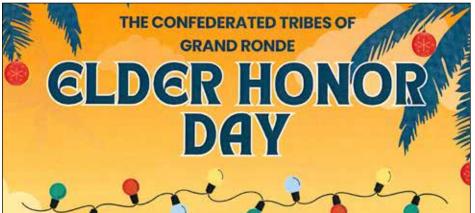
Before the weeding begins, all are invited to participate in a Community Smudge Walk at 5 p.m.

Both the walk and the weeding group participants will meet at the Visionaries statue in front of the Tribal Governance Center.

Each weeding event has a theme: June is "strawberry shortcake and stewardship," where participants will enjoy strawberry shortcake afterward. July is "weed and watermelon" and August is "smudge walk and seed the future."

Tools, gloves and cold drinks will be provided for all participants.





Gas discount

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.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY FOOD | MUSIC | BINGO JULY 7, 2025 RSVP by June 13 with melanie.monson@grandronde.org AGENDA 9am | 10am Doors Open | Welcome Ceremony Registration 12:30pm Lunch Light Breakfast 1:30pm Bingo raffle prizes throughout the day

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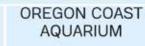
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July 8th 1:30pm Gym July 15th 1:30pm Gym August 12th 10am Gym

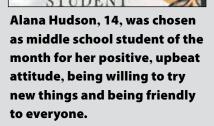
Students of the month

The Tribe's Youth Enrichment Program hayu-munk skukum has implemented student of the month awards for K-2, 3-5, middle and high school students. The students of the month for April were named in May.



Aven Cox, 16, was chosen as high school student of the month for good citizenship, making his schoolwork a priority and taking his education seriously.







Ila Mercier, 10, was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 for leadership and always having a great attitude and helping peers follow directions.



Kaliska Gibbons, 7, was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 for good citizenship, showing leadership in the K-2 classroom and helping her friends follow the rules.

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565.





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION PADDLE TO ELWHA 2025 DAMS REMOVED . A RIVER REBORN . SPIRITS RENEWED

JULY 25 - AUGUST 6 "Dates are subject to change

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Hatfield Fellow application deadline extended

Applications for the 2025-26 Hatfield Fellowship program funded by Spirit Mountain Community Fund are now being accepted through Thursday, June 12.

Spirit Mountain Community Fund annually sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office. Placement of the fellow rotates through the Oregon delegation to enhance mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Fellows are provided an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, D.C., while working on issues that affect Native Americans.

Fellows begin their Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association, which is followed by an eight-month term working in a congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend and relocation and travel expenses.

The fellowship is for Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as members from any Tribe in the United States who are currently living in the Pacific Northwest. Preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree or be graduating in June 2025 and be 21 or older.

For more information, visit thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/ hatfield-fellowship or go to youtu.be/7TOnNoFgUYs to watch an informational video about the Hatfield Fellowship.

The fellowship was created in 1998 to honor the late Sen. Mark Hatfield's public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. ■

NRD coordinates Hunters Education Field Day

The Natural Resources Department Parks and Recreation program is coordinating a Hunters Education Field Day Saturday, June 7, at the Natural Resources office, 47010 SW Hebo Road. Registration for the class must be done via the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website, https://vem.myodfw.com/eventprofile/328.

There is a \$10 per student fee for the class. It will be open to both Tribal and non-Tribal members ages 12 to 17 by the beginning of the 2025 hunting season.

This class is only the field day and all students must have attended either a conventional course or an online course prior to the field day. There will be limited spots for the field day, so if interested, sign up as soon possible.

In Oregon, all youth hunters ages 17 years and younger must pass a certified hunter education class prior to hunting, unless they are participating in the Mentor Youth Hunter Program (youth aged 9 to 14 eligible).

The minimum age to hunt big game is 12 (at the time of the hunt) and hunters ages 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older when hunting (unless on land owned by parent or legal guardian).

