SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

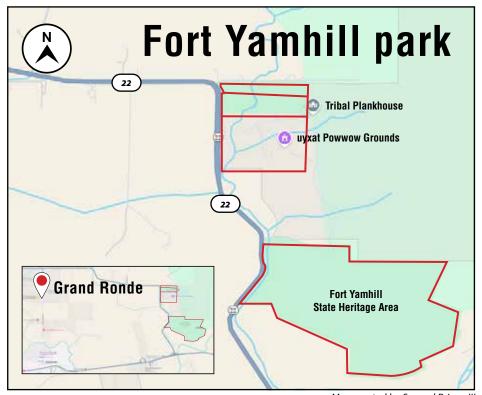


SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA, MOLALLA, ROGUE RIVER, KALAPUYA, CHASTA

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

Tribe working to uncover Fort Yamhill history



Map created by Samuel Briggs III

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

n January, the Tribe officially took possession of a piece of its history; the property where the former Fort Yamhill stood in the 1850s.

For decades, the 80-acre property had been a missing puzzle piece in the forested hills above the uyxat Powwow Grounds; a state park that Tribal foresters had to work around, memorializing, not Tribal history, but the history of the soldiers at the gate.

The foothills of the Coast Mountain Range had been a hospitable site for the Yamel branch of the Kalapuya for millennia. Deer and elk were abundant and camas thrived in the floodplains, while Oregon white oak nourished wildlife and provided a bounty of acorns. The hillsides offered tarweed seeds,

wild carrots, thimbleberries, huckleberries, native blackberries and more. The hill that later became Fort Yamhill commanded a wide view of the valley below.

"It's a broadleaf tree and grassland area, protected from the east winds, with water access; this is a great place," Tribal Historic Preservation Office Manager Briece Edwards said.

In the 1850s, the U.S. Army drove Tribes from across the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon to the new Grand Ronde Reservation, jamming together people with different languages and customs without regard for their differences. In 1856, the Army built a fort on the hill above to ensure everyone stayed put. It was also supposed

See HISTORY continued on page 6

Tribal Council approves general welfare assistance payments

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

ribal Council approved final adoption of the General Welfare Assistance Program Ordinance to help Tribal members maintain their health and quality of life at its Wednesday, Aug. 20, meeting.

Several council members said during a Tuesday, Aug. 19, Legislative Action Committee meeting that the ordinance had been years in the making and credited past Tribal Council member Michael Langley for his efforts to move it forward.

"Michael Langley was leading this effort and then we kind of slacked off when he was not reelected a couple of years ago, but we've picked up the baton and we're here," Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said. "We've been talking about it for years."

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller said he appreciated Langley's efforts to move the ordinance forward, even after he was no longer on council.

"I hold my hands up to (him) and I know he spoke on this often," Haller said. "He wrote long articles online that I definitely read and processed, and he just opened his arms and within my first month on council he contacted me and his whole objective was just how could we continue to move this forward. So, I think even after he wasn't reelected, he continued to help push us in the direction of making sure that we are where we are today."

Tribal Council member Kathleen George noted that all Tribal members have had to deal with

See MEETING continued on page 5

2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow edition



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Kalea Liebelt, 13, participates in the 1 p.m. grand entry during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.



Story and more photos INSIDE.



General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7
Tribal Council Chambers

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

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed. Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.

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 office line, 503-879-1389. ■

Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of Labor Day. Offices will also be closed Friday, Sept. 26, in observance of National Native American Day.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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

WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

smok signəlz

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DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

Thursday, Sept. 4	Sept. 15
Monday, Sept. 22	Oct. 1
Tuesday, Oct. 7	Oct. 15
Wednesday, Oct. 22	Nov. 1

MEMBERS OF:

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

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smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

N THE FUTURE (kʰapa aɫqi)

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 High-
- Friday, Sept. 26 Tribal offices closed in observance of National Native American Day.

ta†lam-mun (October)

- Sunday, Oct. 5 General Council meeting. Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Oct. 8 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Oct. 13 Tribal offices closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Wednesday, Oct. 22 Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

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

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

Smoke Signals:

facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:

facebook.com/CTGRgov

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:

facebook.com/GRHWC

Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:

facebook.com/CTGRCFS

Grand Ronde Royalty: facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty

Grand Ronde Education Programs:

facebook.com/CTGREducation

Grand Ronde Youth Council:

facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil

Grand Ronde Station:

facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

Grand Ronde Social Services Department:

facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices

Grand Ronde Food Bank:

facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank

Spirit Mountain Community Fund:

facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund

Grand Ronde Cultural Education:

facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education

Grand Ronde Community Garden:

facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:

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

Grand Ronde Employment Services

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

Tribal 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.

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

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. ■

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. ■



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 September 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. \blacksquare

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, Sept. 19, 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.



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.



2020 — As the economic fallout from the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic dragged into fall, Tribal Council approved another round of payments to help adult Tribal members manage, using its funding from the CARES Act. The approximately 4,500 adult Tribal members were approved to receive three payments of \$600 each month, from September through November.

2015 — The Willamina Creek Fire, which burned some 230 acres of heavily timbered land in Yamhill County, 4.8 miles from the northeast corner of the Grand Reservation boundary, prompted the Tribe to activate its Emergency Operations Team. Residents of four cabins along East Creek Road were required to evac-



File photo

uate. While firefighters were battling that blaze, smoke from large fires in eastern Oregon and Washington blanketed the Willamette Valley, leaving Grand Ronde cloaked in haze. The Elders Activity Center was designated as an emergency shelter for Tribal members who needed a place to escape from breathing the smoke.

2010 — U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader hired Tribal member Stacia Martin, winner of the 2009-10 Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship, as his communications director. The Spirit Mountain Community Fund started the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship Program in 1997, to offer Native Americans the opportunity to learn the federal legislative system and become skilled at working within the system to meet Tribal needs.

2005 — The Tribe entered an agreement with the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department to develop the Fort Yamhill site as a new state park, with restoration of the officers' quarters, a new entrance road and informational signage.

2000 — The Tribe was sending a social and economic community assessment survey to all Tribal members 17 and older, to create a database and help Tribal Council plan the Tribe's future.

1995 — In recognition of the 50th anniversary of World War II, the annual powwow honored Tribal veterans who served in the Armed Forces, presenting each with a Pendleton blanket, and held honor dances to show respect for all veterans. Thousands of visitors attended the powwow.

1990 — The Tribe received a \$275,000 block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to construct a community services building.

1985 — Tribal members were reminded to complete their health care service applications annually, to enable the Western Oregon Service Unit to keep its files up to date, and ensure the Tribe received the funding it was entitled to.

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

ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

One permanent full time board member position open.

Two alternate board member positions open.

Qualifications:

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

For information contact:

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Board thanks



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees member Brenda Tuomi is presented a Tri-logoed blanket by Tribal Council member and SMCF Trustee Kathleen George during a recognition lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino Monday, Aug. 11. Tuomi was appointed to the SMCF board in October 2022, served as chair for part of her time on the board and is retiring this month.



Spirit Mountain Casino CEO and former Spirit Mountain Community
Fund Board of Trustees member Camille Mercier, right, speaks during a
recognition lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino Monday, Aug. 11. Mercier
served on the board from 2004 to 2010, and from Sept. 2021 to April
this year. She stepped down in April. SMC Director of Information
Technology Trevor Aaron took her seat as the Spirit Mountain Gaming
Inc. Board representative and he was elected as the new board chair at
the third quarter board meeting. On the left is Tribal Council member
and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees member
Brenda Tuomi, who was also recognized for her time on the board.

Free online film screening offered through Sept. 8

Smoke Signals is celebrating nearly nine years as one of the few independent Tribal publications in all of Indian Country. During the Indigenous Journalists Association 2025 Indigenous Media Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, held in August, Smoke Signals had the opportunity to chat with IJA board member, journalist and independent press advocate Angel Ellis (Muscogee (Creek) Nation).

