



Tribal youth  
marketplace  
— pg. 11



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

JULY 15, 2025

## Constitutional amendment removing BIA fails

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

A constitutional amendment to remove the Bureau of Indian Affairs from future Tribal elections has failed.

According to results posted on the Tribe's website Wednesday, July 9, there were 453 votes against (64% of the total votes) and 260 votes in favor of BIA removal.

It's the second time the Tribe has put the question of BIA removal before the membership. The first time they voted on this matter was in March 2015, with 381 voting against removing BIA oversight (62% of the total votes) compared to the 230 votes in favor.

Tribal Council approved moving forward with the constitutional election process of removing the BIA from its elections during the Wednesday, April 2, Tribal Council meeting. The vote was 5-2, with Vice Chair Chris Mercier and council member Denise Harvey dissenting.

Later in the process, council members Kathleen George and Brenda Tuomi also noted that based on concerns they had heard from the Tribal membership and the timing of the election, they were unable to support it.

It was stated that the Tribe was moving forward with the amendment process at that time in order to avoid having it conflict with Tribal Council elections in September.

Tribal Council attributed wanting to remove the BIA from constitutional elections because of concerns with Tribal members' accessibility to vote.

A "Constitutional Amendment FAQ" stated that the Tribal voters were asked to consider removing the BIA due to timelines being set by federal regulations, resulting in the Tribe being unable to provide enough time for all Tribal members to participate and having a varied process from election to election.

Additionally, it cited a lack of BIA resources and staffing cuts, as well as agency employees

See AMENDMENT  
continued on page 7

## What does it take to become a wildland firefighter?



Smoke Signals screenshot

**Smoke Signals Photojournalist/Assistant Editor Michelle Alaimo, front, is followed by Editor Danielle Harrison and some of the Grand Ronde Tribe's wildland firefighters as they traverse a three-mile loop in under 45 minutes around the old powwow grounds wearing 45-pound vests for the wildland firefighter pack test. The pack test is a work-capacity test to evaluate the physical competency of the firefighters before they are deployed to wildfires.**

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

In June 2024, I was walking through the Tribal Governance Center when an interesting sight at the old powwow grounds outside caught my eye.

There were approximately 20 people, wearing what appeared to be heavy weighted packs, briskly walking and "wogging" around the perimeter, over and over. Several Tribal Natural Resources employees stood nearby.

Curious, I emailed Tribal Fire

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**  
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini and asked what was going on. He informed me that it was the annual wildland firefighter arduous pack test, which would-be and current firefighters must pass yearly in order to gain or keep their certification. He also included a link to the U.S. Department of the

Interior with more information.

After scanning it, I saw there were three categories of testing: Arduous, moderate and light, with corresponding fitness tests for each one. Light duty is a one mile walk over level terrain in less than 16 minutes. Moderate duty is two miles over level terrain in less than 30 minutes wearing a 25-pound pack. Arduous duty is a three-mile walk over level terrain

See FIREFIGHTERS  
continued on page 9

## Eight nominated for 2025 Tribal Council elections

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Eight Tribal members were nominated during the 2025 Tribal Council nominations held in the Tribal Governance Center Sunday, June 29.

Tribal Council incumbents Denise Harvey and Kathleen George; and Tribal members Pamala Warren-Chase, Toby McClary, Peter Grout, Valeria Atanacio, Lisa Archuleta and Pete Wakeland are each seeking one of the three up-for-election seats on Tribal Council.

Warren-Chase, 58, was nominated by Tribal Elder Linda Warren. Warren-Chase is employed as the Spirit Mountain Community Fund administrative assistant. She was previously nominated for Tribal Council last year and in the early 2000s. She serves on the Elder Board, Culture Committee and the Tribal Member Review Board.

McClary, 47, was nominated by Tribal Elder Mike Colton. He won a seat on Tribal Council in 2009 and served two consecutive terms. He is employed as the Tribe's Procurement Department supervisor.

Grout, 50, was nominated by his daughter, Tribal member Isabelle Grout. He is employed as a surveillance technician at Spirit Mountain Casino and is the son of former Tribal Council member Val Grout, who walked on in 2018. He was previously nominated for council in 2018 but ultimately withdrew from the race. He also ran for council in 2019 and 2020.

Atanacio, 35, was nominated by her cousin, Tribal member Alexis

See NOMINATIONS  
continued on page 8

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings**  
**DATE**  
Wednesday, July 23.....4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 6.....4 p.m.  
**TIME**  
*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.*  
*Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.*

## Food programs face more cuts

By Katherine Warren

Smoke Signals staff member

Healthy Food Boxes, a popular monthly program for Tribal members that is grant funded, will not continue after August.

Tribal Council has said it hopes to find a way to continue funding the boxes.

Additionally, local food pantries are also feeling the federal funding cuts and increased costs elsewhere.

Grand Ronde Food Bank (iskam məkʰmək haws) Coordinator Francene Ambrose said, “We have seen a decrease in food available from Marion-Polk Food Share, from the grocery stores and no money donations for food purchases...We went from three pallets of food per week to one pallet per week.”

The food bank fiscal year ended Monday, June 30, and the new budget began Tuesday, July 1. Ambrose said the pantry can use donations of proteins such as canned tuna, peanut butter,

meats in a can and easy to prepare shelf-stable meals.

GrandShermina Food Bank in Sheridan is cutting back on its food distributions, effective immediately. The organization will be doing distributions on the first and third Tuesday of the month instead of their weekly distributions.

Rick Gaupo, president of Marion-Polk Food Share, said that the funding cuts equal half of what the food share received from the federal government last year. Most of the cuts were to frozen meat, eggs and dairy products.

The recent congressional bill, approved by both the House and the Senate, includes an approximately \$200 billion cut over the next 10 years to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as well as an approximately \$930 billion cut over the next 10 years to Medicaid. Both of these programs directly affect low-income families, who often rely on food banks. ■

## Letters welcome

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

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

**smok signalz** reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on any individual, as well as individual Tribal staff members, individual Tribal administration members or individual Tribal Council members. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer.

Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **smok signalz**.

# smok signalz

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### DEADLINE DATE

### ISSUE DATE

### MEMBERS OF:

Wednesday, July 23 ..... Aug. 1

Wednesday, Aug. 6 ..... Aug. 15

Wednesday, Aug. 20 ..... Sept. 1

Thursday, Sept. 4 ..... Sept. 15

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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## STORY IDEAS?

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

Please share your suggestions at [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org) or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.



[WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG)



# IN THE FUTURE



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

**sinamakwst-mun (July)**

- Wednesday, July 16 – Tribal Council Candidates Forum, 5:30 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, July 23 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

**stuxtkin-mun (August)**

- Wednesday, Aug. 6 – Grand Ronde Education Summit, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway.
- Wednesday, Aug. 6 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Friday-Sunday, Aug. 15-17 – Grand Ronde Contest Powwow, uyxat Powwow Grounds. 9600 SW Hebo Road. Grand entries at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Wednesday, Aug. 20 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

*To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit [www.smokesignals.org/calendar](http://www.smokesignals.org/calendar).*

## 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 us on



## OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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**Grand Ronde Employment Services**  
[Facebook.com/EmploymentServices](https://Facebook.com/EmploymentServices)



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## Legislature’s ‘Christmas tree bill’ includes money for Willamette Falls Trust

SALEM — Despite an appeal from Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, the Oregon Legislature provided a \$45 million grant to the Willamette Falls Trust, to purchase the 60-acre Moore’s Island at Willamette Falls, in its so-called “Christmas tree bill,” an end-of-session boon to various organizations seeking funding.

Kennedy had asked Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek in an early June letter to deny or at least delay funding the Willamette Falls Trust, writing, “This project is misguided, disingenuous and comes at a time when our own Tribe is in litigation with the state’s largest utility over our ability to practice our culture.”

Willamette Falls Trust is a nonprofit organization comprising the Yakama, Siletz, Umatilla and Warm Springs Tribes, along with government representatives from Oregon City, Metro and the state. It is working in partnership with Portland General Electric. The Tribes comprising the Willamette Falls Trust are backing a bid by PGE to condemn and seize land at Willamette Falls where the Grand Ronde seasonal fishing platform is located.

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said the Legislature failed Oregonians.


“The Oregon Legislature failed to provide for Oregonians in so many areas like transportation and education,” she said. “People may lose their jobs and the fact that they found \$45 million for a project that has shown no real progress over the years is a slap in the face to all taxpayers.” ■

## RE: RABBI TRUST FUND AND MINORS’ CUSTODIAL TRUST FUND

This announcement is to inform you of the upcoming election opportunity to recommend an investment option that best suits your tolerance for investment risk. The election deadline is Friday, July 18, and the investment period will be effective from Friday, Aug. 1, until modified.

Recognizing that each Tribal member’s tolerance for investment risk may be different, parents of minor members aged 17 or younger having balances in the Rabbi Trust Fund and Minors’ Custodial Trust Fund, or members aged 18 or older can recommend that these funds be invested in one out of five possible investment options.

Email [deanne.norton@grandronde.org](mailto:deanne.norton@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-2215 to receive your Investment Risk Assessment Recommendation Form. This form can also be found at [www.grandronde.org/services/finance/minors-trust-funds/](http://www.grandronde.org/services/finance/minors-trust-funds/) and click on the Rabbi Minor Investment Change Form link. This form is optional and open only to those who participate in the Rabbi and Minors’ Custodial Trust Funds. ■



## TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

- Do you want to be more involved with the Tribe?
- Do you have a desire to be a part of a group to plan and be involved in Tribal activities and events?
- Are you 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](mailto:shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org)

**Applications available online at:**  
[www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/](http://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.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# Food Bank news

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

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

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

The Food Bank will hold July 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 at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 17, via Zoom. Chair: Mia Prickett. 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** meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **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 Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Molly Leno.

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



**2020** — Spirit Mountain Casino began requiring customers to wear masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, following a new state requirement for masking in all indoor public spaces. The Tribe’s Health & Wellness Department also expanded its coronavirus testing to Tribal employees.



**2020** File photo

**2015** — After a year of considering the issue, Tribal Council issued a statement declaring that, notwithstanding a new law in Oregon, decriminalizing the use and possession of recreational marijuana, the Tribe would exercise its rights as a sovereign nation, and would continue to ban use and possession on Tribal land and at Tribal enterprises, including Spirit Mountain Casino.

**2010** — Oregon Tribes, including Grand Ronde, were gearing up to fight two November ballot measures brought by backers of a private casino in Wood Village, who wanted to start the only casino in the state not operated by one of the nine federally recognized Tribes. The measures would have amended the Oregon Constitution to create an exception to the 1984 ban on private casinos in Oregon and authorize a new casino in Multnomah County.

**2005** — The Tribe named Shelley Hanson as the new director of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. Hanson succeeded Adam Henny, who was named interim director in July 2004.

**2000** — The Spirit Mountain Community Fund donated \$500,000 to the Portland Art Museum, that, combined with an earlier \$500,000, would enable the museum to remodel its Hoffman wing to create the Grand Ronde Center for Native American Art, providing 7,000 square feet of exhibition space for new galleries dedicated to Native art.

**1995** — Tribal Council sponsored community meetings in Eugene, Salem, Portland and Grand Ronde to discuss six priority investment areas for Tribal revenues over the following five years, for revenue generated by Spirit Mountain Casino.

**1990** — Enrollment Director Margo Mercier announced that questionnaires mailed to Tribal members to create a database, including households with children who were not yet enrolled, had resulted in 80 new enrollees, bringing Tribal membership to 2,646.

**1985** — The result of the research report and secretarial proposal for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe was released by the deputy assistant secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, naming two organized groups: The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe and the Cow Creek Descendants Organization. Descendants were instructed to begin gathering proof of their Cow Creek ancestry.

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

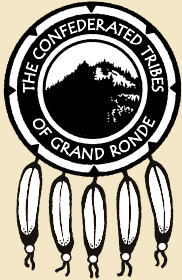
# Contest Powwow vendors wanted!

