



Elder Safety Fair  
photos — pg. 11

OCTOBER 1, 2025



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## Controlled fire



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Wildland Firefighter Van Dugdale uses a torch connected to a propane tank to burn a portion of the Bateman property camas field Wednesday, Sept. 17. For the second year, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department, in partnership with the Cultural Resources Department, conducted a technological/cultural oriented controlled burn to track changes in the camas population in the field over time to get a better sense of the best way to take care of it. With only one year of monitoring so far, there isn't a full picture yet. The Bateman property is located east of the Natural Resources Department building and west of uyxat Powwow Grounds on Highway 22. "In 2024 we averaged about 35 camas plants for square meter across the site," Tribal Natural Resources Specialist Annaliese Ramthun said. "The site was not mowed in 2023 so thick grass did make plants harder to find. In 2025, the average was 133 per square meter. We found the most in the burn-only area with an average of 200 camas per square meter and the least in the control plot with an average of 83 camas per square meter... We also plan to track the depth and size of bulbs and how easy it is to dig them over time."**

## Council approves Portland Harbor cleanup agreement, homeownership construction contract

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

**T**ribal Council approved a third agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency for the ongoing Portland Harbor cleanup at its Wednesday, Sept. 24, meeting.

Since 2004, the Tribe has had agreements with the EPA through which the agency has funded Grand Ronde's involvement in the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The Tribe began a new cooperative agreement in 2019 to continue the work. The third cooperative agreement will fund Tribal staff and a technical consultant for up to \$603,529.

"Is there any type of timeline for when we can actually say that the Portland Harbor will actually be clean?" Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George said during a Tuesday, Sept. 16, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "It's been 20 years already, a long time."

Tribal Lands Department Project Administrator Brandy Humphreys agreed that it has taken a long time and progress is being made.

"The record of decision (selecting a cleanup plan) was released in 2017 and the whole foundation of it is to have cleanup done by 2034," she said. "It's a massive site and

See MEETING  
continued on page 7

## Community Fund invests in changing lives

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**G**rant money from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund will enable the non-profit organization Medicine Bear to keep working with Indigenous and Latino youth at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center in Portland, with the goal of helping them reconnect with their culture and seek healing.

The funds will also enable the Ronald McDonald House to redo the gardens and play equipment for its Eastern House in Portland, where families of children undergoing cancer



treatment can stay free of charge. They will pay for environmental cleanup work in Multnomah County, for a new kicker motor for a swift water rescue boat in Clackamas County, civics education in Benton County, a reading program for Spanish-speaking children in Marion County, a transport vehicle for veterans in Lane County and much more.

During the third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium

See FUND  
continued on page 6

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees Chair Trevor Aaron, left, shakes hands with Latino Network Development Project Manager Jim Mauceri as he accepts a check for his nonprofit during the Fund's third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Sept. 17.**



Photo by Michelle Alaimo



# General Council meeting

## 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5

### Tribal Council Chambers

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

#### NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Oct. 8.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 22.....	4 p.m.

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

## LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many Tribal members who either mailed in their ballots, hand delivered their ballot to the drop box or came to Grand Ronde and voted in person! By taking this step, you’ve shown that you’re wanting change and to move forward toward a brighter future for our people. If I could, I would thank the 153 people who voted for me, personally. I can’t express to you how humbling and encouraging it was for me to see my numbers go up from 99 last year to 153 this year.

This process is challenging and difficult at times, but it afforded me many opportunities to connect with our people. My involvement with Tribal activities has increased and as time goes on, this will not diminish but rather, expand and continue onward and upward. Together, we can make a difference!

I have the utmost respect for those who walk their talk and I strive to emulate this in my day-to-day life. We can’t make any changes at all unless we are willing to suit up and show up, every day. I’m not just a Tribal Elder from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. I’m still here, every day and I still want to be of service to our people.

Until next year folks, I hope you have a great one! See you soon.

With utmost respect and continued gratitude,  
**Pamala Warren-Chase**  
Roll #1081

Iaxayam Grand Ronde people,

I will begin by thanking each of you, our Tribal members who took part in this year’s Tribal Council election. Your participation is a powerful expression of our sovereignty and a reminder that the strength of our nation lies in the voices of our people.

To those who placed your trust in me with your vote — hayu masi. I am truly humbled by your support and the trust you carried in my leadership. While this was not the outcome we hoped for, please know my commitment to our people, our sovereignty and our future remains. I will continue to serve in every way I can, guided always by the values and teachings of our ancestors.

I also extend my congratulations to the newly elected council members. With this role comes a great responsibility: To put our people first in all decisions, uphold our sovereignty and ensure the wellbeing of both present and future generations. I encourage you to carry this responsibility with humility, strength and the knowledge that our people must always remain at the heart of your service.

With gratitude and respect,  
**Valeria Atanacio**  
Roll #3527

# 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. ■

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

# smok signalz

## PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
1-800-422-0232 • FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: [www.smokesignals.org](http://www.smokesignals.org)

Email: [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org)

Email: [Editorial.Board@grandronde.org](mailto:Editorial.Board@grandronde.org)

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[www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel](http://www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel)

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Tuesday, Oct. 7.....	Oct. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Wednesday, Oct. 22.....	Nov. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Wednesday, Nov. 5.....	Nov. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Tuesday, Nov. 18.....	Dec. 1	2023 IJA General Excellence

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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


## 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

[tribalcouncil@grandronde.org](mailto:tribalcouncil@grandronde.org)

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<b>CHRIS MERCIER</b> Tribal Council Vice Chair — ext. 1444 <a href="mailto:chris.mercier@grandronde.org">chris.mercier@grandronde.org</a>	<b>PETE WAKELAND</b> — ext. 2300 <a href="mailto:pete.wakeland@grandronde.org">pete.wakeland@grandronde.org</a>
<b>JON A. GEORGE</b> Tribal Council Secretary — ext. 2355 <a href="mailto:jon.george@grandronde.org">jon.george@grandronde.org</a>	<b>MATTHEW HALLER</b> — ext. 1777 <a href="mailto:matthew.haller@grandronde.org">matthew.haller@grandronde.org</a>
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	<b>TOBY MCCLARY</b> — ext. 2353 <a href="mailto:tobymcclary@grandronde.org">tobymcclary@grandronde.org</a>



# IN THE FUTURE



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

- taʔlam-mun (**October**)
- Sunday, Oct. 5 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., 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.
  - Sunday, Oct. 19 – Spirit Mountain Casino 30th anniversary celebration for Tribal members, 2 to 4 p.m., Spirit Mountain Event Center. Light hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served.
  - Saturday, Oct. 18 – Tribal plankhouse achaf hammi’s 16th birthday celebration. Doors open at 4 p.m. and a meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Contact [bobby.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:bobby.mercier@grandronde.org) or 503-879-2076 for more information.
  - Wednesday, Oct. 22 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

- taʔlam-pi-ixt-mun (**November**)
- Sunday, Nov. 2 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
  - Wednesday, Nov. 5 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
  - Monday, Nov. 10 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.
  - Wednesday, Nov. 19 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
  - Friday, Nov. 21 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Restoration Day.
  - Saturday, Nov. 22 – 42nd Restoration Day celebration. More information will be shared when it is available.

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

## Canoe Family performance



Contributed photo

Tribal member Elizabeth Ulestad, 9, dances with the Grand Ronde Canoe Family as they perform before the start of the Portland Timbers vs. New York Red Bulls soccer game at Providence Park in Portland Saturday, Sept. 13. The Canoe Family took part in Native American Heritage Night at the stadium that also included a national anthem performance by Rebecca Kirk (Klamath/Ojibwe) and a presentation of a specially designed scarf from Puyallup Tribe of Indians member Taylor Dean.

