



Youth grantmakers helping nonprofits — pg. 9

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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

No veto: Willamette Falls Trust \$45 million legislative allocation will move forward

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

SALEM — Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek has decided not to veto \$45 million allocated to the Willamette Falls Trust to purchase the 60-acre Moore's Island at Willamette Falls.

The funding allocated to the trust was part of the Oregon Legislature's "Christmas tree bill," an end-of-session boon to various organizations seeking funding.

In an earlier press release, Kotek cited due diligence and wanting to ensure Oregonian's tax dollars were being used appropriately as reasons for a potential veto, while adding that she supports creating public access at the falls.

Kotek's office released a short statement Thursday, Aug. 7, regarding final veto decisions.

"Following last week's notice of potential vetoes, I considered all perspectives and gathered

"This legislative appropriation was made without any engagement with Grand Ronde, despite the Tribe's ancestral connection to Willamette Falls or meaningful public input from Oregonians."

~ Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson

additional information before making final decisions, which I believe reflect what is best for the state," Kotek said. "I want to thank Willamette Falls Trust for proactively reaching out to my office with additional information following my notice and subsequently committing to a set of expectations I set to approve the funds."

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said the Tribe is "deeply disappointed" by the decision.

See FALLS
continued on page 7



Smoke Signals file photo

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek decided Thursday, Aug. 7, not to veto \$45 million allocated to the Willamette Falls Trust to purchase the 60-acre Moore's Island at Willamette Falls. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy asked Kotek in an early June letter to deny or at least delay funding the Willamette Falls Trust.

Paddle to Elwha



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Kailiyah Krehbiel dances as the Grand Ronde Canoe Family performs protocol during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey in Port Angeles, Wash., Saturday, Aug. 2. For more photos and story, turn to pages 14-15.

Grand Ronde Education Summit draws nearly 200 educators

By Danielle Harrison & Katherine Warren

Smoke Signals staff members

The Grand Ronde Education Summit returned to Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Wednesday, Aug. 6. Although it was held nearly a month earlier than in past years, it still saw continued strong attendance with approximately 200 educators participating.

The summit, now in its eighth year, seeks to educate educators about the history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

The summit opened with an invocation from Tribal Council member Brenda Tuomi, followed by a welcome statement from Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier.

"I am a product of the Tribe's Education Department," he said. "I got in my undergrad work at the University of Oregon and I went to law school, and because of all the assistance I received from the Tribe, I actually graduated law school without any debt...I will be eternally

See SUMMIT
continued on page 8

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings
DATE **TIME**
Wednesday, Aug. 20.....4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 3.....4 p.m.
Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.
Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,
Lineal descent: As I see it, our Tribal voters voted for lineal descent, not a “diabolical” lottery system. Tribal members who spoke against the lottery system were totally ignored. Apparently, Tribal Council thought it was easier for them to implement the lottery system than the “first come, first serve” approach to enrollment. Yet, my guess is the lottery system has cost the Tribe more time and money than the “first come, first serve” approach, and more heartache for the Tribal membership.
From the time the CTGR was restored until sometime in 2024, applicants for enrollment were based on a “first come, first serve” basis. Once lineal descent was adopted through a constitutional amendment, it seems like members of Tribal Council sort of went off kilter thinking how a possible large number of applicants would be enrolled. Instead, they should have stuck with the traditional enrollment process of “first come, first serve,” keeping all siblings, no matter what age, together. Hopefully, Tribal Council realizes that the lottery system was not the right choice.
Those who say that those affected by the 1999 amendment should be enrolled first need to realize that applicants were affected from the end of 1999 until sometime in 2024. So, it would be near impossible to figure out how to allow them to enroll first under lineal descent.
I personally believe that the lottery system is gambling with the lives of those who applied. This comes home to me when I read stories on the Facebook group sites of how the lottery system has affected our Tribal people’s lives.
It has affected the lives of many families. Siblings who applied on the very first day via e-mail are scattered all over throughout the lottery numbers. Example, there are several cases in which an oldest adult sibling is scheduled for enrollment in 2037, while the younger adult sibling is scheduled to be enrolled this year. Again, both applied via e-mail the very first day. The lottery also created several cases in which a child and/or grandchild is scheduled to be enrolled years before their parent/grandparent.
The bottom line to me is, I thought voting for lineal descent enrollment would cure the split family situation but the lottery system will be making more split families, thanks to Tribal Council. That is not what I and most others voted for.
Leroy Good
Roll #892

Dear Smoke Signals,
I am so grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our Tribe and community after the passing of my beloved husband, Dennis Hemeon, July 10. I won’t ever forget the kindness of friends and family, support of colleagues at the clinic and Tribal leadership. I know Dennis would be so grateful for the support we received during such a difficult time.
I want to thank Vikki at Traditions Health and all of Dennis’ caregivers, especially Arnie, Missy, Leesa and Penny. I thank Dr. Lance Loberg for taking great care of Dennis. Also, thank you to Damon in Community Health. Special thanks to Greg Bruckner, Sam Thornsberry, Bianca and Maddie for dropping everything to come and help with Dennis. He loved you all and was so appreciative of everything you did. I also want to express thanks and gratitude to Crystal Scheese, who went above and beyond for the whole family the moment Dennis walked on.
I would not have been able to continue daily activities without the help of both our church and Tribal families. We are fortunate to be part of an extraordinary community of caring, generous people who always do what they can for others. The memorial service at Grand Ronde Methodist Church was perfect and I thank everyone who worked to make it beautiful. Our amazing Tribe and family all pitch in during times of loss and grief. You made my load lighter and I love you all.
Jamie Adams Hemeon
Roll #1501

Dear Smoke Signals,
I was interested to read the article by Danielle Harrison regarding the constitutional amendment that called for a vote of the Tribal members to remove the BIA due to timelines being set by federal regulations due to not enough time for all Tribal members to participate and having a varied process from election to election. The amendment failed.
I voted no because I do not want to lose BIA oversight of our activities. Termination of BIA failed. We are restored. Let it be.
Claudette Parazoo
Roll #2923

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closing at noon Friday, Aug. 29, and are closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Offices will also be closed Friday, Sept. 26 in observance of National Native American Day.

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, Aug. 20	Sept. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Sept. 4	Sept. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Monday, Sept. 22	Oct. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Tuesday, Oct. 7... ..	Oct. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

stuxtkin-mun (August)

- Friday-Saturday, Aug. 15-16, Annual fish distribution for Tribal members, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 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.
- Friday, Aug. 22 – Family Night Out, 4 p.m., Tribal gym. Rides, prizes, resource booths and food will be included.
- Saturday, Aug. 30 – MMIP Awareness Walk, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Riverview Park, 50 C St., Independence.

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.

Spirit Mountain Casino issues public alert regarding fraudulent online ads

Spirit Mountain Casino is warning the public about deceptive online advertisements falsely claiming that the casino is offering real-money online slots, table games or nationwide remote wagering platforms. These claims are entirely false and unauthorized.

“At this time, Spirit Mountain Casino does not offer any form of real-money online slots, table games or remote wagering platforms,” CEO Camille Mercier said. “We remain committed to delivering a safe, responsible and welcoming on-site experience for every guest. These misleading advertisements undermine that commitment and we are actively pursuing their removal.”

Similar scams have targeted other Tribal casinos nationwide where false promotions have misused names, logos and imagery to promote unregulated gaming sites, according to a press release. “These deceptive efforts are designed to mislead the public and may put users at risk of financial fraud or identity theft,” the release stated.

Spirit Mountain Casino urges the public to follow these important guidelines:

- Only trust communications from Spirit Mountain Casino’s official website and verified social media pages.
- Never provide personal or financial information in response to unsolicited online offers or ads.
- Report suspicious messages, posts or websites directly to the media site where you see the false advertisement.