Ellis starred in the Sundance award-winning film "Bad Press," which documents the struggle she championed for a free press within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Ellis and the "Bad Press" producers have generously agreed to provide a free, online viewing of the film through Monday, Sept. 8. We invite the entire Grand Ronde community and others to watch this real-life struggle for sovereignty.

Enter the link below into a web browser. Password: Angel2025! After entering the password, scroll down and enter a second password (listed below "Watch the film") to view it.

www.badpress.film/tribal-elections

Payments will be made quarterly

MEETING continued from front page

inflation, economic uncertainty and rapidly rising prices, especially for housing. She added that the new general assistance payments will not be subject to federal taxes.

"This is going to increase our ability to address that (financial) need for Tribal members without them losing a substantial portion to taxes," she said. "For those Tribal members who are Elders and saw how the transition to the Elders general welfare payment went... this is the same kind of transition, only for our members at large."

Payments will begin going out to all eligible Tribal members beginning in September, including minor children, for the purpose of maintaining health, well-being, quality of life and independence.

The payments will be made quarterly. The amount and method of payment has not yet been determined but will be announced soon, according to Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez. Monthly payments will not be under consideration until at least January.

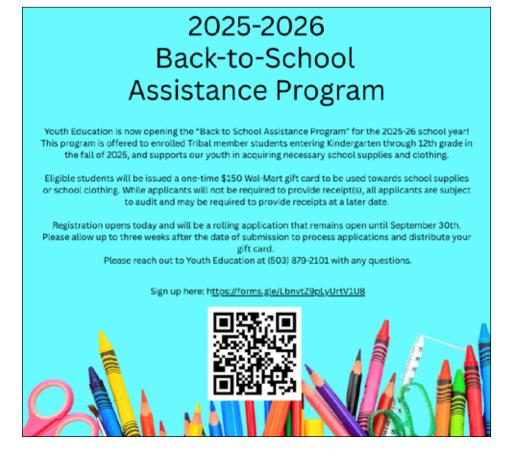
In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a waiver of sovereign immunity with Yubico Software only to the binding arbitration provision in the contract;
- Approved an application to the First Nations Development Institute for the Growing Tribal Economies Through Forest Market Innovations grant for up to \$500,000;
- Approved a contract with Todd Construction Inc. of Portland for the construction of the Wind River Apartments phase 3 in Tribal housing. The project will include 10 apartment buildings with 45 one- and two-bedroom units equipped with solar panels. The project has a tentative completion date of November 2026;
- Approved the continuation of a two-year agreement with the Ore-

gon Department of Transportation to provide operating assistance funding for public transportation services in and around the Grand Ronde community;

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with ODOT for improvements related to Highway 99E at the Tribe's tumwata village project in Oregon City, and also approved a service agreement between ODOT and the Tribe for the improvements;
- Approved amendments to the Tribal Debt Collection Ordinance to include that General Welfare Assistance and Supplemental General Welfare Assistance Program payments are Tribal payments subject to Tribal debt collection provisions;
- Approved terms and conditions with Umpqua Bank, including a waiver of sovereign immunity only for disputes brought by the bank against the Tribe;
- Approved a grant renewal application to the Office of Head Start for the Head Start/Early Head Start American Indian and Alaska Native Program for up to \$1.6 million;
- Approved a grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program for up to \$250,000;
- Approved the purchase of the Eel Rock II property for \$45,000. The property is adjacent to the Tribe's Eel Rock I property near Highway 18 by Otis. The Eel Rock I property is a historic eel fishing site for Tribal members that is currently managed by the Tribal Natural Resources Department;
- And approved the enrollment of three infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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



Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area was listed on the National Historic Register in 2006

HISTORY continued from front page

to be used as a safeguard to keep white settlers from murdering the Reservation's inhabitants.

But with the U.S. government focused on the Civil War in the South, the fort was decommissioned just 10 years later. The Tribes stayed and cherished what they could retain of their varied heritage.

In 2006, the state declared the property a park and the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area was listed on the National Historic Register. Little remains of the fort, except for the information plaques lining a winding uphill trail, a restored historic officer's house with a uniformed dummy in the window to provide ambiance and scattered non-native vegetation. Over the years, various archeological digs have sought information about the fort's history.

"What's important is not just the 10 years of being a fort, but all the years before that and after that," Edwards said.

Now, with the property in the hands of the Tribe, its archeologists can explore that rich history, focusing on the viewpoints of the inhabitants, rather than the invaders.

Archeologist and Tribal member Sharrah McKenzie is using ground-penetrating radar to map the fort's buildings in a roughly 8-to-10-acre area. But Edwards said the Historic Preservation Office hopes McKenzie's work will enable them to create a temporal as well as a spatial map showing



"We're all celebrating this historic project, because there's no one better to take ownership of this historic land and bring healing, than the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde."

~ Tribal Lands Department/ Self-Governance Manager Jan Reibach

things such as where the Yamel people built their camas ovens long before the settlers arrived.

Tribal Lands Department/ Self-Governance Manager Jan Reibach has presided over numerous land transactions over the years, but this one was unique.

Shortly before 2020, Reibach said the state Parks and Recreation Department offered to transfer the Fort Yamhill property to the Tribe, on the condition that it maintain the property as a public park.

"We are responsible for all land acquisitions of the Tribe, regardless of purpose. ... we have a Tribal Realty Program with the Tribal lands that administers all of it," Reibach explained. "So, it came to us because it's land acquisition even though it's a donation or a transfer."

Things went well initially but the hand-off proved unexpectedly complex. A transfer from the state Parks and Recreation Department to a Tribe had never been done before in Oregon, Reibach said.

"In 2022, when we completed our due diligence and were getting ready to transfer the property, they were like, 'Oh. We can't do it legally; it's never been done before in the state and it's going to require new legislation," he said.

Department staff worked with the state to write what became House Bill 2737, then lobbied state legislators to pass it.

After two years the bill finally became Oregon Revised Statute 270.030, which stipulates that "a state agency may transfer, convey, donate, exchange or lease to an eligible Indian Tribe ... any real property or interest in real property owned by the agency at such price and on such terms as the agency may determine."

Meanwhile, the Tribal Lands Department worked to assess the property and draft a management plan.

The transfer was finally completed in January.

"We're all celebrating this historic project, because there's no one better to take ownership of this historic land and bring healing, than the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde," Reibach said.

He's now working with Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson and Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez to plan a commemorative event for the property.

The Tribe also plans to rename it, he said.

"It will be a name that honors the Tribes, while it maintains an openness to the community as well," he said.

Tribal Natural Resources Department Manager Colby Drake said he's enjoyed the way the property has brought several different departments together to work on the project.

"It gets us out of our silos and working with other departments, which we don't get to do very often, and gives them the same opportunity with us," he said. "I think it's a great opportunity for the Tribe."

Drake noted that the park remains open for day use under the management of Tribal Parks and Recreation Coordinator Jerry Bailey.

"We want this to be available to Tribal members and Oregon citizens," Drake said. "I feel like we will get a lot of requests from a lot of school districts and local schools for tours that will bring in the Cultural Resources (Department) to talk about the property's historical significance."

The Tribe also hopes to improve the informational plaques at the site, which focus on the soldiers at the fort, Drake said.

"It's a neat opportunity for Grand Ronde to have a ... Tribal park, where we get to tell our story," he said. "We are the main characters, the main story. I'm really excited about that." Historically, archeology has been conducted more to the detriment than the benefit of Indigenous people, leaving many feeling bitter.

It was often done by, "people that didn't belong to these cultures and would have their own interpretation without talking to anybody from these Tribes or anybody local. ... It was oftentimes just taking artifacts and removing from their homelands and putting them into museums or universities," McKenize said.

The Tribe is teaching a more inclusive and respectful approach, encouraging archeologists to focus on learning what the items they find are and how they are used in context, rather than taking them away to a museum or laboratory.