Hunter Education can be completed with a conventional classroom course or online course with a hands-on field day.

Class size is limited in all of these courses and students must attend all sessions of the course they sign up for.

For a full list of youth hunter regulations, visit https://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-opportunities-youth. ■





The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

2025 VETERANS SUMMIT

All Veterans are invited to join us Friday, July 11 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Veterans Resources & Information Claims Assistance, presentations and more!!

> At the uyxat Powwow Grounds ~ 9600 S.W. Hebo Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347

The CTGR Veterans Powwow is Friday, July 11, Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13^{th.} All are welcome to attend!



Confederated Tribe

of Grand Ronde

Institute for

Applied Ecology

GRIEF & LOSS GROUP

GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

Salem BH Team: Amy Reid LPC

DATE – JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23

TIME – 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Help restore habitat for First Foods at Champoeg State Heritage Area

IAE Volunteer Opportunity

Champoeg Volunteer Days

Saturdays monthly (see below) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Champoeg State Heritage Area

You are invited to join the Institute for Applied Ecology and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to help restore prairie habitat—at a **First Foods Harvest Area** in Champoeg State Heritage Area. All are welcome! Join us to remove invasive weeds like tansy ragwort, while contributing to the recovery of the land. Thanks to the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District for funding this project.

Dates: Saturdays on May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 16 <u>Times:</u> 9am - 1pm <u>Where:</u> Champoeg State Heritage Area, Oregon <u>What:</u> Planting native plants in a First Foods harvest area <u>RSVP</u>: Contact Evan at <u>evanlasley@appliedeco.org</u>

A restroom is available on site, and limited carpooling from Corvallis is available. Learn more at appliedeco.org/calendar.



Learn more about our work to conserve native species and habits in the Willametre Valley at www.appliedeco.org.



4950 SW Houe St. Corvalle, OR 97333 541-753-3099 info@appliedeco.org

What are "First Foods"? First Foods were eaten by indigenous groups before the arrival of Europeans, and continue to be harvested, grown, and collected today. Native Americans have a

long history of food gathering at Champoeg State Heritage Area. The word "Champoeg" comes from an indigenous word that names it as "the place of the yampa," an edible root that was harvested there. As part of the Plants for People project, yampa has been reintroduced to this site, as well as many other First Foods such as camas, brodiaea, ookow, yarrow, and many others.



PHONE: 503-879-6542

PROTOCOL PRACTICE DATES

April 14th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium April 28th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium -May 12th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium-May 19th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium June 2nd from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium June 16th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium June 30th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium July 7th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium July 14th from 4:30-6PM at the Chachalu Gymnasium

Hosted by the HWC and YEP. A small meal will be provided.

Congratulations Trey!

Tribal member and trumpet player Trey Danforth was selected for the John Philip Sousa award at Willamina High School. The award honors the student who demonstrates, "superior musicianship, leadership, dependability, loyalty and cooperation." Danforth received it at the school's spring concert in April. Danforth, 17, will be a senior at Willamina High School in the fall. He was selected for the honor by WHS Performing Arts Director Ryan Lewis. Only one student is



chosen every year. Danforth has been playing the trumpet for four years and is also a band teacher's assistant. His mother is Tribal member Amy Danforth and his grandmother is Tribal Elder Barbara Danforth.

Paddle Practice Days

April 22nd - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park May 10th - Mother's Days Paddle / location and time TBD May 14th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park-May 20th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park-June 6th - 10:00am to 2:00pm @TBD June 14th - Father's Day Paddle / location and time TBD June 24th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park July 8th - 1:00pm - 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park July 19th - 20th @ Siletz River (in place of Rooster Rock) August 26th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park August 28th - 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park





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

503-879-4623 CourtPrograms@grandronde.org

We are seeking volunteers for two of our programs:

Court Appointed Special Advocate (open to all community members)

Tribal Member Review Board (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:		CRAND POT
	ormation and the qualifications for each program: nt/tribal-court/court-programs/	

• 787



Watchlist: 'This is Indian Country 111: Oregon'

(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

Ruth-Ann Thorn hosts a series on the Native-based channel, First Nations Experience (FNX) called, "This Is Indian Country." It shares modern Native American culture and in her latest episode of the show, she visits Grand Ronde and other Oregon Tribes.

