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ends Nov. 2, 2025*

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Tribe will celebrate 42 years of Restoration

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The cemetery was the last remaining piece of land, the Elders recall. The place where the Tribe’s dead lay at rest, was at least, still left to the people: Bereft of federal recognition and aid since 1954, many of them scattered to far corners of the country and beyond.

On Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22, the Tribe will gather again to celebrate its refusal to bow

to that blow: Its 42-year march from devastation to power with a Restoration Celebration and Powwow.

As it did last year, the Tribe will separate the celebration into two days: Friday for the celebration and Saturday for powwow.

The schedule is still tentative, Tribal Council

See **RESTORATION**
continued on page 3

Tribal member Tasina Bluehorse leads the Canoe Family dancers during the Tribe’s 41st Restoration Celebration at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center last November. This year’s Restoration Celebration will be held Friday, Nov. 21, and the Restoration Powwow will be held Saturday Nov. 22, both at the casino’s Event Center.



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal campus was put on lockdown after ICE alert

By Nicole Montesano
& Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writers

The Tribal campus was locked down for several hours Tuesday, Oct. 21, after the Tribe received reports that two Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were at the Tribal Police station.

The lockdown was lifted Wednesday, Oct. 22, after it was confirmed that the individuals were not ICE agents but allegedly Border Patrol/ Department of Homeland Security agents who had left the premises and not returned.

“As of this morning Tribal Police were able to make contact and have confirmed the individuals on campus yesterday were not ICE agents,” Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said. “The Tribal Police (have) established a direct line of communication with the local ICE office (in Portland) and they have assured us that ICE would not operate on the Grand Ronde Reservation without prior notification. Tribal Police are in the process of establishing lines of communication with the local federal agencies to ensure that any future potential activity is communicated in advance. As always, please contact the Tribal Police if you see anything concerning in the area. At this time, we are lifting the lockdown and all departments can resume regular business.”

Additionally, during the Wednesday, Oct. 22, Tribal Council meeting, Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight said that if anyone had

See **LOCKDOWN**
continued on page 6



Photos by Danielle Harrison

Community member Stephanie Thrasher (Delaware Tribe/Cherokee Shawnee) takes aim at a uterus-shaped piñata during the Hot Flash Bash at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building Thursday, Oct. 23. The event included a menopause-themed health fair, lunch and prizes from the piñata.

Hot Flash Bash

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Although menopause is often treated as something between a joke and a medical problem in the United States, many cultures regard it as an important and deeply meaningful life transition, displays at the Tribe’s first Hot Flash Bash pointed out.

Organizers at the Thursday, Oct. 23, event at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health



Attendees at the Hot Flash Bash scramble for candy and other goodies after the giant uterus-shaped piñata is broken. Tribal Public Health Educator Chad Mann said it took several weeks to stuff the piñata.

See **EVENT**
continued on page 7

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 2

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, Nov. 5.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 19.....	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 welcome

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Offices also will be closed Friday, Nov. 21, in observance of Restoration Day. Offices will close at noon Wednesday, Nov. 26, and remain closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28, in observance of Thanksgiving.

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SMART Reading is looking for caring adults to volunteer as reading mentors for PreK students.

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Learn more & sign up: ashlee.webb@grandronde.org

Learn more about SMART Reading: [SMART Reading Children’s Literacy Nonprofit](#)

Together, we can help kids thrive—one book at a time.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, Nov. 5	Nov. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Tuesday, Nov. 18	Dec. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Dec. 4	Dec. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Monday, Dec. 22	Jan. 1	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

tałlam-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.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11 – 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.
- Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22 – 42nd Restoration Day celebration, Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center. The celebration will be held Friday. Doors open at 10 a.m. Contact publicaffairs@grandronde.org for more information on Restoration. The Restoration Powwow will be held Saturday. Doors open at 9 a.m. Contact indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com for more information regarding powwow.

tałlam-pi-wakwst-mun (**December**)

- Wednesday, Dec. 3 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Sunday, Dec. 7 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Tribal offices closing at noon in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- Thursday, Dec. 25 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31 – Tribal offices closing at noon in observance of New Year's Eve.

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

Grand Meadows lot available for lease

Lot number 33 in Grand Meadows is now available for lease. Applicants must be pre-approved for a new manufactured home. The lot size is 55-by-100 feet and the pre-approved manufactured home must fit the size of the lot. The lot has a 26.8-by-66.4-foot cinder block skirting as well as a 20-by-24-foot garage with no garage door but it does have a man door. The garage on the lot will be included in the purchase. The sale will be preceded by a lottery system. To be included in the lottery, the leasing application and pre-approval letter from a lender must be received no later than 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

The leasing application is on the Tribal webpage at www.grandronde.org or applicants can stop by the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department, 28450 Tyee Road, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and pick one up. ■

Culture Committee is seeking donations of necklaces

RESTORATION continued from front page

Coordinator Chelsea Baranski said, noting that, “We are working on confirming details of Friday’s programming and specials for Saturday.”

The doors will open at 10 a.m. Friday at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center. Lunch will be served at 11:30 and the program will end at 2 p.m.

On Saturday, the doors will open at 9 a.m. for the powwow.

Coming out/returning to the circle will be performed at 10 a.m., with grand entry at noon. There will be a meal break at 5 p.m. The second grand entry will be at 6 p.m. Flag retirement will be at 10 p.m.

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George will serve as emcee. The arena director will be Tribal member Levi Liebelt.

Headman and headwoman are Tribal members Chad and Molly Leno.

Northern Blackhorse will be the head drum.

The Culture Committee is seeking donations of necklaces for powwow

If you go

42nd Restoration Celebration and Powwow

When: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21-22. Doors open at 10 a.m. Friday, a meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. For powwow, doors open at 9 a.m. Saturday with grand entries at noon and 6 p.m. All are welcome

Where: Spirit Mountain Casino, 27100 S.W. Salmon River Highway

Questions: publicaffairs@grandronde.org (Restoration), indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com (powwow)

giveaways. To arrange a donation, contact Pamala Warren-Chase at Pamala.Warren-Chase@thecomunityfund.com, Marianne Blanchard at indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com or Molly Leno at Molly.Leno@grandronde.com.

For more information about the Restoration Celebration, contact publicaffairs@grandronde.org. ■

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

Smoke Signals:
facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:
facebook.com/CTGRgov

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:
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Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:
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Grand Ronde Royalty:
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Grand Ronde Education Programs:
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Grand Ronde Youth Council:
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Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

Grand Ronde Social Services Department:
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Grand Ronde Food Bank:
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Spirit Mountain Community Fund:
facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund

Grand Ronde Cultural Education:
facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education

Grand Ronde Community Garden:
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Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:
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Grand Ronde Employment Services
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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS



THURSDAYS | NOON-5PM

OPEN TO TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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

CONTACT: CULTURALEDCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG

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 November 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. The Food Bank will be closed during Thanksgiving week Monday, Nov. 24 to Friday, Nov. 28.