**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](http://www.grandronde.org).

For more information or assistance call:

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



### GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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

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

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



GENERAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE AND  
SUPPLEMENTAL GENERAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS ORDINANCE — OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council is considering adopting a General Welfare Assistance and Supplemental General Welfare Assistance Programs Ordinance. The proposed new ordinance was given a first reading at the June 25, 2025, Tribal Council meeting.

The primary purpose of the proposed ordinance is to establish general welfare assistance payment programs to provide for the needs of Tribal members in maintaining their health, well-being, independence and quality of life, and make general welfare assistance payments available to them not subject to federal income tax in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code Section 139E and the Tribal General Welfare Ordinance.

The Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed new General Welfare Assistance and Supplemental General Welfare Assistance Programs Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed ordinance, contact the Tribal Attorney’s Office at 503-879-4664 or [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org). Also send comments to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org).

Comments must be received by Aug. 15, 2025. ■

TRIBAL DEBT COLLECTION ORDINANCE  
OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Tribal Debt Collection Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a first reading at the June 25, 2025, Tribal Council meeting.

The primary purpose of the proposed amendments is to provide that General Welfare Assistance and Supplemental General Welfare Assistance Program payments are Tribal payments subject to the provisions of the Tribal Debt Collection Ordinance. The proposed amendments may also include minor technical (i.e., typographical, housekeeping) modifications.

The Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed amendments to the Tribal Debt Collection Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, contact the Tribal Attorney’s Office at 503-879-4664, [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org) or send comments to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org).

Comments must be received by Aug. 15, 2025. ■

Tribal Council approves grant applications for domestic violence and sex trafficking prevention

By Danielle Harrison  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council approved a grant application for a U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women for domestic violence and sex trafficking prevention at its Wednesday, July 9, meeting.

A similar application included an Office on Violence Against Women rural domestic violence, dating violence and stalking prevention grant for up to \$700,000.

These grant applications are part of the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program’s mission to support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking.

“This will fund 1.62 of the existing shelter advocates, provide funding for required training and provide funding for needed supplies, equipment and fees,” Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, July 8, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “It’s a three-year grant with an award anticipated in September.”

If approved, the federal grants would be used to develop and provide housing capacity that will meet the needs of domestic violence survivors, maintain current services and provide an environment that promotes recovery and healing.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a grant application from the Tribal Police Department to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Oregon Tribal Grants Program for up to \$100,000;
  - Approved the 12 Tribes O’Link memorandum of agreement for fiscal year 2026. The annual agreement is necessary because the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Indian Housing Block Grant service area overlaps with 11 other Tribes in Oregon and California. The federal government requires that Tribes in overlapping service areas agree on how to distribute funding, which will include an allocation of approximately \$428,577 for Grand Ronde;
  - Approved the Oregon Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund transit plan agreement to help fund public transit services in Grand Ronde;
  - Approved an amendment to the Tribal Transportation Program funding agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior;
  - And approved the enrollment of four infants 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](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

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.

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

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# Graduates say persistence pays off

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Persistence in the face of difficulty was the theme of this year’s Tribal Education Department’s Honor and Recognition Event held at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 27, with graduates talking about the determination it took to keep fighting for their goals.

The annual event celebrates graduates from middle school through doctorate degree level.

Occasionally speaking through tears, various graduates said they feel great pride and gratitude for having accomplished what they set out to do, despite every barrier. In some cases, getting across those barriers took years, even decades, and took not only hours of study, but also struggling with feeling overwhelmed and inadequate, they said.

“This is a huge accomplishment for me,” Tribal member Molly Leno told the audience about achieving her high school completion certificate. “It’s always been one of my biggest barriers to complete due to obstacles in life. I should have graduated 30 years ago. But here I stand as living proof it can be done. The icing on the cake is I’m able to graduate this year with my two sons. My son Future Leno, and my oldest son, True Rimer, they’re graduating also this year. I could not be any prouder or happier for us all. I know it’s been a long and hard journey for each one of us.”

Willamina High School graduate and Tribal member Bayleigh Leno said the support of the Tribe and her family make a difference.

“The truth is, a lot of us were never expected to stand up here,” she said. “The systems are not built



**Tribal member Christopher Mansayon, left, receives a gift from Tribal Post-Secondary Education Program Coordinator Joshua Clift as he’s honored for earning his doctorate degree during the Tribal Education Department’s Honor and Recognition Event celebrating recent graduates from middle school through doctorate degree level at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 27.**



**Tribal member Katherine Rodriguez was one of three guest speakers during the Tribal Education Department’s Honor and Recognition Event at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 27. Rodriguez graduated with her master’s degree from Eastern Oregon University.**

easy. We’ve all had moments when it feels too hard, when life, school, or just the weight of everything got to us. But we kept going. We showed up, we leaned on our families, and friends and culture and our community, and that’s what helped us push through. For me, being a part of this Tribe has been a big part of that. Knowing that I come from a place and a people with so much strength, so much history, it keeps me grounded. And I’ve learned that even when I feel unsure or overwhelmed, I’m not alone. My ancestors are with me and my community is behind me.”

Each graduate was presented with a blanket during the ceremony, to audience applause.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Jon A. George and council members Lisa Leno, Brenda Tuomi and Denise Harvey attended. George led a drum song while the honor guard posted the colors and the eagle staff. Tuomi gave the invocation.

Harvey welcomed the sizeable audience, saying it was a powerful moment for her, and she was “very, very proud of you all.”

“It’s not easy going to school,” Harvey said. “There are times when it’s going great and other times when you need a little help. I hope all of you know you can always reach out to your Tribe, and we will support you and your goals and accomplishments.”

Harvey told the graduates that, “I’m proud and honored for each and every one of you and so blessed to be here in my position as a Tribal councilperson and knowing that this is what our Tribe does for our people.”

The audience enjoyed a meal of lasagna, chicken, shrimp, pasta, salad, green beans, bread sticks and dessert.

Tribal Education Department Manager Angela Fasana said it was uplifting to see how far everything has come since the 1990s, when the education and honor program began.

“Your Tribal Council has, since before Restoration, supported education for us as Tribal people, investing millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, at this point, in us as Tribal people,” Fasana said. “We serve hundreds of students in our program every day.”

Tribal member Katherine Rodriguez, who received her master’s degree in accounting from Eastern Washington University, was the third speaker.

“I graduated from high school 19 years ago in 2006, and since then, I’ve been able to earn three degrees: My associates, my bachelor’s in financial management and this year I graduated with my master’s degree in professional accounting,” she said. “It’s really exciting and I don’t know how I did it.”

She said she struggled at her first university, eventually transferring to another school, but found a path that worked for her.

Rodriguez said she’s proud of the way she found her way through one challenge after another.

“During my master’s program, I was given a 10-page paper to write every week for the entirety of the quarter for my forensic accounting class, and if anybody had told me I was going to be writing so much for an accounting degree, I would’ve rethought that completely, because I’m not an English major,” she said. “I want numbers and I want math. I don’t want to write essays. So, you take the challenges and you just roll with the punches.” ■

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# 2025 graduates

The following students were recognized at the June 2025 Honor and Recognition Event at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 27.

### Eighth grade promotions:

Kason Bailey, Perrydale Middle School; Callie Bennett, Santiam Christian; Gunner Bishop, Willamina Middle School; Eve Delai, Elikites Ed; Devin Doar, Willamina Middle School; Cohen Fugate, Talmadge Middle School; Chaska Gomez, Olympic Middle School; Channing Haller, Anderson Middle School; Samantha Hedrick, Willamina Middle School; Logan Kneeland, Willamina Middle School; Lance Logan, Willamina Middle School; Dandez Lopez-Martin, Taft High 7-12; Brody Lux, Willamina Middle School; Quentin Manangan, Somerset Academy; Raylyn Schweitzer, Oakville Middle School; Layla Self, Tillamook Junior High School; Jordynn Simmons, Doral Academy Pebble Campus; Qwinem Simmons, Walker Middle School; Landin Stewart, Gaiser Middle School.

### High school graduates:

Nya Ainam, McKay High School; Chloe Ayala, Sheridan High School; Samantha Bishop, Willamina High School; Jessica Burton-McGee, Waldport High School; Austin Carrasco, Amity High School; Paisley DeLoe, Willamina High School; Keyona Dotson, Enterprise High School; Baylee Dumarce, Willamina High School; Keahi Duran, Willamina High School; Ava Fagundes, Willamina High School; Grayson Farr, Lebanon High School; Hailey Garl, Tumwater High School; Sam Gleason, West Salem High School; Madison Grant, Stayton High School; Noah Gregg, Mt. Spokane High School; Annabelle Guardiola, Willamina High School; Loren Holmes, Siletz Valley; Emilio Jaimes, Madras High School; Gavin Lane, Kingston High School; Moriah Langley, First Light Academy; Bayleigh Leno, Willamina High School; Future Leno, Willamina High School; Gracie Mercier, Willamina High School; Kaikanim Mercier, Willamina High School; Mikayla Mercier, Willamina High School; Renaldo Noffsinger, Lebanon High School; Chase Range, McKay High School; Keylie Runningbird-Redhawk, Willamina High School; Katherine Stryker, Ridgefield High School; Mathew Trump-Torres, Norman High School; Taytum West, Willamina High School; Izzy Youso, Sprague High School.

### GED/high school completion

Brandon Bastin, Adult High School Completion; Tristen Denhem, Adult High School Completion; Koana Leno, Adult High School Completion; Molly Leno, Adult High School Completion; Rilee Mercier, Adult High School Completion; Ciera Petersen, Adult High School Completion; True Rimer, Adult High School Completion; Lisa Schmid, GED; Tiffany Tobiska, GED; Sianna Stone, GED; Tayer Stone, GED.

### Certificates

Madison Aaron, Chemeketa Community College; Angelica Banton, Northwest Beauty College; Logan Bobb, Chemeketa Community College; Justine Flynn, Kansas State University; Makenzie Galvan, Phagans School of High Design; Shawn Haggerty, Southern New Hampshire University; Prommisse Thornley, Police Academy.

### Associate degree

Christine Beal, Portland Community College; Braden Ebensteiner, Chemeketa Community College; Reece Ebensteiner, Chemeketa Community College; Michael Flores, Lee College; Hailey Haller, Shasta College; Edi Larsen, Portland Community College; Rhonda Leno, Chemeketa Community College; Melinda Mathews, Chemeketa Community College; Poppy Mitchell, Linn-Benton Community College; Jacob Olson, Linn-Benton Community College; Alec Palanuk Mercier, Chemeketa Community College; Conner Sabey, Chemeketa Community College; Susan Sabey, Lane Community College; Tarina Thornock, Grays Harbor Community College; Alexandria Thorsgard, Chemeketa Community College; Keith Wockenfuss, Texas State Technical College.

### Bachelor's degree

Alexander Bliven, Western Oregon University; Aundrea Cooney, Santa Clara University; Brandon Emmerich, Bowling Green State University; Makenzie Hill, Heritage University; Rayna Hutton, Portland State University; Darien Leno, Oregon State University; Sierra Nor-west, Portland State University; Joshua Rye, Austin Peay State University; Payton Smith, University of Alabama; Mia Stanley, Portland State University; Jonah Strand, Oklahoma Christian University; Isaac Teixeira, University of California; Myriah Wetmore, Bushnell University; Sedona Williams, Oregon State University.

### Master's degree

Timothy Allen, Davenport University; George Ankeney, Stanford University; Taylor Bradford, University of Nevada; Bailey Daniels, George Fox University; Samantha Games, University of Denver; Christina Morgan, Arizona State University; Olivia Morrow, University of Washington; Samuel Riding In, University of Oregon; Katherine Rodriguez, Eastern Oregon University; Kryshanne Searls, Eastern Oregon University; Christian Trimpe, Oregon State University.