Her visit includes a segment with Grand Ronde Tribal member and carver Bobby Mercier.

Mercier, an artist and culture keeper, shares the restoration of Grand Ronde and his efforts at reclaiming culture through art.

"Carving, I didn't get into until later in life, just because of the fact that for the longest time nobody would do it," Mercier says. "At one time it was banned, it was shunned upon."

Mercier gives a brief history lesson on the Grand Ronde treaties signed in the 1850s, which eventually led to those treaties being broken when the Grand Ronde Tribe was terminated in 1954.

"I always say that if my grandfathers knew that, they would have never signed (the treaties) if they knew they were going to do that to their grandchildren," Mercier said.

Mercier speaks about the Tribe's Restoration in 1983 and how his artwork and carvings are working to bring back the traditions lost during that time.

While standing over a wood carving Mercier is working on, Thorn discusses the similarities she sees between the "Land Back" movement and Mercier's own "Art Back" movement.

"A lot of that culture, like you were saying, it was burned and lost," Thorn said. "But the memory of it, the story telling, the DNA, skillset and ability to create something as beautiful as this never went away."

The video shows several clips from inside the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center where other Grand Ronde Tribal members' artwork and Tribal artifacts are on display.

Thorn's visit also includes Native flutist James Edmund Greeley, cradle board maker Maria Godines, basket weaver Kelli Palmer and rapper (stage name "Blue Flamez") Scott Kalama and Sakari Farms farmer Spring Alaska Schreiner.

Smoke Signals has a full interview with Mercier in the June 1, 2025, edition.

You can watch the FNX interview with Mercier and other cultural figures from Oregon's Indian Country at https://fnx.lightcast.com/player/57453/731384. ■

Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

Grand Ronde Tribal members who are incarcerated, have been recently released from prison or are involved in addiction treatment programs don't have to face challenges alone.

The Tribe has a post-prison/post-treatment peer support specialist, Tribal member Joe Ulestad, who is also a certified recovery mentor.

"I want our members who are incarcerated or need help to know we haven't forgotten about them and we're here to help," he said. "They can call me, email or text."

Ulestad can be reached at joe.ulestad@grandronde.org, by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on his office line, 503-879-1389. ■

2025 Honor and Recognition Event Graduation Celebration

Are you a CTGR tribal member promoting from 8th grade, high school/GED graduate, or college graduate? We invite you and your family to celebrate with us on June 27th at 5:00pm at Spirit Mountain Casino for our Honor and Recognition event! Meal included.



8TH GRADE PROMOTERS & HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Sign up here: https://forms.gle/zGhjz2yoZAyV84c69



GED & COLLEGE GRADUATES

Please email Higher Education for the college graduate form. highereducation@grandronde.org - 503-879-2275



smok signəlz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signalz? Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else? In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, smok signalz electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you're set.

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

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

April 7th @ CTGR Public Health Building May 18th @ CTGR Community Center June 9th @ CTGR Community Center July 6th @ CTGR Community Center August 3rd @ CTGR Community Center September 14th @ CTGR Community Center October 12th @ CTGR Community Center November 9th @ CTGR Community Center December 14th @ CTGR Community Center

Come make new projects, work on old projects! Tribal families welcomed!! All ages!!

Questions? Please reach out to the Culture Committee: Pamala Warren-Chase @ Pamala.warrenchase@thecommunityfund.com Marianne Blanchard @ indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com Stephanie Craig @ kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com Molly Leno @ molly.leno@grandronde.org

Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service, said Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole. Tribal members can now get books from libraries in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, as well as access to many free programs. Tribal Library patrons should visit the Tribal Library and update their information and obtain a new Regional Library Service card.