“We take great pride in the integrity of our operations,” Mercier said. “Any advertisement suggesting that Spirit Mountain Casino offers real-money online gaming is entirely false. We urge our guests to stay vigilant and report these deceptive promotions directly to the platform where they appear.”

Anyone who believes they may have interacted with a fraudulent site or advertisement is urged to report it to Spirit Mountain Casino by emailing info@spiritmtn.com or contacting Marketing Communication Specialist David Gray at 503-879-2350 or David.Gray@spiritmtn.com. ■

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. ■

SURPLUS SALE

AUG. 15



Office furniture • Desks • Office chairs
File cabinets • Misc. items

Tribal Members
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. • Please bring Tribal ID

Employees - Tribal Government / Casino
1 – 3:30 p.m. • Please bring work badge

Procurement building warehouse / Fresh food distribution location
9635 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

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.

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 — When the Grand Ronde Youth Education Department had to cancel its summer programming because of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff came up with another idea: Delivering or mailing activity boxes to students, filled with activities for a weekly theme. The idea proved wildly popular from the start, when the staff hoped to see 60 students sign up, only to see 150 sign-ups. They created weekly Zoom meetings for the students to connect and chat about their projects. The project allowed students from as far away as California and Colorado to participate.

2015 — The work of several Grand Ronde Tribal artists was on display at the Ikanum art exhibit at Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg, which featured contemporary artwork from the Columbia River and Willamette Valley.

2010 — Grand Ronde hosted an event to honor Sue Shaffer, former longtime chairwoman of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, for her years of service to Indian Country, both in Oregon and nationally.

2005 — Grand Ronde was the only Tribe from Oregon to participate in the 2005 Paddle to Elwha Canoe Journey, then known as the “Healing and Unity Journey,” hosted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. It was Grand Ronde’s first Canoe Journey. Three Chinook Tribal members journeyed with the Tribe.

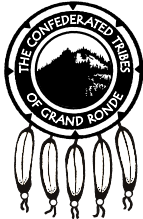
2000 — The Tribe dedicated its Elder housing development, marking the accomplishment of one the goals of the first Tribal Council after Restoration; building affordable housing for Elders, enabling many of them to move back to Grand Ronde.

1995 — More than 1,000 applicants attended a job fair at Spirit Mountain Casino, which was planning to hire 850 people, both full-time and part-time, in 59 job categories to get the new casino up and running.



2015 File photo

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



TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

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

Current vacancies:

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

For questions email: shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org

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.



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.

Tribal Council approves economic development grant application

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a comprehensive economic development strategy federal grant application for up to \$900,000 at its Wednesday, Aug. 6, meeting.

If approved, the three-year Administration for Native Americans grant would be used to pay for an already-budgeted new position in the Economic Development and Tribal Lands Department.

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

Using the grant funds, the new employee would be sent to economic development trainings and complete an economic development strategy plan for the Tribe.

Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks spoke about the grant at a Tuesday, Aug. 5, Legislative Action Committee meeting and noted that most federal grants now have an application deadline of just two to four weeks after the funding opportunities have been posted. Previously, the timeline was between two months to a year. As a result, the Tribal grants team had to submit the application prior to it being approved by council.

“That made it impossible for us to submit a signed resolution and bring the application to you prior to submission, so if you choose not to approve this resolution, we will withdraw the application,” she said. “I know this is far from ideal and we

really appreciate your flexibility as we look for ways to navigate this interesting new approach.”

Tribal Council member Kathleen George thanked the grants team for their hard work.

“It’s a big adjustment and we really appreciate how you guys are doing your best to just accommodate the shifting sands of federal funding,” she said. “This sounds like a really great project and one that we could really benefit from.”

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved a Tribal credit card for the Social Services Department Children & Family Services Program for \$2,500;
 - Approved an amendment to the fee schedule for the Win Thin Logging Unit timber sale;
 - Approved a grant application for up to \$124,979 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a Tribal cultural use study and co-stewardship project;
 - Approved terminating a credit card processing agreement with Square and approving an agreement with Worldpay LLC. Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno said the new system will allow the Finance Department to accept loan payments from Tribal members electronically;
 - 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. ■

Gas discount

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

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

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Public comment notice — CSBG Block Grant Annual Plan

The Tribe invites Tribal members to review and provide feedback on the proposed CSBG Block Grant Annual Plan. The plan will be available for public review at the Tribal Community Center from Friday, Aug. 15 to Tuesday, Aug. 26.

This public comment period ensures meaningful community participation in the planning process. Tribal members are encouraged to submit their input during this time to Caitlin Zimbrick at caitlin.zimbrick@grandronde.org ■

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. ■

Kick the Habit.

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

LISTEN TO TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS



Peter Grout



Denise Harvey



Toby McClary



Pamala Warren-Chase



Pete Wakeland



Valeria Atanacio

Listen to the Smoke Signals candidate interviews wherever you listen to podcasts or at <https://www.spreaker.com/podcast/smoke-signals-podcasts--2745752>

*All eight Tribal council candidates were invited to the Smoke Signals podcast but this year two candidates decided to direct their campaign efforts elsewhere.

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

VISIT SMOKESIGNALS.ORG AND CLICK ON PODCAST



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Focused on the individual

Tribe’s new dementia care specialist believes in a “person centered” approach

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

When asked to describe how she feels about her new role as the Tribe’s dementia care specialist, Barbara Worthington called it her “unicorn job.”

“I’ve always looked for jobs like this but these roles just don’t exist,” she said. “Then, I saw this job and applied because it was what I’ve always wanted to do. That’s why I call it my unicorn job, because it shouldn’t exist but it does and it’s wonderful.”

Worthington further explained that typically, positions in dementia care involve planning activities, caregiving or fundraising for various associations.

“These grassroots, community education and caregiver support positions don’t usually exist, so I’m thrilled,” she said. “This is my dream job.”

Worthington has been in the position for two months. Before that, she worked in social services at a long-term care facility and in case management at Northwest Senior and Disability Services in Salem.

In her new role, Worthington is charged with increasing community awareness about brain health. This includes dementia signs and symptoms to look for, risk factors, encouraging screening and mini cognitive tests.

“We’re really trying to promote the cognitive test because that way,



Barbara Worthington is the Tribe’s new dementia care specialist.

if there is some dementia attached, we can start early intervention and early treatments,” she said. “Even though there is no cure for dementia, you can certainly do things to improve (outcomes) and then have family conversations. ... You can start getting a plan (in place) to keep you independent as long as possible.”

In addition to providing educational materials and resources, Worthington said her lived experience caring for family members with dementia helps her relate to

struggles caregivers face.

“Basically, I just tell them all the mistakes I made and we go from there,” she said. “Also, I foresee being that liaison who can also talk to the health care provider.”

Worthington has an associate degree in nursing and a bachelor’s degree in gerontology and health education, which she said helps her with “techy talk.”

“I can explain it in both ways, if I need to get technical with providers and then talk to families and caregivers,” she said.

Worthington has created a survey for Tribal members with memory impairment and their caregivers or family members.

“It asks about what needs they have, if they’ve done support groups, and what worked and

didn’t work,” she said. “Just having conversations about what this community needs, not what I think it needs. I want to hear from people who are going through this and then I’ll tailor it to what they need.”

During World Alzheimer’s Month in September, Worthington is planning on having a weekly community-based activity promoting brain health, but without a lecture on the subject.

“So, the first one is a doughnuts and coffee, get to know you,” she said. “Then there’s a game night and a trivia night. This is about letting people know we’re here and easy to get to...I think it’s important to get a sense of community and establish more trust. I think if I just went in and started having an educational forum, would someone really want to listen to me if they don’t know me?”