### Professional degrees

Christopher Mansayon, Oregon State University; Michael Reyes, Gannon University; Jordan Reyes, University of Buffalo. ■

# Tribal members agreed to four changes ever to the constitution

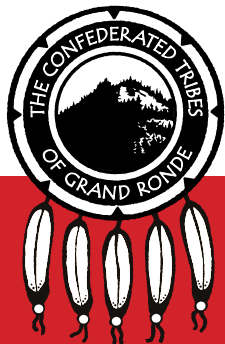
AMENDMENT continued  
from front page

who are unfamiliar with constitutional amendment elections adding “additional challenges in recent years.”

Tribal members have only agreed in sufficient numbers to four proposals to change the constitution:

The 1999 enrollment amendment, in 2008 when they increased the relinquishment of membership from another Tribe from one to five years, in 2022 when they agreed to ban disenrollment actions unless fraud or dual enrollment can be proven, and when the lineal descendent amendment was approved in December 2024. ■

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS



TOTAL AMENDMENTS: 14  
1999 – 2025

### AMENDMENTS PASSED:

- 1999: ENROLLMENT
- 2008: RELINQUISHMENT PERIOD
- 2022: BANNING DISENROLLMENT
- 2024: LINEAL DECENT

More information available at:  
[WWW.GRANDRONDE.ORG](http://WWW.GRANDRONDE.ORG)

Graphic by Samuel Briggs III

The logo for the Tribal Veterans Service Office is located in the top left corner of the banner. It features a circular design with a mountain peak in the center, surrounded by the text "THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE". Below the circle are several vertical lines representing a totem pole or similar traditional structure.

# TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scheduled Appointments Only	Walk-In Day
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	

To schedule an appointment:  
Call (503) 879-1424 or  
[CTGR TribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org](mailto:CTGR TribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org)

A graphic showing various pieces of art, including a colorful abstract painting and a black and white line drawing of a person's face.

## call for artists portable public art collection

Presented by the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Call is open | June 17, 2025  
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submit your art and share your story.



# Elders honored



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Murch White looks at a pair of socks that was in his gift bag while playing a game during Elder Honor Day at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Monday, July 7. The person who had a single sock in their bag that matched the sock the Elder Board had, won a prize. The newly formed Elder Board planned the annual event this year.**



**Tribal Elder Dave Leno plays bingo during Elder Honor Day at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Monday, July 7.**



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



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# Tribal Council Candidates Forum to be held July 16

## NOMINATIONS continued from front page

Contreras. She currently serves on the Tribe’s Education Committee and previously worked for the Tribe as the Teen Pregnancy Prevention coordinator. She is employed as a Principal Consultant for her business, Native Mama Scholars, LLC. She was nominated for council last year for the first time.

Archuleta, 63, was nominated by her brother, Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta. She serves as the Tribal Services representative in the Tribe’s Portland office and is a first-time candidate for council.

Wakeland, 63, was nominated by his son, Tribal member Torey Wakeland. He previously served as the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department director and as deputy director under the Tribal general manager. He is also a past Hatfield Fellow.

Harvey, 63, was nominated by fellow Tribal Council member and Vice Chair Chris Mercier. She is seeking her fifth consecutive three-year term. She was first elected to Tribal Council in 2013 after five unsuccessful campaigns. She came in third in the 2022 election.

George, 54, was nominated by Tribal Elder Lisa Watson and will be seeking her fourth consecutive term on Tribal Council. She served as director of Spirit Mountain Community Fund beginning in 2011 and finished first in the 2016 Tribal Council election. She came in second in the 2022 election.

The third incumbent, Brenda Tuomi, 65, is not seeking reelection. She is currently serving her second

term on council and was first elected in 2015.

This year marks the 12th consecutive year of single-digit candidates running for Tribal Council. The last time 10 or more candidates threw their proverbial hats in the ring was in 2013.

Tribal Council candidates have a 600-word statement published in the July Tilixam Wawa that will be mailed to voters this month, before ballots are mailed out.

In addition, Smoke Signals will continue its practice of interviewing all of the candidates and placing their podcast interviews on speaker.com.

The Tribal Council Candidates Forum will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, in Tribal Council Chambers. All candidates must attend in person but Tribal members can join in person or via Zoom. Register for the Zoom session on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Facebook page.

This year’s election will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6, with elected council members being sworn into office on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Ballots are sent to the Tribal member’s address on file with Member Services. If you have recently moved or not updated your address in some time, please contact Member Services at 503-879-2116 to confirm the address on file. The Election Board cannot change addresses.

The Election Board will have office hours in the Tribal Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, July 28 through Thursday, Sept. 4. The board may be reached at 503-879-2271 or by emailing [election.board@grandronde.org](mailto:election.board@grandronde.org). ■

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## NRD Spotlight

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# Visit ‘Smoke Signals newspaper’ on YouTube for video

**FIREFIGHTERS** continued  
from front page

in less than 45 minutes wearing a 45-pound pack.

Additionally, arduous duty firefighting positions require a thorough Department of Interior medical exam and qualification certificate before one can participate in the initial pack test, and then every three years afterward.

I’ve been a longtime runner and triathlete, so physical challenges are nothing new to me. However, I’d never tried to do anything remotely like the pack test and wasn’t sure if I could, as I tend to be a better runner than walker, and that’s without an additional 45 pounds!

Intrigued, I asked Puerini if he’d be willing to let me do the arduous test and write a story about the experience. He responded enthusiastically.

I told Smoke Signals Photojournalist/Assistant Editor Michelle Alaimo that I was doing the test and was surprised when she responded that she’d be willing to join me as a way to commemorate turning 50. Alaimo added that she’d always been interested in wildland firefighting and would like to take it a step further by earning her red card.

During this process, I learned that a wildland firefighter doesn’t necessarily have to be sent out to battle blazes in faraway places. They can also do summer Grand Ronde Reservation patrols on the weekends or holidays, as well as participate in prescribed burns.

Fast forward to February 2025: I began training once a week or so at the local gym, at first carrying 20 pounds. I couldn’t do more than 20 minutes on the treadmill at first. I slowly increased the weight and as the weather became nicer, took

## Firefighters travel to help other areas

More than half the staff of the Tribe’s wildland firefighters are currently dispatched to help fight fires across the region, according to Fire Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini.

“The remaining 16 staff are primarily local militia and continue to be available for local fire support if the need arises,” he said. “There are five additional regular wildfire staff that have not yet completed the red card process. We will have 60 total red carded staff this season.”

An initial crew of 22 firefighters are working at the Pomas Fire in northwest Washington.

“The Pomas Fire is in extremely rugged terrain, with several communities threatened but progress is being made here,” Puerini said.

Eight firefighters are working at a fire in Roseburg, while “two

of our type-six engines with six total staff are providing support to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Southwest Region assisting Tribes with wildfire support in New Mexico,” Puerini said.

He added that another engine with three staff have recently returned from New Mexico and are resting.

He noted that, “We are thankfully far away from the recent active shooter situation that occurred in Idaho,” calling the ambush of firefighters near Coeur d’Alene in late June “an unexpected and scary nightmare.”

The motive for the attack remains unclear, as the gunman was found dead, having apparently taken his own life after shooting three firefighters responding to a fire he had started. Two of the firefighters were killed; a third remains hospitalized. ■

my workouts outdoors to the local track. I also focused on strength training for my core and legs to be able to withstand the extra weight.

By early June, I was up to the required 45 pounds but with a sore knee from the added weight and pain radiating through my hip and lower back at times, I wasn’t sure if my 49-year-old self could keep up with the mostly young participants.

Meanwhile, Alaimo was working hard to complete the required 40 hours of online classwork and trying to schedule time to finish the field day training, which includes learning how to use engines, pumps, tools and completing a life-saving fire shelter exercise, among other drills. Completing this pro-

cess would enable her to earn her wildland firefighter red card.

The pack test was set for Friday, June 20, which turned out to be a very wet and somewhat cold day. Undeterred, the recruits did a warmup jog and stretches at the Natural Resources Department before proceeding to the old powwow grounds. Wanting to get the test done as soon as possible, Alaimo and I volunteered to be in the first group. When all was said and done, we both passed the test with several minutes to spare.

All in all, I’m glad to have taken on this challenge and would strongly encourage others who are interested in wildland firefighting to at least consider going through the process. Everyone who participated in the pack test with us was helpful and encouraging. I’d also like to give a shout-out to all of the Natural Resources employees, especially Puerini, for being so ac-

commodating during this process.

**Michelle’s story**

I have always had an interest in photography and a fascination with firefighting. In my time working for the Tribe, I have thought about being on the wildland firefighting crew, but never thought it could be an option due to my full-time position and being unable to be sent out to a fire for days or weeks at a time. So, I was happy to photograph training activities or prescribed burns locally.

Last year, Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison and I were watching the prospective wildland firefighters do the pack test, which is part of receiving your red card to become a wildland firefighter. Harrison stated she was going to do the pack test this year as a personal challenge and I said I’d join her in the challenge. After learning about the red card process, I decided I wanted to try to compete the entire process and earn my red card.

The medical exam was the most in-depth exam I’ve ever had, but if you pass, you know you are healthy!

The pack test was probably the most physically challenging thing I’ve done, yet not as difficult as I envisioned. I started training a few months before the test, but also didn’t train as much as I thought I would.

I didn’t care if I finished last on pack test day, I just didn’t want to fail. The worst part of the pack test was the weight of the 45-pound vest on my collarbone. For me, it was almost more of a mental challenge than a physical one. I just kept telling myself to keep moving and when I successfully completed it, I couldn’t get the vest off fast enough!

To learn more about what’s involved in becoming a wildland firefighter, watch the YouTube video, “Smoke Signals staff trains for wildland firefighting,” by Smoke Signals Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch, or call Puerini at 503-879-1696 or Jim Pinder at 503-879-2332. ■

## Let’s Create Defensible Space

**CHECKLIST:**

- Roofs and gutters are clean from leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eaves. 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 responders (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.**  
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## HELP GROW YOUR FAMILY STRONG

**Immunizations are important for people of all ages, from infants to elders. Talk with your doctor, nurse, or clinic to make sure your family and friends are up-to-date on their vaccinations.**

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. A child is eligible for the VFC Program if he or she is younger than 19 years of age and is American Indian or Alaska Native.



# Youth enjoy day of learning history, practicing skills

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

In a grassy field set up on the uyx-at Powwow Grounds, with a large green plastic dragon as a target, youth practiced throwing darts with an atlatl, marveling at how much further their throws went than when tossed by hand, even with inexperienced users.

The stone-age spear thrower, which predates the bow and arrow, increased the range at which a hunter could target game animals, by providing greater leverage than simply hurling a dart or spear by hand. They were used in various forms by numerous cultures around the world.

Despite its hunters' increased power and range however, the dragon sustained few wounds, with most of the darts either falling short or sailing over its head. Youth also discovered there's a learning curve; how to flick the atlatl correctly, so the dart sails forth, rather than tumbling into the grass just a few feet in front the user.

The youth were attending a day camp put on by a collaboration between the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office, Youth Enrichment's hayu-munk skukum Program and Youth Education, intended to teach them about some of the history of the area.

Off to one side, youths Angel Mathews, Makalee King and Haid-



Tribal Archaeologist Jeremy Johnson, left, shows Cayden Trujillo, 13, a ground penetrating radar scan during the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office day camp at Fort Yamhill Wednesday, July 9. The camp was a collaboration between HPO, Youth Enrichment's hayu-munk skukum Program and Youth Education.

eyn Markel-Hunt had tired of dart throwing long before the boys and were sitting in the grass visiting but said they had enjoyed learning to use the unfamiliar weapons.

"Not to toot my own horn, but I'm pretty good at it," Markel-Hunt said.

"I was bad at it at first," King said, but said that after practicing, she was able to fling her dart over

the dragon's head. A roar went up nearby, as one of the boys struck the dragon's head with his dart.