For more information, contact Cole at 503-879-1488. ■



If interested please apply at

When Applying please provide a copy of your CDL-B and CBR if you have one. Please indicate if you don't have a CBR (Central Background Registry) it may take 45 day to process.



Apply for the Temp pool

Tracy Howerton

Early Childhood Education Transportation and Facilities Coordinator The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 503-879-2285 Tracy.howerton@grandrond e.org

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 ANN	34	110.		
May 23, 2025 Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Shart Wear	CTGR EMPLOYMEN
Audit Director	21	\$160,360.03/yr.	Max Start Wage \$225,696.79/yr.	Closing Date Until Filled
Certified Medical Assistant – Public Health	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	06/02/2025
Family Support Specialist – Public Health	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Intermediate	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Fire Suppression/Prevention) Engine Boss/Crew Boss/EMT	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Foster Care Recruitment Specialist – Social Services	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Health & Wellness Staff Accountant	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
K-6 Math & Science Teacher	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse –Portland - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Counselor – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Portland – GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Nurse Practitioner – Health & Wellness	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Optometrist	17	\$118,408.71/yr.	\$154,344.91/yr.	Until Filled
Pharmacy Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	06/02/2025
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem – Great Circle Recovery	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Pow Wow 2025 – Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.00/hr.	05/26/2025
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem – GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING

Grand Ronde Tribal members.
 (Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they

nsideration for hire and the recruitment process will end) ibal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children and cur

al candidates.

Apply online at: www.grandronde.org



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Bar Porter	5/29/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Stewarding Assistant Manager	5/29/2025	\$44,140.10/yr. DOE
Amore Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Banquet Server	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Cage Cashier	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cleaning Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	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
Guest Services Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hospitality Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Houseperson (*Part-Time Limited Duration)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Floor Supervisor	Until Filled	\$23.24/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips



Questions? Contact:

Toni.mercier@grandronde.org

*CTGR Tribal Preference Applies

Toni Mercier

(503) 879-2493

JULY - VETERANS 10TH - 14TH AUGUST - CONTEST

14TH - 18TH

TEMPORARY POSITION \$16.00/HR. TO \$18.00/HR.

ply caline at www.grandronde.org/employ

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

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

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- SMGI adheres to a Tribal hiring preference policy for enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
- ✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.
- Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus

Memploymentteam@spiritmtn.com

https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.





MIND STRONG PIRIT STRON

Honoring mental health awareness month in our tribal communities

Why mental health matters

- 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experience mental illness each year.
- Native & Indigenous communities face unique mental health challenges, often tied to historical trauma, social disparities, and lack of access to culturally informed care.
- · Suicide is the second leading cause of death among Native youth 10-34.



You are not alone

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text the 988 suicide & crisis Lifeline - available 24/7 and free!

Traditional Strength meets modern support

Tribal cultures embrace balance and holistic wellness often tied to connection, storytelling, ceremony, and community, which are all powerful tools for healing. Along side these, mental health services are available to support individuals and families, offering counseling, peer support and wellness programs rooted in both traditional and evidence based care.

Empowerment Through Connection

Check in on our loved ones – a simple conversation can make a world of

Happy birthday!

You are such a blessing, Sinamoxt. Happy first birthday. Love, dad, mom, and your six brothers and sisters.



TERO small business startup grant



TERO grant eligibility:

- Must be an established Oregon business with state registry.
- Business must be less than three years old according to your business articles of organization start date: May 1, 2022 or newer.
- Must be a Grand Ronde Tribal member or descendant.
- Must prepare a detailed allocation of how you plan to utilize the funding and how it will benefit your business.
- Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, June 6.
- This grant is open to the first 25 completed and eligible applicants, so please get your applications in as quickly as possible. TERO will reach out if anything else is needed to deem your business eligible once your application has been submitted.
- After the interview process, there will be three chosen applicants that will be awarded an \$8,000 grant.