Worthington has also been going door-to-door in Elder housing and introducing herself, passing out surveys and taking the opportunity to get to know people better.

“Eventually, we can have support groups and one of my bigger goals is to create a memory café...a place that the person living with memory loss and their care partner can come together with other people and we do activities together,” she said. “It’s inclusive, you don’t have to worry if anyone is having any behaviors because we’ve all been there.”

In her spare time, Worthington enjoys spending time with her husband, Mark and their daughters, Gabrielle and Katelyn. The family has two dogs and four cats.

To contact Worthington, call 503-879-1353 or email Barbara.worthington@grandronde.org. ■

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Crisis Text Line Text 741741
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Tribe purchased the former Blue Heron Paper Mill in 2019

FALLS continued from front page

“This legislative appropriation was made without any engagement with Grand Ronde, despite the Tribe’s ancestral connection to Willamette Falls or meaningful public input from Oregonians,” she said in an emailed statement. “Gov. Kotek’s decision represents indifference about Oregon’s true Tribal history and sends a message to Oregon Tribes like Grand Ronde that our documented and indisputable ancestral connections to Willamette Falls and our treaties do not matter. This decision reaffirms the premise that political opportunism by affluent Oregonians will win over honoring Oregon Tribal homeland integrity. It rewards backroom deals while critical state-wide programs such as transportation and education remain unfunded.”

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

Willamette Falls Trust is a non-profit organization comprising the Yakama, Siletz, Umatilla and Warm Springs Tribes, along with government representatives from Oregon City, Metro and the state. It was established in 2015, with Grand Ronde as a member and stated its mission was to re-open the falls to the public and provide more Tribal input to management of the area. However, relations soon became rocky.

A year or two after the Trust was established, Grand Ronde began negotiating with Portland General Electric to place a fishing platform at Willamette Falls. Although negotiations initially went well,



Cheryle A. Kennedy

in 2018, PGE abruptly notified the Tribe it was ending the discussion because of objections from the Warm Springs and other Tribes. PGE operates the Pelton Round Butte hydroelectric complex on the Deschutes River, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Grand Ronde then sought and received authorization from the state to install its fishing platform. That authorization was opposed by PGE and all four of the other Willamette Falls Trust Tribes, who filed an unsuccessful appeal of the decision.

In 2019, Grand Ronde purchased the former Blue Heron Paper Mill and announced plans to demolish the mill structures and restore the property, including public access to the falls.

In 2021, Grand Ronde withdrew from the Willamette Falls Trust. Kennedy accused the Trust of undermining the Tribe’s sovereignty and complained of “micro-aggressions” from staff and board members. The withdrawal left the Trust without property on which to conduct its mission.

In 2022, PGE sued the state of Oregon, seeking to seize ownership of the falls. It was supported by the Tribes involved in the trust. The Siletz participated as a friend of the court, siding with PGE. Grand Ronde contended that PGE is misusing the federal condemnation process to intervene on behalf of the Tribes with whom it has business dealings.

The case went to trial in federal court this past April in Portland. The judge is expected to issue his decision sometime this summer. ■

Back-to-school fair




Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Amy Danforth adds scissors to a backpack as she fills it with school supplies during the Back-to-School Health Fair at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building Thursday, Aug. 7. The event was in partnership with other departments from the Health & Wellness Center and featured health and wellness resources, sports physicals with optional dental screening, fluoride varnish, sealants, a limited supply of free school supplies, free roadside safety kits and a visit from Kona Ice. Almost 100 backpacks were given away during the event.

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. ■



2025-2026 Back-to-School Assistance Program



Youth Education is now opening the “Back to School Assistance Program” for the 2025-26 school year! This program is offered to enrolled Tribal member students entering Kindergarten through 12th grade in the fall of 2025, and supports our youth in acquiring necessary school supplies and clothing.

Eligible students will be issued a one-time \$150 Wal-Mart gift card to be used towards school supplies or school clothing. While applicants will not be required to provide receipt(s), all applicants are subject to audit and may be required to provide receipts at a later date.

Registration opens today and will be a rolling application that remains open until September 30th. Please allow up to three weeks after the date of submission to process applications and distribute your gift card.

Please reach out to Youth Education at (503) 879-2101 with any questions.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/LbnvtZ9pLyUrtV1U8>



youtheducation@grandronde.org

Participants shared personal values, experiences

SUMMIT continued
from front page

thankful to the Tribe for that. ... I hope you take this opportunity to learn about the Tribe. We're still trying to tell our story to the general public and it's not something that a lot of people know."

Curriculum Specialist Cheyanne Heidt told attendees it was OK and encouraged to ask tough questions.

"We want you to ask the hard questions," she said. "As long as you're coming at it from educational perspective, it isn't offensive."

Heidt added that everyone in the room was part of a community that had dedicated their free time to learn about how to work with Native youth, how to teach Tribal history and how to decolonialize and Indigenize.

"I'm just so thankful for this community that's in the room with us," she said. "We welcome you with open arms and hopefully you have a great day."

Instead of a keynote speaker, this year's summit featured a "grounding activity," where participants shared their cultural/personal values, experiences and relationships that guide their work with youth and in education.

"We really want to reflect on the heart of why we are here," Heidt said.

After the opening introductions and activity, educators were offered several breakout sessions in the morning and the afternoon.

Morning sessions included a Native education student panel, Chinuk Wawa 101, the Willamette Education Service District's approach on implementing the "Tribal History, Shared History" curriculum, collaboration between



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Gracie Mercier, left, talks about her experience attending Willamina High School during the 2025 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Education Summit at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Wednesday, Aug. 6. On the right is Tribal member Mikayla Mercier who also shared her experience during a "Student Voices: Native Youth Speak on Education" session during the summit.

the Tribe, school districts and educational institutions in Oregon, generational healing through education, Tribal educational resources for kindergarten through 12th grade and a presentation by Tribal youth who served as interns at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Afternoon sessions included Tribal curriculum in a dual language classroom, an educator's guide to culturally responsive books, traditional and modern storytelling in Grand Ronde, classrooms as sites of healing, Linfield University's integration of Tribal resources into

its teacher education program, a history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and helping Tribal students thrive in higher education.

Scheduled Grand Ronde presenters included Heidt, Shawash Academic Teacher Adam Langley, Chinuk Wawa Outreach Teacher Zoey Holsclaw, Curriculum Coach Cassie De Turk, Education Department Manager Angela Fasana, Cultural Protection Specialist Chris Bailey, Shawash-ili'i Skul Administrator Justine Flynn, Grand Ronde youth Paisley DeLoe and Cheyenne Haller, Cultural Education Specialist Cristina Lara, Education and Career Coach Melissa Palanuk, the Tribal Education Committee and more.

During his session, Langley included several recent and current Tribal Willamina High School students for a question-and-answer session with various educators about their experiences in the educational system.

One of the questions posed was what the students wished that teachers understood about them.

"For being a Native American student in the classroom, I would say, a very general knowledge of Native American history and culture," Gracie Mercier, 18, said. "You don't have to know the entire index history of all the surrounding local Tribes, but just general knowledge of where we're from, what we do and there are some kids who come from there."

Mikayla Mercier, 18, who attended Sheridan Japanese School for several years, shared how different Tribal knowledge is there versus Willamina.

"In Sheridan, it is insane how little people know about Grand Ronde," she said. "In Willamina, it is the exact opposite. In Sheridan, nothing is taught about Native kids...Having a community of Native kids in a place helps a lot."

Langley followed up the youth remarks with a comment that understanding local Indigenous communities in the area makes a

difference.

