



Annual Water
Safety Event
photos — pg. 11



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

AUGUST 1, 2025

Commission accepts petition to amend or repeal MOA

Decision comes nearly two years after ODFW approved historic agreement with Grand Ronde

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

THE DALLES — After a nearly five-hour long meeting, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-2 to accept a petition filed by four Tribes requesting to amend or repeal the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's memorandum of agreement with the state to hunt, fish and gather in expanded areas beyond its reservation. "This was a painful set back," Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "Opening the door to rulemaking threatens not just our rights, but our dignity. The agreement was never about competition with other Tribes; it was about our identity, legacy and the continuity of our culture. But we will not be silent. We are being singled out because we would not compromise on who we are as a people. We remain committed to fighting for our Tribe and defending our legacy and sovereignty." In May 2024, Warm Springs filed a petition with the ODFW Commission, requesting that the agency repeal or amend the historic memorandum of agreement. Three other Tribes – Nez Perce, Umatilla and Yakama – then followed suit. The commission met at The Dalles Civic Au-



Photo by Danielle Harrison

Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta, middle, testifies during the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting at The Dalles Civic Auditorium in The Dalles, Friday, July 11. On the left is Tribal Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen, who also testified, and on the right, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez.

ditorium Friday, July 11, and first heard from Warm Springs attorney Josh Newton and Yakama Nation Senior Attorney Marcus Shirzad, as well as Warm Springs Tribal Council member Jonathan W. Smith Sr. and Yakama Nation Tribal Council Assistant Secretary Jeremy Takala. Other Tribes who filed petitions to amend the agreement are the Umatilla and Nez Perce. "The matters center on fundamental issues such as Tribal sovereignty, self-determination and maintaining positive government-to-gov-

ernment relationships with the state of Oregon," Newton said. "The geographic scope of the agreement interferes with the petitioner Tribes' treaty-protected rights. There's obviously a inter-Tribal disagreement between the petitioner Tribes and the Grand Ronde Tribe about the scope of this agreement...The Grand Ronde Tribe is attempting to use this agreement to advance its incorrect petition, that the petitioner Tribes have no such rights." Smith said there were "serious problems" with the agreement between Grand Ronde and the state. "The problems with the MOA, which intrudes upon our sovereignty, were created by the state and they must be fixed by the state," Smith said. "Treaties are the supreme law of the land by the supremacy clause in the United States Constitution." Grand Ronde's presentation included testimony from Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy (remote), Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Jon. A. George, Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen, Natural Resource-

See MEETING
continued on page 6



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Safia Ben El Aali, 9, right, plays with seven-month-old Ivory Squetinkin at the edge of the dance arena during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.



Special pull out section
2025 Veterans Powwow edition
pages 13-16

Contest powwow set for Aug. 15-17

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow will begin Friday, Aug. 15 and run through Sunday, Aug. 17, at uyxat Powwow Grounds. Camping is available for \$5 with parking. Attendance is free. Midnite Express will be the host drum. Invited drums are Southern Cree, Hay Creek Singers, Fort Peck Sioux, Iron Swing and Wankinyan Luta. Howie Thompson (Assiniboine) and Marty Thurman (Sac and Fox Nation/Cochise Nation/Absentee-Shawnee Tribe and Delaware Nation) will share emcee duties. The arena director will be Anthony Quenelle (Grand Ronde). Opie Day (Anishinaabe), will be head drum judge; head dance judge



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal member Tasina Bluehorse participates in grand entry during the 2024 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds last year. The 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow is Friday to Sunday, Aug. 15-17.

will be Tavian Lasley (Meskwaki/Ojibway) Prizes range from \$1,000 for first place to \$300 for fourth place
See POWWOW
continued on page 5

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings
DATE **TIME**
Wednesday, Aug. 6.....4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 20.....4 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.
Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Tribal election office open through Sept. 4

The Tribal Election Board office is open through Thursday, Sept. 4. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Thursday.

The office is located in the Tribal Community Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. The phone number is 503-879-2271.

Blank signature verification forms have been placed in a hanging basket outside the Election Board’s office door. Complete signature verification forms, with a notarized signature or legible copy of identification including your signature, such as a driver’s license, Tribal ID, passport, etc. need to be mailed to the Election Board for processing. The form will not be processed unless it has been notarized or includes a legible copy of your ID to match signatures.

To request a signature verification form by phone or email, contact the Election Board at 503-879-2271 or election.board@grandronde.org.

Ballots were mailed to voters with verified signatures Thursday, July 24. Tribal members can submit a verified signature card at any time up to and including Election Day, which is Saturday, Sept. 6.

There will be a ballot box in the Governance Center during the election season and one in the Community Center on Election Day to drop ballots off.

Ballots will be available, as they have been in the past, for Tribal members who prefer to vote in person. It is the voter’s responsibility to ensure their ballot is received by the Election Board on or before Election Day.

Remember, if using the Post Office, all mail must go to Portland to be sorted before returning to Grand Ronde, so make sure your ballot is in the mail a few days early. ■

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**.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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



WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE

ISSUE DATE

MEMBERS OF:

Wednesday, Aug. 6 Aug. 15
Wednesday, Aug. 20 Sept. 1
Thursday, Sept. 4 Sept. 15
Monday, Sept. 22 Oct. 1

Indigenous Journalists Association
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
2022 IJA General Excellence
2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

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.
- Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 14-16, Annual fish distribution for Tribal members, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Natural Resources Department, 47010 SW Hebo Road. Must show current photo ID.
- 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.
- Thursday, Aug. 21. Portland fish distribution for Tribal members, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., CTGR Portland Area Office, 4445 SW Barbur Blvd. #105. Must show current photo ID.

kwayts-mun (September)

- Monday, Sept. 1 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.
- Wednesday, Sept. 3 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Saturday, Sept. 6 – Tribal Election Day. 503-879-2271.
- Sunday, Sept. 7 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Tribal Council swearing in-ceremony, 11 a.m., Tribal Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Sept. 10 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Sept. 24 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Thursday, Sept. 25 – Northwest/West Coast Indigenous Fashion Show, 6 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway.
- Friday, Sept. 26 – Tribal offices closed in observance of National Native American Day.

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

Economic Development moving under Tribal Lands

The Tribal Economic Development program has merged with the Tribal Lands Department under the direction of current Tribal Lands/Self-Governance Manager Jan M. Reibach.

“The program is continuing to actively operate while it’s under development,” Reibach said.

As part of the move, General Manager’s Office Executive Assistant Barbara Branson has moved to the Lands Department. Her new title is Support Services Coordinator. Central phones and the Records Management Program, which were previously under the purview of the General Manager’s Office, will also be under the Lands Department.

Tribal Council Coordinator Chelsea Baranski and Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Ham-Teixeira will assist Interim General Manager Bryan Langley with administrative duties.

“With Jan taking on the additional responsibilities of economic development and needing additional support and with Barbara’s skill set of administration and having worked in the Tribe’s previous Small Business Development Department, it was a good fit,” Langley said. “It has also made the move easier on me having the support from Chelsea and Shannon.”

Reibach can be reached at 503-879-2394 or Jan.Reibach@grandronde.org. ■



Jan M. Reibach


School clothes program is open

The Social Services school clothing program is open and requirements are as follows:

- Child must be an enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member (must provide CIB or Tribal ID);
- Child must be of school age and must be registered in preschool, elementary, middle or high school;
- Income must meet eligibility criteria.

To learn more about the application process or to get an application, call the Social Services front desk at 503-879-2034 or stop in between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Social Services is located in the Tribal Community Center building on the Tribal campus.

The program closes Wednesday, Dec. 31. ■



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-teixeira@grandronde.org

Applications available online at:
www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/

Applications also available in the Tribal Governance building:
Located at the Tribal Council office near the security desk.

Cedar Circle Home Visiting

Now Enrolling Families for Services

Requirements:


- Tribal Member or Tribal Descendants
- No referral needed
- Sign-up period: Prenatal- 3 months of age (please reach out for exceptions).
- Service length: Prenatal- age five*
- First home visit will mark the official enrollment of family.
- Service area within Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Polk, Marion, Yamhill and Tillamook County.

*Children will be able to graduate at age three; services will be available through the age of five if Family Support Specialist (FSS) sees fit.

About Cedar Circle Home Visiting

Cedar Circle is a home visiting program that will support parents, caregivers, and babies prenatally through 5 years of age. In this program you will be connected with a Family Support Specialist that will share information about child development and parenting, promote healthy and nurturing parent-child relationships, and provide information and referrals to strengthen families. Our Family Support Specialists have access to supplies for their families to help them meet their needs.

Interested in enrollment?
Jenn Clark
Cedar Circle Home Visiting
Family Support Specialist
503-879-6713



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 August 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. Friday, Aug. 22, 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 — The Tribe, along with school districts across the state, was trying to figure out the safest way to open school in the fall, with COVID-19 case numbers still high nationwide. Although school leaders had advocated for a hybrid model combining virtual and in-person classes, updated guidance from the state was resulting in an all-online experience for at least the first few weeks or months of school.

2015 — Archeology students from the University of Washington in Seattle set up camp for a field school in Grand Ronde, in collaboration with the Tribe’s Historic Preservation Office. The school, taught by Dr. Sara Gonzalez of the University of Washington, also drew students from other colleges, including Portland State University. After excavating items from the reservation’s old grade school and analyzing them, students returned them to the ground where they were found.



2015 File photo

2010 — The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., visited Grand Ronde for five days in mid-July. Volunteers helped to set up the 72-panel, 253-foot wall at the old powwow grounds in front of the Governance Center.