"It doesn't have to be about just digging holes," Edwards said.

The Tribe is pursuing its archeological research with as little digging as possible, using technology like ground-penetrating radar.

Rather than referring to "artifacts," Edwards said, the Historic Preservation Office uses the word "belongings," to emphasize that items had and may still have importance to living people.

The mapping project provides a guide, rather than definitive answers. Ground-penetrating radar reflects denser and less dense areas. What it shows, Edwards said, are underground anomalies, that are different from the surrounding soil. It's not always clear, however, what they are.

"Everything is an anomaly," Edwards said. "Is it a square anomaly, a round anomaly, a blob anomaly?"

With those shapes mapped out on paper, however, researchers will be able to see the outlines in relation to each other and start trying to determine what they are.

"We want to start a landscape scale; how does this fit with the larger area of the Grand Ronde Valley," Edwards said. "We think we know where the historic buildings of the fort were, but we're also looking for ... things that predate the fort or came after it."

In addition, Edwards said there is an interest in inviting people in to tell their family stories about the area.

The process will take another year or more to finish the mapping. "Ground penetrating radar is a slow process," Edwards said. "A lot of coordination has to be done, making sure areas are mowed, so you can use the machine, because if you're not making contact with the ground, the radar just bounces off the surface. And then there's the things you don't plan on. In 2020, the western half of the state was on fire, and there was a little thing called the pandemic. Then (in 2021) we had the ice storm ..."

The machine can only be used during good weather, but the crew will use the rainy months to run a computer program analyzing and mapping out the summer's findings, overlaying them with historic maps and reviewing the data.



smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

Casino's Table Games Dealer School offers unique training

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Since 1995, Spirit Mountain Casino has offered a unique, free training opportunity for Tribal members and others who want to explore a career in table games.

The 10-week Table Games Dealer School is held for four hours a day, Monday through Friday, depending on qualified applicant availability. Although completion of the program doesn't guarantee a position on the casino floor, it does offer participants a knowledge advantage over those who haven't taken the course, according to Table Games Trainer Lance Nuttman.

Additionally, unlike other dealer school trainings, it doesn't cost participants potentially thousands of dollars.

"My title is trainer, but when people ask me what I do, a lot of times I just tell them I'm an adult educator because that is what I spend a lot of my time doing, is teaching," he said. "I know what the human brain can and can't absorb when it comes to learning these games."

Nuttman is a 1996 graduate of the program, a year after the casino opened, and has been working there ever since. Back then, the only training was for blackjack. Now, the dealer school includes training for three-card poker, Let it Ride, Jackpot Texas Hold'em, blackjack variants and side bets. Additional training in Pai Gow, Baccarat and Pitch is required after class completion to maintain employment.

Nuttman has been teaching the



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Spirit Mountain Casino table games dealer and Tribal member Becca Simpson deals blackjack at the casino Wednesday, Aug. 13. Simpson is a graduate of the casino's Table Games Dealer School.

dealer school since 2008. He said the best part of his job is seeing the "lightbulb moment."

"When we're working and I've given the information and they've had time to absorb it and all of the sudden it's like, 'Oh, I get it.' Something just clicks. Dealing is not easy. A lot of people see dealers and they think, 'Oh, that's easy. I could do that.' And I'm like, 'Well, you know, flying on a plane is easy but the guy that's flying the plane has had a lot of training.' There's a lot that goes into dealing, too."

Nuttman also enjoys going onto the casino floor and seeing former Tribal member students, some of whom are now in management positions.

"Finishing the dealer school can be very life changing," Nuttman said. "It can be a great paying position with great benefits and that just changes people's lives and gives their kids stability and things like that."

Tribal member Eric Sabin decided to try the training in 2014 and is now an assistant shift supervisor.

"I had just graduated college and was a single dad," Sabin said. "The night before registration was closing for dealer school, I applied, came in and took a simple math test and was accepted."

Sabin urges those who have fears of math not to worry.

"It's a very simple test and requires basic skills in addition, subtraction and multiplication," he said.

During the test, participants can use scratch paper to work out any of the math problems.

"It was a piece of cake, I was accepted into the school and that's where the story begins," Sabin said with a grin. "I'm kind of an extrovert and I love working with people."

He stayed at the casino, eventually being promoted to a management position. He said the best part of his job is the people.

"It is so welcoming here and just a perfect fit," he said. "There is a lot of support, and not just for Tribal members, in this department."

He still remembers the first day on the casino floor as a dealer.

"You have those first-day jitters when you get out on the floor because these are strangers, this is real money you're dealing with and there are a multitude of different personalities," he said. "But you just take it slow and you try to remember all of those things that you learned during class and it starts making sense. I don't think I can count on two hands how many bad days I've had in my almost 12 years here."

Now, he mentors other students in the dealer school and new dealers on the casino floor.

"I wanted to be integrated into the department and to help mentor students and dealers the same way I was mentored," Sabin said. "It doesn't have to be stressful coming to work. You can have a good time."

Sabin encourages other Tribal members and others who may be considering a career change or who just want to try something new to look into attending dealer school.

"It's not like it's an exclusive club," he said. "If you have the right attitude, the right drive and the right state of mind, you can do anything in this department. If you're comfortable dealing, you're going to make a very good livelihood dealing...If you want to step more into a leadership role, we offer that here as well."

The next dealer school will be held from Monday, Sept. 15 to Friday, Nov. 21. The deadline to apply is 5 pm. Thursday, Sept. 4.

For more information, call 503-879-3737, email employmentteam@ spiritmtn.com or visit www.spiritmountain.com/careers/. ■

TO TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS













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*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



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Game time



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Worthy Amouak, 6, left, stops 8-month-old Ivory Squetimkin from grabbing a checker from the board as Amouak plays a game with her brother during a game night to celebrate the end of the Grand Ronde Tribal Library Summer Reading Program in the Tribal gym Thursday, Aug. 21. According to Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole, 145 people participated in the program that was open to all ages. From June 16-Aug. 8, the library provided weekly packets with books and an activity with readers tracking their reading minutes to earn raffle tickets for prize drawings. The event also included Tic-Tac-Toe games, Connect Four, hula hoops, a book giveaway, raffle prizes and food.



Cousins Karlee Jeffers, 8, left, and Liam Allen, 8, play Tic-Tac-Toe during a game night to celebrate the end of the Grand Ronde Tribal Library Summer Reading Program in the Tribal gym Thursday, Aug. 21.

NRD Spotlight

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Tribal member headed for college then hoping to go pro as MMA fighter

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

It was a trying fight, but Willamina High School graduate and Tribal member Devin Huston said he feels good about the way he handled his MMA cage match Saturday, Aug. 16, against opponent Kysen Knox in the featherweight division. The match took place at Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City. Huston won two of the three rounds.

"Going into the fight I was very confident in myself," he said. "I knew about my wrestling; I knew I could outwrestle the guy and I wanted to test my strike skills."

He said Knox got in a number of solid punches.

"I got, I think five or six takedowns. ... I wasn't going to stand and take it and give nothing in return," he said.

Huston's also proud that he withstood an arm bar from Knox. In MMA speak, it's a move that targets the opponent's elbow joint, aiming to cause hyperextension and force them to tap out.

"It was my dad's birthday and a lot of people from the casino were there supporting me, so there was no way I was going to tap (out)," he said.

In the end, two of the three judges awarded Huston 29 to Knox's 28, with the third judge reversing that score.

Huston said it's likely his last fight for the year, as he is moving to Coos Bay this month to attend Southwestern Oregon Community College. He plans to wrestle and to major in business.

He wants to make a career of MMA fighting with a professional debut next summer.

"I figure businesses will help me brand and sell myself," he said. "I've done a pretty good job of marketing myself these last two fights; my following has grown quite a bit; and I got recognized out on the street a couple of times, so that's really cool."

He said that while he plans to continue training while in Coos Bay, "I really want to go wrestle another two years. It's going to be nice not to get punched in the face every day. ... I'm mostly just excited about wrestling. I miss it."