## Letters welcome

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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.**

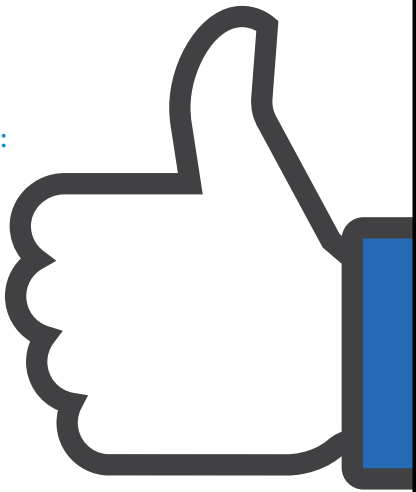
**smok signalz** reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on any individual, as well as individual Tribal staff members, individual Tribal administration members or individual Tribal Council members. Not all letters 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**.

## Find us on

### OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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



yutqat-haws tʔap-san luʔlu

## ACHAF HAMMI CELEBRATES

# 16

**Join us**  
Achaf-hammi's 16th birthday celebration  
-  
October 18th  
-  
4pm - Doors open  
5:30pm - Meal  
-  
**Information**  
Bobby Mercier - 503.879.2076  
[bobby.mercier@grandronde.org](mailto:bobby.mercier@grandronde.org)



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets as needed at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, via Zoom. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact Editorial.Board@grandronde.org for the meeting link.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- **Elder Board** meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Reyn Leno.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Monday of the month in the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Molly Leno.

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



**2020** — With COVID-19 keeping students learning from home, the Willamina School District pivoted to delivering breakfasts and lunches to distribution sites to ensure students wouldn't go hungry. More than 95% of the students in the district, where the majority of Grand Ronde Tribal students at-



**2020** File photo

tended classes, were eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, so the school provided free lunches to all of its students.

**2015** — On the occasion of Spirit Mountain Casino's 20th anniversary, Smoke Signals took a look back at the origins of the state's first Tribal casino, which paved the way for the other eight Tribes in the state to negotiate contracts with the state regarding the size of their operations. Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts called the contract “the blueprint, if you will, for what we did with the rest of the state.”

**2010** — The Tribe celebrated the opening of its new traditional plankhouse with three days of ceremonies. Built of cedar, the plankhouse incorporated the traditions of many different Tribes with a roof influenced by northern Oregon, while the floor and sidewalls were built in the style of the southern Willamette Valley and Columbia River homes.

**2005** — Smoke Signals featured the story of Tribal interns Hope Lafferty, Ashley Bedortha and Alicia Selwyn, who spent 22 days in New York City working in the American Museum of Natural History to learn about museum work and visit with the meteorite Tomanowos.

**2000** — Grand Ronde Housing Director Linda Layden was honored by her peers at a ceremony in Port Angeles, Washington, after being named the Indian Housing Authority's Executive Director of the Year.

**1995** — Tribal members were invited to a special open house to give them the first look inside the new Spirit Mountain Casino before its official opening.

**1990** — Tribal representatives from around the state were set to gather at the new Oregon Convention Center in Portland, for a three-day conference about their history and cultural traditions. It was the result of a two-year project undertaken by Tribes in cooperation with the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

**1985** — The Tribe thanked everyone who had helped out at its first annual powwow. “A special thank-you to Rudy Clements for his fine job as our emcee and for all of his advice before and after the powwow,” a Smoke Signals article stated.

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

Are you moving?

Do you need help with First, Last, and Deposit?

This program has limited funding and will be a first come, first served program.

Contact Social Services for more information  
(503) 879-2034 or (800) 422-0232

You can also email us at  
[ssdinfo@grandronde.org](mailto:ssdinfo@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.



# Retirement time



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Procurement Manager Nathan Rolston, left, talks with Tribal Records Administrator Kim Mueller during her retirement party in the Tribal Community Center Tuesday, Sept. 16. Mueller retired after working for the Tribe for 30 years. Her first job was assistant coordinator for Smoke Signals. In her time at the paper, Smoke Signals won its first award from the Native American Journalists Association, now the Indigenous Journalists Association. It was a first-place award for best layout and design in 1999.**

## Drug take-back kiosk located at Tribal Police Department

There is a new drug take-back kiosk in the front lobby of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road. It is open during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The following items are accepted:

- Unused or expired prescription medications, including pet medications
- Unused or expired over-the-counter medications

The following items are not accepted:

- Thermometers or any item containing mercury
- Needles
- Pre-loaded needles
- Empty bottles
- Personal care products (vitamins, herbal remedies, supplements, cosmetics)
- Batteries
- Illegal drugs
- Aerosol cans ■

# STORY IDEAS?

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

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



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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# CELEBRATE WITH US!

**WE'RE CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN GRAND RONDE**

**OPEN TO ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS**

**OCTOBER 19 • 2PM - 4PM**

**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN EVENT CENTER**



**JOIN US FOR LITE HORS D'OEUVRES AND REFRESHMENTS**

# CALLING ELDERS: KEEP OUR STORIES ALIVE



Our history, teachings, and ways are knowledge that must be carried forward for our children, grandchildren, and those yet to come. However, they can only live on if they are told by you.

We are seeking community elders to serve as docents who can provide museum tours, and share our traditions, history, and wisdom with public visitors and community members.

Your stories, your knowledge, and your way of teaching are irreplaceable. Without your voice, the next generation may never know the stories that shaped them.

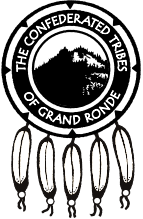
**WHY JOIN US?**

- Pass on our history and stories how they are meant to be told
- Strengthen community connection and pride
- 4-8 hours per week, within Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm [SATURDAY IS SEASONAL]
- Flexible schedule, we will work around your availability
- Support provided, you will never be alone in this work
- Training provided
- No experience necessary, just the willingness to learn and share

**Your presence is a gift we cannot replace.**

**TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE CONTACT**  
Crystal Starr Fullerton  
[crystal.szczepanski@grandronde.org](mailto:crystal.szczepanski@grandronde.org)  
503-879-1349





## TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

**Now accepting new applications**

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

**Current vacancies:**

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

**For questions email:**  
[shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org)

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

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



# Tribe created Community Fund in 1997

FUND continued  
from front page

Wednesday, Sept. 17, Community Fund Director Angela Sears told the assembled representatives that the awarded funds will not cover the needs of everyone who asked.

“Our grants process has always been competitive,” Sears said. “But this last year has been difficult for us and for so many of our non-profit partners, making our grant process incredibly competitive. In this cycle of large grant requests, we were only able to fund approximately 9% of the applications. Our small grants cycle was a little less competitive, with 28% funded... We are forced to leave a lot of amazing work on the table, simply because we don’t have the funds to support that many people. So, if you’re here today, that means the work you do is so important to us. So, congratulations for making it here today and thank you for the work you do.”

She added that the quarterly check presentation provides a way for the Community Fund to connect with grantees.

“It allows us to recognize and celebrate each of you for the incredible work that you’re doing and the much-needed support services that you provide for our most vulnerable. ... Having you here also allows us to share about who we are as the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and as the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde,” Sears said.

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller gave the invocation and played a Native American flute song for the gathering. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Kathleen George also joined the gathering, shaking hands with each check recipient.

The Tribe created the Community Fund as part of its gaming compact with the state of Oregon in 1997. It is supervised by an eight-member board of trustees that includes Tribal Council members Kathleen George, Lisa Leno and Haller. To date, the fund has given out 3,454 grants since it was founded, totaling \$101,780,662.

It receives 6 percent of the proceeds from Spirit Mountain Casino and awards the money to nonprofits in 11 northwest Oregon counties in the following categories: Arts and culture, environmental preservation, education, health, historic preservation and public safety. Grants also go to the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, under the fund’s Tribal Grants program.

### Empowering communities

Executive Director Rudolfo Serna Sr. describes Medicine Bear as a “nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Native American, Latinx, and BIPOC communities through art, tradition, and stewardship. Our mission is to foster cultural connection, creative expression and a shared responsibility to the land and each other.”