2005 — Changes to the Tribe’s enrollment ordinance, mostly to make enrollment easier, topped the list of issues important to Tribal members in four community meetings held across the Northwest. Members did not agree how the ordinance should be changed, however.

2000 — Grand Ronde’s Polk County Sheriff’s Office team grew to six full-time deputies with two additional hires.

1995 — The Oregon Historical Marker Program installed a historical marker on Highway 18, a quarter mile from Grand Ronde Road, depicting Tribal photos and a summary of the history of the Grand Ronde Tribe. It was a project Tribal Council and staff members had been working on for a few years.

1990 — No edition available.
1985 — No edition available.

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

Acupuncture in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



Mallory Harman, LAc



Alison Healy, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc

Acupuncture can help with...

- pain
- headaches/migraines
- digestive issues
- women's health issues
- emotional pain & trauma
- diabetic neuropathy
- addictions
- and so much more!

Questions or to schedule:

CALL OR TEXT: 503-482-9370

EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com



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. Also send comments to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to 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 or send comments to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

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

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. ■

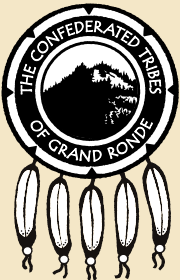
Contest Powwow
vendors wanted!

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

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

For more information or assistance call:

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribal Council approves contract for Native Plant Nursery seed processing facility

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a contract with Advanced Native Construction LLC of Jefferson, Oregon, to build a seed processing facility at the Tribe’s Native Plant Nursery during its Wednesday, July 23, meeting.

The Native Plant Nursery is located adjacent to the Natural Resources Department and was established in 2015 with a plan to grow camas lilies, Yampa and bare-stemmed biscuitroot, among other plants.

Since then, the program has expanded to include a hoophouse to start seeds and cuttings in, first foods for Tribal gatherings and additional capacity for growing plants used in restoration projects.

Native Plant Nursery staff have also participated in projects to educate the Tribal community about the importance and various uses

of Native plants, such as nursery tours, work parties and opportunities for youth.

When completed, the enclosed pole barn will allow Natural Resources staff to process seeds and conduct related activities in a permanent, indoor location.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved appointing Annabelle Layman to the Elder Board with a term ending March 31, 2027;
- Approved an agreement with the Metro Regional Land Information System, which will allow the Tribe to map out different tax lots in the Multnomah County metro area;
- And approved the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Powwow is a clean and sober event

POWWOW continued
from front page

in various dance categories. There will also be a best-dressed drum competition Saturday evening, with prizes ranging from \$200 to \$500.

Prize totals will be \$40,000 for drum contests, \$60,600 for dance contests and \$6,000 for committee-sponsored specials, according to Powwow Special Event Board Chair Dana Ainam.

Specials include ermine bonnet teen & boys traditional; men’s grass dance for 18 and older and women’s old-style jingle for 18 and older.

Powwow will begin with a royalty pageant at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, at the Tribal Governance Center Atrium, followed by ceremonies for the outgoing royalty and crowning incoming royalty at 5 p.m. at the powwow grounds. Grand entry will

start at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Aug. 16, grand entry will take place at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Aug. 17, there will be an Indian auction at 11 a.m., and grand entry at 1 p.m.

The powwow is a clean and sober event. Attendees are asked not to bring alcohol, drugs or weapons, and not to display gang affiliation. Smoking and vaping is not allowed around or in the arena or arbor. Dogs are not allowed in the event area, including the arena, around the arbor and in the vendor areas.

The event is often crowded, so people are advised to arrive early enough to allow time for parking and finding seating.

For more information, visit www.grandronde.org. For vendor information, call 503-879-4533 or 503-879-2037. ■

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
Due Date | August 25, 2025 11:59pm PST

submit your art and share your story.

Current MOA will remain in effect for now

MEETING continued
from front page

es Department Manager Colby Drake, Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta, Tribal Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier, Tribal Ceremonial Fisher Jade Unger and Tribal Elder and past Tribal Council Chair Reyn Leno.

Dirksen told the commission that he was part of the team who helped put the MOA together and had worked with commission staff and other Tribes to develop the plan.

“We thought we were ready to roll in June 2023 when the MOA was on the agenda, but it was pulled and delayed to give what turns out to be the petitioning Tribes more time to review,” he said. “Then, it was back on the agenda in August 2023 and you approved that plan. I really wish you could see the power of the decision you made that day...The best description I can give you is that it was really a celebration. We have Tribal members who have waited decades to hold a Tribal tag to hunt and fish in these areas that are so important to the Tribe.

He continued, “While I wish I could keep talking to you about the great things that have happened under the MOA, we’re here to talk about these petitions and the desire of a group of Tribes to take those rights away. We’ve heard a lot about federal treaty claims. I’m a biologist, not an attorney, but I do know that federal treaty claims need to be done in federal court and not here with the commission. Our agreement was with you. It wasn’t with other Tribes.”

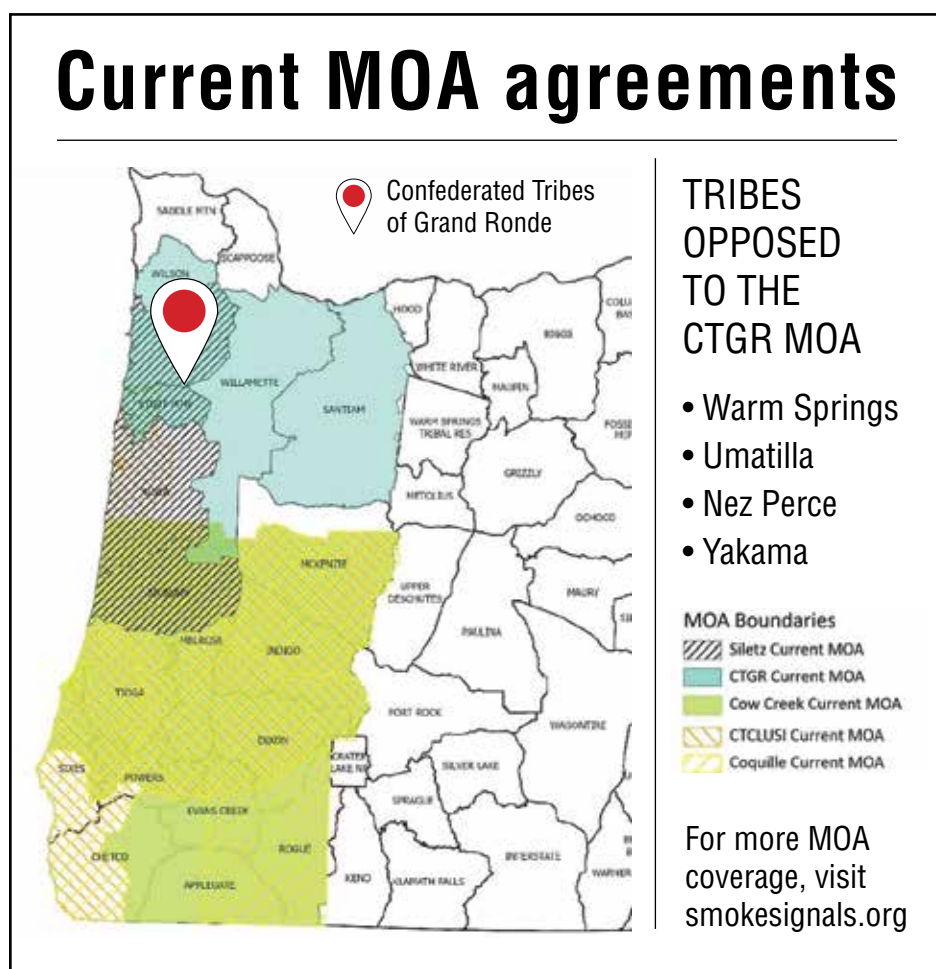
Dirksen noted that the MOA wasn’t a “blank check,” with an unlimited number of tags issued that would subsequently deplete wildlife populations.

“Every single year, we work to develop a proposal that covers what we intend to do that year,” he said. “We work carefully with ODFW staff to make sure our proposal will not have an impact on the resources.”

Chris Mercier urged the commission to “focus on what you know has happened so far.”

“Just because a Tribe says they have rights doesn’t necessarily make it so and there are areas... (mentioned) by the petitioners that have not been adjudicated...that tends to be the providence of the federal court to adjudicate those areas. In any case, Grand Ronde’s right to hunt and fish in those locations because of the MOA does not actually conflict with other Tribes’ ability to hunt and fish...It is not exclusive, and there’s nothing in the Grand Ronde MOA that prevents other Tribes from exercising their hunting and fishing rights in those units...Like I said in the past, please focus on the facts when you try and make this decision, not what-ifs or hypotheticals, but what has happened in the two years since this MOA took effect.”

In addition to Jon A. George and Mercier, other Tribal Council members in attendance included Denise Harvey, Lisa Leno, Kathleen



Graphic by Samuel Briggs III

George, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Matthew Haller.

Grand Ronde’s current MOA will remain in effect until the commission decides whether to repeal or amend it. There is no specific timeline for the process. By law, MOAs are reviewed by both parties every five years regardless.

“Accepting the petition does not nullify any of the MOA’s current provisions,” ODFW Commissioner Bob Spelbrink said. “It just says, ‘Let’s continue to move forward to a proposal that all parties accept. There’s no intention of pursuing any major changes to the current MOA that will reduce any Tribal opportunities...I don’t see anything here that would reduce that opportunity you’ve had the last couple of years. I appreciate all of the input here today.’”