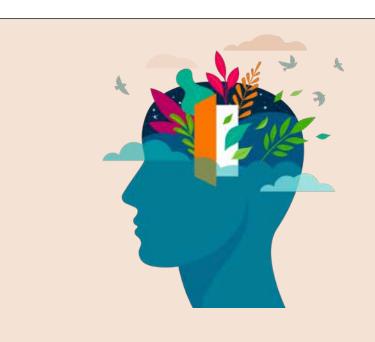
Huston said he feels confident that "when I come back into the octagon, it's just going to be another level." \blacksquare

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Grand Ronde Station offering 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.

Family fun



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Chance Hostler, 6, does a flip while jumping on a bungee trampoline during Family Night Out in the Tribal gym parking lot Friday, Aug. 22. The event featured carnival rides, bounce houses, Tribal department information booths, games and hot dogs were served for dinner. The annual event was sponsored by the Tribe's Social Services Department.



Azariah Sherwood, 10, left, and Isaac Freeman, 10, ride the Cornado during Family Night Out in the Tribal gym parking lot Friday, Aug. 22.



Shayim classroom Teacher Kacee Eltrich fixes graduate Emma Ward's, 5, mortarboard during the Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool Graduation in the Tribal gym Thursday, Aug. 14. Nineteen Mawich and Shayim class students graduated. After the graduation ceremony, dinner was served and gift bags were given to each graduate.

Graduation celebration!



Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool graduate Amiyah Salas, 5, uses her diploma as a scope during the Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool Graduation in the Tribal gym.





Mawich classroom Teacher Josh Biery, left, hands, graduate Carter Soderberg, 5, his diploma during the Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool Graduation in the Tribal gym Thursday, Aug. 14.

Ronan Sterling, 5, collects his gift bag from $shwiq^hiq$ classroom Teacher Miranda Ellis during the Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool Graduation in the Tribal gym Thursday, Aug. 14.





Photos by Michelle Alaimo

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To request an application or if you have any questions, contact the following:

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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:

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III



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



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. ■

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. ■



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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. ■

Drop box installed

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

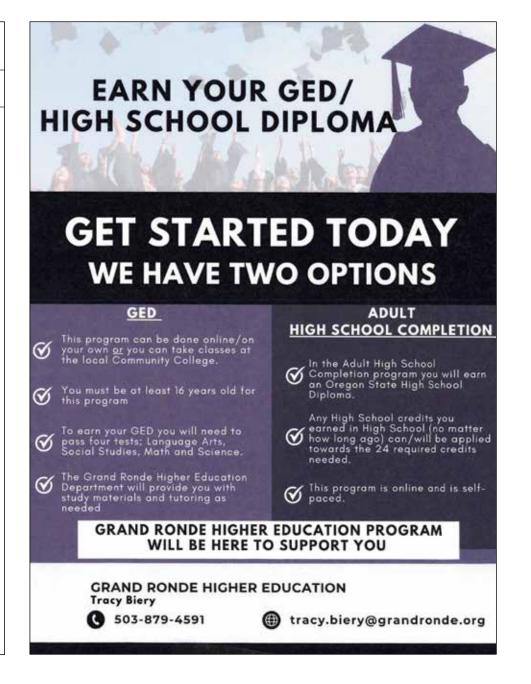
Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■



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2025 Contest Powwow



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Leah Brisbois and her 8-month-old daughter, LillyRose Walsey, participate in the 1 p.m. grand entry during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.

Contest Powwow continues to gain in popularity



Tribal member Jordan Mercier shakes hands with his daughter, Ila Mercier, 11, while round dancing during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16



Smoke Signals staff writer

Rain threatened to force a move of this year's Grand Ronde Contest Powwow to the Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center, but organizers decided to stay the course, a decision that paid off when, despite the forecast, the rain held off until after Friday evening's grand entry.

The powwow, held Friday, Aug. 15 through Sunday, Aug. 17, at the uyxat Powwow Grounds, was the opposite of the Veterans Powwow the prior month, which was warm, hot and dry.

After the much-needed rainfall hit late Friday evening, it cleared away in time to allow Saturday's grand entry to go forth unimpeded. Overcast skies and cooler temperatures were welcomed by participants.

The powwow was more popular than ever this year, with thousands of attendees and hundreds of dancers.

"We have about a hundred more dancers than we had last year, so that's exciting," Tribal Council member Lisa Leno said. "Also, we have a lot of people who have traveled a long way to be here in our community, so we're just really filled with gratitude and excited about the rest of the weekend. We have people from Canada, we have people from New York, we have people from all over."

Dancers filled the arena during the nearly 30-minute grand entry on Friday and Saturday, bells jingling as they danced, creating



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Bennett Schlappie-Guerrera, 5, dances during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.



a glittering kaleidoscope of regalia, with fringes and feathers waving and shawls flaring as the dancers circled, stepping in time to the thundering drums. A few women danced with their babies in their arms, and a few walkers and wheelchairs enabled dancers with mobility challenges to participate. Dancing children waved excitedly to family members and friends as they passed by, and the tiniest children hopped their way around the arena, some holding on to a parent's hand.

On Friday, Tribal Council members Brenda Tuomi, Denise Harvey, Matthew Haller, Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Lisa Leno and Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George participated in grand entry. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier

provided opening remarks.

On Saturday, Mercier, Kathleen George, Tuomi, Harvey, Gleason-Shepek, Leno and Jon A. George participated in grand entry.

"I just always just love when our whole community and this space, is filled with Indian people, our people, our relatives and families from other places just coming and bringing their medicine and their singing, their dancing, their positive energy, the love, the laughter, getting reunited, you know, with family that you may not have not seen for a really long time, so it's just a really good feeling to be here," I one said

Peter Joe Olney (Yakama), gave the invocation on Friday evening. On Saturday, Dr. Orrenzo Snyder (Comanche), gave the invocation.

Midnite Express was the host drum. Invited drums were Southern Cree, Hay Creek Singers, Fort Peck Sioux, Iron Swing and Wankinvan Luta.

The invited drum groups competed for \$30,000 in prize money, with the \$10,000 top prize going to Fort Peck Sioux.

There was also a best-dressed drum competition Saturday evening, with prizes ranging from \$200 to \$500. The top prize went to Fort Peck Sioux as well.

During the royalty coronation Friday evening before grand entry, Three Tiny Tot Princesses were named this year: Kova Speer, Josie Craig and Briar Ashley.

Marie Quenelle was crowned Senior Miss Grand Ronde Queen. Junior Miss Grand Ronde Queen

See POWWOW continued on page 15

Tribal member Hattie Mercier takes video of grand entry during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.





Kids collect school supplies during a "School is Cool" dance special during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.

POWWOW continued from page 14

went to Leloo Quenelle, while Emmalyn Warren was crowned Junior Miss Grand Ronde Princess.

Ulali Quenelle was crowned Little Miss Grand Ronde Queen and Safia Ben El Aali was crowned Little Miss Grand Ronde Princess.

Howie Thompson (Assiniboine) and Marty Thurman (Sac and Fox Nation/Comache Nation/Absentee-Shawnee Tribe and Delaware Nation) shared emcee duties. Anthony Quenelle (Grand Ronde) was the arena director.

Opie Day (Anishinaabe) was head drum judge; head dance judge was Tavian Lasley (Meskwaki/Ojibway).

In the shelters behind the arena, Quetzaly Barrera's mother was helping her put the finishing touches on her regalia for the dancing on Saturday. Descended from both the Apache and Chichimeca people of Mexico, Barrera, who lives in Oregon, was dancing at the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow for the first time, representing her

Chichimeca ancestry.

A jingle dress dancer, Barrera said she was enjoying the powwow.

"I like it a lot; I love dancing," she said.