The girls said they were especially looking forward to the next day, when the group planned a hike from South Lake to Hebo.

Further up the road, a second group was touring Fort Yamhill and learning about the Tribe's work to map the site using ground penetrating radar, before later switching places with the atlatl group.

They took turns pushing the radar carriage and observed how it displays the geography under the soil.

Tribal Senior Archeologist Michael Lewis and Tribal Archeologist Jeremy Johnson explained the fort's history, noting that previous efforts by archeologists, and later the state, tended to focus heavily on the viewpoint of soldiers. The Tribe, they noted, wants to focus on the experiences of Oregon Tribal people who were moved from their homelands to the Grand Ronde Res-

ervation in the 1850s. Once arrived, they found themselves camping alongside multiple other Tribes who spoke different languages and had different customs, all overseen by the foreign invaders manning the fort.

The fort was decommissioned in 1866, after just 10 years, and few traces remain of the buildings today.

Youth Tim Murphy, who described himself as "a big nerd when it comes to history," said he is interested in learning about the history of the area.

"I was not aware this was a fort," he said. "I just want to learn more about my Tribe. I know very little about where I'm from. I've lived here my entire life, but I know very little about before the 1950s."

Youth heard from Tribal Cultural Protection Coordinator Cheryl Pouley about the Oregon Trail of Tears, when Rogue Valley Tribes were forced to walk from Medford to Grand Ronde and about the identity of General Phil Sheridan, learning he was not merely the man for whom the nearby town was named, but a Union general in the Civil War. Before the war, however, Sheridan was the commander of Fort Yamhill, overseeing the Grand Ronde Reservation.

The house he occupied, although moved and shortened from its original two stories, stands on the property today. Students peered in the windows, and observed a model of the original fort, with its gun ports pointing in all directions, before hiking up the trail to observe the view of the valley below, that made the fort's location so useful for the soldiers.

"The women's story doesn't get told very much," Pouley said, explaining that women from the Tribes probably worked as laundresses at the fort.

They probably also served as maids and housekeepers for the officers, Johnson noted.

"We want to bring the stories of the Tribe forward," Pouley said. ■

Medical Transport Services

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

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COMMUNITY COURT PROGRAMS

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1. Indicate which program you are interested in (mark one of the boxes above).

2. Fill out the form below with your contact information.

3. Mail, drop-off or email the completed form to Tribal Court Programs Coordinator.

Full Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Address:

Visit our website for more information and the qualifications for each program:

grandronde.org/government/tribal-court/court-programs/

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



# Youth sales



Logan Clark, 16, left, and Brady Soderberg, 14, make a chili dog at their business, The Dog House, during Youth Enrichment’s hayu-munk skukum’s Youth Marketplace in the Tribal gym Wednesday, July 2. The marketplace gave Tribal youth an opportunity to develop their business skills by selling hot dogs, iced drinks and snacks.



Easton Fugate, 12, adds flavored syrup to an iced drink at the Fizztop Mountain business at Youth Enrichment’s hayu-munk skukum’s Youth Marketplace in the Tribal gym Wednesday, July 2.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrsmokesignals @SmokeSignalsCTGR

Kick the Habit.

Call these numbers for free from anywhere in Oregon:  
1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)  
Español: 1-877-2NO-FUME (1-877-266-3863)  
TTY: 1-877-777-6534  
Or register online at: [www.quitnow.net/oregon/](http://www.quitnow.net/oregon/)

Produce market

2025 Schedule:

June 5th

June 26th

July 10th

July 24th

August 7th

August 21st

September 4th

September 18th

October 2nd

October 16th

November 6th

November 20th

December 4th

Elder Activity Center  
Noon to 2pm  
schedule subject to change

Oregon Department of Human Services

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Wednesday  
Walk-ins welcome.

Community Center (Building B)  
9615 Grand Ronde Road,  
Grand Ronde, OR 97128

Services include:  
SNAP • TANF • OHP  
EBT card replacment  
EBT card distribution

For questions call:  
503-879-2034

[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)



HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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





# Summerween time



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Kolten King, 10, fist bumps Tribal Planner Charity Hervosma, wearing an inflatable unicorn costume, while trick-or-treating in the Governance Center during Summerween on the Tribal campus Monday, July 7. Youth Enrichment’s hayu-munk skukum organized the event that is a blend of summer and Halloween, celebrating Halloween during the summer months. Close to 100 youth visited several Tribal departments to collect treats while celebrating Summerween.



Youth line up to pick a water with a flavor packet attached to it while trick-or-treating at the Tribal Community Center during Summerween Monday, July 7.

## Paddle Practice Days

July 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> @ Siletz River ( in place of Rooster Rock)  
August 26<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park  
August 28<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park

Hosted by GRHWC

## 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.

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# We want to hear from you!

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Comment Box is located at the entrance of the Health & Wellness Center, next to the drinking fountain. Share your experience, good or bad with us. ■

PETER GROUT  
“BOON”

FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL



OLD WORLD VALUES,  
NEW WORLD UNDERSTANDING.

Please feel free to contact me with  
any questions you may have  
Email: boongrout@hotmail. Com  
Cell: 503-801-6005

Paid political ad

## CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS

**THURSDAYS | NOON-5PM**  
OPEN TO TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

IT’S IMPORTANT TO LET US KNOW IF YOU’RE  
COMING SO WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

CONTACT: CULTURALEducation@GRANDRONDE.ORG



### Holmes family reunion set July 26

The sixth annual Holmes family reunion will be held from noon to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 26, at 22870 Agency Creek Road (west end of mom's house). Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert, as well as their own beverages. No alcohol is allowed. RSVP to Sydney Clark at 503-857-3219.

### Jeffers 74th family reunion set Aug. 10

The Jeffers family is hosting its 74th family reunion Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Wildcat Covered Bridge located off Highway 126 and Siuslaw River Road, the old homestead of Ira Jeffers.

**From Eugene:** Take Highway 126 West towards Mapleton. At approximately mile marker 27.5, turn left on Siuslaw River Road

**From Mapleton:** Take Highway 126 East from Mapleton toward Eugene. At approximately mile marker 26.5, turn right on Siuslaw River Road.

Look for signs and balloons for the turn off. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs, a favorite dish to share and their own beverages. Lunch will begin at approximately noon.

For more information, call Evelyn Seidel at 503-831-4955 or Lori Warren at 541-510-1704.


### MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

Tribal Court is issuing marriage licenses and able to perform marriage ceremonies for a filing fee of \$40. Contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

Support wherever  
and whenever  
you need it.

Text Native to 741741.  
#WeNeedYouHere






Matthew Jackson  
Backflow  
Certified

720-499-8305

Prevent contamination  
&  
Ensure your family's  
safety today



Paid ad

## TERO Worker of the Month

### June 2025

**Name:** Curtis Janis  
**Employer:** Kiewit Bridge & Marine  
**Position:** Journeyman carpenter

Curtis Janis has been a long-time member of several different TERO programs throughout the nation and is a proud member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Tribe. He joined CTGRs TERO in 2023 and was dispatched out to the I-205 Abernethy Bridge project near Oregon City as a journeyman carpenter.

Curtis has vast experience in the heavy highway construction trades and has held many different roles ranging from a carpenter, foreman and superintendent positions and says that TERO has been very instrumental in his growth in the industry.

We asked Curtis how being in the TERO program has helped him and he said that he is constantly evolving as a carpenter and takes pride in his ability to learn new skills and improve his techniques. Staying committed to safety on the job site is a priority to Curtis as he also leads the safety committee for Kiewit and believes that true efficiency comes from a combination of safety and quality.

Curtis's hard work and dedication to Kiewit, our TERO program and his outstanding representation for all native people earned him the June TERO worker of the month. Curtis said it is an incredible honor and he accepts the award very humbly.

He goes on to say he is very thankful for the opportunities that TERO has provided for him to represent his people through his work and remains committed to growing, learning and giving back to our Native communities through every project he takes on.

The TERO staff and CTGR community thank you for your dedication to your hard work, and in your Lakota language, Wopila, which means we express deep gratitude!

Congratulations Curtis. We are proud to have you in our program!



**Curtis Janis**

*For more information on the TERO Skills Bank and any other TERO opportunities, contact the TERO office or the TERO director. TERO Office: 503-879-1488 or [tero@grandronde.org](mailto:tero@grandronde.org)*



Everything you wanted to know about Ham Radio

## JULY 19-20 & 26-27 AUG. 23-24 & 30-31 HAM RADIO/ AMATEUR RADIO TECH LICENSE CLASS

**Free Emergency Communications Training!**

Learn how to communicate when it matters most! These 2-day courses prepare you for the FCC Amateur Radio Technician License – No Experience needed! Boost your emergency preparedness and join a growing community. Hands-on training from expert instructors to help you pass the licensing test. Open to all Willamina, Sheridan and Grand Ronde Community Members, as well as CTGR and Spirit Mountain Employees.



**Location: Grand Ronde Fire Station**

**Time: 8-5pm  
Saturdays & Sundays  
July 19-20 & 26-27  
Aug. 23-24 & 30-31**

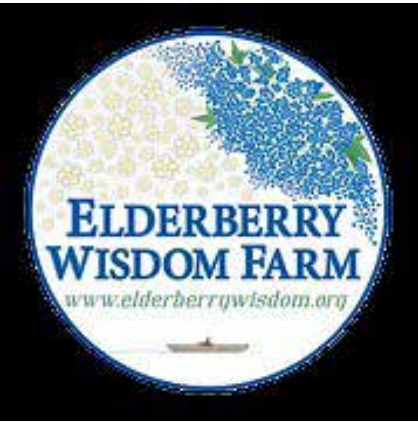
**All Tribal, Non-Tribal, and Employees Welcome!**

**Free Course and exam with no cost to participants**

**Radios Provided to those that complete & pass the test!**

**GRAND RONDE  
EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
28480 McPherson Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
503-879-1837  
[Brandy.bishop@grandronde.org](mailto:Brandy.bishop@grandronde.org)  
[e.org](http://e.org)

Email or call to sign up



## 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](mailto:accounts@elderberrywisdom.org).

Paid ad



# 2025-26 CTGR tagged hunting and fishing opportunities

**Hunting and fishing licenses/Harvest license**  
The Natural Resources Department began issuing and rebranding the Grand Ronde hunting and fishing license in August 2023. The new harvest license is required for all hunting tags for 2025. If your license does not have a hologram, come see us. Additionally, see the Member Services Department if you need to update the address on your harvest license before requesting a new license from NRD. **To pick up any tag(s) in 2025, regardless of Reservation only, Trask only or MOA, you must have the new harvest license. This includes requested transferees.** Grand Ronde Tribal enrollment cards and hunter safety certificates (if applicable) are required at time of licensing.

**Applications**  
All applications are electronic in 2025. If you wish to complete a paper application, contact 503-879-2424, stop by our office or request an application by email at [huntingandfishing@grandronde.org](mailto:huntingandfishing@grandronde.org)

## New for 2025

- **MOA fall bear** – Tag available first come, first serve over the counter.
- **MOA general cougar** – Tag available first come, first serve over the counter.
- **MOA wild turkey** – Harvest card available first come, first serve over the counter.

All **MOA** tags are valid in the Wilson, Trask, Willamette, Stott Mountain and Santiam (as modified) wildlife management units and follow state seasons and regulations.  
First come, first serve over the counter tags will be available to pick up Monday, July 28. Refer to the hunt table for all available hunts and dates.

**Fishing**  
Double bag limits allowed on select species with your Grand Ronde issued harvest license and **not combinable with a state issued license.** Contact the Natural Resources Department or visit the MOA webpage for more information.