"Throughout the year we have big events that are so important to our communities," he said. "These are a bit more Grand Ronde specific than a powwow. A lot of kids just got back from Canoe Journey. We have round dance and other seasonal events that are specific to our community. Knowing the events happening in these communities is helpful for teachers."

During the presentation about the American Museum of Natural History internship, DeLoe discussed some successes and frustrations.

For more than two decades, Tribal youth have been taking part in an internship program at the museum, as per an agreement between the Tribe and the museum.

DeLoe talked about her time as an intern and how each year the interns have a project they work on. This year's project was updating the information about Tomanowos on the museum's website. She met with the museum's vice president of communications and pointed out issues on how Tomanowos and the internship are presented on its website.

"Our feedback was implemented the same night...This proves that if it's that simple then why aren't other things being fixed that quickly?" she said.

Another request Deloe and Haller had was having a video playing on the website about the meteorite and its importance to the Tribe. "Unfortunately, we had to go home due to problems abroad," DeLoe said. "I hope to be a part of this project in the future."

The last presenter was Albeliza "Abby" Perez, who is in charge of managing the internship and has been in that role for the past four years.

Perez discussed about how there was no structure for the program when she first started working in the position. She said she knew that change was needed and came to Grand Ronde to meet with previous interns and attend the Education Summit. After that experience, she knew she had to do things differently moving forward.


The presentation ended with a question-and-answer session with approximately 50 people in attendance.

During the Tribal curriculum resources session, De Turk shared some of her background before coming to the Tribe. She taught in McMinnville for 18 years and has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, as well as an Oregon professional teaching license.

De Turk shared the various Tribal curriculum that's available online for all grade levels and how it was developed. She ended the presentation by going over some available resources to check out, such as a giant map of the Reservation and a variety of books from both from local authors and Indigenous authors.

The summit wrapped up around 3 p.m. with a question-and-answer session and closing remarks from Heidt. ■

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Youth grantmakers present checks to organizations helping youth

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Four years into a project to teach the Tribe’s teenagers about philanthropy, grantmaking and community service, the program is hitting its stride, with an annual luncheon to celebrate the organizations chosen by interns of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

This year’s Youth Grantmaking check presentation was held Friday, Aug. 8, at Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center. Summer youth interns research and select their recipients, spend time volunteering with each and finally present them with \$5,000 checks as an offshoot of the Community Fund’s quarterly grant program. Each organization was also gifted beaded necklaces.

Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, who serves on the Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s Board of Directors, attended the luncheon.

“I am so grateful to welcome all of you here today to our reservation,” Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Angela Sears said. “The check presentation is really a way for us to connect with our grantees and recognize all of you for your excellence and dedication.”

Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie noted that to date, the Community Fund has awarded 3,432 grants for a total of \$101,208,330.

During the presentation, Intern



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Spirit Mountain Community Fund youth intern Mikayla Mercier examines a piece of trash she picked up on the beach while volunteering to help with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project at Yaquina Bay South Jetty in Newport Thursday, July 24. The beach cleanup was part of SMCF’s site visit to the Oregon Coast Aquarium.



The Arc of Lane County Development Director Jo Ann Henderson, left, is presented with a check by Spirit Mountain Community Fund youth intern Annabelle Guardiola during the 2025 Youth Grantmaking check presentation at Spirit Mountain Casino Friday, Aug. 8.

to their traditions that have been around for hundreds of years,” she said. “In simple terms, these necklaces aren’t just decorations, they’re symbols of pride and personal ex-

pression. As members of the Grand Ronde Tribe, we are honored to recognize you and the important work that you are doing. We give these necklaces to you today as a token of our appreciation of your generous work gift, of the time and dedication to community development.”

Each intern then briefly explained why she had chosen the selected organizations.

Interns Guardiola, Mikayla Mercier and Samantha Bearface chose the following organizations to receive awards:

- The Arc of Lane County, an advocacy group working to ensure that “people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have the supports they need to live full lives in the communities in which they live.” It provides resources, programs, classes and individual advocacy;
- Jackson Street Youth Center, a shelter for homeless youth in Linn and Benton counties;
- Salem Dream Center, a nonprofit in the Edgewater District in West Salem, that provides services and mentorship to families, to break the cycle of generational poverty;
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc., which provides shelter and services for youth and families in the county;
- And Wisdom of the Elderberry Farm, a nonprofit organization in Marion County that teaches and assists Indigenous youth with skills to find careers in agriculture and horticulture. ■

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Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org

The logo for Smoke Signals, featuring a stylized bird in flight within a circular frame, with the words "smok" and "signalz" on either side.

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A large, stylized thumbs up icon with a blue wristband, indicating a 'like' or 'thumbs up' gesture.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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CHECKLIST:

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- 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.
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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.

2025 Fish Distribution Release Example

I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____

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.

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I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____

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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

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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 member returns home to study the past

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

In the gentle rolling slopes of the Coast Range foothills above where the uyxat Powwow Grounds now stand, grassy meadows dot the hills among stands of mixed fir and hardwoods. An incongruous apple tree, laden with still-small fruit, stands in one field, marking European influence on the idyllic landscape, along with the power lines running across one end of the meadow and the sound of mowers below.

At the edge of the meadow, archeologist and Tribal member Sharrah McKenzie carefully measures out a 9-by-40-meter strip and begins pushing a heavy wheeled cart holding a ground-penetrating radar device across the roughly mown section. On this already-warm July morning, McKenzie is trying to finish her work for the day before the sun grows too hot to continue.

She has spent a decade of her life journeying to this time and place, acquiring the skills she is now bringing back to the Tribe.

Since time immemorial, the area now known as the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area was the homeland of the Yamel branch of the Kalapuya.

After Europeans claimed the land and drove more than 30 Tribes and bands into the newly created Grand Ronde Reservation, it became a fort, bristling with soldiers, guns and horses. The fort was decommissioned a decade later.

Early this year, the Tribe acquired the property and has hired McKenzie to lead a mapping project. Working with the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office, she's using the work to expand the Tribe's knowledge of the area's history.

While archeological studies have been conducted here in the past, they primarily looked at the lives and perspectives of the soldiers



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and archeologist Sharrah McKenzie uses ground-penetrating radar to map an area of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area Tuesday, July 8. Working with the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office, she's using the gathered data to expand the Tribe's knowledge of the area's history.

stationed at Fort Yamhill, McKenzie said.

The Tribe is taking a different approach, examining not only the site's brief decade as a fort, but about the years before and after that period, from the perspective of its original inhabitants.

Speaking to attendees at the Tribe's Honor and Recognition Event in 2024, McKenzie said it was something of a surprise to find herself with a doctorate in the little-known field of paleobiology.

Paleobiology is a combination of disciplines, using fossils to study the biological and environmental history of a region.

McKenzie hadn't loved school, she said, and gravitated toward classes with more of a social focus. After graduating high school, she traveled around the United States for two years, working odd jobs.

"After about two years I realized I was both self-sufficient and hap-

py," she said in her speech. "I was working in jobs that were constantly changing, and knew they were allowing me to travel and work outside, which was exactly what I wanted at that time. ... I remember at this point having a real sense of confidence; it was the first time that I really felt that I had a skill set."

With her newfound self-confidence, McKenzie pursued a bachelor's degree in archeology at Portland State University.

"I felt like I had more control ... I was able to choose what I wanted, that matched my goals and my wants and also my personality, that I wanted to pursue later on in life," she said.

McKenzie loved the idea of being able to travel, visit other cultures and learn about them.

When Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson and Historic Preservation Office Manager Briece Edwards learned there was a Tribal member at PSU studying archeology, they invited her to join a field school the Tribe was conducting in 2015, which involved studying a Grand Ronde Tribal school from the early 1900s.