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. Wednesday, Nov. 19, via Zoom. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact Editorial.Board@grandronde.org for the meeting link.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- **Elder Board** meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Reyn Leno.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Monday of the month in the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Molly Leno.

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



2020 — With the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc and state restrictions on indoor gatherings, the Tribe moved its Restoration Celebration online for the 37th anniversary of restored federal recognition.

2015 — Tribal Council voted to pursue the purchase of the 31-acre Multnomah Greyhound Park in Wood Village. No longer used for dog racing, the site was listed at \$11.2 million. Tribal Council Chair Reyn Leno said the Tribe was developing a business plan for the property to diversify the Tribe’s economic base.

2010 — Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy met with President Barack Obama at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, where Obama was appearing in support of Democrat John Kitzhaber’s campaign for governor. Kennedy was among several Native American council chairs from western Oregon to meet with the president.



2010

File photo

2005 — The Tribe left the annual Government-to-Government Summit after Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski left the summit before lunch, for the second year in a row. Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman Angie Blackwell told the assembled Tribes and agency heads that, “I want to thank you but my audience was with the governor and the Grand Ronde Tribe will be leaving at this time.”

2000 — The Tribe’s Veterans Committee, local veterans, their families and Tribal Council were supporting efforts to establish a new memorial to honor veterans. The effort was being led by the Tribe’s Veterans Ad Hoc Memorial Committee. Tribal member and veteran Steve Bobb designed the memorial, while Tribal members Courtney Galligher and Mark LaBonte posed in traditional regalia for the artist’s rendering of the design.

1995 — More than 4,000 Tribal members, civic leaders, business vendors and others involved in Spirit Mountain Casino attended the opening ceremonies. The casino was the newest to open in Oregon, and the largest Tribal gaming facility.

1990 — A landmark bill in Congress designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month, after years of work by The American Indian Heritage Foundation and other organizations. National and local ceremonies were planned.

1985 — Seventy-nine applicants were approved for membership in September, according to a report in Smoke Signals, bringing the Tribe’s roll to 1,682. This meant there were 1,020 new members since the Tribe’s restoration by the federal government.

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

ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

Two alternate board member positions open.

Qualifications:

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

For information contact:

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



GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

Tribal Council approves BIA funding request

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a funding request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for \$261,044 during its Wednesday, Oct. 8, meeting.

If approved, the BIA Tribal Justice Support program would be able to offer trainings and technical assistance to the Tribal Court, specifically to further the development, operation and enhancement of judicial systems within the court.

During a Tuesday, Oct. 21, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Court Administrator Shawn Branson said that the Tribal Court had participated in an assessment by the Whitener Group in November 2024 to evaluate Tribal needs and provide recommendations to the court.

“We’re beyond thrilled and excited to have an audience with you today for this recommendation that has been two years in the works,” she said. “How this whole thing began was with a letter of support from Tribal Council in December 2023, requesting that we be considered for the Tribal Court assessment. Last November, we participated in the assessment.”

Branson further explained that the court doesn’t have extensive civil procedure policies, which

results in barriers for people who come before the court, particularly Tribal members who represent themselves in cases.

“It’s been difficult not having some of these developed coming in (to my position)...It’s been difficult to make sense out of some of the rules that are within the ordinance...some you have to go to the federal court and some others it’s the district court of Oregon. It has consistently created barriers just in the time I’ve been here.”

Court Operations Supervisor Julie Boekhoff noted that she’s been with the court for 28 years and that that civil procedure rules adopted in 2001 were approved to make it as easy as possible for attorneys to be able to practice in Tribal Court.

“What we found over the years is that it becomes a convoluted, difficult process, even for attorneys in the court...It is now a time for the court to look at how these rules are working and develop our own so it is consistent for everybody.”

Tribal Council also approved several board and committee appointments. These included: Appointing Nicole Liebelt to the Culture Committee with a term ending March 31, 2027; appointing Tisha Pellett to the Election Board with a term ending March 31, 2027; appointing

Kelly Nelson to the Health Committee with a term ending March 31, 2026; appointing Steve Bobb Jr. to the TERO Commission with a term ending March 31, 2028; and appointing Lisa Schmid and Bradley Senner, and reappointing Shayla Myrick-Meyer to the Timber Committee with terms ending March 31, 2027.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved a memorandum of understanding between the Tribe and the Oregon Judicial Department, Oregon U.S. District Court and the other eight Oregon Tribes;
 - Approved a memorandum of agreement between the Tribe and the Scappoose School District;
 - Approved an application for up to \$646,000 to the Administration for Community Living Older Americans Act grant;
 - Approved a purchase and sale agreement for a 55.93-acre Oregon State University timber property located in Grand Ronde, which will connect Spirit Mountain Road with the Risseeuw property;
 - And approved enrolling four infants and 45 non-infants into

the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Additionally, Tribal Council set the agenda for the next General Council meeting. It will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, and feature a 2026 budget hearing in executive session.

Lastly, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier read a statement regarding the campus lockdown Tuesday, Oct. 21, due to reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents being on the Tribal campus.

“I want everyone to know we met yesterday and everyone is taking this very seriously,” he said. “I want people to know that council is monitoring this and preparing for worst-case scenarios. I’m glad it wasn’t what we thought it was but we don’t want to be caught off guard if the worst-case scenario breaks out.”

See the story on page one about the campus lockdown for more information.

To watch the entire meeting, visit www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. ■

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. ■

SNAP benefits won’t be paid for November

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Trump Administration has notified states that it will not pay out Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan benefits in November while the federal shutdown remains in place. SNAP is completely federally funded and falls under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The federal government has provided funding for Oregon’s WIC program to continue into November, and free and reduced-price school meals will still be available. Currently, the shutdown is not affecting the National School Lunch Program, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services.

But some 757,000 Oregonians on SNAP will receive no new benefits issued after Friday, Oct. 31, according to Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek. One in six Oregonians receives SNAP benefits, according to ODHA. Approximately 210,000 of them are children. Another 130,000 are adults 65 and older.

“This is a cruel and unacceptable situation,” Kotek said in a press release. “President Trump should focus on feeding families by negotiating a deal with Congress, not doing other things like deploying troops in American cities on taxpayers’ dime. Any delay or reduction in food benefits in November will cause unnecessary hardship and hunger for hundreds of thousands of people in Oregon during the month of Thanksgiving. ... It would hit

rural communities and economies particularly hard because of the high number of households utilizing SNAP benefits.”

Benefits already loaded onto cards are expected to remain available and the cards should work as usual, however no new benefits will be loaded for November.

The department said it would work as quickly as possible to distribute SNAP benefits if the shutdown ends. It is still accepting applications for benefits.

SNAP participants should check their EBT card balances regularly, it said, and continue following SNAP rules and reporting requirements. They also may sign up for a ONE Online account, and download the Oregon ONE Mobile app at benefits.oregon.gov, to receive notices about their SNAP cases.