Serna noted the nonprofit’s programs include The Redstone Collective, which brings art and



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Swallowtail Waldorf School and Farm Community Engagement & Development Coordinator Adesina Cameron is presented a Tri-logged blanket by Spirit Mountain Community Fund Grants Coordinator Jesse Knight, left, and SMCF Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie, right, that her organization won in a raffle drawing during the fund’s third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Sept. 17.**

cultural workshops to systems-involved youth at juvenile detention centers and the Artist Apprenticeship Program, where young people work alongside professional artists to create public murals and develop leadership and artistic skills.

Serna told the assembled grant recipients that he first worked with Elders who were quietly performing cultural ceremonies and working with Indigenous people in the Portland area before suggesting it would help to create a nonprofit and apply for grants.

At first, they were not enthusiastic, preferring their informal system of mutual aid.

But, having succeeded in creating the Medicine Bear organization, Serna’s excited about the opportunity to continue the work. A second program offers mentorship, training and paid experience in public art to youth returning home and other system-impacted youth to help support them as they begin reintegrating into the community.

“Both components are rooted in cultural resilience and directly address underlying causes of youth incarceration (such as historical trauma and cultural disconnection) by integrating Indigenous and Latino traditions,” Serna said in his application.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oregon and Southwest Washington operates four houses in Oregon, where families with children undergoing hospital treatment can stay free of charge. Meals and other services are also provided.

Community Engagement Manager Danny Harris said the grant will be used for the organization’s Eastern House to furnish an outdoor kitchen, therapeutic garden nooks, patios, fencing, landscaping and accessible playgrounds, all built with “trauma-informed design.”

“Families often stay weeks or months with us,” Harris said, explaining that the amenities are important to provide emotional re-

lief for both adults and children in a soothing natural setting, as well as ADA accessible playgrounds.

Chief Development Officer Lauren Olander explained in the organization’s application that the project is designed to transform the exterior “into a healing environment where children can play freely and safely, where parents can connect with one another, and where whole families can feel a sense of dignity, comfort and togetherness during their darkest days.”

In 2024, Olander wrote, “Approximately 28% of the families we supported (785) came from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s 11-county priority region, staying for a combined 7,297 nights at no cost.” That included 57 families from Polk County, and 20 families from Yamhill County.

The Community Fund provided 15 small grant awards totaling \$97,536 to the following organizations:

### Small grant recipients

- Adopt One Block, \$7,500, for equitable environmental cleanups and empowered communities in Multnomah County;
- Ampkwa Advocacy, \$7,500, for the 2025 Murdered and Missing Indigenous Persons Walk and Community Healing Project;
- Bethel Education Foundation, \$4,000, for its Native Read and Feed events in Lane County;
- Creswell Clubhouse, \$5,000, for after school and summer enrichment programs in Lane County;
- Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, \$7,500, for Abernethy Creek Watershed lamprey education and outreach program in Clackamas County;
- Healthy Living Community, \$7,500, for expanding clinical care in Multnomah County;
- Medicine Bear, \$7,000, for Red-Stone Collective arts and culture program at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Detention Center in Multnomah County;
- Operation Warm Inc., \$7,500, for

Warm Up Yamhill and Tillamook counties;

- Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue Inc., \$2,036, for a new kicker motor and install for a swift water rescue boat in Clackamas County;
- Red Lodge Transition Services, \$7,500, for a garage conversion project in Clackamas County;
- Sheltercare, \$7,000, for behavioral health work in Lane County;
- Stayton Public Library Foundation, \$5,000, for its 2025-26 outreach literacy program;
- Veterans Legacy, \$7,500, for a transport vehicle in Lane County;
- Walama Restoration Program, \$7,500, for its From Seed to Habitat education program in Lane County;
- Youth Music Project, \$7,500, for its mariachi camp, which leverages arts and culture to boost academics in Clackamas County.

The Community Fund provided 12 large grant awards totaling \$499,796 to the following organizations:

### Large grants

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley, \$20,000, for its Resetting for Resiliency expansion to Bethel Community Hub in Lane County.
- Civics Learning Project, \$20,000, for experiential civics learning in Benton County;
- Latino Network, \$50,000, for operations support for a new culturally specific mental health clinic in Multnomah County;
- Native Fish Society, \$25,000, for its healthy rivers, wild fish community-led action for Willamette habitat;
- Painted Horse Recovery, \$43,234, for C’iyaal’s (Salmon) House in Multnomah County;
- Parrott Creek Child & Family Services, \$50,000, for its cultural ecology program about Indigenous land stewardship for adjudicated youth in Clackamas County;
- Portland Youthbuilders, \$20,000, for its YouthBuild High School Program’s Pathways to Success for At-Risk Youth in Multnomah County;
- Ronald McDonald Houses of Portland, \$100,000, for Care During Crisis: Supporting families through pediatric trauma in Multnomah County;
- Schoolhouse Supplies Inc., \$40,000, for its free store for teachers in 2025-26 in Multnomah County;
- Swallowtail Waldorf School and Farm, \$46,562, for its healing, land-rooted school for pre-K through eighth grade Indigenous learners in Washington County;
- The Blosser Center for Dyslexia Resources, \$45,000, for improving education for underserved students with literacy tutoring in Multnomah County;
- The Salem-Keizer Coalition for Equality, \$40,000, for its Leyendo Avanzamos (Reading Together We Advance) program in Marion County.

After the grant awards were read, Swallowtail Waldorf School and Farm won a raffle for a Tribal Tri-logged blanket. ■



# Next Tipsu-ili'i phase includes 32 homes

**MEETING continued from front page**

they have to do it piece by piece... We shall see as we move forward.”

In other action, Tribal Council approved a \$2.9 million contract with Scholten Construction Inc. of Wilamina for phase two construction of the Tipsu-ili'i Tribal homeowner-ship development. Specifically, the work will involve building roads and underground utilities to serve the next phase of 32 homes.

“We're excited to get this project underway so we can get phase two completed,” Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said during a Tuesday, Sept. 23, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

Webb said he expects utilities and roads to be complete in approximately 15 months.

There is not a set date for when actual home construction will begin, but Webb said it could potentially be late 2026 or early 2027.

Phase one, which includes 20 homes, is fully occupied.

Additionally, Tribal Council:

- Approved renewing its annual Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians membership dues for \$7,500 and appointed Jon A. George as ATNI delegate and all remaining Tribal Council members as alternates.
- Approved a \$120,000 grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims Services for its Services to Domestic and Sexual Violence Survivors grant;
- Approved a \$596,000 grant application to Indian Health Service for Addressing Dementia in Tribal and Urban Indian Communities: Enhancing Sustainable Models of Care grant;
- Approved a \$45,000 grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims Services for its Violence on Crime Act grant;
- Approved a \$242,000 grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims Services for its Tribal Victims Services set-aside grant for domestic violence services;
- Approved reappointing Tribal Council member Kathleen George and appointing Tribal Council members Lisa Leno and Matthew Haller to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees with terms ending Sept. 30, 2027;
- Approved appointing Tribal Council members Toby McClary and Pete Wakeland as authorized signers on the Tribe's bank, sweep and investment accounts; and authorizing the use of a Tribal credit card for both of them. Additionally, Tribal Council approved removing past council members Brenda Tuomi and Denise Harvey from the accounts and Tribal credit card;
- Approved granting Controller Trish Squires signing authority on the Tribe's line of credit with Tri-State Capital Bank and removing Executive Assistant Christine O'Day as an authorized signer;
- Approved reappointing Matthew Kirkland and appointing Harris Reibach, McClary and Wakeland to the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors with terms ending Sept. 30, 2028;
- And approved enrolling seven infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Tribal Council also set the agenda for the next General Council meeting. It will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, and will include a report about the Tribe's investment accounts in executive session.

To watch the entire meeting, visit [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

# New fellow



Photo by Kamiah Koch

The recently selected 2025-26 Hatfield Fellow Chrissa Wilkie, 24, left, an enrolled member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Angela Sears, right, met with Grand Ronde Tribal Council for the first time Wednesday, Sept. 24. The Grand Ronde Tribe established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship in 1998 and each year the Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office. Wilkie will be interning for Oregon Rep. Andrea Salinas.