The MOA signed between the Tribe and ODFW on Aug. 4, 2023, expanded the cultural hunting, fishing and gathering area from the 1,300-square-mile Trask Unit to more than 11,000 square miles. The agreement is limited to subsistence and ceremonial harvest. The Tribe is not allowed to implement any commercial harvest opportunities.

“It is intolerable to see Oregon turn its back on this previous commitment to honor ceremonial and subsistence fishing and hunting,” an emailed statement from the Tribe said. “This land is integral to who Grand Ronde is and who (we) have been since time immemorial. The reopening of the MOA sends a clear message: The state of Oregon no longer acknowledges Grand Ronde’s rights like it did only two years ago.”

Four other western Oregon Tribes; the Coquille Tribe, Siletz Tribe, Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Tribes, and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe all have similar MOAs with the state. None of these have been considered for amendments or repeals after the agreements were approved by the commission.

“This is not a proud moment

in Oregon history – and instead marks the profound dysfunction in the state-Tribal government-to-government relationship,” Cow Creek Tribal Board of Directors Chairman Carla Keene said in an email. “It is unconscionable that four commissioners chose to undermine an agreement between the state of Oregon and the Grand Ronde Tribal government, prioritizing the voices of non-Oregon Tribes over an Oregon Tribe. A volunteer commission without an understanding of Tribal homeland integrity or Oregon Tribal history, and who does not engage in Tribal consultation, should not have the authority to determine the parameters of an Oregon Tribe’s sovereign rights...I don’t know where we go from here. This decision is a violation of trust and a blatant disrespect for the rights of one Oregon Tribe, which sends a message to all Oregon Tribes. The question now is how – and if – we can recover and repair, or if we are reliving a history of false promises and words once again.”

Petition to amend MOA

In May 2024, Warm Springs filed a petition with ODFW, requesting that the agency repeal or amend the historic memorandum of agreement.

Warm Springs stated the reasons for its request were because the MOA “creates conflict” with the terms of the Warm Springs Tribe’s 1855 treaty and also due to what it asserted was a “legal error” in the decision-making process, as two of the commissioners who voted in favor of the MOA were allegedly acting during expired terms of office.

After Warm Springs filed its petition, the Yakama, Nez Perce and Umatilla all filed petitions to repeal or amend the state’s agreement with Grand Ronde.

All of the petitioners cited the “legal error” of the two commissioners with expired terms voting on the agreement, as well as the alleged violation of treaty rights,

although the legal error portion of the petition was not addressed by the petitioners during the meeting.

“Under Oregon law, the maximum length of a commissioner’s term is four years, but commissioners are authorized to hold their office until their successor is elected and qualified. Action by a commission with holdover members is not invalid,” an ODFW staff memo stated.

The ODFW Commission initially had 90 days from when it received the petition to either accept or deny it. However, it expanded that deadline by nearly a year in order to allow for the petitioning Tribes to meet with Grand Ronde to discuss the MOA. After three meetings, the Tribes were unable to reach an agreement.

Tribal Council reacts to decision

During its Tuesday, July 15, Legislative Action Committee meeting, several Tribal Council members expressed their disappointment regarding the way Friday’s commission meeting had gone.

“I don’t know what to say,” Mercier said. “It was awfully hard to sit there and watch years of work just disappear. So, we’ll look at what our next steps are. It was very, very disappointing...But we’ll figure out a way forward like we always do.”

Harvey said it was “kind of shocking,” that the commission “didn’t know what the boundaries are on their authority.”

“Why they even allowed two Tribes from other states to petition on an Oregon issue kind of boggles my mind,” she said. “I was a commissioner for 10 years and we always had to look at the federal laws and the state laws. We knew where our authority was and we stayed in that lane.”

Jon A. George said that while it was disappointing, he was very grateful to everyone who showed up to the hearing.

“There was great support last Friday,” he said. “You know, all of our staff and hunters and fishers. It was hard to get to that and travel back (the same day) to do other things, too.”

Kathleen George called the decision, “incredibly disappointing.”

“It was interesting to see the division among the ODFW commissioners,” she said. “The two who supported our agreement were really speaking of the relevant issues, that the MOA has a five-year time frame and we’re already two years into it and there’s an (appropriate) time to look at it.”

She reminded Tribal members that the current MOA will stay in place until it is replaced by something else.

“So, while we’re really disappointed, I really want all of our hunters and fishers to know that there is no short-term change to the way, or the areas, in which we’re going and hunt and fish in the upcoming year,” she said.

To watch the commission hearing in its entirety, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeqnXra75fw&t=11s> ■

Casino leadership hosts first-ever Tribal forum

On Wednesday, July 2, Spirit Mountain Casino leadership held its first-ever “Pathways: A Tribal Community Forum,” event, which offered Tribal members an opportunity to engage directly with casino executives.

Following the reception at the new outdoor courtyard space, Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier was joined by Chief Operating Officer Clint Johnson and Chief Financial Officer Jannie Tharp for a conversation with updates on casino operations, casino performance, upcoming projects, and efforts to adapt to market and guest expectations.

The leadership team spoke about the current state of operations, financial trends and plans to refresh some aspects of the casino. They also addressed how Spirit Mountain is adapting to changes in the market and evolving guest expectations.

“Throughout the conversation, they emphasized the casino’s role as an economic engine for the Tribe and shared how they’re working to strengthen its long-term stability and impact,” an emailed statement from the casino said. “This marks the first time casino leadership has made themselves directly available



Contributed photo

From left, Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier, Chief Operating Officer Clint Johnson and Chief Financial Officer Jannie Tharp take part in the first-ever “Pathways: A Tribal Community Forum” event held at the casino Wednesday, July 2.

to the community in this format, reinforcing a strong commitment to transparency and Tribal engagement.”

The event concluded with a question-and-answer session, giving Tribal members the opportunity to share feedback. ■



CTGR Member Services

Requests for Descendancy Options

- 1. Descendancy letter (no DNA testing)
- 2. Certificate of Descendancy (DNA testing required)

Process:
Submit completed application (digital signatures are not accepted) along with a copy of an original state certified birth certificate (we cannot accept copies) and proof of payment for the DNA from the Finance Department. Once application is received, Enrollment Office staff will process and setup the DNA appointment.

DNA at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center: Cost of DNA testing is \$50 and you must pre-register with the clinic prior to your appointment. To pre-register, contact Ashley Stonebrink at 503-879-1325 or Stacy Pond-Bissonette at 503-879-2096.

To request an application or if you have any questions, contact the following:
Memberservices@grandronde.org

Enrollment staff:
Tristin Armstrong 503-879-1619, Tristin.armstrong@grandronde.org
Nick Labonte 503-879-2490, Nick.labonte@grandronde.org

Please send completed applications to:
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Attn: Enrollment Office
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

NORTHWEST/WEST COAST INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW

September 25 • 6pm

This fashion show will feature Indigenous artists, models, and creators, highlighting the beauty and artistry of Indigenous fashion in the Pacific Northwest.

Tribal Council candidates answer membership questions

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Approximately 30 people turned out in person Wednesday, July 16, to hear candidates for Tribal Council discuss their vision for the Tribe, with several others watching on Zoom during the Tribal Council Candidates Forum.

Interim General Manager Bryan Langley moderated the forum, held in Tribal Council Chambers, and asked questions submitted by Tribal members ahead of the event.

Eight candidates are vying for three council seats. Incumbents Denise Harvey and Kathleen George are facing challengers Valeria Atanacio, Pamala Warren-Chase, Toby McClary, Peter Grout, Lisa Archuleta and Pete Wakeland.

Questions covered a range of topics, including candidates’ stance on Tribal executives having contracts, how they would combat nepotism if elected, what their top three priorities would be as a council member and their plans for economic development.

This year there was a new question format. Instead of three candidates answering the same question, each candidate was asked three different questions, with one question per round. There were 21 total questions asked of the seven candidates in attendance. Wakeland was unable to attend the forum.

The forum began with candidates introducing themselves.

Harvey has served on the Tribal Council for 12 years.

“I have been honored to serve our membership and Indian Country,” she said. “I have been a national representative and first Oregon Tribal leader to be on the IGA Board of Directors and the HUD Advisory Committee...As a leader, I take my responsibility here for the Tribe to be strong, to be knowledgeable, to have an opinion and make a decision. That’s what we’re elected to do.”

George has served on council for nine years. She said that there is “amazing work” going on in the community, from the Tribal homeownership development to new rental housing, salmon recovery and other natural resource efforts.

“While we’re proud of everything we’ve accomplished, we’ve got work yet to do,” she said. “We have to refocus on maintaining our market share and leadership in Tribal gaming in Oregon...On council, we need to adopt best practices around when we should be having executive sessions and confidential ATPs (authorization to proceed).”

Atanacio is a second-time candidate and currently serves on the Tribe’s Education Committee and

previously worked for the Tribe as the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator.

“I believe that community care is at the heart of everything that we do here,” Atanacio said. “It’s something that I strive to model for my children every day...Leadership starts with care. It’s about walking the walk, not for recognition, but because it’s the right thing to do.”

Warren-Chase is running for council for the third time and has worked for the Tribe in various capacities throughout the years. She is the Spirit Mountain Community Fund administrative assistant.

“I’m proud to be running again for Tribal Council this year,” she said. “I’m open to any conversations, comments or questions. Email me, text me...Feel free to reach out to me if I answer a question today or if I don’t get a question that you wanted me to answer...That goes for anything else that happens here. If you want more information, I’m available for anyone to contact.”

McClary served on council from 2009 to 2015, then worked outside of the Tribe for several years before being hired as the Procurement Department supervisor last year.