The budget bill approved by Congress in July also makes changes to the SNAP program that are expected to end many people’s eligibility for the program or cut back on the benefits they receive. Among those is an increase in the age limit for the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents time limit. The bill added exceptions to the time limit, however, for federally recognized Tribal members.

It ended the time limit exceptions for veterans, people who are homeless and children in foster care, once they hit adulthood, and lowered the exception for parents, to those with children younger than 14. ■

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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
503-879-1349



CHACHALU
Tribal Museum and Cultural Center

Lockdown was later lifted after determining ICE was not involved

LOCKDOWN continued from front page

concerns about agents on the reservation, to call local police.

“If someone comes up to you in plainclothes and you feel uncomfortable, call 911, so we can come in and be a voice of reason in that situation,” McKnight said. “We will respond and help you through this.”

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier also read a statement regarding the situation.

“Out of an abundance of caution and based off the information we had at the time, the decision was made to secure Tribal buildings to avoid any workplace disruptions out of concern for the health and well-being of our members and employees. This morning, Tribal Police were able to make contact and have confirmed the individuals on campus yesterday were not ICE agents...The Tribe is not able to prevent federal agents from coming on to the reservation to enforce federal laws and policies; however, we believe any federal activity on the reservation should be communicated in advance to the Tribal government. Tribal Police are in the process of establishing lines of communication with other local federal agencies. We want to thank our members and staff for being vigilant and we look forward to more conversations on this important topic. We will be sure to update our members as information becomes available.”

The campus was first locked down just after 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, and that lockdown status was updated late in the afternoon.

“Thank you for your vigilance and responsiveness this afternoon,” Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said. “We appreciate all of you springing into action to help bring awareness to a fluid situation. We are asking staff to leave Tribal buildings in lockdown for the remainder of the week. By locking things down, we are simply asking that all doors remained locked and that access be restricted to employees, Tribal members and those with normal business, which is to be expected. Employees and visitors are able to come and go as they please, but please utilize your badge to access buildings.”

When the lockdown was first announced, an email alert was sent to all employees.

“In the event you are approached by an ICE agent while at work, please remain calm and advise the agent that you do not have authority to allow access to workspaces or provide any Tribal documents,” the email stated. “Please direct the ICE agent to the Tribal Police Department. Tribal Police are aware of the situation and will take the lead on all communications with ICE. You can reach the Tribal PD at 541-921-2927.”

The Tribe’s Facebook page noted that, “We recognize that this may cause concern within the membership. Please know that Tribal Council is working closely with the Tribal Police Department to monitor the situation.”

In addition to the campus-wide lockdown, the fish distribution at the Grand Ronde Food Bank was postponed to Wednesday, Oct. 22. ■

D’Aquila named Tribal attorney

Longtime Tribal employee Kimberly D’Aquila has been named Tribal attorney, succeeding Rob Greene, who retired in October.

D’Aquila has worked for the Tribal Attorney’s Office since 1996, serving as assistant attorney and then staff attorney.

“Kimberly has been a valued member of the Tribe’s legal team since July 1996, bringing nearly 29½ years of dedicated service to the Grand Ronde community,” Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said in an email. “Over the years, she has served in several key roles, including staff attorney and assistant Tribal attorney, and now steps into the Tribal attorney position with a wealth of experience and deep institutional knowledge.”

D’Aquila grew up in Washington state and moved to Oregon in 1996 from California. She holds a Bachelor of Science in business from the University of California Riverside and a juris doctor from Santa Clara University School of Law. She is a member of the Oregon, Washington and California state bar associations.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Kimberly has been married for 31 years and is the parent of two adult children, a son and daughter, 26 and 24.

“I really don’t think I can fully express what it has meant to me and how much I’ve enjoyed working with the Tribe for the last 29 years,” D’Aquila said in the email. “I’ve been privileged to work with, and for, a great group of people who genuinely care about this community. I love the challenges the job presents and the opportunities to do meaningful work. I’m honored to now serve as Tribal attorney.”

Added Hernandez, “We are incredibly grateful for Kimberly’s decades of dedication, her thoughtful legal expertise and her continued commitment to serving the Grand Ronde community. Congratulations, Kimberly, on this exciting new chapter in your career.” ■



Kimberly D’Aquila

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. ■

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Grand Ronde Elders

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2025

Helping Hands Distribution

CHACHALU GYM
10AM TO 4PM

Clothing Distribution
Breakfast (Biscuit and Gravy, Coffee, and Cocoa)

While Supplies Last

Traditional Indigenous medicines and ceremonies can help

**EVENT continued
from front page**

Building said they wanted to both provide helpful information and hear about what attendees want to see from future events. Along with giveaways of self-care items and pamphlets, the event included a uterus-shaped piñata, lunch and a table where participants could write down what they'd like to see at future events. There was also a fuzzy toy stuffed uterus offering hugs.

But there was an important point underlying the playfulness: Women need not suffer symptoms in silence and they don't have to regard themselves as in decline – indeed, in many traditional cultures, older women are seen as powerful and important members of society.

One display showed a map with write-ups on the views of women and society in a variety of cultures from around the world, including Indigenous Tribes in this country.

For example, one of the write-ups said, “among the Haudenosaunee Confederacy – comprising the Mohawk, Oneida, Onandaga, Cayuga and Seneca nations – post-menopausal women hold positions of deep respect and leadership. ... Menopause, therefore, is not viewed as decline but as a sacred passage into power and communal responsibility.”

Similar views are held elsewhere. “For the Maori of Aotearoa (New Zealand) menopause represents a powerful transition from community member to spiritual Elder,” another write-up said. “It signifies entrance into a revered stage of life where her influence and guidance sustain both family and community wellbeing..”

That contrasts sharply with the

view of mainstream society in the U.S. and Canada, where menopause is “most often viewed through a bio-medical lens encompassing both the end of menstruation and the broader process of female midlife aging,” another write-up said. “Western medicine has long characterized this stage as a biological decline, marked by hormonal depletion and symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, depression and anxiety. These experiences are often tied to a perceived loss of youth, fertility and sexuality.”

A vivid painting of an orca called attention to the fact that, while among most mammals, the reproductive years comprise the entirety of female adulthood, there are exceptions. Orcas and four other species of toothed whales also go through menopause, living for decades afterwards, and the grandmothers are considered an important part of the whales' society. For example, the Center For Whale Research says, grandmother orcas teach the younger pod members where and when to find food, especially when it's in short supply, protect their sons from potentially fatal social disputes and help raise their grandchildren.

Women of all ages attended the health fair, browsing the tables and chatting with department representatives.

Tribal member Caitlin Zimbrick said she had come partly “because my grandma is here and I adore her,” adding “And I'm almost 40, and I figured it was not too early to start gathering information.”

Her sister-in-law Amber Zimbrick said she had come “because of my raging, out-of-control hormones. And to see Grandma.”