## Yamhill Community Care awards funding to Grand Ronde

Yamhill Community Care recently awarded more than \$600,000 to 15 local community-based organizations for community health initiatives, including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

YCCO invests in social determinants of health and equity.

“Strong communities don’t happen by accident — they’re built when people come together to care for one another,” President and CEO Seamus McCarthy said. “These projects reflect the creativity and commitment of our neighbors, and we’re proud to play a role in helping them thrive.”

The Tribe received \$13,404 for its traditional health worker education and training project, which will be used to send employees to culturally specific training. ■

## 2025 SALEM OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

This event unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the way in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 10AM  
RIVERFRONT PARK, SALEM OR

We are opening up 12 spots for youth (ages 12-24) to attend the walk.

If you would like your youth to attend with YEP, please fill out the attached google form or email YEP at [yep@grandronde.org](mailto:yep@grandronde.org)

PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE FOR OUR TRIBAL YOUTH ISN'T ALWAYS AN EASY CHOICE, BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE RIGHT CHOICE. BECOME A RESPITE OR FOSTER CARE PROVIDER TODAY!

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PHONE: 503-879-2039  
EMAIL: [AUDRA.SHERWOOD@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:AUDRA.SHERWOOD@GRANDRONDE.ORG)



# Tribe wants Stella-Jones to commit to environmental responsibility

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Tribe’s Ceded Lands Department held a consultation with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, state Department of Environmental Quality and city of Sheridan recently, regarding fines pending against wood treatment facility Stella-Jones Corporation from multiple agencies.

Stella-Jones has a facility located in Sheridan, which is also part of the Tribe’s ceded lands.

Stella-Jones is a Canadian manufacturer and a leading producer in the U.S. of treated wood products such as railroad ties, utility poles, residential lumber and industrial products.

“Their site sits on top of the former Taylor Jones Lumber site that was already cleaned up as a Superfund site,” Tribal Environmental Policy Analyst Keri Handaly said. “DEQ’s inspection found that (Stella-Jones) practices were re-contaminating portions of the (Taylor Jones) capped cleanup area with new hazardous chemicals.”

Over the past three months, Stella-Jones has been charged with multiple violations by the EPA, the DEQ and the state Department of Justice.

“We support the timber industry, but each company needs to do its part in protecting the environment from hazardous chemical spills and releases that cost millions to clean up (often funded by public money when companies file bankruptcy),” Handaly said.

She noted that the company has professed support for the environment and for Indigenous peoples, but that it also has records of environmental violations in Washington, Alabama and Virginia.

“I hope to meet their new environmental compliance person and

establish a relationship, such that they understand the importance of staying on top of their operations and personnel training,” Handaly said. “I’m relieved to see that both of the agencies have held (Stella-Jones) accountable for improving their spill plans, training, house-keeping, equipment repairs and testing, poor record keeping and inadequate secondary containment, among others.”

In early September, the state DEQ announced it had issued a \$1 million civil fine against Stella-Jones for “numerous violations of environmental regulations for water quality, hazardous waste, and spill response and cleanup at their wood treating facility in Sheridan.”

The DEQ said the wood preserving chemicals used at the plant “pose a risk to public health and the environment when not properly managed.”

It said in a letter to the company, “\$877,225 of the civil penalty represents the economic benefit you gained as a result of these violations.”

If the company corrects the issues, the penalty may be reduced.

The DEQ said in its court filings that Stella-Jones “generates at least 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste on a monthly basis at the facility,” and that it “disposed of approximately 2,000 tons (3.8 million pounds) of waste filter cake from the filter press generated from respondent’s storm water treatment system,” and from sediment and debris from the system “at the Riverbend Landfill (during 2013-2021) and the Coffin Butte Landfill (during 2021-2022). ... Riverbend and Coffin Butte landfills do not have hazardous waste disposal permits issued by DEQ.”

In addition, the court filing said,

tanks of hazardous materials are not properly labeled and there were several overflows and spills, some of which it did not report to the DEQ. Staff also failed to conduct multiple required inspections and water discharges into the Yamhill River contained chemical contaminants that, in some instances, were more than 10 times the allowed concentration.

In a parallel case in late August, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield announced that the company had pleaded guilty to 10 misdemeanor counts of second-degree unlawful water pollution, for violations of its state-issued water quality permit.

He said Stella-Jones will pay a \$250,000 fine, \$50,000 of which will be suspended if it avoids permit violations involving pentachlorophenol (a wood preservative) during three years of probation. The company also will be required to put corrective actions into place to bring its operations into compliance with state environmental standards and clean up potentially affected areas at its facility.

In July, the EPA levied a \$98,000 fine against Stella-Jones as part of


a settlement agreement for violations of the Clean Water Act.

“Oregonians expect businesses to follow the law and protect our environment,” Rayfield said in the press release. “When companies cut corners and pollute our rivers and streams, it harms communities, natural resources and public trust.”

According to the EPA, use of pentachlorophenol (also called PCP) is being phased out. However, “wood treatment facilities will be allowed to use their existing stocks of PCP to produce treated wood until Feb. 28, 2027.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it can cause liver damage, primarily to workers who are exposed for long periods of time. Children should not play or sit on railroad ties, it states, and should not play in the dirt near hazardous waste sites.

“The chemical they use now, DCOI (an oil-borne wood preservative), is not well studied, so long term risks of releases are not well known. For the moment, it is considered less toxic than its predecessor, Pentachlorophenol,” Handaly said. ■



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To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment

### Scam and Fraud Prevention Education

- Please join your local G.R.T.P.D. for education on how to recognize the current online, phone, and mail scams.
- The only thing required is any desired note taking material, the education is no cost to you.
- The class will be at the Elder Activity Center, located at: 48940 Blacktail Dr., Grand Ronde, 97347
- October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Anyone is welcome to attend. Class starts at 10:30 am.



GRAND RONDE TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT





## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FREE TRAINING

Disasters can happen anywhere, at any time. That’s why individuals, families and communities should take steps to

**“Be 2 Weeks Ready” (B2WR)**

A FEMA-trained CERT instructor/Yamhill County Emergency Management volunteer will provide B2WR training in 3 weekly sessions, 6:00 to 9:00 PM

**Class #1 Tuesday, October 7, 2025**

**Class #2 Tuesday, October 14, 2025**

**Class #3 Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

**Grand Ronde Fire Station 28**  
**825 N Main St, Willamina, OR 97396**

Attend all three classes to be eligible to win B2WR prizes!

**Pre-registration is required.** Click the QR or go to: <https://form.jotform.com/252580578873>



## Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes

**10-4pm**

**October 12th @ CTGR Community Center**

**November 9th @ CTGR Community Center**

**December 14th @ CTGR Community Center**

**Come make new projects, work on old projects!**

**Tribal families welcomed!!**

**All ages!!**

Questions? Please reach out to the Culture Committee:

**Pamala Warren-Chase @ [Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com](mailto:Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com)**

**Marianne Blanchard @ [indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com](mailto:indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com)**

**Stephanie Craig @ [kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com](mailto:kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com)**

**Molly Leno @ [molly.leno@grandronde.org](mailto:molly.leno@grandronde.org)**



# Third-quarter service awards honor 94 employees

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe treated its employees to breakfast Thursday, Sept. 18, in the Tribal gym as part of its third-quarter Years of Service awards, where it honored 94 employees for their years of service, ranging from five years to 35 years.

Economic Development and Lands Director Jan Reibach played a flute song to honor employees.

“You’re the reason the Tribe gets to hold its sovereignty,” he said. “You’re the reason we can take care of our people. ... each one of you is part of our family.”

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller gave the invocation. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Kathleen George, Pete Wakeland, Toby McClary and Lisa Leno joined Haller to shake the hand of each employee who was honored.

Employees enjoyed a breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, potatoes and fruit salad, provided by Washington Street Catering.

Tribal Employee Services Office Director Harris Reibach served as emcee for the event. He pulled ticket numbers for employees to participate in games, for which they won cash prizes of \$100 or \$50, as well as sweatshirts.