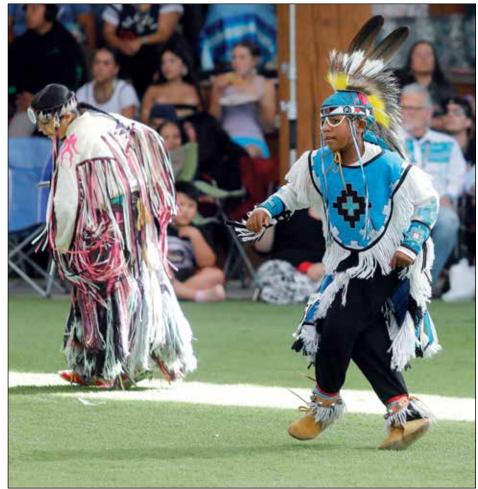
Celeste Nunes (Yupiit) said she travels to the powwow from central Oregon every year. A women's traditional dancer, Nunes said her favorite part of powwow is "probably my friends and family. Sometimes you only see them at powwow; people are here from Canada and Arizona. I hope everybody has a great time and (that we) see everybody next year."

More than \$48,000 in prize money was danced for and prizes ranged from \$25 to \$1,000.

Grand Ronde winners were Ulali Quenelle, fifth in the junior girls' fancy; Nacoma Liebelt, third in teen

See POWWOW continued on page 16

Safia Ben El Aali, 9, competes in the junior girls fancy dance category during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.



Zachary Peters, 12, competes in the junior boys grass dance category during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.





Dancers participate in an InterTribal dance during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.



Knox Speer, 8, dances during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.

POWWOW continued from page 15

boys' traditional and Leah Brisbois, fourth in senior women's traditional.

Dance specials this year included ermine bonnet teen & boys traditional; men's grass dance for 18 and older and women's old-style jingle for 18 and older, with prizes totaling \$6,000.

More information on the winners can be found in the sidebar to this story on page 17.

In the vendor area, Tribal Elder Evelyn Seidel and her daughter, Tribal member Lori Warren King, were sharing a booth with their friend Linda Lofton, offering necklaces, earrings, homemade jam and other items.

"I've always loved arts and crafts," Lofton said. "When my husband was with me, he loved to do the antlers, so he carved on them. So, I did the jewelry part."

She said today she still uses antlers in her work, making veterans' pendants, for example.

Seidel, who has always done a lot of canning, enjoys offering her fruit and berry jams for sale, along with blankets and beaded necklaces. King makes beaded earrings, necklaces and other jewelry.

"My mom always canned; that's how we lived," Seidel said. "I'm the youngest of 11 children. We had to can."

She gardened as well, until mov-



Emmalynn Warren, 11, dances in a "School is Cool" dance special during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.

ing to a 55-and-older community. Now, she grows flowers but is still producing her blue huckleberry, blackcap and Oregon grape jams, along with more domestic varieties.

Sisters and Tribal members Kayla Gottfried and Kara Helsel were selling Helsel's intricate beadwork and Gottfried's leatherwork together for a second year.

"We just wanted to come back and be a part of powwow," Gottfried said. "It's been a really great trip."

Gottfried said she began making moccasins several years ago.

"I had a nephew born at 11 pounds, and his feet were so fat, he couldn't wear shoes ... I was like, 'This kid needs moccasins,'" she recalled, laughing.

So, she made some for him, and today she sells baby moccasins,

jackets, day packs and other items, alongside her sister's necklaces and earrings.

Helsel said she began beading "about a year ago and fell in love with it."

In the food court, vendors offered coffee, fry bread, yakisoba noodles, fried rice, teriyaki chicken, Indian tacos, lemonade and other treats.

Tribal Recreation Coordinator Leo Ayala organized the annual 3-on-3 Contest Powwow Basketball Tournament and said it was "amazing."

"The vibes were high all day and the weather was perfect," Ayala said in an email. "Started off a little cloudy early in the morning until the clouds burned off and had sunshine the remainder of the day. This year was our biggest tourna-

ment yet with 85 teams within nine divisions (10U coed, 12U boys, 12U girls, 14U boys, 14U girls, 17U boys, 17U girls, men's open, women's open). The age went from as young as 7 years old up to adults."

He added, "We had an amazing turnout with awesome prizes, a 3-point contest, food vendors and a DJ. It was a hybrid style tournament with four outdoor courts and two courts inside the gym. It was a one-day tournament, three game minimum with the first games starting at 8 a.m. with the final matchup starting at 9:30 p.m. Overall, everyone had a great time and (we) heard lots of positive feedback."

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller noted that "One of the Grand Ronde teams took first place." ■

Tribal member Iyana Holmes, second from left, participates in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.





John Meninick (Yakama) competes in the Elder men combined 65+ dance category during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16. He placed first in the category.

2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow winners

Junior girls jingle: Sabrina Jones, fifth; Nachelle Soto, fourth; Tiare Spotted Bird, third; Mali Spotted Bird, second; Skyla Montgomery Gomez, first.

Junior girls fancy: *Ulali Quenelle, fifth; Tuira Tutu Tongsket, fourth; Chanah Blackhorn, third; Nikiyah Longee, second; Lelliana Walsey, first. Junior girls traditional: Sarah Rose Olney, fifth; Aaliyah Roberts, fourth; Shirleen Norwest, third; Aria Irene Olney, second; Aliesse White-

grass, first. **Junior boys grass:** Grayson Walsey, fifth; Attii Blackhorn, fourth; Ivy Miller, third; James Tewawina, second; Jonathan Casper, first.

Junior boys fancy: Charles Tewawina, second; Jeremiah Wahchumwah, first.

Junior boys traditional: John Adams, fifth; Kai James, fourth; Alex Allen, third; Opichee Day, second; Colton Roberts, first.

Teen girls jingle: Alexis Payer, fifth; Shakyla Jackson, fourth; Alimae Jackson, third; Junee Picard, second; Lyla Roberts, first.

Teen girls fancy: Vera Johnson, fifth; Crystal Miller, fourth; Jocelynn Phoenix, third; Nari Barr, second; Valerie Scabbyrobe, first.

Teen girls traditional: Dymond Say, fifth; Olivia Allen, fourth; Askewin Tom, third; Nillena Whitegrass, second; Keeaia Walsey, first.

Teen boys grass: SoulHawk Barney, fifth; Tyler Peters, fourth; Robert Tewania Jr., third; EJ Denny, second; Loyal Smallboy, first.

Teen boys fancy: Garian McDonald, fourth; Sonny Walsey, third; Julius Phoenix, second; Liam Beebe, first.

Teen boys traditional: Jesse Soliz, fifth; Baylor Scabbyrobe, fourth; *Nacoma Liebelt, third; Black Lloyd, second; Silus Martinez, first.

Junior womens jingle: Nizhoni Tallman, fifth; Jasmine Barney, fourth; Leilani O'Daye, third; Leiloni Ellenwood, second; Analynn Olney, first.

Junior womens fancy: Tennille Wantomy, fifth; Sheydon Standing Rock, fourth; Acosia Dion, third; Shelby Snyder, second; Jovena Scabbyrobe, first.

Junior womens traditional: Violet Whitegrass, fifth; Jade Louis, fourth; Rickielynn Hughes, third; Nichole Nordwall, second; Leela Abrahamson, first.

Junior mens grass: Jarrell Gopher, fifth; Xavier Bolton Metling Tallow, fourth; Dustin Langley, third; Manny Hawley, second; Adam Bodie Nordwall, first.

Junior mens fancy: Jarod Jackson, fifth; Nakeezaka Jack, fourth; Manny Totus, third; Tyler Thurman, second; RJ Tveter, first.

Junior mens traditional: Kiowa Dougherty, fifth; Matthew White-

cloud, fourth; Nakoa Redstar, third; Bryson Adams, second; Fredrick Fox Jr., first.

Senior womens jingle: Norberta Scabbyrobe, fifth; Marcelia Whitegrass, fourth; Stephanie Nordwall, third; Roxanne Gomez, second; Michelle Martinez, first.