"It was really great, because it really solidified my interest in archeology," McKenzie said.

Attending field schools was a requirement at PSU, McKenzie said, to help students evaluate whether they want to continue in the field.

"A lot of people stopped, because it is very tiring, it's physically demanding and you're camping out for weeks," she said. "We would get back and argue, 'who's making dinner, I don't want to,'" after a long day in the field.

Despite the challenges, McKenzie knew she had found her path. She attended two field schools: The Tribe's and a forensic archeology study of human remains in California.

The forensic archeology study taught her she didn't want to focus on studying human remains. She eventually settled on paleobiology, which led her to graduate school in Barcelona, Spain, one of three choices worldwide. She spent the next eight years there, acquiring

her master's and doctorate degrees.

"You can start to put together an idea of the environment (fossils) were found in. ... you start to understand not only the animals and the plants, but what kind of environment they lived in and what kind of changes took place," McKenzie said.

Eventually, she hopes to bring more attention to paleobiology in the Pacific Northwest.

"Paleobiology as its own discipline is really lacking here," McKenzie said. "The Pacific Northwest just doesn't have the preservation of fossils so much."

Much of what is now the Pacific Northwest was covered in shallow seas for millions of years and later subject to significant volcanic eruptions, as well as earthquakes.

McKenzie said she loves studying past environments.

"That's what I focused on when I was doing my Ph.D.," she said. "It's possible to start examining how mammals developed, whether its primates or hedgehogs or pigs or whatever; you can start to see how they evolved and what features they retained over millions of years that allowed them to be successful."

At Fort Yamhill, McKenzie hopes to study "the story of the people who were there, and why they liked being there. What kind of trees grew there that could be used for tools, and what kind of stones were in the river (that proved useful) ... it's going to be really great."

When she returned to the United States after completing graduate school abroad, McKenzie applied for a job with the Tribe, citing her experience with the 2015 field school.

Edwards said the Tribe is lucky to have been able to hire McKenzie, who is now working part-time, leading the Fort Yamhill ground-mapping study.

"There's a generation of Grand Ronde that's stepping into cultural resources in this way," he said.

McKenzie, who lives in Portland, said she's working as many hours as possible this summer to conduct the ground radar readings, which will be studied more closely over the winter months to produce a map of the eight to 10-acre area. The work is expected to take a few years, after which the department will assess which areas merit further study.

McKenzie is also working with Oregon State University on archeological sites around western Oregon and will be teaching at Washington State University Vancouver in Vancouver, Washington, in the fall.

"I do wish some universities would start to teach more paleobiology classes," she said. "If I could find a school that had a good department, I'd love to be a part of it." ■

HELP GROW YOUR FAMILY STRONG



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

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

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines

Tribal member’s work part of Portland art exhibit

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

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



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scheduled Appointments Only	Walk-In Day
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	

To schedule an appointment:

Call (503) 879-1424 or

CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

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

CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS



THURSDAYS | NOON-5PM

OPEN TO TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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

CONTACT: CULTURALEDCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Visitors to EAC asked to utilize parking lots, not streets

Tribal administration is requesting that non-Elder visitors to the Tribe’s Elders Activity Center utilize the parking lot across the street from the Adult Foster Care homes, as Blacktail Drive was not built to accommodate street parking.

“We have allowed street parking knowing that at some point this was going to need to be addressed because of how narrow the street becomes when cars park on one side of the roadway, which only allows for one car to pass through at a time,” Tribal Interim General Manager Bryan Langley said in an email. “With the increase in the numbers of residents and employees, the traffic in this area has also increased, making this area unsafe at times. Public Works will be reviewing this area to determine potential changes that will need to be made to allow cars to pass uninhibited and provide safe street parking, therefore we are asking that only Elders park on the south side of Blacktail Drive while visiting the Elders Activity Center.”

The Tribe is planning on doing some curb painting and placing additional signage to raise awareness regarding the changes. ■

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. ■

Emergency lodging offered at casino during tsunami advisory

In response to the tsunami advisory issued the evening of Tuesday, July 29, for the Oregon coast, Spirit Mountain Casino implemented preparedness measures to accommodate potential guests who were displaced from coastal areas.

The hotel also made rooms available for employees as a precaution; however, none were utilized. Leadership also ensured room rates remained appropriate by adjusting pricing to prevent unintended rate inflation in the event of increased demand.

A total of 197 rooms were occupied that evening, most of which were reserved prior to the tsunami advisory.

Guest Safety/Security set up 23 cots in the casino’s Event Center, along with coffee and water service, for any guests needing emergency accommodations. Signs were placed to direct guests to this location, although no guests ultimately used the space.

Guest Safety reported several families with children arriving from coastal areas. In response, the standard restaurant closing times were temporarily waived to allow them access to open food venues.

“Security staff remained in close communication with Grand Ronde Emergency Services and continuously monitored NOAA, Tsunami.gov, and the National Weather Service for real-time updates,” Spirit Mountain Casino CEO Camille Mercier said. “Consistent communication with the executive team was maintained throughout the evening and overnight to ensure coordinated efforts and guest safety.” ■

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’alas 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!

Canoe Journey takes unexpe



A warrior dance is performed during the Grand Ronde Canoe Journey protocol during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey.

Ten-month-old Delia Jurado, left, carried by her mother Kim Jurado, and 9-month-old Julius Fryberg, carried by Tribal member Kailiyah Krehbiel, participate in the Grand Ronde Canoe Journey protocol during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey in Port Angeles, Wash., Saturday, Aug. 2.

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

PORT ANGELES – The Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey took an unexpected turn this year, after a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake rattled the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia Tuesday, July 29, with global consequences. Tsunami waves a foot or more high reached as far as Oregon and Washington.

Water conditions were so rough in the following days that Grand Ronde and several other canoe families decided to forgo the final paddle to the Landing Day cere-

mony Thursday, July 31. Instead, practicing for protocol in camp occupied a morning people had expected to spend on the water, although some went to watch the canoes that had decided to brave the weather coming in. Some canoes had to be towed across the final stretch and one capsized.

This year's Canoe Journey was hosted by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and landing day had been scheduled to take place at the mouth of the Elwha River near Port Angeles, Washington. Grand Ronde first participated in the annual event in 2005, with

just a handful of Tribal members and youth. Then called the "Healing and Unity Journey," it was also hosted by the Elwha Tribe. Twenty years later, Grand Ronde participation has grown to more than 100 in attendance, often with entire families instead of just Tribal youth.

After a tsunami advisory was issued on Tuesday, July 29, families and supporters scrambled to pull canoes up to higher ground before the first waves were expected to hit that evening, sending out calls on social media to those camped farther away, asking if they had permission to move their canoes as well. Experts noted that even small tsunamis can create strong currents or dangerous waves and can continue for as long as 15 hours after the initial wave.

Rough sea conditions continued over the next two days and some Canoe Families pulled out at that point.

"After the tsunami, that was just kind of a turning point, and this water is always challenging, even without that," Tribal Social Services Manager Dana Ainam said.

This year's journey proved more adventurous than expected, she said, noting that there was no cell service at some camp sites, making getting the word out about the tsunami more challenging.

Grand Ronde forgoes Landing Day

Tribal Cultural Advisor and Skipper Bobby Mercier said that after he attended the skippers' meeting Wednesday July 30, the group decided not to proceed.

"The chair was advising not to go out and sent us all the logistics on

Tribal member Hattie Mercier dances as the Grand Ronde Canoe Family performs protocol during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey in Port Angeles, Wash., Saturday, Aug. 2.