He called employees forward to be honored by years of service, noting that those who reached the 10-year mark could choose between receiving a Pendleton blanket or \$200. Those who reached 30 years received a sweatshirt.

Harris Reibach then drew names for cash prizes and administrative leave. The Tribe gave away three \$1,000 prizes, eight \$500 prizes, 13 \$250 prizes and eight days of administrative leave.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Facilities Manager Tyson Mercier, right, shakes hands with Tribal Council member Toby McClary as he is recognized during the third-quarter Years of Service awards breakfast in the Tribal gym Thursday, Sept. 18. Mercier has worked for the Tribe for 25 years.**

The following employees were honored:

**35 years:** Health Benefits Specialist Barbara Steere, Support Services Coordinator Barbara Branson, Staff Accountant Melanie Hubbard and Continuing and Adult Education Coordinator Tracy Biery.

**34 years:** Interim General Manager Bryan Langley and chinuk wawa Preschool Teacher Jeff Mercier.

**33 years:** Finance Officer Christopher Leno.

**31 years:** Tribal Attorney Rob Greene.

**30 years:** Organizational Development and Training Manager Scott Mode.

**29 years:** Assistant Tribal Attorney Kimberly D’Aquila, Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier and Driver MSR Caryn George.

**27 years:** Education Services Coordinator Elaine Lane Raven,

Housekeeping Supervisor Ben Bishop and Dental Department Manager Sheila Blacketer.

**26 years:** Cultural Protection Specialist Christopher Bailey.

**25 years:** Facilities Manager Tyson Mercier and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator Matthew Bucknell.

**24 years:** Chachalu Manager Travis Stewart, Tribal Security Supervisor Roel Hernandez and Health Care Payment Specialist Erica Mercier.

**23 years:** Lead Cook Kevin Campbell and Firefighter/EMT Jennifer Colton.

**22 years:** Benefits Safety Specialist Peggy Carpenter, Nutrition Program Manager Kristy Lawson and Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie.

**21 years:** Member Services Program Manager Shannon Simi, Health Information Technician Stephanie Simmons and Employment Specialist Brandy Hembree.

**19 years:** Asset Inventory Specialist Nathan Mueller.

**18 years:** Information Systems Program Manager Alec Palanuk-Mercier; Central Telephone Receptionist Scarlett Holtz and Bus Driver Jennifer Jerabek.

**16 years:** Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor Bradly Roberston and Project Manager in Training Andrew Freeman.

**15 years:** Facilities Maintenance Technician Gary LaChance Jr., Facilities Maintenance Technician Jason Bailey, Chachalu Assistant Manager Veronica Montano, Native Connections Coordinator Keri Kimsey, Youth Prevention Manager Amber Zimbrick and Facilities Maintenance Technician Michael Lane.

**14 years:** Maintenance Supervisor Daniel Mooney, Community Support Specialist Joanna Brisbois

and Medical Technologist Staci Pemble.

**13 years:** Parks Recreation Coordinator Jerry Bailey, Senior Telecommunications Administrator Mark Scheelar, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez, Youth Prevention Grant Coordinator Angela Rideout and Vocational Rehabilitation Caseworker Tara Summers.

**12 years:** Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier.

**11 years:** Physician Lance Loberg and Administrative Assistant Deann Dickinson.

**10 years:** Police Cpl. Tokata Tehama, Senior Help Desk Technician Nathan Hoff, Employment Coordinator Shylo Williams, Help Desk Administrator Braden Ebensteiner, Housekeeper Jonathan Baker, Compliance Manager Corey Tharp and Infant/Toddler Teacher Ellis Maranda.

**9 years:** Senior Staff Attorney Brooks Wakeland and Inclusion Coordinator Star Weatherall.

**8 years:** Health Information Technician Norma Reed, Lead Housekeeper Dorene Gillespie, Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright, Spirit Mountain Community Fund Administrative Assistant Pamala Warren-Chase, Silviculture and Fire Protection Technician Nicholas Larsen, Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison, Staff Pharmacist Timothy Wood, Senior Dental Assistant Samuel King and Tribal Security Officer Eugene Pribble.

**7 years:** Pharmacy Technician Carrie Lewis, Lead Certified Medical Assistant Jennifer Lott, Pharmacy Clerk Amber Thiede, Assistant Teacher Brettia Vale and Staff Pharmacist Andrew Canning.

**6 years:** Senior Executive Assistant Danielle Dickey, Cultural Policy Analyst Gregory Archuleta, Controller Christine O’Day, Emergency Assistance Programs Coordinator Tawnie Kimsey, Curriculum Specialist Cheyanne Fasana-Heidt, Payment Processing Specialist Dorothy Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Technician Dyami Eastman, Licensed Practical Nurse Charlene Brewer, Children & Family Services Caseworker Michelle Baker, Optometric Technician Sandra Galligher and Smoke Signals Graphic Design Specialist Samuel Briggs.

**5 years:** Lead Driver and Wellness Assistant Damon Dickinson, Administrative Assistant Josie Justen, Infant/Toddler Teacher Hannah Nice, Substance Use Disorder Therapist Heidi Hicinbothom, Senior Dental Assistant Anna Novak and Community Programs Manager Caitlin Zimbrick. ■



RISE & SHINE! IT'S A

# MONDAY MEET UP

UNDER THE COVERED AREA IN  
Tribal Housing  
6th-12th Grade

MONDAY MORNINGS  
9:50AM - 10:20AM  
FREE BREAKFAST FOR YOUTH

## Gas discount in Grand Ronde

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. ■



# Helping Native hands do the carving

**By Danielle Harrison**  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Behind the Tribe’s Health & Wellness Center on Grand Ronde Road, three canoes are housed under a green metal roof without walls or doors. That is by design, according to Tribal Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe.

“We wanted the canoes outside and together,” she said. “It’s nice and people can gather here.”

On the right side of the canoe house, a tall cedar carving depicts a figure with a paddle watching over the area. The carving was a community effort, designed by Tribal member Brian Krehbiel, who worked on the carving with Tribal Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Mike Henry and several other Tribal members.

It took approximately a year to complete the work. Not all that time was spent carving, as it was sometimes set aside to work on other projects.

That’s nothing unusual in this space.

“There were lots of times we would stare at it and wonder what to do next with it,” Krehbiel said. “That’s just part of the process.”

Krehbiel and Henry spend nearly every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon helping Tribal members who want to learn to carve, along with other traditional skills, in the building next to the canoe house. The program began a few years ago after the Tribe purchased the Black property and transformed it into a canoe house, garden and a shop, called Native Help in Native Hands.

Henry has served in the role as peer support specialist for three years and



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Community Transition Housing Program Peer Support Specialist Sissy Foster-Runningbird works on a paddle she is making at the Native Help in Native Hands shop located on the Black property next to the Tribal campus Tuesday, Sept. 9. Helping her make the paddle is Tribal member Brian Krehbiel.**

helps Tribal members learn or relearn skills such as beading, drum-making, carving and weaving, along with others who offer help.

“Western medicine is not always the answer,” Henry said. “Natives are supposed to do stuff with their hands and we try to bring that out in people. A lot of people don’t know what they want to do until they start doing it...Everybody here is helping everyone else. There is not a set schedule with what we do.”

Health & Wellness Department Tribal Operations Director Tresa Mercier noted that the shop was founded to provide support for the community as a form of good medicine.

“It’s for everyone,” she said. “People can bead, make paddles, do gardening and other projects.”

On a recent Tuesday morning, Tribal Community Transition Housing Program Peer Support Specialist Sissy Foster-Runningbird worked on a paddle while Krehbiel assisted.

“This is a great resource to have in the community, where you can work on whatever you want,” Krehbiel said.

Added Henry, “It’s very organic. I’ve had people who say they can’t weave and they turn out to be great



**A recently completed carving was installed at the Native Help in Native Hands shop on the Black property. It was a community effort carved by Tribal members and led by Tribal member Brian Krehbiel and Tribal Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Mike Henry.**

at it. This is good medicine for our people. They learn that they can do this. If we don’t know how to do something, we’ll find someone.”