“I had an opportunity to learn a lot coming back after running and managing my own business for 10 years...to come back into the Procurement Department and see a lot of things that bring me some concern,” he said. “I wasn’t planning necessarily on running for council, but I feel like I have a skill set and a work ethic that could be beneficial to our current Tribal government and I feel that my leadership can definitely help.”

Grout is employed as a surveillance technician at Spirit Mountain Casino and ran for council in 2019 and 2020.

“I’m running independently,” he said. “I have never been a big fan of the groups and always felt it has brought in an ‘us versus them’ mentality. I’ve always been one to support the issue. I will never vote for something because of somebody who put it forward and I will never vote against something just because of who put it forward.”

Archuleta has served as the Tribal Services Representative in the Tribe’s Portland office for 22 years and is a first-time candidate for council.

“While being there, I have learned to use my time management well and always was a great listener for the people and let the people know to come here, it’s a safe place, a healing place, a place of culture,” she said. “Now, I’m ready to move forward in a new direction and some of the things I would like to

see is housing, not just in Grand Ronde, but in Portland and the surroundings areas. With economic development, build our portfolio more and get some new things to make monies for the future, for our kids and the membership.”

Wakeland previously served as the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department director and as deputy director under the Tribal General Manager. He was unable to attend the forum due to prior work travel commitments.

Candidate questions

Due to the number of questions asked this year of each candidate and space considerations, Smoke Signals will not include all of these. To listen to the entire forum, visit www.grandronde.org/videos/ and look under “Tribal Council Candidates Forum.”

Warren-Chase was asked how she would combat nepotism if elected to Tribal Council.

“I’m only one person,” she said. “But I can tell you how I feel about nepotism. I do not support it. I have been in this community for 30-plus years and I have never held any store as to what anybody’s last name was. All I know is my last name and if that’s how you’re going to lead your life is leading with your last name, there’s gotta be more substance to you than that...I don’t know how you can ban it (nepotism) other than by not engaging, not supporting and not turning a blind eye to it.”

McClary was asked if the Tribe’s executive staff should have contracts.

“I think a contract is really built to find comfort between the hiring organization and the employee,” he said. “I feel like the Tribal leadership team puts the managers and executive staff in these positions for a reason, and if the employee feels insecure about the duration of their position and if they feel more comfortable with having a contract, I would not say no to that... But we are (also) trying to create self-sustaining positions for our Tribal membership first and then outside of our Tribal membership as well, so I could go both ways on that one.”

Atanacio was asked what her top three priorities would be if elected to council.

“One core issue is building sustainable economic growth for our Tribe that’s rooted in cultural values and our responsibility to community care,” she said. “We need to invest in Tribally-owned businesses, support workforce pathways and continue building out our land and our protected areas for our own use and gain...I believe we have a responsibility to create systems where economic strength and cultural stewardship go hand-in-hand...One of the other issues I see is community accountability, some of what’s already come up in in the questions, concerns about ethics and our responsibility to uphold those.”

George was asked what plans she had for economic development.

“I think the first and most im-

portant thing is that we need to maintain our leadership and market share and we’re very fortunate to have an amazing team over at Spirit Mountain Casino...We have to maintain a competitive property...We have to give people a reason to come back to the casino...We also need to look into energy development. There are huge opportunities for Tribes right now, and we need to get into that game and get some of that market share. I’d also like to see us support our Tribal members with small business development in Oregon...We need multiple layers of investment in our community and in our economy.”

Archuleta was asked what steps she would take to ensure fair and equal treatment for all Tribal members.

“We need to be good listeners for our membership and I feel like sometimes we’re not always listening...One thing I’ve learned working up in the Portland office is, I hear all the time that, ‘It doesn’t matter,’ but it does matter. It’s important for people to give other people those opportunities to listen and to talk and sometimes I think we forget about that in listening to the membership.”

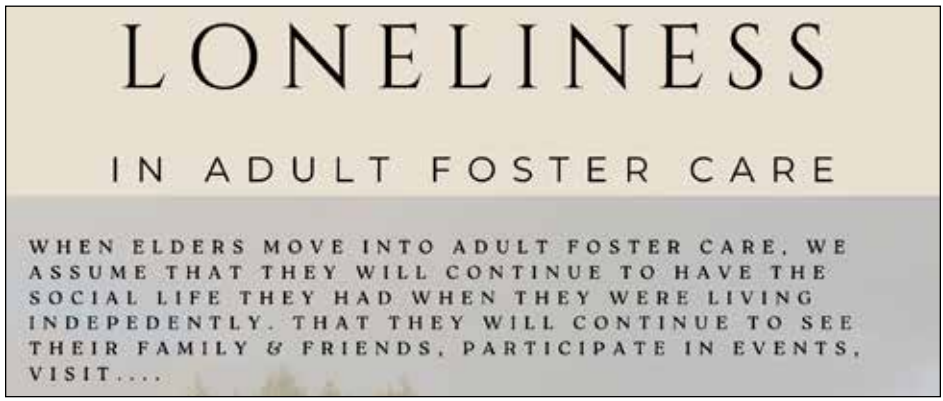
Harvey was asked if she supports a Tribally operated school that goes through the high school level.

“I’m very supportive and spent the last 10 years working to where we could expand our childcare and Head Start...I don’t have one set vision on what that looks like but really look forward to working with the team of people that we have in developing that and (seeing) how that works out. I really hope we have the foresight because there’s oftentimes decisions that we make and we’re not looking at the big picture and how it’s going to play out until we get things started, and then we find we should have communicated with more people... Being a Tribal leader isn’t just sitting at a table and checking a box and signing your name, it’s actually being out there working with the people that work for you.”

Grout was asked what role a Tribal Council member should play in day-to-day Tribal operations.

“The first thing that comes to mind is as little as possible,” he said. “That’s not really their jobs. I’m a firm believer in hiring good people and letting them do their jobs...Be a facilitator, make sure that our employees and staff have all the tools they need, resources they need to do their job and do it well. I see council as a big decision maker. Day-to-day, that’s our employees and that’s why we hire people. We have almost 900 employees...I’m not a big micromanager. I just don’t believe that’s the place for council to be in day-to-day operations.”

After the forum, Smoke Signals Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch asked candidates how the forum had gone for them in “post-game wrap up,” style interviews. Candidates’ answers are unedited and the video is available on the “Smoke Signals newspaper” YouTube channel. ■



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.
Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org
503-879-1701

Visitors from afar



Contributed photo


From left, R4 Founder/CEO James Robinson (Mississippi Choctaw), Grand Ronde shawash-ili?i skul Administrator Justine Flynn and past White House Director of Tribal Affairs PaaWee Rivera (Pueblo of Pojoaque) met at the chinuk wawa school during a visit to the Grand Ronde Tribal campus Thursday, July 17. Not pictured is Indigenous artist George Rivera (Pueblo of Pojoaque). The trio was visiting Grand Ronde at the invite of Tribal Council member Denise Harvey. They toured Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, the Tribal Education Department and met with Spirit Mountain Casino executives. “As PaaWee said, ‘We all get so busy in our work for Indian Country and now that I have a little extra time, I just wanted to come visit,’” Harvey said. “It was a good day and I was honored to introduce these well-known and respected Tribal leaders throughout Indian Country.”

CTGR 2025 Annual Grand Ronde Fish Distribution

Natural Resources Department

Fish Lab

47010 SW HEBO ROAD
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
(503) 879-2424



When:
Thursday, August 14, 2025 9:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, August 15, 2025 9:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, August 16, 2025 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

GRAND RONDE LIVING and ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY
Must show current photo I.D.

Fish will be handed out in a drive through system. Please follow the signage up the hill to the fish lab, receive your fish and then follow the exit loop road out.

*If picking up for others: A Signed release and **copy of Tribal ID or CIB is required!***

No Early or late Pickups and fish will not be mailed. Fish cannot be picked up in both Grand Ronde and Portland.

CTGR 2025 Annual Portland Office Fish Distribution


CTGR Portland Office

4445 SW Barbur Blvd #105
Portland, OR 97239

Fish will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

No Pre-Registration Required

Contact Crystal Smith
(503)879-1881



When:
Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:00am – 2:00pm

GRAND RONDE LIVING and ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS
Must show current photo I.D.

*If picking up for others: A Signed release and **copy of Tribal ID or CIB is required!***

Fish will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

No Early or late Pickups and fish will not be mailed. Fish cannot be picked up in both Grand Ronde and Portland.

2025 Fish Distribution Release Example

I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____

2025 Fish Distribution Release Example

I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____

Grants team addresses planning and federal grants

By Nicole Montesano
& Katherine Warren

Smoke Signals staff members

The Tribe’s Grants Management team provided an update on the status of the Tribe’s various federal grants in a community forum held Tuesday, July 8.

Since the Trump administration came into office in late January, it has rescinded congressionally approved grants and slashed funding for projects nationwide. Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb, Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich and Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks explained that the Tribe is pursuing multiple avenues to try to keep its programs and plans intact, including in one case, potentially suing the federal government.

Tribal Council members in attendance included Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Jon A. George and council members Matthew Haller, Kathleen George and Lisa Leno.

“As a lot of people know, there has been a lot of upheaval at the federal level and it has been affecting us at different levels,” Mercier told the audience. “We’ve had a number of Tribal members and community members reach out to us, wanting to know the impacts of these various federal cuts and executive orders and while it hasn’t affected us as drastically as it has some other entities, as you’ll see from some of the presentation tonight, it has affected us. There’s one in particular that I think will probably bother some people, but you know, this is why the Tribe needs to contest some of this stuff.”

Although the Tribe is taking the cuts seriously, “We still control a lot of our own destiny, regardless of what happens at the federal level, but we also believe in being

One of the cancelled grants was \$20 million for the Tribe’s new resident and recreation center. The estimated cost for the 47,000-square-foot building and indoor amenities ranges between \$22 million and \$25.5 million, depending on the options offered.

prepared and to inform our membership about what some of those possible changes might be,” Mercier said.