TO SEE MORE P



@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrs

what's going to be happening, and we were just like, 'No way. We've been in that before. We're not going to go,' Mercier said.

The final pull was expected to take eight or nine hours, in a strong current with high winds and possible fog. Participating canoes were "highly encouraged" to leave by no later than 6 a.m., to avoid the worst weather.

"Please be careful and don't underestimate the west wind," a message from the Jamestown Support Boat Captain warned. "It will be 20-25 mph by mid-afternoon and it will get pretty rough."

"And sure enough, there's all these canoes getting towed out there; they're getting like 3- to 4-foot chops at 'em, white caps just blowing wind and rain in their face," Mercier said. "A bunch of the people that were on the support boats were getting calls over here at the next camp, to come down and pick up a bunch of the kids because they're getting seasick out there from being tossed around for six hours."

Declining to go out in those conditions was in keeping with Tribal tradition, he said.

"Our ancestors didn't travel when there was bad days," Mercier said. "They said, 'Well, we'll camp for one more night and maybe it's better tomorrow.' But to put a timeline on stuff, where it says 'Listen, you have to be in the water today' ... Our people didn't travel like that, and we're not going to do it either. If that weather is bad, we're not going to take our kids and our families out in that. And so, we're all here, we're all safe and yeah, we're good."

Mercier noted that there would be a second landing the following day.

"There will be another landing there tomorrow, because canoes

ected turn when tsunami hits



nd Ronde Canoe Family's
noe Journey.

mother, Tribal member
ried by his mother, Tribal
nd Ronde Canoe Family's
Journey in Port Angeles,

PHOTOS AND VIDEO



are expected from Can-
ada tomorrow; they're
expecting I think 30 can-
oes," he said.

However, he said, the
site canoes were being invited to
launch from was small and crowd-
ed.

"A lot of rigs, a lot of people, a lot of
canoe trailers trying to spin around
down there and maneuver, and that's
just asking for an accident," Mercier
said. "Our biggest thing was, we were
invited to be here, to potlatch with
these guys, to come here and be part
of their big to-do, and we're here. Our
canoes are here."

The Tribe spent a more relax-
ing morning singing, drumming
and dancing in practice for their
protocol ceremony that took place
Saturday, Aug. 2.

Protocol typically begins with the
Tribe who traveled the furthest to
participate in Canoe Journey and
includes introductions, singing and
dancing. The entire ceremony can
last several days.

Participants reflect on experience

Tribal Elder Kimberly Contreras,
who said she's been participating in
Canoe Journey for around 16 years,
reflected the general pragmatic
mood about the decision.

"It's better to be safe than sorry,"
she said. "The seas were really
rough this morning."

She noted that videos showed
canoes being towed to shore amid
heavy waves.

"It's totally dangerous," Contre-
ras said.

She said she's happy to see par-
ticipation in Canoe Journey con-
tinuing to grow, noting a comment
from a friend of hers that more
families are participating as a
whole, "instead of just sending
their youth."



Sam Hedrick, 14, gets help from Samara Perez, 14, putting on a cedar headband while preparing for the Grand Ronde Canoe Family's protocol during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey in Port Angeles, Wash., Saturday, Aug. 2.

Tribal Council member and Trib-
al Elder Brenda Tuomi said she
"thoroughly enjoyed" participating
in journey this year, noting that
she was the oldest member in her
canoe.

"It's still great to just sit there in
the canoe, with everybody around
you," she said. "You can't see the
people behind you, but you can
hear the paddles hitting the water
and the conversations. It's an hon-
or to come in and ask for landing
at each camping site along the
way. I love to see the little ones
paddling along with the adults as
they come by."

Tuomi watched the landing cere-
mony for those canoes that decided
to brave the conditions.

"It's emotional to watch, it's beau-
tiful," she said. "Everybody working
together and paddling and having
this common purpose."

Tribal member Gracie Mercier,
participating in her second Canoe
Journey, was also philosophical
about the ending, saying she had
enjoyed the experience.

"I pulled two times," she said. "It
was pretty good. The first time was
easier. The second was the longest
and hardest I had ever done, but
talking to other people, they said
it was not too bad."

She said she was "not too upset
about" forgoing landing because
she had experienced the ceremony
at the earlier stops.

"And I know I'll get to see it
again in the future, and we'll get
to see other Tribes, so I'm not too
bummed," she said.

The 2026 Canoe Journey will
be hosted by the Nisqually Indian
Tribe near Olympia, Washington. ■



Tribal member Alicia Cox gets her hair braided by Tribal member Sissy Runningbird while at camp during the Paddle to Elwha 2025 Canoe Journey, in Port Angeles, Wash., Thursday, July 31.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition seeking survivor stories

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Oral History Project will be in Portland from Monday, Aug. 25 to Friday, Aug. 29. It will offer an opportunity for those who attended Indian boarding schools from across the Pacific Northwest and the United States to share their stories and contribute to a national initiative.

“NABS’s visit to Oregon marks a pivotal moment for boarding school relatives to preserve their personal histories through professional video interviews,” a press release stated. “Participants’ stories will become part of a permanent collection with the Library of Congress, ensuring their experiences are honored and remembered for generations to come. This effort is a cornerstone of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative — a historic undertaking to document, acknowledge, and reckon with the experiences of boarding school survivors.”

Oral History Project Co-Director Lacey Kinnart (Sault Ste. Marie Ojibwe) said she was “honored” to gather with Native relatives in the Pacific Northwest to honor their voices.

“We are committed to working closely with survivors, creating a space where they feel empowered, respected and fully supported as they share their stories,” she said. “Above all, we will ensure that every survivor who engages with our project is met with the utmost care, compassion and respect throughout the entire process.”

The NABS Healing Coalition will be at Embassy Suites by Hilton, 319 SW Pine St., Portland.

Survivors that attended a federally supported Indian boarding school in the United States by 1970 are invited to attend. To register, visit www.tfaforms.com/5092936 or call 651-650-4445

To learn more, visit <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/oral-history-project> or contact the oral history project team at 651-650-4445 or OralHistoryProject@nabshc.org. ■

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. ■

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.

PETER GROUT

“BOON”

FOR TRIBAL COUNCIL

OLD WORLD VALUES, NEW WORLD UNDERSTANDING.

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

Paid political ad

CTGR

Tribal Council

Warren31@yahoo.com

971-237-3696

VOTE — 2025

Pamala Warren-Chase

Paid political ad

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



TEACH

our children
our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.
APPLY TO AITP
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@ctsi.nsn.us

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

Meals Provided!
Camping will be available

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. ■

AMPKWA ADVOCACY

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS FUTURES
ADVOCACY

2025 MMIP

(MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE)


AWARENESS WALK/EVENT

JOIN US FOR A POWERFUL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE, VISIBILITY, AND UNITY AS
WE WALK TOGETHER IN HONOR OF MISSING
AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE


AMPKWAADVOCACY.ORG
CONTACT: AMANDA@AMPKWAADVOCACY.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

LOCATION: RIVERVIEW PARK
50 C ST
INDEPENDENCE, OR 97351


PLEASE JOIN US !!
AUGUST 30, 2025
9AM-2:30PM



SPECIAL GUEST
CHE JIM



INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S DANCE
HONORING STRENGTH,
HEALING, AND PRESENCE
THROUGH TRADITION



SCAN TO REGISTER

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.


Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Paid political ad


Support wherever
and whenever
you need it.