To learn more about the Native Help in Native Hands shop, call the Tribe’s Behavioral Health Department at 503-879-2026. ■

## 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. ■

Attention All Artisans

Now accepting bids for our Little Miss crown.

Submit full design that includes:

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde logo including feathers.
- Court Year 2026–27.
- Title: Little Miss Grand Ronde.
- Crowns must be completed and delivered by July 31, 2026.

Must submit photos of progress when requested.

Bid deadline is Friday, Oct. 31, 2025. (deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 p.m.)

Mail bids and designs to:  
CTGR Royalty c/o Shannon Simi  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Shannon at 503-879-1358 or email shannon.simi@grandronde.org

\*Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam

October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-4pm

Chachalu Gymnasium

A space for community connection – honoring culture, identity and wisdom, while addressing trauma, healing & more!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gathering-of-grand-ronde-tilixam-oct-15-17-tickets-1680681998099?aff=oddtcreator&utm\_source=email&utm\_medium=sparkpost&utm\_campaign=postpublsh

Questions please call 503-879-1990

Scan to register!

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# Safety fair



Photos by Kamiah Koch

**Billie LaBonte, spouse of Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte, receives a mobilization aid from the Grand Ronde Community Health booth during the annual Elder Safety Fair held at the old powwow grounds Wednesday, Sept. 24. There were more than 30 different booths from both internal and external Tribal departments and companies sharing Elder-related information. Dinner and Kona ice were served. The fair also included an opportunity to dunk a Tribal Community Health or Tribal Public Health worker, as well as an Elder “car wash” for walkers and wheelchairs to get a cleaning and safety inspection done. The first 100 Elders to check in received an emergency preparedness bag.**



**Tribal Elder Steve Rife successfully dunks Community Health Aid IV Ben Morris in the dunk tank and laughs as he gets splashed during the Elder Safety Fair.**

## 2025-2026 Back-to-School Assistance Program

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

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

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

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

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/LbnvtZ9pLyUrtv1U8>



## NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Oct. 1, 2025

The Confederated Tribes of the  
Grand Ronde Community of Oregon  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
503-879-2404

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of FY 2022 Community Project Funding Grant funds under Title I of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to undertake a project known as tumwata village Block 1 for the purpose of constructing new multimodal public access streets and associated public utilities around Block 1 at 419 - 427 Main Street, Oregon City, Oregon 97045, to support the future development.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency may submit email comments on the ERR to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, [Ryan.Webb@gran-dronde.org](mailto:Ryan.Webb@gran-dronde.org). All comments received by Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, will be considered by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon certifies to HUD that Cheryle A. Kennedy in her capacity as chairwoman consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon to use program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The HUD Region X Administration Office will accept objections to its release of fund and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon’s certification for a period of 15 days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying officer of The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon; (b) The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD Region X administration office; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Region X Administration Office at 909 First Ave., Suite 340, Seattle, WA 98104-1000. Potential objectors should contact the HUD Region X Administration Office to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**Cheryle A. Kennedy, Chairwoman**  
**Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon**  
**9615 Grand Ronde Road**  
**Grand Ronde, OR 97347-9712**



# Attention All Artisans

Now accepting bids for our Senior Miss crown.

**Submit full design that includes:**

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde logo including feathers.
- Court Year 2026–27.
- Title: Senior Miss Grand Ronde.
- Crowns must be completed and delivered by July 31, 2026.

*Must submit photos of progress when requested.*

Bid deadline is Friday, Oct. 31, 2025. (deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 p.m.)

Mail bids and designs to:  
CTGR Royalty c/o Shannon Simi  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Shannon at 503-879-1358 or email [shannon.simi@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.simi@grandronde.org)

\*Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## 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. ■



### TEACH

our children  
our stories

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



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

# INDIGENOUS MARKETPLACE

*In celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day*

**EXPERIENCE LOCAL ARTISANS**  
*Shop unique Native jewelry, gifts and more!*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 4–7pm  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 10am–5pm  
RIVERS EVENT CENTER

*Special Meet the Artist Social Hour • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 • 4–5pm*  
*Complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments*



## DANCE THE FRIGHT AWAY WITH FAN HALEN!

FREE HALLOWEEN PARTY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31  
Rivers Event Center • Concert Begins 8pm

**NO CHARGE FOR GENERAL ADMISSION.**  
**LIMITED RESERVED SEATING IS AVAILABLE FOR \$20 PER PERSON**



For more details and ticket info, visit [wildhorseresort.com](http://wildhorseresort.com) or the **Wildhorse App**.

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THREE DECADES OF FUN  
**30 YEARS**  
WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO

CAT15663-1



# Archeology training



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal member Bethany Ibabao removes a piece of a glass bottle while excavating the location of the old Grand Ronde Boarding School during an archaeological dig Friday, Sept. 12. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc., the Tribe’s Tribal Employment Rights Office and Tribe’s Historic Preservation Office’s Archaeology and Research Program collaborated to create an archaeology assistant training for Tribal members. The training was created to fill a need for Grand Ronde Tribal people to be site monitors and archeological assistants for projects on the Tribe’s ceded lands.**



**Tribal member Gabriella Werner inspects a rock while sifting excavated soil during an archaeological dig at the location of the old Grand Ronde Boarding School Friday, Sept. 12.**

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY  
Visit **YouTube**  
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



## smok signalz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signalz? Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail? Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else? In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, smok signalz electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you’re set. Why would you want to do that? The PDF version is available before the newspaper is sent to our printing contractor in Salem. You can read the paper on your computer or print out a copy of individual pages yourself. And you will receive Tribal news much faster than the current standard mailing utilized by the Tribe. If you would like to receive an emailed PDF version of smok signalz and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your email to [esubscription@grandronde.org](mailto:esubscription@grandronde.org). Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**For 32’ Chinook-style taped seam wood canoe  
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center hereby extends an invitation to qualified applicants to respond to the request for proposals for a 32’ all-wood, Chinook-style taped seam wood canoe with the approximate duplication of the traditional shape of Chinook style canoes.

The proposal will provide the full cost for a Chinook style canoe with approximate dimensions of the canoe are LOA: 32’, LWL: 28’11”, Beam: 5’8”, Hull depth: 22”, Weight: 630 lbs.

Qualified applicants must provide verification of experience in building Chinook-style taped seam wood canoes, traditional knowledge of Tribal canoe paddling and understanding of traditional healthcare practices of paddling.

Please include plans that reflect ability to complete the project. Questions can be directed to Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe at [Kelly.rowe@grandronde.org](mailto:Kelly.rowe@grandronde.org) or 503-879-2075.

**Responses are due by 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6. ■**

**It’s never too late to heal from addiction.**

**Have a courageous spirit. Reach**

**JOIN THE CELEBRATION!** **SUNDAY, OCT. 12 1-4 P.M.**

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**

**CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

- Entertainment + delicious food
- Build community and connection
- Local Indigenous artisan products
- Learn about local Indigenous culture

**NIEMEYER CENTER, OREGON CITY CAMPUS • 19600 MOLALLA AVE, 97045**

**Scan the QR code or visit [www.clackamas.edu/ipd](http://www.clackamas.edu/ipd) for the latest event updates + more!**

For accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center at 503-594-6357 or [drc@clackamas.edu](mailto:drc@clackamas.edu).



## 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. ■

### Corvallis to Albany Path Project Open House

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Date: Oct. 18 in-person (also online Oct. 18-31)  
Location: Albany Farmers' Market & Corvallis Farmers' Market  
Address: Fourth & Ellsworth, Albany; First & Jackson St., Corvallis, OR  
For more information: James Feldmann, james.feldmann@odot.oregon.gov or <https://direc.to/nsnv>

Paid ad

## 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. ■

## 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. ■



## Watchlist: 'How NAYA is reclaiming Indigenous foodways'

*(Editor's note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube, and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)*

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

Lucy Suppa, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, is shown walking around an abundant garden in a recent Oregon Public Broadcasting video.