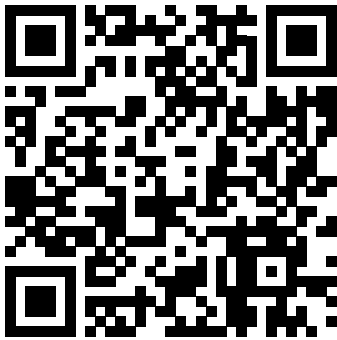
## 2025-26 Trask management tag and Reservation only random lottery

The Tribe uses a random selection for all draw tags. Failure to follow the rules outlined below will result in all applications being void for all hunts applied.

- To enter the random lottery, you must:
1. Have a hunting and fishing license or harvest license issued by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
  2. Not be ineligible for a tag for the year applying (generally due to not reporting).
  3. **Apply by the application deadline, 5 p.m. Friday, July 18.**
- Staff will begin notifying successful applicants by telephone/email Tuesday, July 22, and no later than Friday, July 25.  
Tags will be available for issue on Monday, July 28.

**How to apply:**  
To apply online use the below QR Code or weblink. For a paper application contact Natural Resources.

UPDATED



Trask applications

<https://weblink.grandronde.org/Forms/traskhunting2025>

UPDATED



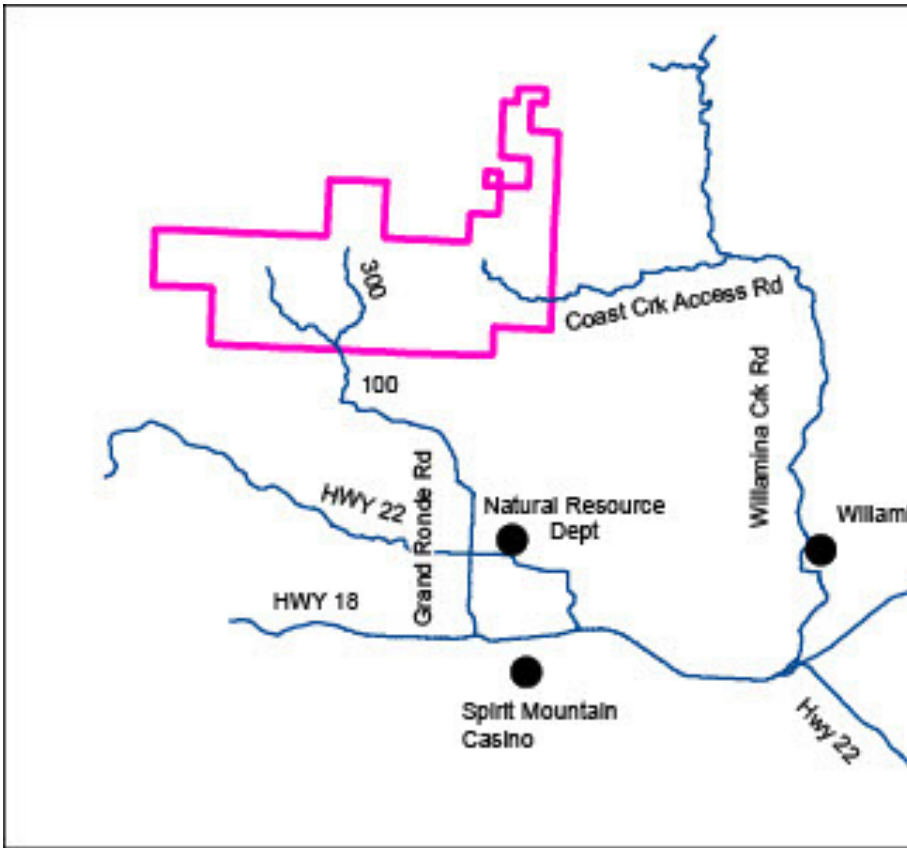
Reservations

<https://weblink.grandronde.org/Forms/ReservationHuntApp2025>

**For any questions you may reach us at the following:**  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Attn: Natural Resources  
Mail: 9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Physical: 47010 SW Hebo Rd.  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
Office: 503-879-2424  
Email: [HuntingandFishing@grandronde.org](mailto:HuntingandFishing@grandronde.org)

### Reservation only

Reservation only tags and seasons are ONLY VALID ONLY ON



### General guidelines

- A valid Grand Ronde hunting and fishing license or harvest license is required before submitting applications, this includes youth 11 and older.
- Lost tags will not be replaced. It is the licensee's responsibility to keep all tags in a safe and secure place.
- Under no circumstances will a tag be issued without a Tribal issued harvest license.
- If picking up for others, please notify Natural Resources **prior** to pick up. The Tribal issued harvest license **AND** Grand Ronde issued Tribal ID card of the person requesting to have their tag picked up will be required when picking up the tag. No exceptions.
- To apply for the Reservation only hunt, Tribal members must successfully complete a one-time mandatory educational tutorial, which can be completed at time of application. **Under no circumstances will a tag be issued without the hunter having completed the tutorial.**

### Youth tags

- Any licensed Tribal member between the ages of 11-17 may apply. Youth 13 and under, **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age unless hunting on property owned by the parents or legal guardian.
- Youth hunters 11 years of age may apply. However, they must turn 12 by the "last day to pick up tag" and possess a Grand Ronde issued harvest license. All youth must have completed their hunter's safety certificate before a tag will be issued.
- Youth may apply for all tags in addition to youth only hunts. All rules apply.
- Youth may not hunt with a youth tag once they turn 18. Example: Youth apply for youth bow (hunt dates Aug. 30-Sept. 28), is awarded tag when 17, receives tag, turns 18 Sept. 10. This tag could no longer be hunted by that youth after Sept. 10.

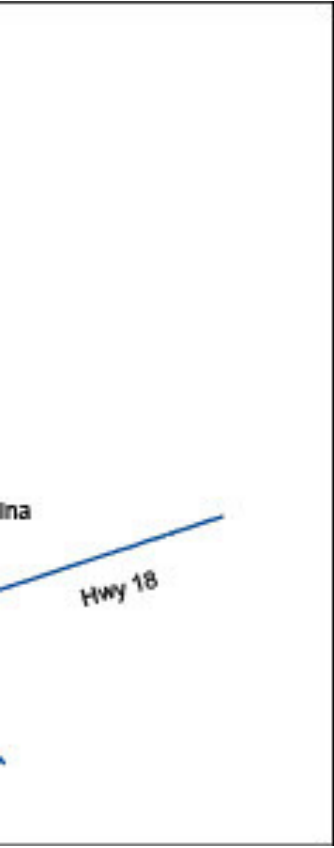
### Tag reporting

In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Ordinance, all tag reports (harvest, non-harvest and lost tags) are required **to be reported within 30 days of the last day of the season or as otherwise specified on the tag receipt.** If tags are not reported, the licensee is **ineligible** to receive tag(s) for the next harvest season.



ties

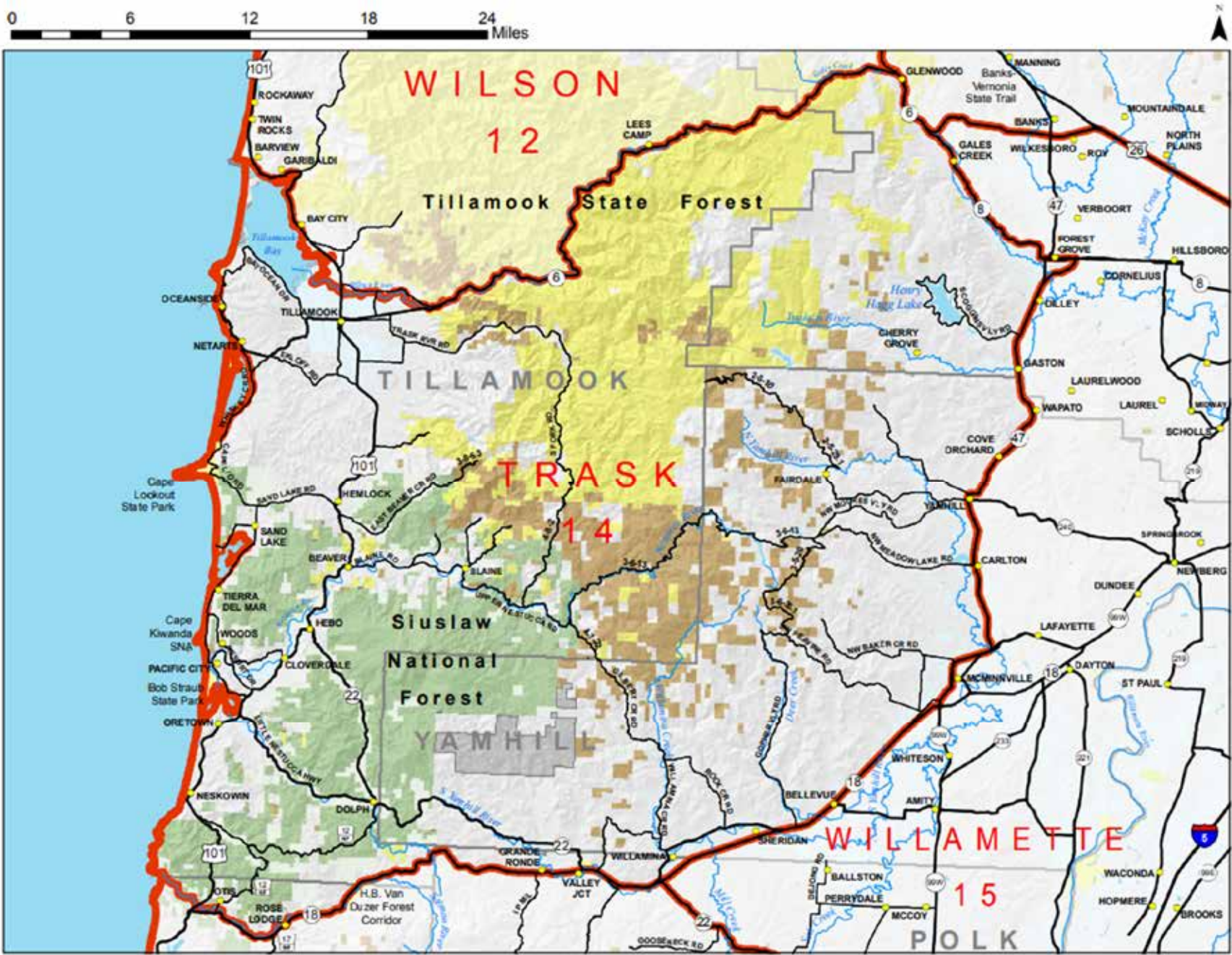
N THE RESERVATION.