One of the cancelled grants was \$20 million for the Tribe’s new resident and recreation center. As of late 2024, the Tribe had secured a total of \$27.5 million in grants and other funding.

The estimated cost for the 47,000-square-foot building and indoor amenities ranges between \$22 million and \$25.5 million, depending on the options offered.

Webb said the Tribe isn’t just accepting the loss. He noted that the grants team is “able to pivot quickly to look at other opportunities that may arise out of the administration or even at state level or private foundations or nonprofits, and how we can continue to provide for the membership and the community.”

In the case of the cancelled \$20 million recreation center construction grant, the Tribe is considering contesting the cancellation.

“We have been working with our legal department,” Webb said. “Other grantees are responding in the courts, and they are being successful with that. So, they are taking this to court and through litigation they are able to get those funds reinstated, and so we’re working with our legal team; in fact, I had conversations today about what those next steps are to make sure that we can be successful as well, if that’s what we pursue to

get that grant reinstated.”

In 2024, the Tribe received “historical levels” of funding, Sparks said — \$62 million total, or 43% of the total \$142 million it applied for.

“That’s really unusual, but it’s also indicative of how much funding was available and the incredible support we received from Tribal Council,” she said.

The Tribe’s strong history of successful grant applications contributed to its ability to secure new ones, Sparks added, and it searches intensively for new grant opportunities.

The Health & Wellness Department is the largest grant recipients, Sparks said, and in addition, “There are lots of opportunities for funding” the Tribe’s preschool and other educational programs this year.

Last year, the Tribe received funding for building new housing and the new Early Care and Education Center, as well as funding to operate the Warriors of Hope program, language immersion and education and academic coaching.

“Recently, we also received funding to begin the restoration of the historic train depot as well,” Sparks said.

The Tribe has worked over the past few years to create long-term plans to help guide its grant applications, Svicarovich said. This includes utility master plans, a climate action plan, transportation plans and a natural resource management plan, all either completed or underway. The plans help to clarify what funds are needed for which projects.

Despite the many cuts, the Tribe is also seeing funding made available for community policing and energy sovereignty.

“Local foundations have been coming forward with more opportunities to provide support and the state of Oregon has been generous in helping us plan for future funding as well,” Svicarovich said.

Applying for federal grants has become more challenging, however, as the government has cut the application time from six to eight weeks, to just four weeks, she said.

Sparks said it’s unclear whether or how the loss of USDA school funds will be offset.

“Once we determined that USDA funds were going to be cut it became a priority” to seek alternative funds, she said.

The Tribe is also looking for funding to replace the monthly Healthy Food Boxes, Webb said.

Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe said that “The Tribe is still waiting to hear from the FDA or from a number of local grants they applied for to support the Healthy Food Box distributions.” ■

Produce Market date changes

August 14
&
August 21

Elder Activity Center
Noon to 2 p.m.



Smoke Signals wins three awards from ONPA

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Smoke Signals received three awards – two firsts and a second – during the 138th annual Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Summer Convention held Friday, July 18, at Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon.

The awards in the Associate Member category were given for work published in 2024.

Smoke Signals Graphic Designer Samuel Briggs III received a second-place award in the design category for his Contest Powwow ad. Page Designer Justin Phillips took second place in the page design category for the Feb. 1, Aug. 1 and Nov. 1 editions of the newspaper.

Lastly, Smoke Signals garnered a first-place award in the coveted Target Audience/General Excellence category.

“I’m thrilled with the excellent work Smoke Signals employees produced in 2024,” Editorial Board Chair Mia Prickett said. “I’m so thankful that we have a free press ordinance in place that allows the newspaper to do this work for our people. It’s especially important during these uncertain times and I look forward to Smoke Signals winning more awards in the future.”

Smoke Signals was once again the only Tribal newspaper honored in the statewide competition.

Earlier this year, Smoke Signals won five awards from the Indigenous Journalists Association, including first place awards for photography and video.

Smoke Signals has now won 150 state and national journalism awards since 2007. ■

Water safety



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Amanda Mercier puts a new life jacket on her son Vincent Mercier, 5, during the second annual Water Safety Event at the Day Use Park on the Tribal campus Monday, July 21. Children & Family Services collaborated with Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department to host the fun day of water slides, barbecue, raffle prizes and life jacket giveaways.



Kylee Meckel, 6, plays in a water slide during the second annual Water Safety Event at the Day Use Park on the Tribal campus Monday, July 21.

Medical Transport Services

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

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



GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER PRESENTS

Back To SCHOOL Health Fair & Sports physicals

AUGUST 7TH, 2025 FROM 7:30 AM TO 6 PM @ CHERYLE A. KENNEDY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

THERE WILL BE SCHOOL SUPPLIES, BACKPACKS, AND RESOURCES FROM GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER DEPARTMENTS.

CALL 503-879-1396 TO SCHEDULE A SPORTS PHYSICAL APPOINTMENT

contest powwow

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

3 ON 3

When:

Saturday August 16th (8am-finish)

Who can Play:

Coed 11u
14 u and 17u, Girl's and Boy's
Men's open, Women's open

Where:

Grand Ronde Gymnasium
9615 Grand Ronde Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Other info:

All teams must have a coach (18+)
prizes for 3 point contest and 1st-3rd PLACE
4 team minimum, 12 team maximum per division.
Free agents will be matched with teams as needed.

FREE REGISTRATION

Deadline to register is August 13th by MIDNIGHT

recreation@grandronde.org | 503.879.1369

2025 CTGR 3 on 3 Tournament

Marketplace



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Declan Taaffe, 5, tries to pull a strand of beads over his head while shopping for his mother at the Bee and Barry Beads booth at the Chachalu Marketplace at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Friday, July 25. The marketplace offered jewelry, produce, plants, baked goods, art and candles for sale. Bee and Barry Beads is owned by Tribal members Bee Foster and Kaylene Barry.



Tribal Public Health Educator Chad Mann looks at a book at Tribal member Kitana Connelly's Twahna Creation booth at the Chachalu Marketplace at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.

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. ■

Paddle Practice Days

August 26th – 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park
August 28th – 1:00pm to 4:00pm @ East Devils Lake Park



Hosted by GRHWC

Shawash-ili?i School OPEN ENROLLMENT



We still have openings to fill for the 2025-2026 school year!

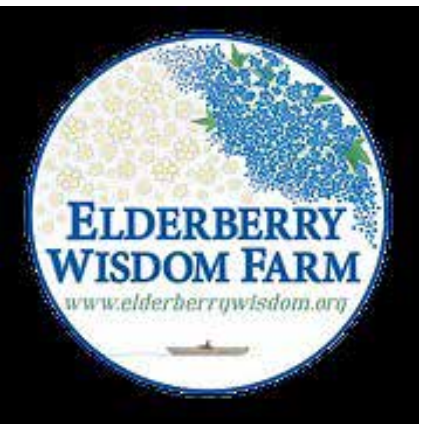
Please see the availability of classrooms below:

- q'ales 4 and 5 year old classroom: 1 opening
- k'wichiti kindergarten classroom: 4 openings

If you are interested in applying for either of these classrooms, please reach out to me to schedule an individual meet and greet and to get an application!



PLEASE CONTACT JUSTINE FLYNN AT (503)879-1856 OR JUSTINE.FLYNN@GRANDRONDE.ORG WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR TO SET UP A MEET AND GREET!



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.

ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

One permanent full time board member position open.

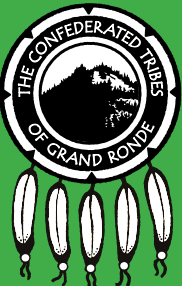
Two alternate board member positions open.

Qualifications:

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

For information contact:

Shannon Ham-Teixeira • 503-879-2301
shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org





Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Desirae Hernandez, 13, dances during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

Veterans Powwow draws crowd of celebrants

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

A man danced with his eyes locked on the tiny newborn cradled in his arms as the baby slept, oblivious to the pounding drums. Children danced or walked with their parents and the youngest simply hopped alongside, as the dancers made their way around the arena in grand entry on a blazing hot Saturday afternoon at the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

The annual event was held at the uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11 to Sunday, July 13.

“I kind of need this today as a bit of a tonic, because I was in The Dalles yesterday, at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Commission) meeting where everything we’ve worked on for a long time was kind of taken away from us again,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said. “So, this is a good example of how powwow can be a very healing experience, a very rejuvenating experience, and I think a lot of us need this for our souls right now. It’s a temporary setback; we’ll get over it like we get through everything else, but I personally really needed a powwow mind today.”

Saturday’s grand entry had been postponed a half hour to accommodate traffic moving slowly

See POWWOW
continued on pages 14-15



The Grand Ronde Honor Guard walks in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

Making the most of the war



Emmalynn Warren, 11, dances during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

POWWOW continued from page 13

after a crash on Highway 18 that killed a McMinnville High School student. Detoured onto Hebo Road, traffic was backed up for miles as drivers tried to re-enter the highway. With the tragic outcome yet unknown on Saturday, the Tribe and friends came together to celebrate and honor veterans.

The Tribe has expressed deep frustration over the ODFW Commission’s decision but the weekend was for dancing, and dance people did, making the most of the warm weather and festive spirit.

There was no host drum this year, as the Tribe switched to a day-pay model. Drums included Huckleberry Hill, Northern Black Horse and Bad Soul.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey welcomed the crowd on Friday evening, telling them, “It’s an honor to welcome you all here this evening...I’m so glad to honor

our veterans.”