Attendees were asked to write their suggestions for future menopause events on paper cutouts of

orcas and add them to the painting.

Tables provided information on both traditional and modern medicine and various programs that might prove helpful in later years, including handouts on diabetes and menopause, brain health, emotional and mental wellness, and Elder justice.

Traditional Indigenous medicines and ceremonies can offer a complement to modern medicine, handouts from Peer Support Specialist Tannith McNeel said, and people deserve to be respected for their health choices. The handouts advised bringing an advocate to medical appointments and working together with medical providers to review potential interactions of herbs with prescription medications, and to plan care that respectfully integrates traditional practices. Not all traditional medicines have been studied with randomized trials. “Lack of a randomized trial does not equal lack of value,” one handout noted.

Risk of diabetes can increase with menopause and the Tribe offers numerous classes and programs for those living with diabetes, managing meals and other skills,

including a 24-hour nurse advice line at 1-800-970-7138.

Tribal member Nicole Hewitt, a contracted clinical supervisor with behavioral health, said it's important for women to realize that menopause “is not an ending; it's just the next chapter.”

Still, she noted, it can bring out a lot of feelings, and tending to mental wellbeing is as important as maintaining physical health.

As many as one in three Native American Elders may develop Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, according to a handout from the Community Health Department. The Tribe offers community-based screening, and support through diagnosis and figuring out next steps.

The Tribe also offers an Elder Justice Program to “ensure our Elders are allowed the space where they are respected, cared for and supported with the ability to maintain their voice through advocacy, education and support,” according to the Community Health Department handout. It said that Elder abuse is common, often by family members, with some studies suggesting it may affect one in three Native Elders. ■

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■

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Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

2025 Veterans Day Luncheon

Monday, November 10, 2025

At the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center

Each veteran is invited to bring up to two guests with them to the luncheon.

This is a catered lunch. Please RSVP as soon as you can to ensure we have an accurate count and to reserve your meal(s).

RSVP ASAP or by October 22, 2025

Luncheon Schedule

11:30 A.M. - SMC Event Center doors open

Noon - Lunch Served (roasted top round buffet)

1 P.M. - Veteran Recognition & Raffle

2 P.M. Event Concludes

To RSVP: Call (503) 879-1484 or email CTGR Tribal VSO@GrandRonde.Org

RSVP ASAP or by October 22, 2025

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Participants walk to save lives, comfort survivors

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Wearing beads of every color to honor loved ones lost and those still struggling, residents of Salem and the surrounding areas braved the threat of rain Saturday, Oct. 11, to walk from Riverfront Park across the Willamette River, share their stories and help raise awareness to prevent suicide.

Tribal adults and youth from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde attended the annual Out of Darkness Walk, as they do every year, hoping to remind fellow Tribal members they do not have to suffer in alone and in silence.

“The reason why I came to the walk is that suicide prevention is a very important thing, so the ones we love don’t despair or hurt themselves, because we love them, and we don’t want them gone,” 15-year-old Tribal youth Satara Blanchard said.

Despite the forecast, the weather remained dry for the duration of the event.

Speakers for the event talked about their own struggles and the importance of talking openly about concerns.

“Talk saves lives,” Vuong Tran,



Photo by Nicole Montesano

Vuong Tran, board chair of the Oregon Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, addresses the crowd at the Out of the Darkness Walk at Riverfront Park in Salem Saturday, Oct. 11.

board chair of the Oregon Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, told the crowd.

It’s also the name of one of the organization’s programs.

“Talk Saves Lives tells you that if someone you love is thinking about

suicide, one of the best things you can do is directly ask them about it,” Tran said. “While some people worry that asking about suicide will increase suicide risk, research suggests that asking someone directly about suicide actually decreases suicide risk. So, don’t be afraid to ask the question, ‘Are you thinking about ending your life?’ If they tell you they are thinking of suicide, well, listen and have an open and honest conversation about that. And offer to help them find help.”

He added, “If you don’t know what to do at that time, you can always text or call the number 988 and you can do that on behalf of the person or you can do that for yourself, to figure out how to support that person.”

Attending the walk, Tran said, is also important, telling the crowd that, “You are helping provide support to the many people who have suffered loss.”

In acknowledgement of the fact, organizers perform a small ceremony every year, asking people to hold up their honor beads for different types of losses to suicide: White for loss of a child; red for loss of a spouse or partner; gold for loss of a parent; orange for loss of a sibling; purple for loss of a friend or relative; silver for loss of a first responder or military member; green for a personal attempt or struggle; teal or supporting someone who is struggling; blue for supporting the cause generally and rainbow for honoring the LGBTQ community.

Many people wore multiple strands in various colors, noting the complexity of the issue. The beads, which are given out at the event, are intended to show people that they are not alone in their loss and help them reach out to connect with each other.

Oregon police officer Cody Mann, who served in the military in Afghanistan, told the audience it was devastating for him to learn that two of his unit’s most admired leaders had taken their own lives.

After hearing about the death by suicide of his sergeant a few years ago, Mann said, he considered ending his own life.

“I’d recently gone through a divorce, not being able to see my son as often as I wanted; I was upside down on my house, I was working full-time in law enforcement,” he said. “My instant thought for me was that if a man that I revered as much as Bryce had made this decision, how could I ever possibly be successful in my own life? I remember a week later sitting in my empty house with bare walls, mattress on the floor, at the foot of my bed, contemplating my own end. I did not see any way out of the depression I had got myself in. Had it not been for my dog incessantly pressing her cold, wet nose in my face, licking my tears away, likely I would not be standing in front of you today.”

The following morning, Mann said, “I went to the VA and sought help. I went through a year-long therapy program and at the end of it, I found myself with a level of confidence that I had never possessed before.”

But, he said, his job continued to take a toll on him, taking him away from special family moments and sometimes placing him in danger. While he was struggling professionally, he said, his grandfather and mother both passed away. And then came the second call: His platoon commander, “the man who I wished to emulate in life” had also been lost to suicide.

Struggling to speak through tears, Mann said that “By the grace of the Lord and the support of a loving wife, I took a different path in my reaction in dealing with this.”

He created a class called “Battle Buddy Resilience” that he teaches with the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association, to help law enforcement officers survive their struggles with suicidal thoughts.

“I did this because I found that the thing missing in almost all these instances, with my mentors, myself, friends and other people who might find themselves in this situation, we will oftentimes do everything but reach out to one another generally asking for help, from a friend or a loved one or even a professional,” Mann said. “So, my parting message for you here today is not just for you but for others in your life ... to break the taboo of suicide in your life and talk to someone. You are loved and you are needed.”

Grand Ronde Tribal member Kiah Runningbird said she was attending the walk for the second time. She said she has lost an uncle and a cousin to suicide.

“Mental health is really important, especially in my family,” Runningbird said. “I’ve personally lost two people. I walk to honor the family members I’ve lost and to be out here with other members of our community. I advocate for staying away from drugs and getting help. Don’t just bottle it up in there; you’ve gotta talk to somebody.”