For grant applications or questions please contact TERO. 503-879-2146 • 503-879-2188 • TERO@grandronde.org 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION



- difference.
- Reach out to tribal health services for resources, support, and culturally relevant care.
- Take part in community events that support mental wellness

Let's create a community where asking for help is seen as a sign of strength, where we uplift one another through our struggles, and where every voice matters.

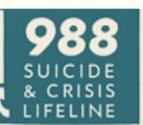
Grand Ronde Youth Empowerment & Prevention



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Grand Ronde Youth Empowerment & Prevention







TOGETHER, WE ARE MIND STRONG, SPIRIT STRONG

Help us prepare for Canoe Journey. All are welcome, come at your lunch or stay the whole time!

Dates & Times

WEDNESDAY 4TH. 3:30PM-6:30PM WEDNESDAY 11TH, 10:30AM-2:30PM WEDNESDAY 18TH, 3:30PM-6:30PM

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde Community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, alcohol or weapons to this event.

> Location: Community Center Supplies & Snacks Provided



YEP@grandronde.org or (503) 879-2034 for more information



Deborah Diane Marrington

Jan. 23, 1953 – May 20, 2025

Tribal Elder and longtime Tribal employee Deborah Diane Marrington passed away May 20, 2025, at the age of 72.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 7, at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery shelter, followed by a burial in the same location. Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.

A full obituary will follow in a future edition of Smoke Signals.

Robert Burton "Bob" Duncan

Sept. 21, 1944 - April 10, 2025

Tribal spouse Robert Burton "Bob" Duncan passed away April 10, 2025, at the age of 80.

Robert was born Sept. 21, 1944, in Boulder, Colorado, to Jack and Leona Duncan. When he was 5 years old, the family moved to Oregon, which Robert called home for the remainder of his life.

After graduating high school, he served in the United States Navy for four years as a Boatswain's Mate. He married the love of his life, Julie White, on Dec. 12, 1969.

He loved fishing and hunting, as well as spending time with family and his German Shorthaired Pointer, River.

Robert is survived by his wife, Julie; daughters, Leighann Kohary, Susan Sanders and Erin Castro; along with seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Leona Duncan; sister, Sunday Staples; and brother, Jack R. Duncan.

An interment service will be held at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery at 11 a.m. Friday, June 13. Lunch will follow at the Elders Activity Center. Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.

Tribal member's work part of Portland art exhibit

Tribal member Matthew Williams (aka M. Earl Williams) is a part of the Blue Sky Oregon Center for the Photographic Arts' Pacific Northwest Drawers program for 2025. He is sharing a set of photographs which seek a reconciliation between the self, the land and the painful histories they carry.

These can be viewed from noon to 5 p.m. Wed-Sat, through March 2026 at 122 N.W. 8th Ave., Portland.





Summer lunch programs and assistance offered in the area

A summer EBT program is available for anyone who currently receives SNAP benefits, TANF cash assistance, Medicaid, resides in foster care, or is attending a school with a free lunch program.

Benefits began being issued for families who are automatically eligible on Thursday, May 22. The online application opened on Friday, May 30. For more information, visit sebt.oregon.gov or call 503-945-5600.

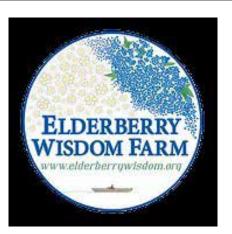
The Willamina School District will be offering a free summer meals program in two different locations every Thursday in July.

Youth 18 and younger may pick up five meals at Tina Miller Park in Willamina from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m. and at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center in Grand Ronde from 12:15 to 12:30 p.m.

The Willamina School District will also be offering free breakfast and lunch for youth at the Willamina Elementary School cafeteria Monday through Thursday, June 16 to July 24. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Meals must be eaten in the cafeteria.