Suppa is the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Coordinator at the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) in Portland.

"We talk all the time about plant and food medicine not being an alternative medicine, but being our first medicine," Suppa said. "There is a lot of rebuilding that goes into that."

The NAYA garden is intended to offer healing, for both the land and the people.

"We oftentimes talk about (how) healing the land is healing ourselves," Suppa said. "Having that actual physical connection with the land, with our food."

Suppa explains the first step in that healing requires hands-on connection with the plants.

The video shows hands picking a selection of squash, corn and cucumbers and placing them in a basket.

Walking around the garden, various plants used as plant medicine like prairie white sage, sweetgrass and forest huckleberry are seen.

"It's important, we are here for our Native people," Suppa said. "But it's also a means to educate the public about our culture and our identity, something that was held back from us speaking on it for so long."

Suppa said there is still a lot of relearning to do and she looks forward to seeing it happen.

You can watch the entire video on OPB's social media channels or find the YouTube video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yमितqNX\\_Md8&t=2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yमितqNX_Md8&t=2s). ■

## Attention All Artisans

Now accepting bids for our Junior Miss crown.

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Must submit photos of progress when requested.

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CTGR Royalty c/o Shannon Simi  
9615 Grand Ronde Road  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Shannon at 503-879-1358 or email [shannon.simi@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.simi@grandronde.org)

\*Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## Indian Taco Fundraiser & Silent Auction



Elder Activity Center

Monday, Oct. 27, 2025

11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Indian Tacos

11 a.m -3 p.m. Silent Auction

Taco's \$12

Frybread \$6

Pop & Water \$2

\* Proceeds benefit Holiday Food Boxes @ our local Food Pantry



# FROM GRAND RONDE ♥ WITH LOVE ♥

As the seasons shift and the air grows colder, compassion becomes our greatest medicine. Here in Grand Ronde, we know the strength of community, of showing up for one another, and of never letting anyone walk alone.

This September, I am gathering Compassion Bags for our houseless relatives — to carry warmth, dignity, and love from the reserve to the city. Each bag is more than supplies, it's a reminder that they are seen, valued, and not forgotten.

**From Grand Ronde with love,  
let's spread kindness across every mile.**

**Suggested Donations**



Warm socks, gloves, beanies



First aid  
(band-aids, ointment,  
wipes)



Hygiene items  
(toothbrush, toothpaste,  
soap, deodorant,  
feminine care)



Non-perishable snacks  
(protein bars,  
nuts, dried fruit)



Handwarmers, small blankets



Journals, pens,  
and handwritten words of  
encouragement



Journals, pens, and  
handwritten words of  
encouragement

Every gift is a prayer in action. Every bag is a spark of hope. Together, we can turn the chill of September into the warmth of compassion.

**Drop-off / Contact:** Amber Case 503-793-2037

# Chachalu Friday Marketplace

FOOD // ART // CRAFTS



**UPCOMING MARKETS**

~~August 22~~

~~September 12~~

October 10

October 24 // Fall Harvest Marketplace

December 12 // Holly Jolly Marketplace

**ALL MARKETS HELD FROM 10-5PM  
RAIN [IN THE GYM] OR SHINE**

VENDOR INFO / [CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG)

8720 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OREGON



# 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*



# 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. ■

## Attention Tribal Elders

Do you have a will or trust?  
Do you need one updated?



Come get all the information you need and to access this service for FREE!

Willamette Law  
will be here  
Friday, Oct. 17, 2025  
11:30 a.m.  
Elder Activity Center



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

## Open Positions

Chief Financial Officer	\$160-180K/yr
Housing Development Manager	\$110-120K/yr
High School Counselor for Health & Welfare (9.5 months)	\$60K/yr
Data Quality and Reporting Specialist	\$28-30/hr
Alcohol & Drug Specialist	\$25-27/hr
Foster Care Support Specialist	\$24+/hr
Youth Advocate	\$23+/hr
Youth Housing Advocate	\$22-25/hr
Youth Parent Support Specialist	\$20+/hr
Peer Mentor Specialist	\$20/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

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

09/19/25

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# Legal Aid Services of Oregon announces Molly Washington as the New Director of the Native American Program

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) recently welcomed Molly Washington (N'dee/Apache) to serve as the next Director of the Native American Program, historically known as NAPOLS. Since its inception in 1979, NAPOLS has provided high-quality legal advice and representation to income-eligible Native American community members, organizations, and Indian Tribes throughout Oregon, covering an array of legal issues including estate planning, guardianship, expungement, benefits access, Tribal sovereignty and more.



Molly brings a breadth of experience to this leadership position, having spent over 16 years as a civil law practicing attorney in both the private and public sectors, as well as experience in non-profit leadership. Molly currently serves as the Chair of the Native American Youth and Family Center, having served on the Board for the past six years, and has worked with many other Native-led organizations throughout the region. Molly's approach to her work at NAPOLS is guided by her cultural values which instill responsibility, respect, balance, interconnection, humility and truth. Molly is ecstatic about the opportunity to advance and reinvigorate the Native American Program so that it remains responsive to community needs and the shifting legal landscape.

"NAPOLS is a program that has the ability to provide significant legal support to the members of our Native community who are most in need," Molly said. "Our community is resilient, adaptable, creative, strong, and inspiring. Our work is to advocate, to educate, and to empower all of those traits. I am grateful for the opportunity to play a small part in the long legacy of NAPOLS and am honored that its future has been entrusted to our team."

If you want to learn more about the Native American Program of LASO and its services, go to Native American Program - LASO.

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## Services Provided:

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

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

Wednesday  
October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday  
October 16<sup>th</sup>  
3-7 pm  
12-4 pm  
At the  
Grand Ronde Gym  
Grand Ronde





**New baby**  
**Colby Conrad Bobb**  
4:05 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025  
8 pounds, 4 ounces, 19.25 inches  
Parents: Logan and Chalise Bobb  
Grandparents: Cory Bobb, Sandy Bobb and Steve Mason  
Great Grandparents: Steve and Connie Bobb



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







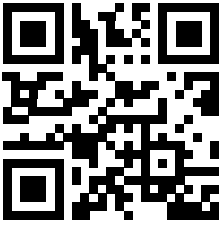
**LOVE - FUN AND ADVENTURE**  
LICENSED - EROD QUALIFIED - CPR CERTIFIED  
1930'S SCHOOLHOUSE IN SHERIDAN RURAL SETTING WITH 2 ACRES OF FENCED YARD AND ORIGINAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.  
OUTDOOR PLAY, STORYTIME, MUSIC, AND ARTS & CRAFTS. SNACKS & MEALS PROVIDED  
WELCOMING CHILDREN FROM 6 WEEKS TO 13 YEARS OLD  
FULL-TIME CARE WITH NEGOTIABLE HOURS  
CALL 503-437-0332 OR EMAIL TAMMYTREXLER@ALITTLEBITCOUNTRYDAYCARE.COM



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**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](http://www.energytrust.org/assessment).

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# Reading volunteers needed

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

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

The time commitment is one hour per week. To learn more, contact 971-634-1628 or visit [www.SMARTReading.org](http://www.SMARTReading.org). ■



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach K-5	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	09/29/2025
Administrative Assistant – Tribal Lands	0	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	09/29/2025
Assistant Controller	19	\$137,901.75/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	Until Filled
Barista Trainee - Limited Duration	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Cashier/Fueler - PT – Grave & Variable Shifts	5	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	Until Filled
Classroom Aide	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Family Partnership Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Front-Desk Dental Assistant	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	09/29/2025
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.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part Time & On-Call (Variable Shifts)	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time, Part Time & On-Call - GRAVE	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Sheridan - GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	09/29/2025
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.	09/29/2025
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Procurement Supervisor	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	09/29/2025
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - GCR	14	\$90,930.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	10/06/2025
Senior Dental Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Shipping & Receiving Clerk	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Staff Accountant	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	09/29/2025
Staff Pharmacist	19	\$137,901.74/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	10/06/2025
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	10/06/2025
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:  
1. Grand Ronde Tribal members.  
(Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they meet the minimum qualifications of the position during the course of the screening and interview process will be given first consideration for hire and the recruitment process will end)  
2. Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children & current regular Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde employees.  
3. External candidates including current Spirit Mountain Casino employees.