Blanchard said it was her third time walking.

“Making sure people know about these resources is really important, so we don’t lose the ones that we love,” she said. “I (attend) as often as I can.” ■

Help available for people struggling with suicidal thoughts

Help is available for people struggling with suicidal thoughts. Crisis lines and hotlines are available free of charge, and several offer culturally informed assistance.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis line is a national hotline for both people in crisis and those who want to help someone in crisis. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and offers English and Spanish. Press option four to be connected with a team of Native specialists familiar with intergenerational trauma and traditional cultural care. There is also a TTY line at 1-800-799-4TTY (4889).

Native youth may also text “NATIVE” to 741741 for assistance from trained crisis counselors. Service is available 24/7.

From 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, the StrongHearts Native HelpLine at 844-762-8483 provides anonymous culturally appropriate helpline for domestic violence, sexual and dating violence.

Crisis Text Line is a national texting service for emotional crisis support. Text HELLO to 741741. The line is available 24/7.

In addition, YouthLine offers teen-to-teen crisis help, with phone and texting available. Teens respond from 4 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday Pacific Time, while adults are available by phone at all other times. Call 877-968-8491, or text teen2teen to 839863. Email teen2teen@linesforlife.org.

Yamhill County also offers a 24/7 crisis hotline, at 844-842-8200. In addition, it offers suicide prevention training at no cost to county residents. For more information, visit hhs.co.yamhill.or.us/633/Suicide-Prevention-Trainings.

People who need assistance specific to veterans may call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255, 24/7. Press one or text 838255. It is not necessary to be enrolled in Veterans Administration benefits or health care.

There are also crisis services available 24/7 for LGBTQIA people through The Trevor Project at 866-488-7386 or by texting START to 678678. People also may call TransLifeline at 1-877-565-8860.

Warning signs of suicide may include the following:

- Talking about wanting to die
- Looking for a way to kill oneself
- Talking about feeling helpless or having no purpose
- Talking about feeling trapped or unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious, agitated or reckless
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings

Steps to take include removing any firearms, alcohol, drugs and sharp objects, not leaving the person alone, calling 988 and taking the person to an emergency room or seeking help from a medical or mental health professional. ■

Bobby Mercier honored for art

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Cultural Advisor and artist Bobby Mercier is being honored for his traditional Chinookan woodcarving art by Contemporary Art Curator Magazine.

Mercier said it's notable to have the unique art style recognized.

"I think just somebody actually recognizing that it's not Salish art, it's not Californian art, it's not eastern Oregon art; it has this one place in the world," he said. "Everybody sees our stuff, and says 'oh, like you do totems,' and, no, we don't do frogs and whales and bears, and stack 'em on each other; that's not what we do, so having this be recognized and raising that awareness, that's kind of cool."

Contemporary Art Curator Magazine, an online magazine that promotes and supports artists internationally, has awarded Mercier a Collectors Art Prize recognition for his work. The prize is awarded to a handful of artists every two years. It is not open to applications; recipients are selected by a group of curators, museum directors and critics.

In addition, Mercier will be honored during the Native Heritage Night at the Portland Trail Blazers game at the Moda Center Wednesday, Nov. 26, in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

"My art is a reflection of where I come from and who I am," Mercier wrote for the magazine. "As a Chinookan carver and digital artist, I carry the stories, teachings and spirit of my ancestors into every piece I create. My hands learned their way through the cedar from those who came before me and my heart stays close to the old ways, even as I explore new forms of



Contributed photo

Tribal Cultural Advisor and artist Bobby Mercier is being honored for his traditional Chinookan woodcarving art by Contemporary Art Curator Magazine.

expression. For me, art is not just about creating something beautiful – it's about connection. It's how we speak across generations, how we honor the ones who came before us and how we carry our culture into the future. I carve to remember. I design to preserve. I create so that our stories, our spirits and our songs are not forgotten."

He continued, "My work stands as both resistance and remembrance. It honors the power of place, the wisdom in the old ones, and the responsibility we carry forward. Art is ceremony. It is teaching. It is survival. And for me, it is home."

He noted that there are few living practitioners.

"You know there's a only a few of us that carve," Mercier said. "There's only a handful of us that even do this, so it's kind of rare.

People don't really see that."

Mercier, whose work has been featured in the magazine before, said he does not sell his wood carvings – recalling a man who once offered him a blank check for one piece. Mercier turned him down.

He said the man was angered, telling him "Everything's for sale."

"Not to me it isn't," he said. "Because it means nothing to them; no ties to them. It's just art to them, just something that's cool. But to me, that's my bloodline; it's tied to me, and everybody in my bloodline. ... I will sell canvas prints of it ... but I won't sell you the original."

Instead, he said, he uses his work as a kind of living museum.

"I'd rather just have it here in our community. ... All the rest is leaning right here against my wall in my office," he said.

Mercier noted that there are few historic examples that survived colonialism.

"Most of our longhouses and villages were burned, pushed over and burned," he said. "Some of the things they found were in mud, pushed over in the river, so not a lot survived."

Mercier and his fellow carvers had to study those few remaining pieces to learn the style. He wants to make things easier for today's youth.

"We have photos of about everything that's out there, but there's no place you can go and look at these carved wood pieces, so to have these here, where our kids and come and look at them and go oh, that's how that's carved ...to me that sounds cool because we didn't have that," he said. "So, this is a place where they can come and actually see it and learn it and touch it and be around something like that."

In addition, Mercier said, he's working on a book.

"I'm hoping to start it later on this winter or maybe by springtime and just go through all the different designs and different options of how to carve and what to carve, and some of the unwritten rules of stuff," he said. "I'm working on asking permission to use different images and just have a guidebook, hopefully to inspire Tribal youth. Not everybody's a beader or a weaver. Some people are carvers and when they figure that out, it's nice to have a book to follow along. There are so many books out there on form line and the stuff for Salish stuff; there's a lot of books out there; there's some really good ones and there's nothing for us, so I'm hoping to get that done for the youth." ■

Veterans Holiday Pick Up Event!

COME HAVE LUNCH AND PICK UP A HOLIDAY GIFT

Thursday, November 20, 2025

9 AM TO 3 PM | LUNCH | HOLIDAY GIFT

At the Tribal Veterans Service Office
25500 SW Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde

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Pumpkin painting



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Aspen Crawley, 4, paints a pumpkin during the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program pumpkin painting event for Domestic Violence Awareness Week at the Tribal Community Center Tuesday, Oct. 21. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Tribal member Ellie Crawley, 7, strings a tag to put on a candle holder during the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program pumpkin painting event for Domestic Violence Awareness Week at the Tribal Community Center Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Bishop again honored as Emergency Management Professional of the Year

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Brandy Bishop has been honored with the Oregon Tribal Emergency Management’s Professional of the Year award for the second time since 2023.