Harvey and Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi participated in Friday’s grand entry.

Emcee Carlos Calica (Wasco, Paiute and Yakama) told the crowd that the songs being performed had “been passed down for generations, for us to use and enjoy. They are equal to the national anthem.”

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle served as arena director.

On Saturday, Mercier welcomed the crowd, saying, “This is our time to shine.” He encouraged younger members of the crowd to “take the time to thank our veterans.”

Mercier noted the ODFW decision, saying that while it was disappointing, “We always come back stronger.”

In addition to Mercier, Tribal Council members who participated in Saturday’s grand entry included Secretary Jon A. George and council members Harvey, Kathleen George, Matthew Haller and Tuomi.



Abraham Shippentower (Umatilla) sang an honor song with his family and gave the invocation.

Undeterred by the heat, children ran to the dancing floor after grand

entry, some followed by parents or older siblings.

The Veterans Royalty Pageant took place Friday morning in the Governance Center Atrium, with results announced that evening at the powwow grounds. The 2025-26 Veterans Royalty Court includes Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig, Veterans Warrior Brendyn Smallwood, Veterans Little Miss Princess Elesia Crawley, Veterans Little Miss Queen Elizabeth Ulestad and Veterans Junior Miss Queen Ila Mercier.

The outgoing 2024-25 Veterans Royalty Court consisted of Tiny Tot Princess Elesia Crawley, Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig, Veterans Little Miss Queen Ulali Quenelle, Princesses Harper Hernandez, Elizabeth Ulestad and Emmalynn Warren; Veterans Junior Miss Queen Leloo Quenelle and Veterans Senior Miss Queen Sophia Grout.

Craig, who is 6, and Crawley, 7, said they were having fun on Saturday.

“I like the dance a lot,” Craig said, adding that he also liked his headdress, pointing out that it had two feathers at the back.

“I love to see everyone dance, and I love to see people like the drums,” Crawley said.

The Veterans Summit and Resource Fair took place Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the powwow grounds and included the debut of



Tribal member Jordan Mercier dances during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

m weather and festive spirit



the human library video project. Attendees were served a continental breakfast and catered barbecue lunch. There was also a new “veterans sweat” Friday morning. Among the vendors, Shannon Jackson (Sioux South Dakota and Athabascom) was finishing setting



Veterans and Grand Ronde Royalty participate in the 7 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11.

Cousins Willow Squetimkin, 9, left, and Harper Hernandez, 8, owl dance during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

out her exhibits of beaded necklaces, feathered and beaded earrings, beading forms, beads, cups and small stuffed animals on Friday evening, as attendees circulated among the booths. Jackson said she makes some of the items and her daughter makes others. “Both our husbands and my son are here, so we can spend the whole weekend here together,” she said. “We just stay local,” Jackson said. “I was born in Salem; Mom was born in Salem, her sisters were born in Pine Ridge. My parents met at Chemawa Indian School.” Jackson said it was the family’s

third year of selling at local powwows around the area. “I only started because I was making something for one of my cousins, and somebody said, ‘Can I buy that?’” she said. “I don’t sell them for too much,” she said. “My mom was a single mom, so when we came to powwow, we could look but not touch, and she didn’t make stuff, so we didn’t have things.” She recalled a little boy of about 7 who had wanted to buy a necklace for his mother, but wasn’t sure the \$15 he’d brought would be enough, as handmade necklaces usually sell for considerably more. “I told him, ‘You pick out any necklace you want,’ she said, and the child left proudly with the perfect gift in hand.

Tribal Elder Leona Jeffers was selling her handmade moccasins and handbags. She said she learned her skill from “an arts and crafts book I found in Florence, Oregon,” and has been practicing it for 25 years. “I’ve gotten real popular; I’m one of only a few people making moccasins,” she said. “I got started because I did all the regalia for my family. In college I studied Native American culture, and going to powwows, and I just got highly interested in it.” Dancer Andrew Nava (Yaqui) was attending with his 6-year-old daughter, Siari. “We started dancing last season,” he said. “It’s awesome seeing her go out here; she drives me,” he said. Nava is a grass dancer, while his daughter is a jingle dress dancer. It was their first year at the veteran’s powwow, he said.



Ulali Quenelle, 9, dances in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

Southern cloth dancer Wynema Thurman (Osage/Chickasaw) was attending with her son, Sunhawk Thomas (Umatilla), Yakima Nation Veterans Day Powwow Warrior, who is making the rounds of the powwow circuit. He hopes to start a bison ranch after college, she said. Thurman said Thomas dances southern straight, as well as men’s northern traditional style. Powwow concluded on Sunday, July 13, with a final grand entry at noon. The next powwow, the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow, is scheduled to take place August 15 to 17 at the uyxat Powwow Grounds. ■



26 Veterans Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig, 6, shakes hands with a veteran during the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, July 12.

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO

@SmokeSignalsCTGR

@ctgrsmokesignals

@SmokeSignalsCTGR

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

2025-26 Veterans Royalty



Veterans Royalty Coordinator and Tribal member Shannon Simi, left, and Sophia Grout, 16, middle, pin a sash on Ila Mercier, 11, after she is named 2025-26 Veterans Junior Miss Queen during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Veterans Royalty coronation before the start of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11.



Sophia Grout, 16, crowns Elizabeth Ulestad, 9, after she is named 2025-26 Veterans Little Miss Queen during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Veterans Royalty coronation before the start of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11. On the left, Veterans Little Miss Queen contestant Elesia Crawley, 7, claps for Ulestad.



Sophia Grout, 16, left, pins a sash on Elesia Crawley, 7, after she is named 2025-26 Veterans Little Miss Princess during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Veterans Royalty coronation before the start of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11. Veterans Little Miss Queen Elizabeth Ulestad, right, watches.



Veterans Royalty Coordinator and Tribal member Shannon Simi, left, pins a sash on Brendyn Smallwood, 7, after he is named 2025-26 Veterans Warrior during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Veterans Royalty coronation before the start of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11.



Sophia Grout, 16, puts a sash on William Craig, 6, after he is named 2025-26 Veterans Tiny Tot Warrior during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Veterans Royalty coronation before the start of the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 11.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



TEACH

our children
our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.
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www.pdx.edu/aitp



2025 Acorn Camp

September 19th - 21st
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

Joseph Ham, Grand Ronde
Joseph.Ham@grandronde.org

Meals Provided!
Camping will be available

New art



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Arts Administrator Mack McFarland hangs one of the 28 pieces of art from the Cultural Resources Department’s Portable Works Public Art Collection in a Tribal Governance Center stairwell Thursday, July 24. Sixteen Grand Ronde Tribal artists submitted artwork to be displayed in common areas in the Governance Center and lobby of the Tribal gym. Artists interested in submitting artwork for next year’s display can contact McFarland by 11:59 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25 at Mack.McFarland@grandronde.org.

Pete Wakeland for Tribal Council – Balanced and Fair

Demand Ethical Leadership; Eliminate Deceptive Politics;
Support Sound Fiscal Management and Economic Development.



- Mark O. Hatfield Fellow, Office of Senator Ron Wyden
 - Oregon State University College of Forestry, Kelly Axe Award
 - Oregon State University College of Forestry Outstanding Alumni Award
 - Developed the Grand Ronde Tribe Wildland Fire Program
 - Developed the Big Buck Campground
 - Oversaw the development of the Tribal Powwow Grounds and Plankhouse
 - Coordinated the development of the Tribal Police Department
 - Coordinated the development of the Grand Ronde Tribal Fire Department
- Please feel free to contact me at peterwakeland9@gmail.com; or Instagram: [peterwakelandforcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/peterwakelandforcouncil); or Facebook: Peter Wakeland
- WE CAN GET TIS RIGHT**



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.

Certificate awarded upon completion.

Lunch will be provided.

To register contact:

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

 Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.

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.

North Benton County Community Pathways Open House

4-6 p.m. Aug. 14 in-person (also August 12-28th online)
Cheldelin Middle School Library,
987 NE Conifer Blvd, Corvallis, OR
For more information: james.feldmann@odot.oregon.gov
Event website: <https://direc.to/n85s>

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Support wherever
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Text Native to 741741.
#WeNeedYouHere



TEST YOUR BACKFLOW

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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. ■

Now Accepting Applications

ADULT
FOSTER
CARE

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

Eligibility Requirements

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

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

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

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



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TRIBAL COUNCIL**

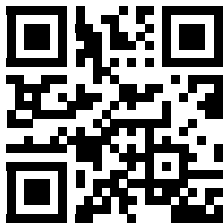
Elect Toby McClary

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

tobymcclary@gmail.com Toby McClary for Tribal Council

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TO SAVING MONEY,
YOUR HOME HAS
A LOT TO SAY.**

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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. ■

Attention All Tribal Members!

You're invited to join the Council Candidates for a

Meet & Greet

All 2025 Tribal Council Candidates are invited to attend!

WHERE:

Salem Mason Lodge

1625 Brush College Rd. NW, Salem, OR 97304

WHEN:

Sunday, August 3, 2025

11:30 a.m.

Snacks and Beverages provided!

Please contact **Pamala Warren-Chase** for details or questions

Warren31@yahoo.com

971-237-3696



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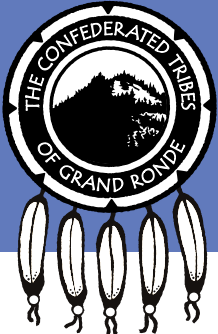
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. every Wednesday
Walk-ins welcome.

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III





**Fresh Foods
Distribution**

One Box per Tribal Member Household

August 21st **10am-2pm**

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

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





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

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



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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

Marianne Blanchard @ indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com

Stephanie Craig @ kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com

Molly Leno @ 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, 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.