For more information, call 503-876-2702. ■

NRD Spotlight Harvest Card holders we want to connect with you! Please send us your email address to receive hunting and fishing announcements, breaking news and other outdoor related information and opportunities HuntingandFishing@grandronde.org







FLU/COVID PRECAUTIONS Please do not attend if you are experiencing symptoms or are positive for FLU/COVID

- Keep your social distance, 6 Feet apart.
- **Clean your hands** frequently.
- Face mask use is optional and for your own safety. Thanks!!!

The Hebo Ranger District invites You for the Family Fishing Day in the Forest

When: Friday, June 20 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Hebo Lake in Hebo, OR.

Fishing Contest and Prizes at 11 a.m. for Children (4-15 years old)

We will have fishing poles and reels, bait and free fishing lessons available. Parking is free, and kids under 12 years old won't need a fishing license. For people 12 years and up, a fishing license is required for this event.

Elderberry Wisdom Farm TEK Conservation Internship Summer and Fall 2025

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting Interns interested in conservation careers to apply for Summer and Fall 2025 openings. We provide culturally tailored habitat restoration training, experiential service learning, and mentoring by integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Mid-Willamette Valley habitat restoration, urban forestry and native plant nursery development practices. A \$3,000 stipend is provided for those completing the 9-week internship, or 200 hours of classroom education and experiential service-learning activities. Send resume and letter of interest or Q's to accounts@ elderberrywisdom.org.



GRAND RONDE POLICE LO

Editor's note: There was a gap in police log submission to the newspaper for a few months, hence why February is running in this edition. We will run March and April in a future edition.

Saturday, February 1

- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported in the area of milepost 15 on Highway 22.

Sunday, February 2

- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 600 block of Southwest Mill Street in Sheridan.
- Officers attempted to locate a vehicle in the area of Grand Ronde.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Rowell Creek and Highway 18.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Highway 18B and Highway 18.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Yamhill River Road and Highway 18B.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 17.

Monday, February 3

- Trespassing was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers served a warrant in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers made an arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- A welfare check occurred in the 48700 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- A stolen vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, February 4

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- Assault occurred in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Theft occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 28800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 28100 block of McPherson Road.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers attempted to locate a vehicle in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, February 5

- Officers attempted to locate a person in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Savage Road and Highway 18.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of milepost 1 on Yoncalla Creek Road.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 22 near milepost 7.

Sunday, February 9

- Citizen contact occurred in the area of A R Ford Road and Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 22 near milepost 7.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, February 10

- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Failure to register as a sex offender arrest occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An officer served a warrant in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, February 11

- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 17.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 27. Wednesday, February 12
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 400 block of Northwest Main Street in Willamina.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Grand Ronde and Tyee roads.
- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road. **Thursday, February 13**

Thursday, repruary 13

- Theft was reported in the 27300 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A crash occurred in the area of Blacktail Drive and Salmon Way.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Blacktail Drive and Dragonfly Drive.
- A crash occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 27.

Friday, February 14

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, February 15

- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A hit-and-run crash occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, February 6

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A traffic hazard was reported in the area of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Fort Hill Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, February 7

- Drugs were reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A no-contact order violation occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Officers made a warrant arrest in the 9300 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Bridge and Main streets in Sheridan.

Saturday, February 8

• A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

 An intoxicated disturbance occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, February 16

- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- A hit-and-run crash occurred in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Salmon River Highway and Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 900 block of Southeast Sheridan Road.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 26.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 25.

Monday, February 17

• Fraud was reported in the 28400 block of McPherson Road.

See POLICE LOG continued on page 21



GRAND RONDE POLICE LO

POLICE LOG continued from page 20

- A drug complaint occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 25300 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported in the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Officers made a warrant arrest on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, February 18

- A welfare check occurred in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Tilixam Circle and Tyee Road.
- Theft was reported in the 9500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, February 19

- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- Fraud was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, February 20

- Fraud was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An intoxicated person was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 900 block of Sheridan Road in Sheridan.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Grand Ronde and A Ackerson roads.