Senior womens fancy: Felicia Twohatchet, fourth; Michelle Bobadilla, third; Rose Greene, second; Urseloria Walsey, first.

Senior womens traditional: J'Shon Reed, fifth; *Leah Brisbois, fourth; Marie Jackson, third; Violet Olney, second; Sophia Thurman, first. Senior mens grass: Jeremy Barney, fifth; Darryl Bolton, fourth; Vic-

Senior mens fancy: Larry Buck, fifth; Marshall Thomson, fourth; Gary Smith, third; Jamie Ward, second; Gary Olney, first.

tor Xhatsalono, third; Gary Villa, second; Adam Nordwall, first.

Senior mens traditional: Owhi Yellowman Littleleaf, fifth; Westlee Witcraft, fourth; Stuart Jim, third; Paris Lelyhton Sr., second; Andrew Tewawina, first

Junior golden age women: Lillie Andy, fifth; Mary Diavolikis, fourth; Love Richardson Williams, third; Michelle Blackkettle, second; Melinda Goodwill, first.

Junior golden age men: Phil Allen, fifth; Carlos Calica, fourth; Sydney John, third; Orrenzo Synder, second; Jeff Downing, first.

Elder women: Joanne RedOldman, fifth; Arrolyn Stwyer, fourth; Wilma Wahsise, third; Wilma Buck, second; Audrey Olney, first.

Elder men: Les Wahsise, fifth; John Adams, fourth; Stan Greene, third; Peter Jo Olney, second; John Meninick, first.

Mens chicken: Sage Lone Bear, fifth; Wilbur Oatman, fourth; Jaycen

Desnomie, third; Tyrus Beebe, second; Jordan Yazzie, first. **Drums:** Wankakin Luta, fifth; Hay Creek Singers, fourth; Iron Swing,

third; Southern Cree Singers, second; Fort Peck Sioux, first.

Best dressed drum group: Midnite Express, third; Iron Swing, sec-

Best dressed drum group: Midnite Express, third; Iron Swing, second; Fort Peck Sioux, first.

Stick game winners:

Main tournament – Victor Quiroga, third; Nate Buck, second; Mona Mason, first.

Three-man winners – Alice Sampson, second; Nate Buck, first. Kids tournament winners – Crystal, third; Sharmiah, second; Travis, first.

*Denotes Grand Ronde Tribal member winner. Disclaimer: Tribal affiliation was not listed for most dancers on the payout form, so some Tribal member winners may not have the asterisk before their name.

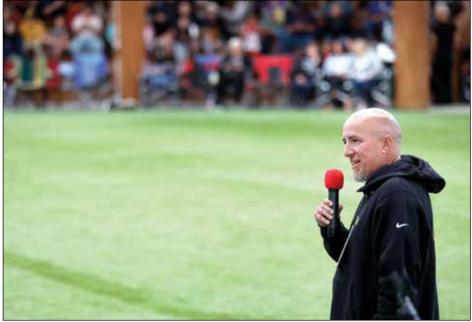


Grand Ronde Royalty, Veterans Royalty and visiting royalty participate in the 1 p.m. grand entry of the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Saturday, Aug. 16.



Nacoma Liebelt, 16, dances in an InterTribal dance during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Grand Ronde Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier gives the welcome at the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Honor Guard participates in grand entry during the 2025 Grand Ronde Contest Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.

Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant



Grand Ronde Royalty Junior Miss contestant Emmalynn Warren, 11, introduces herself during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Junior Miss contestant Leloo Quenelle, 12, introduces herself during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Senior Miss contestant Marie Quenelle, 14, introduces herself during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Little Miss contestant Safia Ben El Aali, 9, introduces herself during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Senior Miss contestant Marie Quenelle, 14, dances during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Junior Miss contestant Emmalynn Warren, 11, dances during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Little Miss contestant
Ulali Quenelle, 10, introduces herself during the
2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the
Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Little Miss contestant Ulali Quenelle, 10, dances during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.





Grand Ronde Royalty Junior Miss contestant Leloo Quenelle, 12, dances during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Aug. 15.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty



Grand Ronde Royalty Senior Miss contestant Marie Quenelle, 14, is crowned 2025-26 Senior Miss Grand Ronde Queen during the coronation ceremony for the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.



2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty Tiny Tot Princesses from left, Briar Ashley, 4, Josie Craig, 4, and Kova Speer, 5, are introduced during the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty coronation ceremony at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15.



Grand Ronde Royalty Junior Miss contestant Leloo Quenelle, 12, left, is crowned 2025-26 Junior Miss Grand Ronde Queen during the coronation ceremony for the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty court at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15. 2025-26 Junior Miss Grand Ronde Princess Emmalynn Warren, 11, is on the right.



Grand Ronde Royalty Little Miss contestant Ulali Quenelle, 10, left, is crowned 2025-26 Little Miss Grand Ronde Queen during the coronation ceremony for the 2025-26 Grand Ronde Royalty court at uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, Aug. 15. 2025-26 Little Miss Grand Ronde Princess Safia Ben El Aali, 9, is on the right.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

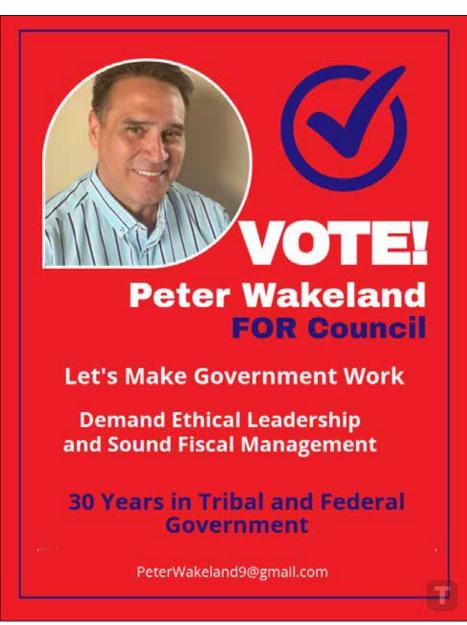
Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

Welcome

Dr. Katelyn Bailey

Dr. Katelyn Bailey is a naturopathic physician and acupuncturist. Naturopathic medicine focuses on treating the whole person by

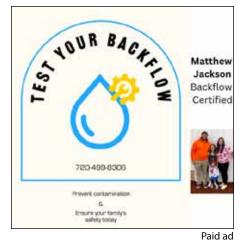


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TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE Position yourself for a job in archaeology by training as an archaeology assistant. Monday, Sept. 8 – Friday, Sept. 12 Portland classroom training and onsite locations at Agency Block 1. What you will learn. How to work safely as an archaeologist in the field. Hands-on training in field survey and excavation. • Hands-on training to identify artifacts. What you will need to bring or wear. Wear long pants and a shirt with sleeves. · Have good work boots (leather preferred), and work gloves. • Expect to be outside each day, in the weather, rain or shine. What is Required? • Open to all Tribal members of any federally recognized tribe. Must have the ability to stand for extended periods of time and be able to get dirty. Must be 18 years or older with a valid driver's license and transportation. To register contact: Certificate awarded Archaeological Jacob.boekhoff@ upon completion. Investigations grandronde.org Northwest, Inc. 503-879-2146 Lunch will be provided.







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. ■

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.

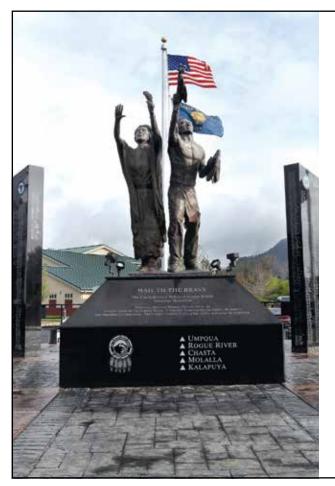
Registration information can be mailed to the address on the form, faxed, emailed or dropped off at the clinic.