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

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A message in partnership with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

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GRAND RONDE PEOPLE

"WE ARE THE FUTURE ANCESTORS"





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WITH 2 ACRES OF FENCED YARD AND ORIGINAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

OUTDOOR PLAY, STORYTIME, MUSIC, AND ARTS & CRAFTS. SNACKS & MEALS PROVIDED

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Our ancestors guide us,
our youth inspire us,
and together we
shape our future


- Proven Leadership in Tribal Governance
- Advocate for Environmental Stewardship and Salmon Recovery
- Focused on sustainable and accountable tribal programs
- Committed to Economic Growth and Sovereignty

Kathleen brings decades of tribal service and a vision for a thriving future. As a proud member of our tribal community she understands the values that unite us and the challenges that face us.

Paid political ad



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

A restroom is available on site, and limited carpooling from Corvallis is available. Learn more at www.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.

4950 SW Houst St, Corvallis, OR 97333

541-753-3699

info@appliedeco.org

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, was 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. ■



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

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Do you need help managing your diabetes?

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To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment



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Manager

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High School Counselor/
Health & Wellness Teacher

\$60K/yr

Science Teacher (10 months)

\$55K/yr

Youth DCT (Direct Cash Transfer)
Advocate

\$28/hr

Parent-Child Support Specialist

\$24/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit nayapdx.org/about/jobs
to learn more.

07/22/25

Paid ad



August is Vaccination Awareness Month

Why are vaccinations important for diabetics?

According to the CDC, each year there are thousands of adults that are exposed to preventable disease and become sick because they have chosen to not become vaccinated. Having diabetes weakens your immune system and makes you more susceptible to many of these diseases. This means that you are at a higher risk of having more complications and or having damage than someone who is not diabetic. The CDC has guidelines in place for these vaccines to protect you from becoming infected with many of these diseases. Talk to your doctor about his or her recommendations and stay up to date on all of the recommended vaccines.

Vaccinations not only help protect you, but they also help to protect the people around you, including children that have not yet been vaccinated. Know your risk factors and be proactive in protecting yourself and others. Feel free to contact the Health & Wellness Center if you have any questions in regards to recommended vaccines that you may need.

Jeannette and Charlene
Diabetes Case Managers
Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center
Join us for our monthly meeting
On the 3rd Monday of every month at 11:30 am
at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building

Reading volunteers needed

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

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

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



JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

CTGR EMPLOYMENT

July 25, 2025

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
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.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part-Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	08/04/2025
Family Support Specialist – Public Health	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Front Desk Dental Assistant	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/04/2025
Health Information Technician	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	07/28/2025
High School Intern – Part-Time - Youth Enrichment	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	08/04/2025
Housekeeper – Swing	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	07/28/2025
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Sheridan – GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	07/28/2025
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
Maintenance Technician – Facilities	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/04/2025
Medication Assistant Treatment Coordinator	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	07/28/2025
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Network Security Specialist	13	\$39.61/hr.	\$50.87/hr.	Until Filled
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
Pow Wow 2025 - Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.00/hr.	08/01/2025
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - GCR	14	\$90,930.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	08/04/2025
Secretary – Public Health	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	08/04/2025
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
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	
TPREP Program Assistant	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	07/28/2025
Tribal Lead Security Officer – Oregon City	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Security Officer	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled

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

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SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Guest Services Lead	7/31/2025	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	7/31/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Count Operations Attendant I	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Count Operations Attendant II	Until Filled	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Guest Services Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
IT Production Supervisor	Until Filled	\$83,914.69/yr. DOE
Kitchen Steward (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Room Chef	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Slot Technician I	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE
Sports Bar Bussperson (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/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


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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

Paid ad



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Thursday, May 1

- Officers assisted an outside agency in Grand Ronde.
- An emotionally distressed person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Assault occurred in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 25000 block of Mill Creek Road.
- A crash occurred on Highway 18B near Highway 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in Grand Ronde.

Friday, May 2

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8900 block of Hebo Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Rock Creek Drive near AR Ford Road.

Saturday, May 3

- Citizen contact occurred via the phone.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 15.
- There was a false alarm call in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, May 4

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 300 block of Pacific Hills Drive in Willamina.
- An animal complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 18.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred on Grand Ronde Road near North Street.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near Harmony Road.

Monday, May 5

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 10.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported near Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- A suspicious person was reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the 9700 block of Tilixam Circle.

Tuesday, May 6

- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, May 7

- Officers responded to a domestic call in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Theft was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, May 8

- A welfare check occurred in the 28000 block of Jahn Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Lost property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- Burglary occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drugs were reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported on the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, May 9

- Found property was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Fraud was reported in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Fraud was reported in the 9100 block of Arrowwood Drive.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 22 near milepost 1.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 45000 block of Hebo Road.
- Drugs were reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

- Officers responded to a restraining order violation in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An animal call occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- A crash occurred on Hebo Road near milepost 17.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Hebo Road near milepost 17.
- A welfare check occurred on 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, May 10

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on South Street and Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 50000 block of Hebo Road.
- An intoxicated person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near Fort Hill Road.
- Officers assisted with traffic in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, May 11

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted with traffic on the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- A welfare check occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A stolen vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, May 12

- A crash occurred in the 57000 block of Hebo Road.
- Fraud was reported on Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near Highway 18.
- Fraud occurred in the 8700 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A stolen vehicle was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, May 13

- A domestic disturbance was reported on Highway 18 near Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the city of Sheridan.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted with traffic in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Animal contact occurred on Grand Ronde Road near Highway 18.

Wednesday, May 14

- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred in the 28000 block of Highway 18.
- Found property was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- An emotionally distressed person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Grand Ronde Road near Highway 18.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 8900 block of Hebo Road.
- Trespassing was reported in the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- A warrant was served in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.


Thursday, May 15

- Officers assisted an outside agency with trespassing near Alvord Alley Road.
- A warrant was served in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the city of Sheridan.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Civil service occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.


Friday, May 16

- Citizen contact occurred on Southwest Blacktail Drive near Southwest Blue Jay Court.
- Theft occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

See POLICE LOG continued on page 25



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



POLICE LOG continued from page 24

- Citizen contact occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 12.
- Fraud was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Harassment occurred in the 28000 block of McPherson Road.

Saturday, May 17

- A hit-and-run occurred in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an assault call in the 8400 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Theft was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A sex offense occurred on Highway 18 near Harmony Road.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants/reckless driving was reported on Highway 22 near milepost 5.
- Trespassing was reported in the 45000 block of Hebo Road.
- Theft occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, May 18

- Found property was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, May 19

- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Civil service occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, May 20

- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Criminal mischief occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, May 21

- Follow-up service occurred in the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving while suspended was reported on Highway 18 near AR Ford Road.
- Follow-up service occurred on the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, May 22

- Follow-up service occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Criminal mischief was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A driving complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18 near Harmony Road.
- Harassment occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, May 23

- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 600 block of Northeast Yamhill Street in Sheridan.
- A hit-and-run occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near Highway 18.
- Harassment was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, May 24

- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An alarm call occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency between Willamina and Grand Ronde.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally distressed person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Grand Ronde Road near Highway 18.

Sunday, May 25

- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.

- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near Highway 18.
- A protection order violation occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, May 26

- A traffic stop occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 33.
- A crash occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 15.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally distressed person was reported in the 1300 block of West Main Street in Sheridan.
- An emotionally distressed person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A crash occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, May 27

- A hazard was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Trespassing reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18B near milepost 1.

Wednesday, May 28

- Trespassing was reported in the 28000 block of Jahn Road.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Found property was reported on Grand Ronde Road near Highway 18.
- An animal complaint was reported in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Hebo Road near Highway 18.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- A suspicious person was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, May 29

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Officers assisted with traffic on Highway 18 near milepost 32.
- Civil service occurred in the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- A crash occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Follow-up service occurred in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, May 30

- Citizen contact occurred in the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Theft was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An alarm call occurred in the 8600 block of Fort Hill Road.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the 7000 block of Alvard Alley.
- Trespassing was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An alarm call occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- A suspicious person was reported on Grand Ronde Road near McPherson Road.
- An alarm call occurred on Grand Ronde Road near McPherson Road.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 28.

Saturday, May 31

- An animal complaint was reported on Agency Creek Road.
- Citizen contact occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred on Tyee Road near Grand Ronde Road.
- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Follow-up service occurred in the 9600 block Raven Loop.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported on Highway 18 near Hebo Road.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious person was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near Yamhill River Road.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Brian Hamlin*

Walking On...

Dennis J. Hemeon

Sept. 4, 1948 – July 10, 2025

Dennis J. Hemeon entered God's Kingdom on July 10, 2025, at his home in Willamina, surrounded by loved ones. He was 76.

Dennis was born on Sept. 4, 1948, to Stanley and Rita (Mercier) Hemeon in Keene, New Hampshire.

He was married to Tribal Elder Jamie Adams, who works at the Health & Wellness Center in Grand Ronde. They have been together for nearly 20 years.

Dennis was raised on the East Coast and graduated high school in 1966, where he was a star athlete in basketball and set an all-time state scoring record, which lasted 20 years.

Dennis joined the United States Coast Guard immediately after graduation and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. His military service concluded in 1970.

After discharge, Dennis decided he didn't want to return to the East Coast but remained in the last city he was posted to before his discharge from the military: Astoria. Dennis fell in love with Oregon's beauty and the casual lifestyle the people of Oregon seemed to enjoy.

After Dennis and Jamie married, they created a home in Willamina, to be near the Tribe and family.