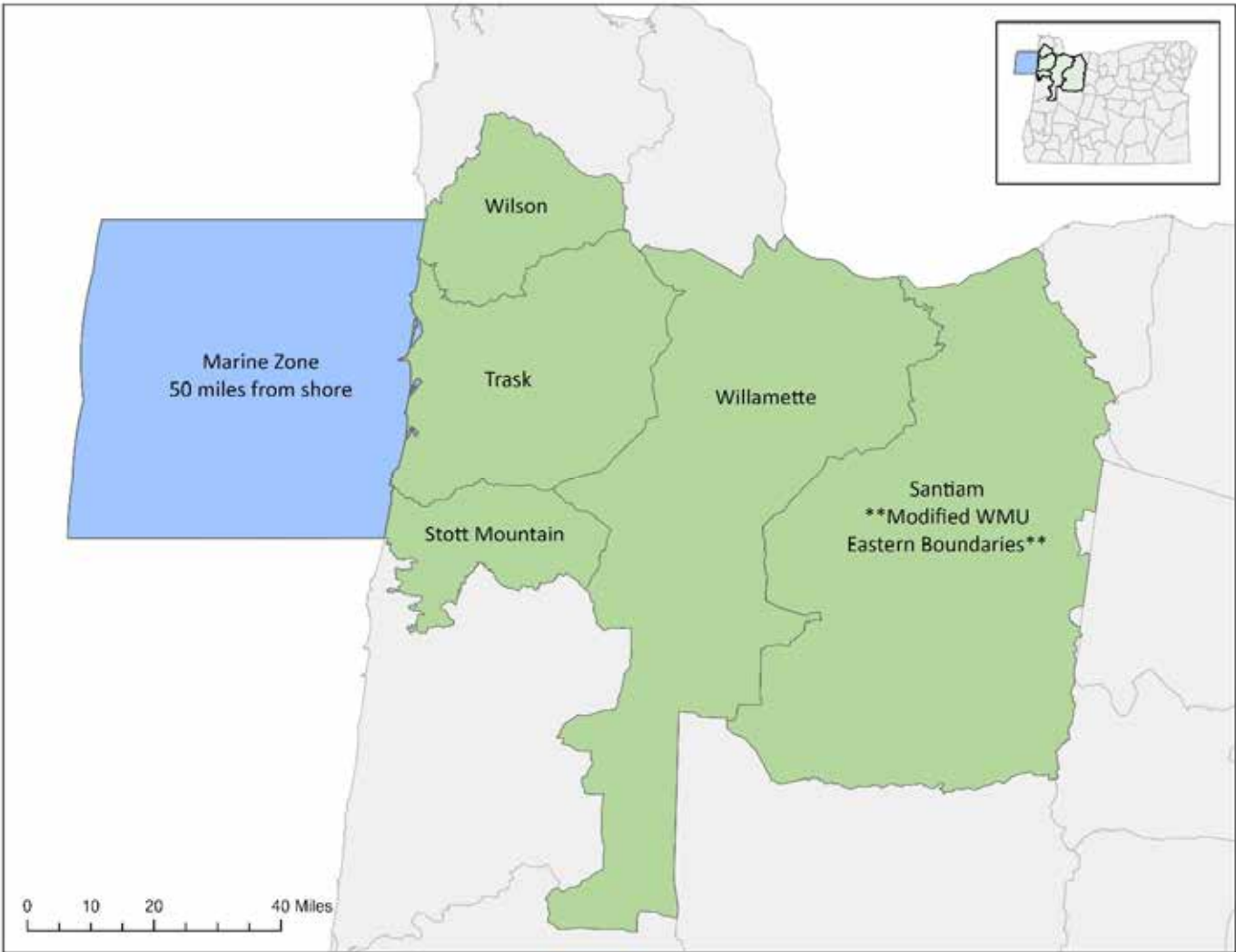
DEER						
The hunter is allowed both a MOA general season and Trask buck tag. The hunter may request one additional MOA tag after the initial successful hunt is reported. A hunter may only apply for one Reservation only season <b>and</b> one Trask draw season (excluding control damage doe).						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
Reservation Only	Draw	Bow Buck	8/26/2025	8/29/2025	8/19/2025	9/28/2025
Trask	Draw	Bow Buck	8/30/2025	9/28/2025	8/22/2025	10/28/2025
MOA	OTC	General Season (Bow and ALW seasons on 1 tag. Hunt dates and Bag limits vary based on WMU, see MOA information for specifics)	8/30/2025	12/14/2025	N/A	1/13/2026
Reservation Only	Draw	Coast Buck	9/30/2025	10/3/2025	9/23/2025	11/2/2025
Trask	OTC	Coast Buck	10/4/2025	11/7/2025	N/A	12/7/2025
Trask	Draw	Control Damage Doe	10/4/2025	11/7/2025	9/25/2025	12/7/2025
Trask	Draw	Muzzleloader Deer	11/8/2025	11/21/2025	10/31/2025	12/21/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Muzzleloader Deer	12/7/2025	12/13/2025	12/1/2025	1/12/2026
ELK						
The hunter must choose either a MOA general season or Trask tag; limit one per hunter. A hunter may only apply for one Reservation only season.						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
Reservation Only	Draw	Bow Bull	8/26/2025	8/29/2025	8/19/2025	9/28/2025
MOA	OTC	General Season (Bow and ALW seasons on 1 tag. Hunt dates and Bag limits vary based on WMU, see MOA information for specifics)	8/30/2025	11/28/2025	N/A	12/28/2025
Trask	Draw	Bow Bull	8/30/2025	9/28/2025	8/22/2025	10/28/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	1st Season - Bull	11/12/2025	11/14/2025	11/5/2025	12/14/2025
Trask	OTC	1st Season – Bull	11/15/2025	11/18/2025	11/7/2025	12/18/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	2nd Season - Any Elk	11/19/2025	11/21/2025	11/12/2025	12/21/2025
Trask	OTC	2nd Season – Spike	11/22/2025	11/28/2025	11/14/2025	12/28/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Muzzleloader Elk - Any Elk	12/14/2025	12/27/2025	12/8/2025	1/26/2026
CONTROL DAMAGE ELK - May only apply for one season						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
Trask	Draw	NE Trask Muzzleloader Elk - Any Elk	12/13/2025	12/30/2025	12/5/2025	1/29/2026
Trask	Draw	Trask Unit	12/1/2025	3/31/2026	11/14/2025	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	West Trask #1	12/1/2025	1/31/2026	11/14/2025	3/2/2026
Trask	Draw	West Trask #2	2/1/2026	3/31/2026	1/24/2026	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	Central Trask #1	1/1/2026	2/14/2026	12/12/2025	3/16/2026
Trask	Draw	Central Trask #2	2/15/2026	3/31/2026	2/6/2026	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	SE Trask	12/1/2025	3/31/2026	11/14/2025	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	NE Trask #1	12/1/2025	3/31/2026	11/14/2025	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	NE Trask #2	1/1/2026	3/31/2026	12/12/2025	4/30/2026
Trask	Draw	Panther Creek	1/1/2026	3/31/2026	12/12/2025	4/30/2026
BEAR						
The hunter must choose either a MOA general season OR a Trask tag. The hunter may request one additional MOA tag after the initial successful hunt is reported. An ODFW check in is required within 10 days of kill.						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
MOA	OTC	General Fall Bear	8/1/2025	12/31/2025	N/A	1/30/2026 or within 10 days of kill
Trask	OTC	Bear (Transfer Eligible Only)	8/1/2025	12/31/2025	N/A	1/30/2026 or within 10 days of kill
COUGAR						
The hunter may request one additional tag after the initial successful hunt is reported. An ODFW check in is required within 10 days of kill.						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
MOA	OTC	General Cougar	8/1/2025	7/31/26	N/A	8/1/26 or within 10 days of kill
TURKEY						
The hunter may request one additional card after seasonal limit is reached and the initial successful card is returned to NRD.						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
MOA	OTC	General Fall Turkey	9/1/2025	1/31/2026	N/A	3/2/2026
YOUTH HUNTS						
The youth hunter may apply for each hunt.						
Hunt Area	Draw Or Over The Counter	Season	Opening Day	Last Day	Last Day To Pick Up Tag	Last Day To Report Hunt
Trask	Draw	Youth Antlerless Elk	8/15/2025	12/31/2025	8/8/2025	1/30/2026
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth Bow Buck	8/26/2025	8/29/2025	8/19/2025	9/28/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth Bow Bull	8/26/2025	8/29/2025	8/19/2025	9/28/2025
Trask	Draw	Youth Bow Elk - Any Elk	8/30/2025	9/28/2025	8/22/2025	10/28/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth Coast Buck	9/30/2025	10/3/2025	9/23/2025	11/2/2025
Trask	Draw	Youth C/D Deer	10/4/2025	11/9/2025	9/25/2025	12/9/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth 1st Season - Bull	11/12/2025	11/14/2025	11/5/2025	12/14/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth 2nd Season - Any Elk	11/19/2025	11/21/2025	11/12/2025	12/21/2025
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth Muzzleloader Deer - Any	12/7/2025	12/13/2025	11/30/2025	1/12/2026
Reservation Only	Draw	Youth Muzzleloader Elk - Any Elk	12/14/2025	12/27/2025	12/7/2025	1/26/2026



2025 Trask Management Unit



MOA area for CTGR



MOA general information

Grand Ronde follows all state seasons within the expanded MOA areas of Wilson, Trask, Willamette, Stott Mountain and Santiam wildlife management units, and Marine Zone. Hunting or fishing outside of the expanded MOA area is not authorized and may result in state or Tribal citation. If in doubt, contact the NRD office.

Columbia River fishing is allowable from the Bonneville Dam to the Interstate 5 bridge on the Oregon side as state regulations allow.

Maps of MOA boundaries for Avenza or onX are available at the website.



# Summer fun



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Liam Allen, 8, right, watches as Angel Ocasio looks to transfer a spinning plate to his stick during Ocasio's performance in the Tribal gym Wednesday, June 25. The Grand Ronde Tribal Library Summer Reading Program presented the morning of comedy, magic and juggling with Ocasio.**

# 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. ■

## Balanced and fair. We can get it right!



**Pete Wakeland**  
**Running for Tribal Council 2025**


Paid political ad



# TEACH

our children  
our stories

**BECOME A TEACHER.**  
**APPLY TO AITP**  
[www.pdx.edu/aitp](http://www.pdx.edu/aitp)




# 2025 Acorn Camp

September 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
TouVelle State Park  
*near Table Rock on the Upper Rogue River*

- Gathering & Processing Acorns
- Drumming & Singing
- Sunrise Hike
- Cultural Activities


*Space limited - please sign up ASAP.*  
*Registration open until mid-July or until full.*

## Contact

 Zena Green, Siletz  
[ZenaG@ctsinsn.us](mailto:ZenaG@ctsinsn.us)


Joseph Ham, Grand Ronde  
[Joseph.Ham@grandronde.org](mailto:Joseph.Ham@grandronde.org)

**Meals Provided!**  
Camping will be available



## TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

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



**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.

**To register contact:**

Jacob.boekhoff@grandronde.org  
503-879-2146

**Certificate awarded upon completion.**

**Lunch will be provided.**



Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



# Native art



Photo courtesy of Jenny Sanchez

**Tribal youth Milah Miller, 8, displays her artwork from a Plains Indians painting project at the International School of Beaverton in Beaverton recently. Tribal member Jenny Sanchez, who is the Title VI American Indian/Alaska program facilitator for the Beaverton School District, and Tribal member Gary Westley brought a visitor in to teach the students.**

# VOTE

I'd love an opportunity to earn your vote and serve our community.



# TOBY 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

Elect Toby McClary

- ◆ Fair ◆
- ◆ Ethical ◆
- ◆ Independent ◆

[tobymcclary@gmail.com](mailto:tobymcclary@gmail.com)   Toby McClary for Tribal Council

Paid political ad


# 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. ■

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ELDER JUSTICE

*Do you feel respected as an elder?*

*Studies show that a significant amount of Native American Elders (one in three) are actively experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual, sexual, and/or financial maltreatment/abuse/disrespect*



*nsayka munk-kintoks nsayka ulman tilixam*  
"we respect/honor our elders"

*If you or someone you know is experiencing disrespect and would like support, make a confidential report by calling*  
**503-879-SAFE**  
*Follow up and support will be completed by the Community Health Elder Justice Coordinator*

# CLEAR Clinic

All services are free\*

It's Back

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July @ 3–7pm  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July @ 12–4 pm

Services Provided:

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

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





# Service awards



Contributed photo

Cashier/Fueler Taylor Frazier, left, and Deli/Merchandiser Angela Bakerat play a game during Grand Ronde Food & Fuel Company’s second quarter service awards Wednesday, June 18. A small gathering with food and games was held for GRFF Co. employees who had anniversaries during the second quarter. The employees recognized were Manager Christina N. Sanchez-Williams, 15 years; Shift Lead Timothy D. Nash, 13 years; Cashier-Fueler Larry Whitley, 10 years and Cashier-Fueler Christopher T. Rolan, six years.

# Tribal nonemergency text

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

“If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line,” said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight.

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911.