Friday, February 21

- Trespassing was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and North Street.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Highway 18 and Highway 22.

Saturday, February 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 100 block of Northwest Main Street in Willamina.
- Officers made a warrant arrest in the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 54000 block of Hebo Road.

- Officers assisted an outside agency on Hebo Road near milepost 11.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 7900 block of Fire Hall Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9100 block of Arrowwood Drive.

Sunday, February 23

- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred in the area of Harmony Road and Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 9600 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An alarm call was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the area of Yamhill River and Gold Creek roads.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 25000 block of Yamhill River Road.

Monday, February 24

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 22000 block of Spirit Mountain Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the area of Grand Ronde and Andy Riggs roads.

Tuesday, February 25

- Suspicious activity was reported in the 7900 block of Fire Hall Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.

Wednesday, February 26

- Fraud was reported in the 8600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers served a warrant in the 28400 block of McPherson Road. <u>Thursday, February 27</u>
- A welfare check occurred in the 25000 block of Creekside Drive.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 22.

Friday, February 28

- Trespassing was reported in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 8700 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department Officer Austin Gomez





Deadline is January 15, 2026

Name (as desire	ed on memorial):	DOB:				
Address:		City:	State:	Zip:		
Phone:		Gender: Male/Female (Circle)				
Rank:	Branch:	Branch: Honorable: Yes/No (Circle)				
DOE:	Place of entry:					
DOS:	Place of seperation:					
Deceased: Yes/No (Circle)		Place of burial:				
CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle)		lf Tribal, Roll#				

*All applicants must submit a copy of their DD214. If applicant is deceased, a family member or spouse can submit a copy of their DD214. If you are a CTGR Tribal member please attach a copy of your Tribal ID. If you are non-Tribal please attach a copy of a bill/record with your name and address showing you had lived or now reside in Grand Ronde, Willamina or Sheridan. Please send application and all documents to Grand Ronde Veterans SEB, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Clark at 503-879-1418 or e-mail: publicaffairs@grandronde.org

Any applications received after January 15, 2026, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2027.



Pajama Jam

fibruary Sweethe art's Jam

Fresh Foods Distribution

4/18 from 5-7 @ Tribal Gym

1/10 from 5-7pm @Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 1/23 Starts 10: V0am @ GR Procurement Building

Fentanyl Awyreffess Event Mother's Day Tea Canoe Ou ings Fresh Foods Distribution 5/22 Starts 10:0 Dam @GR Procurement Building

Fresh Foods Distribution

9/18 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Every Child Matters Jam 9/20 - Location & Time TBD Canoe Races (tentatively) 2/13 from 5-7pm @ Tribal Gym Fresh Foods Distribution 2/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building

Tune

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)

3/20 Start 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building

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)

Fresh Foods Distribution 4/24 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building





Health and Wellness Centers 28th birthday 10/ 01 Fresh Foods Distribution 10/16 Starts 10:00am @GR Procurement Building Fall Festival - TBD

November

Fresh Foods Distribution 11/20 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building

December

Fresh Foods Distribution 12/18 Starts 10:00am @ GR Procurement Building

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



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This is a day to learn about elder abuse and how we can protect older adults. Elder abuse happens when an older person is hurt, neglected, or taken advantage of. This can happen in different ways, including physical harm, emotional abuse, neglect or financial exploitation.



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What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse can take many forms. Some common types include:

- Physical abuse: Hitting, pushing, or causing pain to an older person
- Emotional abuse: Yelling, insulting, or making an older person feel afraid or worthless
- Neglect: Not providing basic needs like food, medicine, or clean clothing
- Financial abuse: Stealing money, misusing bank accounts or pressuring an older person to give away money or property

Who is at risk?