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. ■







West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2026

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

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

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

smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

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

In Re: Estate of: Jone Ann Born ham) Case No. 25CCOC)) 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 Borde, Oregon, Yamiil

on June 14th 2025

NOTICE

Estate proceedings in the decedents estate, bearing the Tribal Court Case Number 25 Cools , 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 (1) 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
	DUONE, 602 870 3202 FAM, 602 870 3260

PERSONAL REPRESENTIVE:	ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE:
Marlanne Blanchard	

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 6 DAY OF argust, 2025.

Acupuncture δ Cupping in SW PORTLAND

**3 blocks from CTGR Office!



···· Joseph Miller Market Mark

TUES, WED, THURS, SAT













CALL/TEXT 503-482-9370

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

In Re: Estate of:) Case No. June Ann Bornham 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 OYZGON, Vamhil Grand Ronde

on Jone 14th 2025

ESTATE OF: Tyne Ann Bynham

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

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE TRIBAL COURT 9615 GRAND RONDE RD. GRAND RONDE, OR 97347 NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS I

Personal Representative: Marianne Blanchard Attorney for Personal Representative (if applicable) Address for Mailing or Service: 9521 Roman loop Cotonal Rande or 97347 Phone: 971-767-0424

DATED THIS 6 th DAY OF august , 2025

Acupuncture in **GRAND RONDE**

@ Grand Ronde Health and **Wellness Center**

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



Mallory Harman, LAc





Questions or to schedule: CALL OR TEXT: 503-482-9370

EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com



···· Joshallandone

Acupuncture can help with...

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





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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/



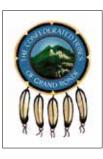
CTGR

Tribal Council

Warren31@yahoo.com

971 - 237 - 3696







Pamala

Warren-

Chase



Watchlist: 'Blood & Myth'

Note: Smoke Signals would not recommend viewing the "Blood & Myth" documentary around children because it contains mature content and graphic images.

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

During the Indigenous Journalists Association Indigenous Media Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in August, Smoke Signals staff watched an early screening of Hulu's new documentary called "Blood & Myth."

This true-crime documentary, available for streaming on Hulu Thursday, Sept. 4, follows the 2012 true story of Native Alaskan (Inupiaq) actor Teddy Kyle Smith, who disappears into the Alaskan wilderness for 10 days after the death of his mother and while on the run, he shoots two hunters seeking shelter in a remote cabin with him.

He was captured and while in the custody of Alaskan authorities, his interview under oath centers on his encounter with the "wild people out there," known as Inukuns.

Inukuns are described as short, leathery people with supernatural strength. Their population supposedly lives in deep wilderness away from humans. These mythical beings are known in the Inupiaq community from oral stories passed down from Tribal Elders. They are considered sinister beings and feared by the Inupiaq people.

And according to Smith, the Inukuns were the reason he shot the

This thrilling documentary is narrated by James Dommek Jr., an Alaskan Native from the same remote village as Smith.

"It just stopped me in my tracks, gave me the shivers," Dommek said in the documentary trailer. "I wanted to know what made him tick."

You can watch the trailer for "Blood & Myth" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jm9TjZuN3aE.

After the screening, Dommek and Producer Jonas Bell Pasht joined a question-and-answer session with the IJA audience via Zoom.

"I started getting all these pieces of info that aren't journalistic, I am not a journalist," Dommek said. "I am just a dude. A guy that became obsessed with this story."

To Pasht, this documentary is a powerful personal story and a search for identity.

"This story of identity and search for identity really resonated with me and I hope it resonates with audiences," Pasht said.

They shared some behind-the-scenes details of creating this documentary. The film took more than four years to create and getting people to talk about the death, the shooting and Inukuns was challenge. Additionally, talking to the main character of this story, Teddy Smith, was an additional challenge because he is incarcerated.

But to Dommek, this story needed to be told and done so through an Indigenous lens.

"I came to realize it's a cautionary tale," he said. "It was going to be told by someone and there were big names trying to get this story but couldn't get into the community. As Alaskan Native people, we are so used to other people telling our stories and we never get the chance to tell our own story. It matters that we tell our own stories and be respectful and culturally sensitive."





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

Volunteers Wanted





Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Emergency Services

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





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



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





DENISE FOR GRAND RONDE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Our tribe deserves leadership we can trust. Denise Harvey brings a vision rooted in Integrity, Honesty, and Reliability to move Grand Ronde forward—together.

Integrity | Honesty | Reliability

We want to hear from you!

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

Hello Native Country:

The Summers family held a 25th memorial special to honor and to pay respects for our dad at the Grand Ronde Contest Powwow. Albert R. Summers Sr. passed away Aug. 23, 2000. Dad's last powwow was here in Grand Ronde in August 2000, before going on his journey, at his home on Dockney Flats (12 miles east of Chiloquin).

The Summers family held a men's traditional – grass dance special, with winner takes all (\$2,500 cash) a Pendleton soft blanket, Pendleton towel set and smoked fish from Tulalip, Washington. Items were also gifted to those who participated in the special as well.

The special was just one of many events held at the 40th annual Grand Ronde Contest Powwow. It was such an honor and privilege to be a part of this special weekend.

I would like to acknowledge, by sending our blessings and appreciation to the following: To all the CTGR council all CTGR Tribal members, to all the CTGR Contest Powwow Committee, to the drums who were chosen to sing for the Albert Summers Sr. special (Wakinyan Luta from South Dakota and Midnight Express from Minnesota, and to Arena Director

Anthony Quenelle (speaking on behalf of the Summers Family). This special was a success because of my family's support, including my mom, spouse, sister, brothers, nephews, nieces, cousins from Chiloquin, Klamath Falls, Warm Springs and Susanville, California.

The family that could not make it sent tobacco, smoked salmon and prayers for the special. I appreciate the Contest Powwow Committee for allowing us to have this special to honor our dad. So, I say, "Sep'k'cha," thank you too all.

From Kristy Summers





Table Games Dealer School

WHAT: Learn to deal blackjack and several other games.

Preference will be provided to enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; WHO: ants are welcome to apply for consid

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.

Training is held in the Table Games Training Room at Spirit Mountain Casino WHERE:

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

• Tribal member preference will apply

Selection criteria, see below

- 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!

smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

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. ■







WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING MONEY, YOUR HOME HAS A LOT TO SAY.

TAKE THE ONLINE HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT

To learn more, visit www.energytrust.org/assessment.

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.	Until Filled
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Cultural Center Specialist	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/25/2025
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time (Variable Shifts)	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/25/2025
Lodge Caregiver – Part Time & On-Call (Variable Shifts)	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/25/2025
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time, Part Time & On-Call - GRAVE	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	08/25/2025
Member Benefits Administrator - Finance	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	09/01/2025
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
Peer Support Specialist – Salem - GCR	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	08/25/2025
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
Police Officer	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	09/01/2025
Records Clerk	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	08/25/2025
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.	Until Filled
Senior Help Desk Technician	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	
Tribal Lead Security Officer – Oregon City	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Dealer School Student	9/4/2025	
Hotel Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor	8/28/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Guest Services Retail Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
IT Production Supervisor	Until Filled	\$83,914.69/yr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pro Shop Host (*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
Sports Bar Busperson (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips

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

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

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
- qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.
- SMGI adheres to a Tribal hiring preference policy for 🗸 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.
- Please reference the Job Description for job duties,
 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.

Walking On...

Dolores (Dee) Dugger

Aug. 19, 1930 — April 27, 2025

Our beautiful matriarch walked on April 27, 2025. Dee was born on Aug. 19, 1930, to Elsie Lampard and Cecil Webber. She was a proud Elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, and the second great-granddaughter of Chief Alquema of the Santiam band of the Kalapuya and Molalla Marguerite.

Dee grew up in Tacoma and graduated from Lincoln High School. There, she met her love and our father, Glen Dugger. They married in August 1948. Not long after, and with two very young children, Dee



supported Glen through college and then dental school at the University of Washington. They settled in Fircrest, Washington, and two more children followed. In the mid-1960s, they co-purchased a home on Fox Island where the family would spend countless weekends and summer vacations with the Bisson and Chimenti families. That house would remain in our family for 60 years.