For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

# 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](http://www.grandronde.org).

For more information or assistance call 503-879-5211, 503-879-2037 or 503-879-4533. ■

# Volunteers Wanted



## Volunteers Wanted

Grand Ronde Tribal Emergency Services is looking for Volunteers

If you are interested in helping to service your community, please apply by visiting [www.Grandronde.org](http://www.Grandronde.org) at

## Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Firefighter
- Water Tender Driver
- EMS
- Auxiliary
- Chaplaincy

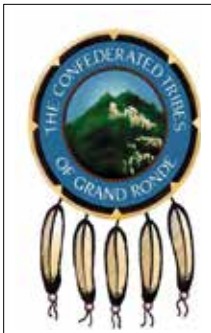


Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Emergency Services

9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347 503-879-3473



# VOTE – 2025



Pamala



Warren-Chase

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Tribal Council

Contact me @

[Warren31@yahoo.com](mailto:Warren31@yahoo.com)

971-237-3696

Paid political ad



WILLAMINA SCHOOL DISTRICT

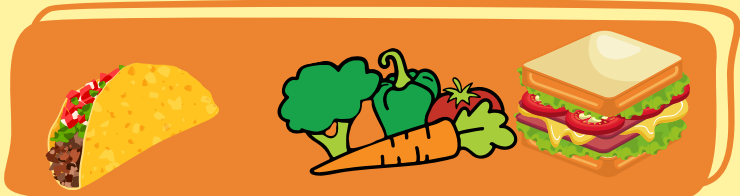
**FREE  
SUMMER  
MEALS  
PROGRAM**

**NO COST. JUST SHOW UP!**  
**KIDS OR THEIR PARENT MUST BE PRESENT**



This summer, all kids and teens 18 and under can enjoy FREE healthy meals all week long!  
**PICK UP 5 MEALS EVERY THURSDAY IN JULY!**

**TINA MILLER PARK 11:30-11:45**  
**CHACHALU MUSEUM 12:15-12:30**



**QUESTIONS? CALL US: 503-876-2702**

Fuel your summer with good food and great vibes. Spread the word!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider





### EMERGENCY KIT ESSENTIAL ITEMS

- Non-Perishable food items
- First aid kit
- Personal medications
- Bottled water
- Flash light
- Extra clothes
- Matches or lighters
- Credit cards/cash
- Important documents
- Blankets
- Batteries

For more information reach out to your local fire agency or contact:  
**kaylene.barry@grandronde.org**  
**(503)-879-1701**



## Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board of Directors position openings

Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. (SMGI), a Tribal corporation chartered by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Grand Ronde), operates Spirit Mountain Casino – the largest casino in Oregon. Spirit Mountain Casino offers Las Vegas style slots and provides superior entertainment and resort amenities. Spirit Mountain is one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier casinos. Grand Ronde is accepting applications to serve on the Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board of Directors. There are board seats available beginning on Oct. 1.

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

The SMGI Board meets monthly. From time-to-time, additional special meetings may be held. Board members are expected to attend all meetings virtually or in person. In person attendance is strongly encouraged whenever possible. In person meetings are held at Spirit Mountain Casino – although virtual participation will occasionally be permitted with advance notice. Each board member receives a monthly stipend for attending meetings. Travel reimbursement is limited to travel within the six counties of Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Multnomah and Washington.

Board members must have a superior understanding of and experience with financial statements, strong communication and analytical skills, experience in a hospitality or customer service driven environment, 10 years of experience in a senior management position and a solid understanding of the Portland-metro and Salem area economies.

Experience in the following areas is also preferred: Gaming, tourism, corporate finance and accounting, marketing and promotions, human resources, and management of senior executives. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred. The board of directors may, at their discretion, advertise specialized skills depending on the board’s needs at the time of recruitment.

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

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members.

Submission Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18. These positions may remain open until filled.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest describing their qualifications, a résumé and three professional references to:

Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc.  
Attn: Stacia Hernandez and Shannon Ham-Teixeira  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347  
Phone: 503-879-2301  
Email: [stacia.martin@grandronde.org](mailto:stacia.martin@grandronde.org)  
[shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org)

Only candidates who submit complete information will be considered. ■



## VOTE DENISE HARVEY

### FOR GRAND RONDE TRIBAL COUNCIL

#### Experience you can count on!

- ✓ 12 years as Grand Ronde Tribal Council Member
- ✓ 9 years as Gaming Commission Chair
- ✓ 6 years serving IGA Board of Directors
- ✓ 6 years SMCF Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer

#### Service you can trust!

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Tribal Advisory Committee  
Indian Gaming Association Treasurer and Executive Board  
Polk County Sheriff Community Advisory Team  
Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees  
Chemawa Station LLC, Board of Directors  
Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance  
ODOT Transportation Bypass Project  
Truth and Healing Boarding School Project  
VAWA/MMIP Council Advocate 2014-2024  
Headstart Council Advocate 2013-current

**Integrity | Honesty | Reliability**



Paid political ad

## Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes


### 10-4pm

~~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.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com](mailto:Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com)**  
**Marianne Blanchard @ [indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com](mailto:indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com)**  
**Stephanie Craig @ [kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com)**  
**Molly Leno @ [molly.leno@grandronde.org](mailto:molly.leno@grandronde.org)**





# Children & Family SERVICES

**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.


**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

## 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](mailto:joe.ulestad@grandronde.org), by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on his office line, 503-879-1389. ■

Save the Date

# FAMILY NIGHT OUT

Date: August 22, 2025  
Time: 4:00pm  
Location: Grand Ronde Tribal Gym

FOOD


PRIZES

RESOURCE BOOTHS

RIDES



Please note: This is just a save the date, formal invitations will be sent out closer to the event date.



## When you need someone to listen, 988 is here.

Our caring counselors are here to listen 24/7 to whatever you are going through.  
It's free and confidential.

Call or text 988

*A message in partnership with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board*



A VOTE FOR

VALERIA ATANACIO

IS A VOTE FOR

GRAND RONDE PEOPLE

"WE ARE THE FUTURE ANCESTORS"

Paid political ad

Now Accepting Applications

ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

Eligibility Requirements

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

RETURN APPLICATIONS TO ALISHA PARKS SHELL, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ADULT FOSTER CARE MANAGER

PHONE: 503-879-6542

ALISHA.PARKSSHELL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

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

SHAWASH-ILI?I SKUL

tunus-tənas lu?lu

If you have any questions, please email chinukwawaedu@grandronde.org

Are you interested in learning more about what we do at Shawash-ili?i Skul and jump starting your little's exposure to language? Beginning in May, Shawash-ili?i Skul will be hosting chinuk wawa language and culture socializations for littles 2 years old and younger every third Tuesday of the month.

Socializations are scheduled for the following dates from 5:00 to 6:30PM at the Chinuk Wawa Skul Building behind Adult Education:

MAY 20TH

JUNE 17TH

JULY 15TH

AUGUST 19TH

## Cultural Resources Department art program seeking 2-D Tribal work

The Tribal Cultural Resources Department’s art program is seeking to purchase 2-D artworks, to be added into the Cultural Resources Department Portable Works Public Art Collection.

The goal for the art purchase is to ensure that art will be present in public buildings and that it reflects the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde community. This new collection of movable public art will be a rotating collection, to be displayed within conference rooms, hallways, elevator lobbies, common spaces and more.

Last year’s art, featuring 28 pieces from 16 Grand Ronde artists, will be installed in July within the Governance Center and the Tribal gym lobby.

To learn how to share work for purchase, visit <https://weblink.grandronde.org/Forms/CTGRPortableArt>

The call for artists will close at 11:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25.

Purchases will take place in October. Artists who are enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde are eligible for this opportunity. The types of original artwork that qualify for this opportunity are works on paper, paintings, photographs, drawings, textiles, collage, Bas relief, mosaic, glass, ceramic, metal, prints, weaving and other original media intended to be hung on a wall with a 4-inch depth maximum.

Artworks with electrical components are not eligible for purchase at this time. Artwork that fits the dimensions of 30 inches wide, 40 inches high and 4 inches deep or smaller will be prioritized; however, larger works will be considered.

Artworks valued between \$200-\$2,500 will be purchased. A selection panel of artists, Grand Ronde community members and Grand Ronde employees will select the work to be purchased.

For more information, contact Tribal Arts Administrator Mack McFarland at [Mack.McFarland@grandronde.org](mailto:Mack.McFarland@grandronde.org). ■

Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

Serving urban Natives, infant to elder, in Portland and Vancouver

Open Positions

Housing Development Manager

\$100-120K/yr

Accounting Manager

\$81K+/yr

Family Shelter Assistant Manager

\$70-75K/yr

High School Science Teacher (9 mo.)

\$50K+/yr

High School Health & Wellness Counselor/Teacher (9 mo.)

\$50K+/yr

Community Food Coordinator

\$25-27/hr

Foster Care Support Specialist

\$24/hr

Parent-Child Support Specialist

\$24/hr

First Food Farm Assistant (Part-time)

\$21/hr

Substitute Teacher

\$150-175/day

All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit [nayapdx.org/about/jobs](https://nayapdx.org/about/jobs) to learn more.

06/27/25

Paid ad



# Kathleen George for Tribal Council

ExperienceVisionHeart

Kathleen brings decades of tribal service, deep government expertise, and a vision for a thriving future for our Grand Ronde people.



- Proven leadership advocating for strong and healthy Tribal people, resources and culture.
- A voice for our rivers, salmon and traditional foods.
- Supporting sustainable programs for our Tribe's future generations.

[kathleenngorge@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenngorge@gmail.com)

Paid political ad

## WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

### DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE IN SMOKE SIGNALS?

**Tribal member?**  
Did you know Smoke Signals offers special discounted advertising rates for Tribal members.

**Not a Tribal member?**  
We accept ads from non-Tribal members as well. Please contact us for a current list of advertising rates.

**For more information contact:**  
Katherine Warren Steffensmier at 503-879-1466 or [Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org](mailto:Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org)

Smoke Signals is always FREE online at [smokesignals.org](http://smokesignals.org). Click current issue pdf or send an email to [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org) to subscribe.



[WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG](http://WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG)

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# HOW TO ACCESS SMOKE SIGNALS:

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III



# Walking On...

## Nancy Josephine Holmes

July 14, 1947 — May 24, 2025

Tribal spouse Nancy Josephine Holmes passed away Saturday, May 24, at the age of 77.

She was the spouse of Tribal Elder Tim Holmes and a former Tribal Housing Department employee.

A celebration of life was held Monday, July 14, in the Tribal gym, with a meal afterward at the Tribal Elders Activity Center. Her celebration of life was held on what would have been her 78th birthday.

Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.



ilaunch presents

# Mental Health Texts!



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

Text JOIN to  
(971) 318-3459



## Now accepting new residents

**For Grand Ronde and other Federally designated Tribal members of Oregon**  
chaku tush tæmtæm haws – Grand Ronde's new treatment program in Sheridan, Oregon

We are proud to welcome new residents to chakutush tæmtæm haws, a newly launched healing program by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Located in Sheridan, Oregon, this program provides a safe, supportive living environment with on-site wraparound services focused on recovery, mental health, and traditionally centered wellness.

If you or a loved one is ready to take the next step toward healing, we're here for you. Our compassionate team is committed to walking alongside you on your path to wellness.

Location: 1330 West Main Street, Sheridan, Oregon  
Call for services: 503-879-1501





## ATTENTION!!!

DUE TO ILLEGAL DUMPING OF TRASH IN THE RECYCLE BINS AND CONTAMINATION, THIS RECYCLING DEPOT IS ON THE VERGE OF CLOSING AND GOING AWAY.

CTGR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Service offered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building





Registered Dietitian  
Nutritionist  
*Becky Johnson*

Becky Johnson is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist able to work one-on-one with any HWC-eligible 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 with the 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).