Any older adult can experience elder abuse but some people are at higher risk. This includes those who depend on others for care, live alone without support or have memory problems like dementia. Abuse can happen at home, in a nursing home or in a hospital.

How can we prevent elder abuse?

We can all help stop elder abuse by:

- Listening and watching for signs: If an older person seems afraid, has unexplained injuries or is suddenly having money problems, they may be experiencing abuse.
- Speaking up: If you think someone is being abused, talk to a trusted family member, a doctor or call an elder abuse hotline.
- Supporting older adults: Spend time with elderly family members and friends to help them feel safe and cared for.
- Educating others: Raising awareness about elder abuse can help prevent it.

Why World Elder Abuse Awareness Day matters

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day helps us understand the challenges older adults face and encourages people to take action. By learning about elder abuse and spreading awareness, we can protect our loved ones and ensure all older adults are treated with respect and kindness.

Service offered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building

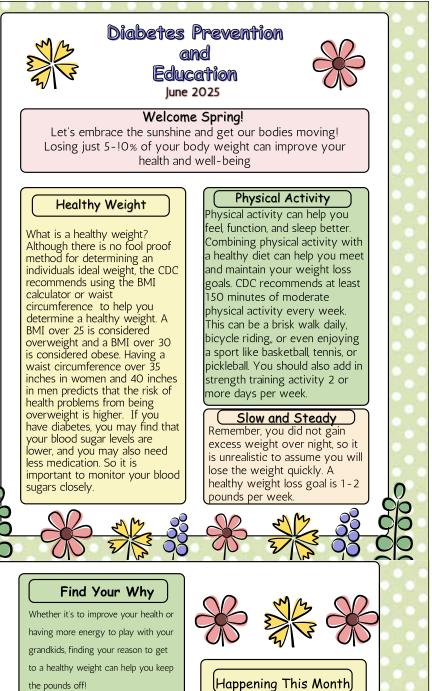




Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

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.



Becky Johnson

Becky Johnson is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist able to work one-on-one with any HWCeligible patient at the Cheryle Kennedy Public Health Building. Becky has been licensed as a dietitian since 2019 after completing a Master of Science in Human Nutrition degree at Oregon Health & Science University and dietetic internship with the Veterans Administration Portland Health Care System. Becky has previously work as a dietitian and nutrition services manager at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City and dietitian and health education manager withthe Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians in Canyonville. She enjoys working with individuals of all ages, using the power of food and nutrition to create personalized eating plans and set goals to improve or maintain health. This includes both managing chronic health conditions (such as chronic kidney disease, heart disease, food allergies/intolerances or digestive problems) or promoting optimum nutrition at different life stages (such as early childhood, youth athletes, pregnancy, or older adulthood).



OR contact Becky directly at 503-879-6711 or Becky Johnson@grandronde.org.

Friday June 6th: June Jam from 5pm to 7pm at the housing basketball courts

SMART

Start working towards your goals to reach your BIG goal

·S- Specific, be specific in your goal. What do you want to accomplish? M- Measurable, Set a goal that you can measure A- Achievable, choose something that you can do **R** - Realistic, something you are willing and able to work towards

T- Timely, have a timeframe to check back in to see how tour goal is going

Monday June 16th: Monthly Diabetes Prevention and Education class from 11-11:45 at the Cheryle A Kennedy Public Health Building

Wednesday June 18th: Elder Canoe Day from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Willamina Pond

Diabetes Case Managers

leannette Cavan I PN Charlene Brewer I PN 503-879-2002



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

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Name:						E-mail:		
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T-SHIRT (GRAY) GRAPHIC	\$15							
T-SHIRT (BLACK) GRAPHIC	\$15							
T-SHIRT (BLACK) BACK GRAPHIC	\$15	Discontinued	Discontinued			Discontinued		
ZIP-UP HOODIE (TEAL)	\$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (GRAY)	\$35							Not Available
	φ00							