Text Native to 741741.
#WeNeedYouHere





Matthew Jackson
Backflow
Certified



720-499-8306

Prevent contamination
&
Ensure your family's
safety today

Paid ad



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

VOTE

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



TOBY 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

Elect Toby McClary

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

 tobymcclary@gmail.com   Toby McClary for Tribal Council

Paid political ad

Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes

10-4pm

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 @ indigenoustattooco@gmail.com
Stephanie Craig @ kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com
Molly Leno @ molly.leno@grandronde.org



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

503-879-4623
CourtPrograms@grandronde.org

Seeking Nominations

Continue traditions that build community

The Peacemaker Program is intended to reflect the Tribe's traditional values of using respected members of the community to heal conflicts among its members.

If you know a Tribal member who is held in high esteem in the community and who can work with their brothers and sisters to restore harmony through peaceful resolution, please nominate them today.

Qualified candidates must be: • At least 25 years of age • Be a Tribal member • Be a known and respected member of the community in which she/he lives

Full name: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

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



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

In Re: Estate of:

June Ann Burnham

Case No. 25CC015

NOTICE TO HEIRS

NOTICE

TO: THE HEIRS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is given to you as an heir of the above-named decedent who Walked
On in Grand Ronde Oregon Yamhill
(CITY) (STATE) (County)
on June 14th 2025
(DATE WALKED ON)

NOTICE

Estate proceedings in the decedents estate, bearing the Tribal Court Case Number 25CC015, have been commenced and are now pending in the above-entitled court. The Court has determined that there is ☒ a valid Will ☐ NOT a valid Will ☐ that Decedent Walked on intestate leaving no known Will. On August 6th 2025, the undersigned was duly appointed and is now serving as Personal Representative of the estate. Your rights may be affected by this proceeding: additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the undersigned Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, if applicable. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the attorney for the Personal Representative is as follows:

NOTICE TO HEIRS I

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347
PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX: 503-879-2269

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Marianne Blanchard

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Tribal Probate Code, Chapter 310, section (s) provides that any interested person may file a petition to contest the validity of a Will or finding Decedent dies Intestate within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first, as provided in Subsection (n)(1), and all untimely filed petitions are forever barred.

DATED THIS 16th DAY OF August, 2025

Signature of Personal Representative

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

In Re: Estate of:

June Ann Burnham

Case No.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS

Decedent.

NOTICE

TO: THE PUBLIC AND CREDITORS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is being provided to the public and all Creditors, the above-named decedent who Walked On in Oregon Yamhill
Grand Ronde
(CITY) (STATE) (County)
on June 14th 2025
(DATE WALKED ON)

NOTICE

ESTATE OF: June Ann Burnham
The Person named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim in the manner as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance Chapter 310, subsection (p) which is available online at www.grandronde.org by serving on or mailing the personal representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance, Chapter 310, Subsection (n)(2). Any claim against the Estate not presented within the 60 day time line shall be barred.

Date of First Publication: August 15, 2025

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS I

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347
PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX: 503-879-2269

Personal Representative: Marianne Blanchard
Attorney for Personal Representative (if applicable):
Address for Mailing or Service: 9521 Raven Loop Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Phone: 971-267-0424

DATED THIS 16th DAY OF August, 2025

Signature of Personal Representative

Acupuncture & Cupping in SW PORTLAND

For tribal members and employees

**3 blocks from CTGR Office!

TUES, WED, THURS, SAT

Mallory Harman, LAc

Ellisia B. Grove, LAc

Grace Rodriguez, LAc

dearbody

ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES

To schedule or ask questions:
CALL/TEXT 503-482-9370
EMAIL info@yourdearbody.com

Acupuncture in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Mallory Harman, LAc

Alison Healy, LAc

Grace Rodriguez, LAc

Questions or to schedule:
CALL OR TEXT: 503-482-9370
EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com

dearbody

ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES

Acupuncture can help with...

• pain

• headaches/migraines

• digestive issues

• women's health issues

• emotional pain & trauma

• diabetic neuropathy

• addictions

• and so much more!




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






VOTE DENISE HARVEY FOR GRAND RONDE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Integrity in Action:
Denise pledges transparent decision-making, ensuring tribal resources and opportunities serve every member fairly and equitably.

Honesty with Our Community:
Denise will always communicate openly, keeping you informed and involved in the decisions that shape Grand Ronde’s future.

Reliability You Can Count On:
From protecting our cultural heritage to strengthening economic opportunities, Denise is dedicated to delivering results for all generations.

Integrity | Honesty | Reliability



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. ■

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. ■



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.



When you need someone to listen, 988 is here.

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

Call or text 988

A message in partnership with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Willamina High School

Class of 1975 50th reunion

Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23
Potluck style
8540 Fort Hill Road
Shuttle service is available for those with mobility concerns.
RSVP: Joyce Kohls, 503-559-9120

Paid ad

ATTENTION!!!

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

CTGR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

RECYCLE



Paid political ad

LOVE - FUN AND ADVENTURE

LICENSED - ERDC QUALIFIED - CPR CERTIFIED
1930'S SCHOOLHOUSE IN SHERIDAN RURAL SETTING
WITH 2 ACRES OF FENCED YARD AND ORIGINAL
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

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

WELCOMING CHILDREN FROM 6 WEEKS TO 13 YEARS OLD
FULL-TIME CARE WITH NEGOTIABLE HOURS

CALL 503-437-0332 OR EMAIL TAMMYTREXLER@ALITTLEBITCOUNTRYDAYCARE.COM

Paid ad

HEALTH & WELLNESS
CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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

PICK-UP
AND
DROP-OFF
ONLY

NO PARKING

Join Us for an

Overdose Awareness BBQ

On August 28th @ 12 ~ 2 PM

At the Cheryle Kennedy Public Health Building

Come together to honor, heal, and raise awareness.

Enjoy free BBQ, connection, resources, and a shared commitment
to recovery and remembrance.

All are welcome



Table Games Dealer School

(One class offered, maximum of 16 students)

- WHAT:** Learn to deal blackjack and several other games.
- WHO:** Preference will be provided to enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; although all applicants are welcome to apply for consideration.
- WHEN:** Deadline to apply is **5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4**
Training begins on **Monday, Sept. 15**
Dealer school ends on **Friday, Nov. 21 (10-week course)**
Class Times: **Monday – Friday. Class times will be decided based on availability of applicants, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.**
- WHERE:** Training is held in the Table Games Training Room at Spirit Mountain Casino
- HOW:** Selection criteria, see below

Applicant selection will be based on a combination of the following criteria:

- ♦ Tribal member preference will apply
- ♦ Passing score for basic math entrance exam
- ♦ Current employees must meet transfer eligibility requirements
- ♦ Ability to obtain High Security class III Gaming License
- ♦ Must be 21 years of age

Upon successful completion of the school, students will be required to pass a dealing audition.

Dealer positions are not guaranteed. Open positions will be posted and filled using the regular employment process as business needs arise.

10 weeks training in Blackjack, Three Card Poker, Let It Ride, Jackpot Texas Hold'em & blackjack variants and side bets to complete school. Additional training in Pai Gow, Baccarat and Pitch is required after class completion to maintain employment.

For more information or assistance, please contact employmentteam@spiritmtn.com, or call 503-879-3737



Scan here to apply!



SHAWASH-ILI?I SKUL

tunus-tənas
lu?lu



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

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

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

MAY 20TH
JUNE 17TH
JULY 15TH
AUGUST 19TH



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 third 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. ■



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach (K-5)	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	08/18/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part-Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Front Desk Dental Assistant	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
High School Intern – Part-Time - Youth Enrichment	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Maintenance Technician – Facilities	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	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
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - GCR	14	\$90,930.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Secretary - Housing	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	08/18/2025
Senior Help Desk Technician	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	08/11/2025
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.	Until Filled
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

WHAT POWERS YOU?



Offering energy **savings** and **solutions** that power your life.