Contact Details

For appointments contact the Public Health Department front desk at 503-879-6701 OR contact Becky directly at 503-879-6711 or [Becky.Johnson@grandronde.org](mailto:Becky.Johnson@grandronde.org)



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



Institute for Applied Ecology

IAE Volunteer Opportunity

# Champoeg Volunteer Days

Help restore habitat for First Foods at Champoeg State Heritage Area

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  
**Times:** 9am - 1pm  
**Where:** Champoeg State Heritage Area, Oregon  
**What:** Planting native plants in a First Foods harvest area  
**RSVP:** Contact Evan at [evanlasley@appliedeco.org](mailto:evanlasley@appliedeco.org)

A restroom is available on site, and limited carpooling from Corvallis is available. Learn more at [appliedeco.org/calendar](http://appliedeco.org/calendar).

**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.



Learn more about our work to conserve native species and habits in the Willamette Valley at [www.appliedeco.org](http://www.appliedeco.org).



4950 SW Host St, Corvallis, OR 97333  
541-753-3099  
[info@appliedeco.org](mailto:info@appliedeco.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. ■

## LET’S WORK TOGETHER!

### JOIN THE CTGR TEMPORARY SERVICE POOL

#### TEMP POOL BASICS:

- ✓ **AGE REQUIREMENT**  
Candidates must be at least 18 years in age.
- ✓ **TRIBAL PREFERENCE**  
Tribal preference applies. However, non-tribal candidates will be considered based on business need, certifications and skills required.
- ✓ **AVAILABILITY**  
Most positions work Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Part-time & full-time work is available. Specific schedules will be communicated upon job placement.
- ✓ **ANNUAL HOURS**  
Generally six (6) months or 999 hours (29.99 hours/week) in a calendar year

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Human Resources:  
(503) 879-2109

Toni Mercier  
[Toni.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:Toni.mercier@grandronde.org)

**APPLY ONLINE:**  
<https://www.grandronde.org/employment/>

FIND A JOB OR START YOUR CAREER

GAIN KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND EXPERIENCE

EXPLORE CAREER INTERESTS

HOW IT WORKS:

While we strive to assist and accommodate qualified candidates, it is essential to recognize that placement opportunities are subject to the organization's needs and staffing level gaps. The Temporary Service Pool offers an opportunity for individuals seeking temporary full-time & part-time positions at CTGR, but it's vital to understand that placement is not guaranteed.

- Departments submit requests for temporary staff when they encounter staffing gaps or increased workload demands. These requests drive the creation of placement opportunities within the pool.
- The HR department compiles a list of qualified candidates who have indicated their availability to participate in the Temporary Service Pool. Qualifications are determined by factors such as skills, experience, and compatibility with the requested roles. This list serves as a resource for departments to select suitable candidates for their temporary staffing needs.
- The selection of individuals for specific positions is ultimately the responsibility of the requesting departments. These departments are best equipped to assess how a candidate's qualifications align with their unique needs.

# 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](http://www.SMARTReading.org). ■



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



CTGR EMPLOYMENT

July 3, 2025

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Applications Specialist	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	07/07/2025
Care Coordinator – Sheridan – GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	07/07/2025
Cashier/Fueler – Part Time – Grave Shift	3	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	07/13/2025
Cashier/Fueler – Part Time – Variable Shifts	3	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	07/13/2025
CFS Caseworker – Portland Office	11	\$68,091.69/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	07/07/2025
CFS Investigator	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	07/07/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Clinical Supervisor – Salem – GCR	11	\$68,091.69/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	07/07/2025
Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Family Support Services 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
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part-Time & On-Call	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/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
Network Security Specialist	13	\$99.61/hr.	\$50.87/hr.	07/07/2025
Nurse Practitioner – Health & Wellness	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Pharmacy Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem – GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Pow Wow 2025 – Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.00/hr.	Until Filled
Registered Nurse – AFC	15	\$97,858.44/yr.	\$127,796.59/yr.	07/13/2025
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland – GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
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.	
Tobacco Prevention Assistant	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	07/13/2025
Tribal Lead Security Officer – Oregon City	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	07/07/2025
Women’s Transitional Living Center Case Aide - Behavioral Health	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	07/07/2025


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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

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

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

## 2025 ANNUAL POW WOW TEMP WORKER RECRUITMENT



Questions? Contact:  
Toni Mercier  
(503) 879-2493  
[Toni.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:Toni.mercier@grandronde.org)



\*CTGR Tribal Preference Applies

**JULY - VETERANS**  
**10TH – 14TH**

**AUGUST - CONTEST**  
**14TH – 18TH**

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

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



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Guest Services Lead	7/10/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor	7/10/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Banquets & Event Center Manager	Until Filled	\$52,937.25/yr. DOE
Casino Host	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE
Player Services Representative I	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Lead	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Banquet Server (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips
Bar Porter	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cage Cashier	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Technician I	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$14.70/hr. DOE + Tips

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

**\$500 Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees**

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

**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

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

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

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

✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.





# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · [SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://SMOKESIGNALS.ORG)



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Please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

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

TRUCKER CAPS \$15

BEANIES \$15

PATCHES \$5

STICKERS \$1

Name:

E-mail:

Address:

Phone:





# 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. ■

# Health & Wellness Tribal DNA testing information

Clients must be fully registered with the clinic prior to the testing. It can take three to five business days once all their information is submitted.

The patient cannot schedule with the lab until after registration is complete.

Unregistered patients cannot show up with papers in hand and do the test the same day.

The link for the registration form is [registration-form-use-for-all-2023-24.pdf](#) ([grandronde.org](#)) or it can be emailed and mailed. Patients should contact registration at 503-879-1325 or 503-879-2096.

To complete registration, a copy of a state birth certificate and a copy of a parent’s Tribal identification is needed.

Registration information can be mailed to the address on the form, faxed, emailed or dropped off at the clinic.

The link for the registration form can be found on the Tribe’s main website [www.grandronde.org](#), under “Services – Health & Wellness.” The link to print the form is on the bottom of the page, called “New Patient Registration Form.”

Once everything is submitted and the registration process is complete, the patient can schedule with lab. ■

# Stay safe in the sun: What to know for UV Safety Month



July is UV Safety Month. This month reminds us to protect our skin and eyes from the sun’s harmful rays.

**What Is UV?**

UV stands for ultraviolet. It’s a type of light that comes from the sun. You can’t see UV

rays, but they can hurt your skin and eyes.

Too much UV can cause:

- Sunburn
- Skin cancer
- Eye problems like cataracts
- Early wrinkles and skin damage

**Why UV safety matters**

UV rays can hurt anyone, even on cloudy days. You don’t have to feel hot or get a sunburn to be damaged by the sun. The damage can build up over time and cause health problems later in life.

**How to protect yourself**

You can enjoy time outside and still stay safe. Here’s how:

1. Wear sunscreen.
  - Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.
  - Put it on your skin 30 minutes before going outside.
  - Reapply every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
2. Wear protective clothing.
  - Cover your skin with long sleeves and pants.
  - Wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face and neck.
  - Use sunglasses that block UV rays to protect your eyes.
3. Stay in the shade.
  - Try to stay out of direct sunlight, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is strongest.
4. Be careful near water, sand and snow.
  - These surfaces reflect sunlight and make UV rays stronger.

**Final thought**

Protecting your skin and eyes is easy—and it can save your life. Take time this July, during UV Safety Month, to learn good sun habits. Teach your family too, especially children, because their skin is extra sensitive. Stay sun safe all year long! ■

# July is National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month

This month is about learning and talking about health conditions that affect the head and face. It helps raise support and kindness for people living with these conditions.

**JULY IS NATIONAL CLEFT & CRANIOFACIAL Awareness & Prevention Month**



**What are cleft and craniofacial conditions?**

Some babies are born with differences in how their head or face looks or works. These differences are called cleft and craniofacial conditions.

- A cleft lip is a gap or opening in the upper lip.
- A cleft palate is a gap in the roof of the mouth.
- Craniofacial conditions can affect the bones of the head and face. For example, a baby’s skull may close too early, or the eyes, nose or ears may look different.

These conditions happen during pregnancy, before a baby is born. They are no one’s fault.

**Why awareness matters**

Cleft and craniofacial conditions can affect:

- How a person eats, speaks or hears.
- How a person feels about their appearance.
- Their emotional and social life.

Many people with these conditions need surgeries and special care, sometimes for many years. When people understand these conditions better, they can offer more support and kindness.

**How these conditions are treated**

Doctors and other health professionals work together to help children and adults with these conditions. This team may include:

- Surgeons
- Dentists
- Speech therapists
- Hearing specialists
- Counselors


Treatment may include surgery, therapy and emotional support. With the right care, most people with cleft or craniofacial conditions live healthy and full lives.

**How you can help**

You can make a difference:

- Learn more about cleft and craniofacial conditions.
- Be kind to people who look or speak differently.
- Support families and organizations that help those affected.
- Share what you learn with others.

National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month reminds us that we are all different — and that’s okay. Everyone deserves respect, care, and support, no matter how they look or speak. ■



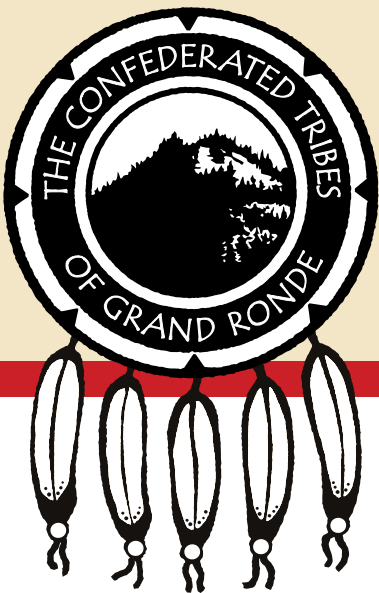
# Welcome

## Dr. Katelyn Bailey

Dr. Katelyn Bailey is a naturopathic physician and acupuncturist. Naturopathic medicine focuses on treating the whole person by addressing root causes of illness and using evidence based natural therapies in addition to prescribed medications. In her visits, she explores how factors like lifestyle, stress, environment, sleep, and nutrition may be affecting your health. Katelyn works with patients diagnosed with chronic conditions, new medical issues, as well as preventative medicine. Katelyn completed her training at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland. After graduation, she completed a two-year residency in pain management and orthopedic injuries. She strives to create an inclusive space where all patients feel empowered to achieve their wellness goals.



# 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow



## August 15–17



**Emcee:**  
Howie Thompson & Marty Thurman

**Arena Director:**  
Anthony Quenelle

**Head Drum Judge:**  
Opie Day

**Head Dance Judge:**  
Tavian Lasley

**Host Drum:**  
Midnite Express

**Invited Drums:**

- Southern Cree
- Hay Creek Singers
- Fort Peck Sioux
- Iron Swing
- Wankinyan Luta

**Ermine Bonnet Teen & Boys Traditional Specials:**  
1st / 2nd / 3rd place and two consolation prizes.

**Committee Specials:**

**Best Dressed Drum Group (Saturday Night)**  
1st \$500 / 2nd \$300 / 3rd \$200

**Men’s Grass (18+)**  
1st \$1,000 / 2nd \$700 / 3rd \$500 / 4th \$300

**Women’s Old Style Jingle (18+)**  
1st \$1,000 / 2nd \$700 / 3rd \$500 / 4th \$300

**Friday, August 15**  
11 a.m. – Royalty pageant (Governance center)  
5 p.m. – Royalty outgoing/crowning ceremonies  
7 p.m. – Grand entry (powwow grounds)

**Saturday, August 16**  
1 p.m. – Grand entry  
7 p.m. – Grand entry (powwow grounds)

**Sunday, August 17**  
11 a.m. – Indian auction  
1 p.m. – Grand entry (powwow grounds)

**uyxat Powwow Grounds**  
9600 Highway 22 (Hebo Road)  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**For more information:**  
[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)

**Vendor information:**  
503-879-4533 • 503-879-2037

**Spirit Mountain Casino:**  
800-760-7977

**Camping available:**  
\$5 with parking – open Wednesday

Clean and sober event: Thank you for respecting the Grand Ronde community and our culture by not displaying gang affiliation or bringing alcohol/drugs or weapons to this event.