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



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Kitchen Steward ( <b>*Part-Time</b> )	10/2/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff ( <b>*Part-Time</b> )	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Cook (Full-Time & <b>*Part-Time</b> )	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Employee Dining Room Attendant ( <b>*Part-Time</b> )	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Services Lead	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Pro Shop Host ( <b>*Part-Time</b> )	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Room Chef	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & <b>*Part-Time</b> )	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. + Tips

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

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

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

**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

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

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

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

✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

✉[employmentteam@spiritmtn.com](mailto:employmentteam@spiritmtn.com)

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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.



Walking On...

Dasha Jacquelyn Burrow

Sept. 1, 1989 – Aug. 26, 2025

Tribal member Dasha Jacquelyn Burrow passed away Aug. 26, 2025, at the age of 35.

Dasha is survived by her mom, dad, sister and daughter.

Dasha loved hanging with her family, powwows and going to the beach. She liked listening to music.

She is loved by many; she will be forever missed. Gone but not forgotten.

A memorial service was held from noon to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 6705 SE 14th Ave., Portland, followed by a celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m. at the American Legion Milwaukie Post 180.



David Anthony Harrison

Nov. 11, 1960 – Sept. 17, 2025

Tribal Elder David Anthony Harrison passed on Sept. 17, 2025, at the age of 64.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 29, at the Tribal Cemetery, followed by a meal at the Elders Activity Center.

Farnstrom Mortuary in Independence is assisting the family.

Michael Harvey Leno

June 5, 1946 – Sept. 2, 2025

Tribal Elder Michael Harvey Leno passed on Sept. 2, 2025, at the age of 79.

Macy & Son Funeral Directors in McMinnville is assisting the family.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Tribal Community Center.

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. ■

Now accepting new residents

For Grand Ronde and other Federally designated Tribal members of Oregon

chaku łush təmtəm haws – Grand Ronde’s new treatment program in Sheridan, Oregon

We are proud to welcome new residents to chaku łush 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

Devere Tucker Eastman

Also known as: Two Stars

(Sunrise) July 27, 1980 – (Sunset) Sept. 13, 2025

Tribal member Devere (Two Stars) Tucker Eastman passed away Sept. 13, 2025, at the age of 45.

Two Stars Eastman was born to Perri McDaniel and Daniel T. Eastman (preceded him in death) in Klamath Falls, Oregon. He was the grandson of Carlton Duane McDaniel and Shirley Ann Parazoo, and of Devere Brave Buffalo Eastman and Lorraine Highpine-Eastman. All grandparents preceded him in death.

For most of his childhood, Two Stars lived in Vancouver, Washington. His grandmother, Shirley, moved the family there a few years before he was born. She said she wanted to live in Vancouver, because it was the traditional ancestral home of her Tchinouk people.

Two Stars was the seventh generation of descendants of Chief Kiesno of the Cathlapotle Village in Vancouver, Washington. Two Stars attended Evergreen High School until the family moved to Grand Ronde in 1998. He then attended Willamina High School his senior year.

Two Stars was a hardworking man who started working at the young age of 15. He worked several different jobs at Spirit Mountain Casino starting from when he was still in high school. He worked as a DMO, then moved on to pantry steward, shipping and receiving, groundskeeping, maintenance and as a table games dealer for the past eight years. In between working at the casino, he worked construction, helping to build the first phase of Elder housing, the Tribal plankhouse and different remodel phases of the casino.

Two Stars was a talented flute player. He played his flute in the break room at work where many of his co-workers enjoyed his music. He was a skilled wood carver, always working on decorative canoe paddles, flutes and different things. He was also a great carpenter, even building his own blackjack table for his “man cave,” where he also worked out regularly.

Two Stars loved kayaking and was always going on different adventures exploring new rivers and streams, and rock hounding along the way. He loved playing with his remote-control cars and boats, and was always tinkering with them, repairing them and trying to make them better and faster.

He was so much more than words like kind, caring, giving, generous, courageous, loving, wise, thoughtful, considerate, handsome, strong and bold can express. He was a beautiful soul and an amazing human being.

Two Stars is survived by his mother, Perri McDaniel; son, Dyami Two Stars Eastman; daughter, Dyshani Eastman; brothers, Eagle Eastman, Highpine Eastman and Buffalo Horse Eastman; and sisters, Luta Eastman and Delia Sanchez.

On his father’s side he is survived by his Lakota Sioux relatives from Rosebud, South Dakota: Auntie, Geraldine Eastman and uncles, Dominic Eastman and Todd Eastman. His uncle David preceded him in death, as did his Walking Eagle uncles from Pine Ridge, South Dakota: Clarene, Buzz and Kenney Walking Eagle. Their children, too numerous to list, survive Two Stars.

On his mother’s side, he is survived by his uncle Victor McDaniel of Klamath Falls; his aunties, Ann, Pam and Lorraine McDaniel, all of Grand Ronde, Oregon, and their children, all his brother/sister cousins too numerous to list; the mother of his children, Dara Dickinson; her sister, Deann Dickinson, whose children he also helped to raise; and Erin Case who became a close, trusted friend and confidant.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, at the Tribal gym, followed by a meal at the Tribal Community Center.

Macy & Son Funeral Directors of McMinnville assisted the family.



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scheduled Appointments Only

Monday  
Tuesday

Walk-In Day

Thursday

To schedule an appointment:

Call (503) 879-1424 or

CTGR Tribal VSO@GrandRonde.Org





# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## Healing as a community

Healthy parents create healthy children. Healthy children create a healthy future. The old ones said, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Unfortunately, some of our youth are faced with traumas that take them to unhealthy spaces. Some are there for just a short time, while others are for years, well into their adulthood.

This is where we can heal as a community. Allowing a healthy space for one of our youth in the community can create a healthy future for them and their families. Whether you have thought it was possible or not, if providing space to be a foster or respite provider has crossed your mind, don't hesitate to reach out and fill a role in our children's lives. We have a wonderful team that will walk you through the entire process. Become the missing link.

May you all have a blessed day. Much love and respect.

Fabian Quenelle  
Foster Care Recruitment Specialist  
541-364-8605  
Fabian.quenelle@grandronde.org

## 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.

In addition, she completed a craniosacral therapy program at Bastyr University in 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 meaningful way.

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)



### 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.



## 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. ■



## OCTOBER DIABETES NEWS LETTER

### Breast cancer awareness!

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, excluding skin cancer.
- In 2023, an estimated 306,850 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected in the United States.
- About 1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

To reduce your breast cancer risk, you should maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly, limit alcohol consumption, eat a balanced diet, and avoid tobacco smoke. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, avoiding risk factors like smoking and excessive alcohol, and getting regular screenings can significantly lower your chances of developing breast cancer.

**FUN FACT:**  
It takes roughly 540 peanuts to make a jar of peanut butter.

### Upcoming Events

- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Indigenous peoples day
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> HOT FLASH BASH 12/1pm lunch and learn , Cheryl Kennedy Building

**Mammogram van 10/15/25**

**CONTACTS:**  
Phone: 503-879-2002  
charlene.brewer@grandronde.org  
jeannette.cavan@grandronde.org

**OCT 20 @ 11:30 Monthly Diabetes meeting, public health building**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GRAND RONDE**

## HOT FLASH BASH

Catching some blows from **menopause**? You don't have to face it alone. Come share space with us to talk and learn about the process we go through during **menopause** and honor all those who are on that journey.

We are hosting a small health fair and educational event dedicated to **menopause** and women's health. **Lunch and piñatas provided for those who attend!**

**23RD**  
OCTOBER

**11 AM - 2 PM**  
CHERYLE A. KENNEDY  
PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

**ALL**  
ARE WELCOME





# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

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

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