“The Tribal Emergency Management Professional of the Year award is such an honor to receive,” Bishop said. “I never thought I would get the first one and to be nominated once again for a second time...is remarkable and so humbling. I work with all nine of the Oregon Tribes as well as many state, federal and other organizations and agency emergency management professionals and have learned so much from them over these last nine years.”

Bishop received the honor Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the department’s conference in Bend.

“It’s been quite an adventure with Brandy starting out part-time nearly 10 years ago as emergency management assistant to now, running the day-to-day of the emergency management section of the Emergency Services Department,” Tribal Chief of Emergency Services Steve Warden said. “Emergency management is unique in that it seems to be a catch all for everything that doesn’t quite fit in other public safety disciplines. Besides planning and preparation, the most important aspect of emergency management is developing relationships. At the Tribal level and throughout the emergency management community, Brandy has gained respect, developed long lasting relationships and regularly engages other communities in order to better serve our own community.”

He continued, “Brandy continues to grow and develop our programs and makes efforts to bring understanding to what we do and how we will help manage in a major event.”

Bishop was nominated for the award by Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Emergency Management Specialist Herbert Paul Gray.

“Brandy’s dedication, innovation and leadership within emergency management have set a high standard not only for her own Tribe, but also for neighboring Tribal nations across the state,” his nomination email said. “Over the past year, Brandy has devoted countless hours to training and preparing her staff to operate within an emergency operations center. She recognized the importance of building depth and resilience within her team and took the initiative to revamp position-specific job training.”

Gray further noted that through Bishop’s efforts, staff members are now cross trained across multiple roles in the department.

“This comprehensive approach has strengthened her team’s ability to respond seamlessly during emergencies, regardless of the challenge or disruption,” he said. “For these reasons, Brandy Bishop exemplifies the very best qualities of an emergency management professional. She has elevated the standard of preparedness, created a culture of learning within her Tribe and extended her leadership to strengthen others across Oregon.”

Bishop, 43, is a Tribal member and has served as the Tribe’s Emergency Preparedness Coordinator since 2017.

“I personally like to stay behind the scenes and try to go unnoticed but receiving this award has blessed me with the recognition and confirmation that I am doing what I set out to do: That is building a network of resources and a program that will be dependable to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recover from any and all emergencies and disasters here in Grand Ronde and for all my relations/people,” she said. “This award means so much to me, especially because I do not do the work I do for recognition, I do it because I have a passion for building preparedness and resiliency.” ■



Contributed photo

Oregon Emergency Management Association President Mike Harryman, left, presents Tribal Emergency Services Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Brandy Bishop with the Tribal Emergency Management Professional of the Year award from OEMA at their annual conference in Bend Wednesday, Oct. 8.

ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)

To Add Your Name:

☒ To the email list

☒ To the mail out list

☒ To the t-shirt list

To Recieve:

☒ Benefits information & updates

☒ Event invitations

☒ Veteran recognitions

Why? Because the TVSO shares information all year long about veterans benefits, events, and periodically sends veteran recognitions.

If you have any questions or want more information, email:

CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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. ■

Community Fund selects Chrissa Wilkie as 2025-26 Hatfield Fellow

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund has selected Chrissa Wilkie as the 2025-26 Hatfield Fellow. Wilkie is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

Wilkie is a graduate of Portland State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. While at PSU, Wilkie served as a university studies peer mentor, mentoring incoming college freshman students. She currently serves as the PSU Institute for Tribal Government program administrator, managing the certificate in Tribal relations course logistics.



Chrissa Wilkie

Wilkie discovered her passion for environmental advocacy while working with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians - Changing Currents Tribal Water Program, as she began to see the power of intergenerational knowledge sharing, community advocacy and policy change. Wilkie said she realized she was not just meant to remain an observer, but to be a leader and carry on the stories of her community.

As a program administrator for the Institute for Tribal Government, she began to see the realities of Tribal relations at the state government level. Through coordinating the certificate in Tribal relations course and supporting Tribal relations trainings, she recognized there is still a knowledge gap.

“Many professionals in public service lack the foundational understanding of Tribal sovereignty, the historical context needed to engage meaningfully with Tribal nations or how to build this government-to-government relationship,” Wilkie said. “Once I realized this, I felt even more strengthened in my commitment to pursue public service and policy work. It has shown me how important it is to have Native voices in these spaces, not just to fill in the gaps, but to transform the conversation entirely.”

She added, “I am so grateful to be selected as this year’s Hatfield Fellow. During my time in congresswoman Salinas’ office, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of policy work, coalition building and the inner workings of the federal government, with a focus on natural resource and water policy as it relates to Tribal communities. Natural resources and water have been at the heart of my work throughout my career. Water is especially near and dear to my heart and is culturally and spiritually important to Tribes.”

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship in 1998 as a living tribute to Sen. Hatfield to honor his accomplishments as the governor of Oregon and U.S. senator. Each year, Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office, enhancing the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Wilkie is the 26th Native American to serve as a Hatfield Fellow. She will begin her fellowship this month with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. Following orientation, she will begin her congressional placement in Rep. Salinas’ office. ■

Art summit



Photo by Nicole Montesano

Sisters and Tribal members Nancy Burgess, right, and Faye Smith demonstrate their work at the Art Summit at Chachalu Marketplace Friday, Oct. 24. Smith creates ribbon skirts, pants and shirts, while Burgess works on cedar bark and spruce root baskets, ropes and other creations, including a shrimp pot that incorporates a blown glass container created by a friend of hers.

We want to hear from you!

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

Nomination letters for ye?lan lima award open until Nov. 13

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund frequently celebrates non-profits success and achievements through quarterly check presentations. However, it noted in a press release that the individuals within the organizations often don’t receive the recognition they deserve.

“A fundamental ingredient of a successful organization is the dedication, commitment and unwavering effort of the individuals working within the organization,” the release stated. “We hope you will assist us in finding that one special ‘helping hand’ in your organization or community by sending us your nomination for the 2025 ye?lan lima (Helping Hand) award. Your nominee may be a volunteer, a co-worker, a manager/supervisor, or someone you know who is affiliated with a partner nonprofit organization.”

Award categories are non-paid volunteer, paid non-management staff and paid management staff

The criteria for a nominee include one or more of the following qualities:

- Exhibits style and influence to motivate those with whom they interact;
- Performs work tasks in an exemplary manner that inspires others to excel;
- Consistently demonstrates outstanding conduct and performance of duties;
- And demonstrated dedication, superior reliability and cooperation in achieving the mission, goals and objectives of the nonprofit organization of which they are employed or volunteer.

Award rules: The nomination letter is limited to one page (typed, 12-point font minimum) and not to exceed 250 words. Nomination letters must be emailed to info@thecommunityfund.com by 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13. Nomination letters must include a recent color photo of the nominee (.jpeg format preferred), must specify which award category they are submitting for their nominee and nominees must be currently working in the nonprofit sector and serving within the SMCF 11-county service area, which includes: Benton, Clackamas, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill counties.