Dennis worked in sales most of his life and since retiring, spent his leisure time gardening, reading, crafting model cars, and playing a friendly game of pool with his friends. He also loved history and learned as much as he could about Grand Ronde Tribal culture and traditions, and Oregon's unique story.

Dennis believed strangers were just friends he hadn't met yet and had a natural gift for conversation in any situation. He would often strike up random conversations with people he met out and about in the community. Most of all, he enjoyed visiting with friends and family, and was a regular guest at the Elders Activity Center and other Tribal events and celebrations.

Dennis is survived by his wife, Jamie Adams Hemeon of Willamina; siblings, Robert L. Hemeon of Laconia, New Hampshire, Brenda L. Reed of Franklin, Massachusetts and Jil A. Hemeon of Mansfield, Massachusetts; children, Josie Hansen, Daniel Hemeon, Nicholas Adams, Olivia Adams and Ian Adams, in addition to several grandchildren and many other extended family members.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at the Grand Ronde Methodist Church. A meal, hosted by the family, will follow. Dennis' family invites guests to bring a potluck dessert to share.

Dennis' family wishes to thank those closest to them for their outpouring of love and support, as well as the hospice workers who cared for him during his illness. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Dennis' memory to Traditions Hospice.



Clinton Maxie Stamps

March 25, 1977 – July 9, 2025

Tribal member Clinton Maxie Stamps passed away July 9, 2025, at the age of 48.

Klein Funeral Homes in Tomball, Texas, is assisting the family.

Corrine Kay Fugate

Sept. 25, 1964 – July 26, 2025

Tribal Elder Corrine Kay Fugate passed away July 26, 2025, at the age of 60.

Wilson's Chapel of the Roses in Roseburg is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were not available before presstime.

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. ■



Watchlist: 'Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act'

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

In simple terms, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 was established to offer federal support to promote Tribal self-governance and culturally grounded housing solutions.

After visiting several Tribes all across the country, including Grand Ronde's Tribal Housing and Elder Housing, the National American Indian Housing Council published a video advocating for the reauthorization of NAHASDA since it expired in 2013. Congress has continued to fund the program on an annual basis, but not a long-term basis.

"Every single Tribe will probably tell you that housing is their number one issue," Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority President and CEO Jacqueline Pata said. "We have a tool, NAHASDA is a tool that we can use if we invest it right and it is fully funded to the level that it is."

NAIHC's video shows the wide range of living conditions in Native American Tribes. Local Tribal communities along the Columbia Gorge are shown living in trailers with little infrastructure. Other Tribal communities are shown to offer apartment-style buildings. Grand Ronde's latest development in Elder Housing can also be seen.

Several people involved in Tribal housing programs all across the country are interviewed about NAHASDA's significance in their own community.

Douglas Marconi, the executive director for the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, urges Congress to reauthorize the act swiftly to maintain the level of housing necessary.

"We all know communities continue to grow and when you get into overcrowded conditions, it leads to other social ills," Pueblo Acoma Housing Authority Executive Director Francisco Carr said. "Without NAHASDA being reauthorized, it would be really detrimental to the community."

You can watch the entire video about NAHASDA at <https://vimeo.com/1098315293/1bc853771b> or find it on the NAIHC's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1425540035261629. ■

Brenda Sue Gray

Sept. 7, 1953 – July 12, 2025

Tribal Elder Brenda Sue Gray passed away July 12, 2025, at the age of 71.

She was surrounded by many loving family members before she passed.

She was a Kalapuyan descendant of Chief Joseph Sangretta, a proud Elder of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and a member of the Haller-Menard family.

Brenda was born to Claude (Bill) and Delores (Odie) Knight on Sept. 7, 1953, in Stayton, Oregon. She grew up in the Stayton/Turner area in a large extended family with many aunts, uncles and cousins.

After raising three children, Brenda got her associate degree in accounting. She started working at Spirit Mountain Casino in 1999 and retired in 2012. Disneyland and Hawaii were her favorite places to take her family, and her home in Elders housing was full of family photos and memorabilia from places she visited.

Brenda lived a life rooted in faith, devoted to Christ and guided by the teachings of the Bible. She found peace in knowing that she would soon be reunited with many loved ones.

Brenda joins her husband, Charles Gray; her parents and her sister Loretta Sisemore in heaven. She is survived by her sons, James Knight and Charles Gray; her daughter, Tricia Gray; her granddaughter, Gabby Warner; her grandson, Tyee Knight; her sister, Karen Plunges; and her brothers, William Knight, Dennis Knight and Jesse Knight.

2 Timothy 4:7 – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, July 21, at the Tribal Cemetery with a meal afterward at the Tribal Community Center.

Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center assisted the family.



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

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. ■

Hypertension in youth: A growing concern

In recent years, the prevalence of hypertension among young people has emerged as a significant public health issue. Traditionally seen as a condition affecting older adults, hypertension, or high blood pressure, is increasingly diagnosed in adolescents and even children. This shift highlights the importance of understanding its causes, effects, and strategies for prevention and management among younger people.



Hypertension is defined as consistently elevated blood pressure, which forces the heart to work harder to pump blood through the arteries. Blood pressure readings consist of two numbers: systolic pressure (the top number) and diastolic pressure (the bottom number). Normal blood pressure is typically considered to be below 120/80 mmHg. Hypertension is diagnosed when blood pressure consistently exceeds 140/80 mmHg.

Causes and risk factors

Several factors contribute to hypertension in youth:

- **Obesity:** Excess body weight, especially abdominal obesity, is a major risk factor. Poor dietary habits and lack of physical activity contribute significantly to obesity rates among children and adolescents.
 - **Poor diet:** Consuming high-sodium and high-fat foods increases the risk of hypertension. Additionally, inadequate intake of fruits, vegetables and whole grains deprives the body of essential nutrients that help regulate blood pressure.
 - **Lack of physical activity:** Sedentary lifestyles are prevalent among youth today, leading to poor cardiovascular fitness and increased risk of hypertension.
- **Genetics:** A family history of hypertension can predispose individuals to the condition.
- **Stress:** High stress levels can temporarily elevate blood pressure and chronic stress may contribute to long-term hypertension.

Prevention and management

Preventing hypertension in youth involves adopting healthy lifestyle habits:

- **Healthy diet:** Encourage a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins. Limit intake of processed foods, sodium and sugary beverages.
- **Physical activity:** Aim for at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily.
- **Weight management:** Maintain a healthy weight through a balanced diet and regular exercise.
- **Regular health check-ups:** Monitor blood pressure regularly, especially for individuals with a family history of hypertension.
- **Stress management:** Teach stress-reduction techniques such as mindfulness, yoga or hobbies that promote relaxation.

Role of parents and friends

- **Education:** Raise awareness about the risks of hypertension and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- **Role modeling:** Set a good example by practicing healthy eating and physical activity habits. ■

National Grief Awareness Day — Saturday, Aug. 30

What is grief?

Grief is the deep sadness people feel when they lose someone or something important, like a loved one, a pet or a job. It is a normal part of life, and everyone experiences grief in their own way. National Grief Awareness Day, held every year on Aug. 30, helps people understand grief and support those who are going through it.



Why is grief important to talk about?

Grief affects both your body and mind. You may feel tired, have trouble sleeping or lose your appetite. You may feel very sad, angry or confused. These feelings are okay. Talking about grief can help people heal and feel less alone.

Common signs of grief:

- Feeling very sad or crying a lot
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Not feeling hungry or overeating
- Feeling angry, confused or guilty
- Having no energy or not wanting to be around people

How can grief affect your health?

Grief can weaken your body's ability to fight illness. It can also make you feel more stress. This can lead to problems like headaches, stomach-aches or heart problems over time. That's why it's important to take care of yourself and ask for help if you need it.

What can help during grief?

- **Talk to someone:** Sharing your feelings with a friend, family member or counselor can help.
- **Rest and eat well:** Your body needs good food and sleep to feel better.
- **Move your body:** Gentle exercise like walking can help your mood.
- **Take your time:** There is no "right" time to stop grieving. Go at your own pace.
- **Join a support group:** Some people feel better talking with others who understand their pain.

What can you do on National Grief Awareness Day?

- Reach out to someone who is grieving and let them know you care.
- Share stories and memories of loved ones.
- Learn more about grief and how to support others.
- Take a moment to care for your own emotional health.

Remember:

Grief is not something to be ashamed of. It shows love and connection. You are not alone and help is available. National Grief Awareness Day is a time to be kind — to yourself and others.

If you or someone you know needs extra support, talk to a doctor or call a mental health hotline. Healing takes time, but with care and support, things can get better. ■

Now accepting new residents

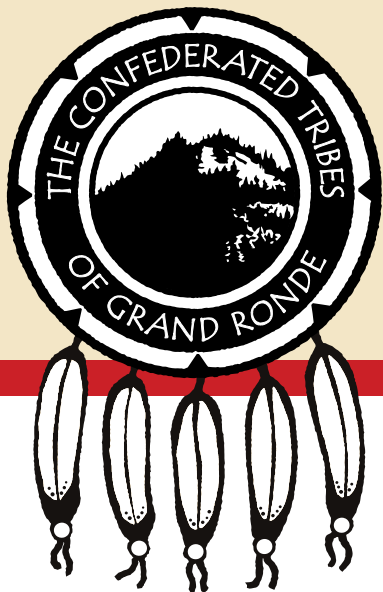
For Grand Ronde and other Federally designated Tribal members of Oregon
chaku tush tæmtæm haws – Grand Ronde's new treatment program in Sheridan, Oregon

We are proud to welcome new residents to chaku tush 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

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

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.