Find cash incentives and resources at energytrust.org



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Dealer School Student	9/4/2025	
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Cleaning Attendant	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Services Cashier (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Front-Desk Clerk (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Houseperson (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Room Attendant (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Slot Attendant (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Warehouse Clerk (*Part-Time)	8/14/2025	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
IT Production Supervisor	Until Filled	\$83,914.69/yr. DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Restaurant Manager	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Room Chef	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. 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.

TERO Worker of the Month

July 2025

Name: Tim Harris
Employer: Wildish Standard Paving
Position: Heavy equipment operator

Tim Harris just recently joined our TERO workforce in March. With his vast knowledge and experience as an operator, he was immediately referred out to Wildish Standard Paving on the Newberg-Dundee Bypass project as an equipment operator. Tim has been operating equipment for more than eight years. His experience and knowledge is what landed him a job with Wildish. Wildish is a very renowned company in the heavy highway construction industry.

Since starting work on the Newberg-Dundee Bypass, Tim has been a key part of the project. He has been learning new skills such as GPS, grade measuring and much more. Tim’s willingness to learn new skills has opened up an opportunity to be enrolled in a crane operating training which will certify him to operate cranes of up to 60 tons or more.

We asked Tim what advantages there were for him after signing up with TERO and he said it, “Helped him with networking placement, which gave him the tools to capitalize on opportunities when they arise.”

We here at TERO are proud to have Tim as our July 2025 TERO Worker of the Month! Great work Tim!

For more information on the TERO Skills Bank and any other TERO opportunities, contact the TERO Office or the TERO director. TERO Office: 503-879-1488 or tero@grandronde.org



Tim Harris

Walking On...

Corinne Kay Fugate

Sept. 25, 1964 – July 26, 2025

Corinne Kay Fugate was born Sept. 25, 1964, to Gloria June (Riggs) Fugate and Clyde Wilson Fugate.

On July 26, 2025, Corinne ran into the arms of our dad for the best hug, after a short but relentless battle against cancer. Over the last several months, she displayed the strength and courage of a true warrior — and through it all she was positive and kept facing the challenges with optimism and conviction.

She is survived by her sons, Nathan Fugate and Cameron Fugate; mother, Gloria Fugate; brother, Mike Fugate and his wife Kim; sister, Kelly and her husband Mark Rowe; and numerous nephews and a niece, several aunts and uncles, many cousins and so many friends. Corinne was a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, who was proud of her heritage.

Corinne was raised in the Glide, Oregon area and went to school there from kindergarten through high school. She spent years in Eugene at the University of Oregon and at Umpqua Community College, furthering her education. Corinne settled in the area east of Roseburg to raise her boys — who were the light of her life. And though our hearts are broken, we know she is up to crazy shenanigans with dad, her uncles, Art and grandma.

We will all miss her and remember the good times we had in her presence — as kids, as young adults, as crew members and as those who loved her.

A celebration of life was held at the Glide Community Center at 11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 3.



Lance Ling

Sept. 30, 1974 – July 31, 2025

Tribal member Lance Ling passed away on July 31, 2025, at the age of 50.

Simple Cremation in Las Vegas, Nevada is assisting the family.

Funeral services details were not available by press time.



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?
Do you have questions about diabetes?
Do you need help managing your diabetes?
If so...
Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002
To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

DUNK TANK

Get the opportunity to DUNK your favorite Community Health or Public Health Worker!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ELDER SAFETY FAIR

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
3:00PM–6:00PM
LOCATION: OLD POW WOW GROUNDS
ACROSS FROM THE GOVERNANCE BUILDING

EMERGENCY BAGS TO THE FIRST 100 ELDERS

SWAG BAGS
PRIZES
FOOD
GAMES
ACTIVITIES
GREAT RESOURCES
EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT COMMUNITY HEALTH FOR MORE INFORMATION
503-879-2078

Elder “Car Wash”

Get a quick clean up of your walker/wheelchair, and an inspection to identify the needs for repairs/adjustments


SAVE THE DATE

GONA

GATHERING OF GRAND RONDE
TILIXAM

OCTOBER 15 - 17 2025

Grand Ronde, Oregon



UPCOMING EVENTS!!
MARK YOU CALENDAR!

SEPT 2025

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

Join Community Health for Fun Healthy Brain Activities

2 SEPT
TIME: TBD

COFFEE, CIDER & DONUT BAR

Glazed & Confused (Until We had Coffee)! Sip, savor, and socialize. Enjoy a delicious selection of donuts, yummy toppings, cider, coffee, and good company!
Elder Activity Center

9 SEPT
TIME: TBD

YAHTZEE MANIA

Let the good times roll! Join us for a fun-filled Yahtzee event where the dice roll and the laughter never stops!
Elder Activity Center

16 SEPT
TIME: TBD

LET'S GET SKETCHY


Unleash your inner artist! No experience necessary! Join artist Shelly Mackerell for a relaxing & creative pastel drawing class. Supplies are provided.
Elder Activity Center

30 SEPT
TIME: TBD

TRIVIA NIGHT (BUT IN THE DAY)

Put your brain to the test and join us for a fun-filled Trivia Night (but in the day)--laughter, learning, and prizes await!
Elder Activity Center

Community Health



503-879-2078


PROGRAM DETAILS

Programming will begin on August 26th and is generally Monday-Friday: 3:45 pm-6:00 pm on school days. Full-day programming is available from 8:00 am to 5:15 pm on most no-school days (Willamina School District Calendar is generally followed). We also frequently host Youth Center Saturday activities and Monday Meet-ups. Sign-ups are not required, except occasionally for no-school day field trips. Calendar of events coming soon!


Who can participate?

Native students currently in 6th through 12th grade (2025-26 school year) in the local service area. Please note that our Tribal preference policy will be in place as well as preference for parents working during program hours for field trips and activities with limited spots.

Sign up here or with QR code:
<https://forms.gle/Eo3GzAliqf7ky4zd6>



Questions? Please reach out to us at
youthenrichment@grandronde.org
or 503-879-2101




TRIBAL BEATS MEET MODERN HIP-HOP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 • 8pm • RIVERS EVENT CENTER

A dynamic fusion of Indigenous beats with dubstep, hip-hop and bass!


Formerly known as *A Tribe Called Red*, this Juno Award-winning Canadian electronic duo has amassed over 100 million Spotify streams and has been featured at Coachella and in popular video games like Fortnite.

Every ticket is good for \$5 FREEPLAY at WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO!



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Open to ages 15+



THREE DECADES OF FUN

30 YEARS

WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

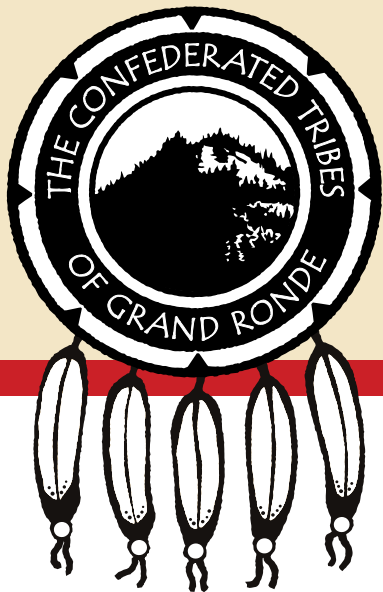
CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • RV • DINING • FUNPLEX

800.654.9453 • Pendleton, OR I-84 Exit 216 • wildhorseresort.com

Must be 15+ to attend. Must be Club Wild member to redeem FreePlay offer. Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time. 07255TT0725

Paid ad

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.



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. ■

Attention to Tribal members with Medicare

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

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

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

hayu masi,
HWC Admin



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