Dee volunteered for many service organizations as her children were growing up, but her favorite was being a chaperone for the princesses of the Puyallup Daffodil Festival. When she was 50, Dee enrolled in college at Bates Technical College in Tacoma and earned her licensed practical nurse certification. She worked for many years at Tacoma General Hospital until retirement.

Throughout her life, Dee maintained very close ties with her childhood friends who were also a part of our extended family. Dee enjoyed wintering in Apache Junction, Arizona, with her sister Maxine and mother Elsie, taking cruises, dancing, and sightseeing. She was a snappy dresser all the way to the end, her hair always brushed and curled "just so." Inexplicably, she loved white zinfandel wine with one ice cube.

For the past decade, mom enjoyed the love and companionship of her partner Bill Irvine, who passed away only a few months before her. They would spend winters at his home on Kauai, enjoying the company of their friends and family. In recent years, Dee's energy had declined but her overall health was remarkable for being nearly 95.

She had an unfortunate fall that fractured her hip. It was not operable and she was put in hospice care until she passed away a week later. Dee would want all of you to know that she was 100% ready to dance with her angels, and that she is doing great on the other side.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Elsie Lampard and Cecil Webber; sister, Maxine Ross; and daughter, Jody. She leaves behind three children, Randy (Kathy), Erin Reetz and Regan (Joanie); grandchildren, Katie Lemon (Chet), Randi Reikow (Nick), Christopher Dugger, Max Reetz and Molly Reetz; and five great-grandchildren, Carsten and Kylie Lemon, Olivia and Noah Reikow, and Amedea Dugger.

The family wishes to give a special thank you to outstanding caregivers Linda and Mary, the staff at Harbor Place in Gig Harbor, and the angels at Franciscan Hospice House in Tacoma. Dee will be laid to rest at the family burial plot on Fox Island. No service is scheduled at this time.

iLAUNCH presents

Mental Health Texts!



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

Text JOIN to (971) 318-3459



Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service, said Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole.

Tribal members can now get books from libraries in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, as well as access to many free programs.

Tribal Library patrons should visit the Tribal Library and update their information and obtain a new Regional Library Service card.

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











Health & Wellness Center entrance

Reminder: The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind.

If you are coming to the center to pick up

prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces.

Service offered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building





Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Becky Johnson

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

Contact Details

or appointments contact the Public Health Department front desk at 503-879-6701 OR contact Becky directly at 503-879-6711 or Becky.Johnson@grandronde.org.

ELDERS LIVING WITH

LONELINESS

IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

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

THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

IF YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER OR A FRIEND IN ADULT FOSTER CARE, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO SEE THEM, OUR TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT!

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"

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

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Now accepting new residents

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

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

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

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



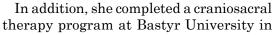
31 smok signəlz **SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**



Acupuncture/massage service at Health & Wellness Center

Heidi Manning, acupuncture and massage therapist, is now seeing patients at the Health & Wellness Center.

Heidi has been licensed in acupuncture since 2005 after completing a masters of acupuncture degree at Bastyr University. She has been a licensed massage therapist in Oregon since 2017.



2004 and employs it as needed. She enjoys practicing acupuncture, massage, cupping, moxibustion, gua sha, Chinese dietary therapy, Chinese herbal medicine and engaging with her clients in a mean-

She specializes in pain management, infertility and gynecological problems, digestive issues and psycho-emotional health issues, especially as they relate to trauma.

Heidi also enjoys working with animals in the state of Oregon under a referral from a veterinarian. She has worked with dogs, cats, cows and horses.

At the Health & Wellness Center Monday and Fridays.

The scheduling link is:

https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=12567238

Heidi Manning Acupuncture & Massage

541-992-5175 (cell)



Celebrating National Assisted Living Week — Sept. 7-13

What Is National Assisted Living Week?

National Assisted Living Week is celebrated every year in September. It is a time to honor the people who live, work, and care for others in assisted living communities.

Assisted living is a place where older adults or people with disabilities can live safely. They get help with daily tasks like dressing, bathing, taking medicine and eating, while still enjoying their independence.

Why is this week important?

This week helps us:

- · Say thank you to the caregivers, nurses, and staff who work hard every day.
- Celebrate the lives of the people who live in assisted living.
- · Raise awareness about the value of assisted living for families and communities.

What is assisted living like?

People in assisted living often live in their own rooms or small apartments. They can enjoy:

- Help with daily tasks
- Healthy meals
- Social activities and outings
- Safety and 24/7 support
- · A sense of community and friendship

Why families choose assisted living

Assisted living can be a good choice when:

- A person needs help every day but wants to stay active
- · It's not safe to live alone
- Family members are not able to provide full-time care
- · A person wants to be around others and not feel lonely

How can you celebrate this week?

- Visit or call a loved one in assisted living
- · Thank a caregiver or staff member
- Volunteer at a local assisted living home
- Share a kind message or card
- Learn more about assisted living and how it helps families

September is National **PCOS Awareness Month**

Why PCOS Awareness Month matters

It helps teach people about this condition. Many women have it but don't know. Awareness helps more women get the care they need to live healthy lives.

What is PCOS?

PCOS stands for Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. It is a health condition that affects how a woman's ovaries work. The ovaries are small organs in the body that help with having periods and making hormones.



PCOS is common. It affects 1 in 10 women of childbearing age.

What are the signs of PCOS?

Every woman is different, but some common signs include:

- Irregular periods periods may come too often, not often enough or stop altogether
- Hair changes extra hair on the face, chest or back, or thinning hair on the scalp
- Acne bad skin or pimples
- · Weight gain especially around the belly
- Trouble getting pregnant

What causes PCOS?

Doctors don't know exactly what causes PCOS. But it may be linked to:

- Hormone imbalance the body makes too much of some hormones
- Family history if your mom or sister has PCOS, you might too
- Insulin problems insulin helps control sugar in your blood and many women with PCOS have high insulin

Why is PCOS a problem?

If PCOS is not treated, it can cause other health problems such as:

- Diabetes (high blood sugar)
- · High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- · Sleep problems
- Trouble having a baby · Depression or anxiety

Can PCOS be treated?

There is no cure for PCOS, but it can be managed. Treatment depends on your symptoms and goals. Common treatments include:

- Healthy eating and exercise to manage weight and blood sugar
- · Birth control pills to help with periods and acne
- · Medicines to help with hair growth or help you get pregnant
- · Mental health support if you're feeling sad or anxious

What can you do?

- Talk to your doctor if you think you have PCOS
- · Write down your symptoms to help your doctor understand
- · Make small healthy changes like eating more fruits and veggies, and moving your body daily
- Reach out to support groups or online communities for PCOS

Back-to-school dental checklist

1. Dental checkups:

Schedule a back-to-school cleaning: A dental cleaning and exam can identify and address any potential problems early on, like cavities or early signs of decay.

Consider sealants and fluoride: These treatments can help prevent cavities, especially in the back teeth.

Mouthguards for sports: If your child plays sports, ensure they have a properly fitted mouthguard to protect their teeth from injury. 2. Lunchbox strategies:

Pack tooth-friendly lunches: Focus on foods like fruits, vegetables, cheese, and lean proteins.

Avoid sugary drinks and snacks: Limit sugary drinks, candies and sticky snacks that can contribute to tooth decay.

Hydration is key: Encourage plenty of water throughout the day to help wash away food particles and neutralize acids.

3. Brushing and flossing routine:

Establish a routine: Brush twice a day for two minutes and floss once a day.

Make it fun: Let kids choose their toothbrush and toothpaste, use a sticker chart or play music to make brushing more enjoyable.

Lead by example: Brush and floss alongside your children to demonstrate proper techniques and reinforce the importance of oral hygiene.



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA, MOLALLA, ROGUE RIVER, KALAPUYA, CHASTA

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

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