All nomination materials submitted will become the property of SMCF and will not be returned. Persons may not nominate themselves or their family members and previous Helping Hand award winners are ineligible

Each award recipient will receive a distinctive recognition award, a one-night stay and dinner for two at Spirit Mountain Casino and \$500.

Winners will be selected in early December, and awards will be delivered before Christmas. For more information, email info@thecommunityfund.com or call 503-879-1400. ■

Now Accepting Applications



**ADULT
FOSTER
CARE**

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

Eligibility Requirements

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

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



Grand Ronde and other Tribes celebrated achaf hammi’s 16th birthday at the Tribal plankhouse Saturday, Oct. 18. The evening included singing and dancing by the Grand Ronde, Puyallup Tribe of Indians and Lummi Nation canoe families and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians feather dancers. A meal of elk stew, cornbread and salad was served.

achaf hammi’s sweet 16

Members of the Grand Ronde Canoe Family sing and drum during achaf hammi’s 16th birthday celebration at the Tribal plankhouse Saturday, Oct. 18.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS
Find us on
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS
VISIT US ON
@CTGRsmokesignals



SEE MORE OF THIS STORY
Visit YouTube
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



Tribal member Andalin Hostler, 9, gets a cupcake as the meal is served during achaf hammi’s 16th birthday celebration at the Tribal plankhouse Saturday, Oct. 18.



Tribal member wins Student Academic Achievement Award

Tribal member Amanda Freeman was one of six Indigenous students selected by the Northwest Native Chamber for the 2025-26 Student Academic Achievement Award.

“These six inspiring Native students are shaping vibrant futures while strengthening Tribal and culturally rooted communities,” a social media post stated. “NWNC is proud to support their education and leadership through the SA2 program, which provides financial support to students dedicated to community wellbeing, cultural continuity and systems change.”



Amanda Freeman

The six students were honored during Northwest Native Chamber’s The Gathering event held Thursday, Oct. 9 at The Castaway in Portland.

“After graduation, I plan to combine my degree in psychology and mental health with my nonprofit work to create culturally relevant, trauma-informed programs for Indigenous communities,” Freeman said. “My goal is to build spaces where survivors and families feel seen, supported and believed on their own terms. Giving back means honoring the sacrifices of those before me and creating opportunities so the next generation does not carry the same burdens.” ■

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. ■



**Confederated Tribes
of Grand Ronde**

**Emergency Services
& Food Security
Community
Conversation**

**December 4th at 5:30 PM
Grand Ronde Fire Station**

Join us for an evening of connection, learning, and community building! This Community Conversation will bring together local emergency services and food security resources in one place.

- A panel discussion with local emergency services professionals
- Fire Station tour – see behind the scenes and meet our first responders
- A free community meal
- Door prizes for attendees

Bring your family and friends!

28480 McPherson Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97347



TERO Worker of the Month October 2025

Name: Ty Cazarez
Employer: Suulutaaq
Position: Laborer

Ty Cazares first joined the TERO program in June of 2022 and soon after was referred to Roger Langeliers Construction. He remained there for almost three years until he joined the Suulutaaq team on the I-205 Abernethy Bridge Project near Oregon City.

Ty has gained a vast amount of experience and skills in the past few years as a concrete finisher and form worker, grade checker, and equipment operator. He has proven to be very dependable, reliable and an all-around hard worker in the heavy highway construction industry. These are all contributing factors in why TERO has chosen Ty for the October TERO Worker of the Month.

We asked Ty what the advantages were with working through the TERO office; he said that TERO made the employment process very efficient in connecting him to great contractors and people. Ty goes on to say that he learns new skills every day and has attended some great trainings through TERO. Ty ended by saying that TERO initially introduced him to the trades and has helped foster his success.

We are proud to have Ty Cazares on our team. Congratulations for being our October TERO worker of the month!

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



Ty Cazarez



Elderberry Wisdom Farm

**2026 TEK Habitat Restoration
Internship Opportunity**

Winter and Spring Internships

Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is recruiting Native American and other interns of color pursuing conservation career pathways. Culturally tailored classroom education, experiential service-learning activities and mentoring support integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and climate adaptation practices into habitat restoration, urban forestry, native plant nursery work, organic farming and micro-enterprise training and is supported by Mid-Willamette Valley conservation partners.

The Winter Internship (1/6-3/12/2026) and Spring Internship (3/24-5/21/2026) will be held three days a week Tuesdays through Thursdays for 10 weeks (200 hours). A \$3,000 stipend is provided. Applicants must live near training and work sites in Marion, Polk, Linn or Benton counties, OR, and be willing to consider employment with EWF following 1-2 internships. To apply, send resume and letter of intro to accounts@elderberrywisdom.org. More info is available in newsletters at www.elderberrywisdom.org.

Paid ad

Stephanie Craig opens new art exhibition

Grand Ronde Tribal member and artist Stephanie Craig will have an art exhibition in November and December at Latimer Quilt & Textile Center in Tillamook.

“What Remains, What Resists,” will bring together woven belongings, regalia, beadwork and portraits created by Craig.

“Her work speaks to survival, beauty and defiance, each belonging carrying the presence of ancestors and the strength of community,” a press release stated. “These pieces are not ornaments but continuations. They move in dance, they pray through regalia and they hold stories through fiber and form. The exhibition affirms that Indigenous culture does not fade – it endures.”

The press release continued that the exhibit stands as “both testimony and offering a reminder that Indigenous artistry is not something of the past, but a living, breathing force that continues to shape the present and the future.”

There will be an opening reception from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, with artist remarks at noon.

Latimer Quilt & Textile Center is located at 2105 Wilson River Loop. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors 62 and older and free to children 13 and younger. ■

NEED FIREWOOD?

We would like to open a specific location within Noble Oaks to Tribal member firewood cutting. Please contact Natural Resources to obtain a permit and further details.

503-879-2424

NAVA Family Center



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

Open Positions

Chief Financial Officer

Resident Services Manager

Early Childhood Coordinator/ Site Leader

Family Shelter Advocate (On Call)

Resident Services Coordinator

Alcohol & Drug Specialist

Youth Housing Advocate

Foster Care Support Specialist

Youth Advocate

\$160- 180K/yr

\$72-76K/yr

\$65K+/yr

\$28-30/hr

\$26-27/hr

\$25-27/hr

\$22-25/hr

\$24+ /hr

\$23+ /hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit nayapdx.org/jobs to learn more.

10/22/25

Paid ad

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. ■

FILED
OCT 20 2025
TRIBAL COURT

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

In the Matter of:

ANDERSON, MELODY ANN

PETITIONER

) Case No. 25C0018

) ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME

)

Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Name Change filed by Petitioner on October 2, 2025;

THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOW:

☒ The Petition ☒ does ☐ does not meet the requirements of the Name Change Ordinance, Chapter 303 and the Petition is ☐ dismissed ☒ granted;

☒ The Court ☒ has ☐ does not have jurisdiction over the Petitioner and ☒ subject matter of the Petition herein;

☒ The Petitioner ☒ is ☐ is not over 18 years old;

☒ The Petitioner ☒ is ☐ is not an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;

☒ Petitioner ☐ has ☒ has not petitioned or been granted a change of name by the Tribal Court within the past twelve (12) months;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

☐ The Petition for Name Change is not granted and is dismissed without prejudice.

☒ The Petition for Name Change is granted and Petitioner's name is changed from MELODY ANN ANDERSON to MELODY ANN WRIGHT.

☒ The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order to be published in the Tribal Newsletter;

☒ The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of this Order to the Grand Ronde Tribal Enrollment Office and to the State Department of Vital Statistics Office in the state in which Petitioner was born.

DATED THIS 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

Patrick Melendy

Patrick S Melendy
Chief Judge

November

taltam-pi-ixt-mun

Specials

Cornucopia

Pumpkin, Salted Carmel, Praline

Mamas Banana Bread

Brown Sugar, Vanilla, Cinnamon, Banana

Gobble Gobble

Butter Pecan, Eggnog

Sweater Weather Chai

White Chocolate, Toasted Marshmallow, Brown Sugar Cinnamon

Old Fashion Spiced Cider

Cinnamon, Apple Cider

Cranberry Sauce

Wild Raspberry Hibiscus, Cranberry, Pomegranate, White Lotus

Pinecone Enlightenment

Raspberry, Almond, Passion Fruit Red Bull / Gold Lotus



Watchlist: A History of Indigenous Women with Lily Gladstone

(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

Lily Gladstone, an actor from the Blackfoot Confederacy, is the latest celebrity to host the CrashCourse educational YouTube videos. The CrashCourse channel has a Native American History series where they invite well-known Indigenous people to unpack a Native subject. In Gladstone’s video, she discusses the history of Indigenous women. “Well before Europeans arrived in what is now North America, Native beliefs around gender were – and still are – pretty diverse,” Gladstone said. “In fact, many Native American Tribes are matriarchal, meaning women hold significant power in our communities, including as the primary decision makers.” Gladstone said matriarchal communities tend to value more equality, peace building, gift giving and consensus finding. When violence was necessary, Gladstone said Native women would also lead war parties and fight in battle. Gladstone tells the story of Buffalo Calf Road Woman. “In the late 1800s, she and her family were camping near a creek when a group of white soldiers attacked,” Gladstone said. “When her brother fell in the fight, she rode into battle and rescued him. About a week later, with her Colt .45, Buffalo Calf Road Woman would fight in the Battle of the Little Big Horn.” Although there are stories of strong and inspiring Native women, not all Tribes have treated women as equals. Gladstone argues that it is what makes Native Tribes diverse. Some Tribes have gendered roles. In some Tribes, men hold more power. However, many Tribes have also not abided by a binary gender system. In the Dine culture, a person can embrace both masculine and feminine energies (called a “Nadleehi”) and they are considered sacred. They often served as a medicine person, a highly respected role. “The onset of European colonization disrupted gender roles, as it did so many other things, so many,” Gladstone said. “Europeans didn’t vibe with the way women held power in many Native societies.” Gladstone continues discussing the history of Native women, including shedding light on the violence against women we still see today, Native female activism and contemporary inspirational Native women.

You can watch the entire video on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dj8EjBQJD84. ■

Grand Ronde Editorial Board position openings

The Grand Ronde Editorial Board, a Tribal board assigned the duty by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (“Grand Ronde”) of overseeing its independent Tribal press (Smoke Signals), invites applications to serve on the Grand Ronde Editorial Board. There will be two (2) open board positions occurring in March 2026. The five-member Grand Ronde Editorial Board is appointed by the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. It oversees the editor of Smoke Signals to ensure the independent Tribal press reports news free from any undue influence and free from any political interest, and that Tribal news employees adhere to the highest ethical journalistic standards. The Editorial Board meets monthly. From time to time, additional special meetings may be held. Board members are expected to attend all meetings in person, although participation by telephone or video will be permitted. Each board member receives a monthly stipend for attending meetings. Travel reimbursement is limited to travel within the six counties of Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Multnomah and Washington.

Board members must be 18 years of age, have qualified experience in management and/or publications, be of good character and integrity, and certify that he or she will adhere to the standards of accepted ethics of journalism as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists and endorsed by the Indigenous Journalists Association. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred, as well as dedication to protecting and advancing a free press for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Applicants will be interviewed by the Grand Ronde Editorial Board before a recommendation is forwarded to Tribal Council. Terms run for three years. Preference will be given to qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members. Submission deadline: 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1, 2025 Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest describing their qualifications, a résumé and three references to:

Grand Ronde Editorial Board
c/o Smoke Signals
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Phone: 503-879-4663
E-mail: editorial.board@grandronde.org



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

CTGR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT





GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Monday, September 1

- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, September 2

- A weapons call occurred at the 8000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- A hit-and-run occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a theft call at Main Street in Willamina.
- A driving complaint occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, September 3

- A restraining order violation occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Counterfeit money was found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in Sheridan with a false alarm.
- A drug complaint was reported in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, September 4

- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 14000 block of Willamina Creek Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emotionally disturbed person on Andy Riggs Road.

Friday, September 5

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 34.
- An animal complaint was reported on Highway 17 near milepost 27.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 1.

Saturday, September 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a vehicle on Highway 18 near milepost 18.
- A civil call occurred at the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 28.

Sunday, September 7

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic call on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- A suspicious person was reported near the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.

Monday, September 8

- Citizen contact occurred on Agency Creek Road.
- Fraud occurred near the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A domestic call occurred at the 9400 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, September 9

- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 25.

Wednesday, September 10

- Trespassing was reported near the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic accident at the 9000 block of Harmony Road outside of Sheridan.

Thursday, September 11

- Trespassing was reported in Tribal Housing.

Friday, September 12

- Citizen contact occurred at the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- Trespassing was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 1.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driving complaint on Highway 22 near milepost 7.

Saturday, September 13

- A citizen disturbance occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a fatal crash on Hebo Road near milepost 16.
- A crash occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway and resulted in a driving under the influence of intoxicants citation.

Sunday, September 14

- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, September 15

- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Hebo Road near milepost 23.

Tuesday, September 16

- A felony arrest occurred on Highway 22 near milepost 1.
- A citizen disturbance occurred on the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with animal abuse on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 27.

Wednesday, September 17

- A domestic call was reported near the 25000 block of A Ackerson Road.

- Citizen contact occurred near Main Street in Willamina.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, September 18

- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emotionally disturbed person in Sheridan.
- Trespassing was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Driving under the influence of intoxicants was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 25.

Friday, September 19

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driving complaint on Highway 18 near milepost 5.
- An animal complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- Assault was reported near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, September 20

- An emotionally disturbed person was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash at Hebo Road near milepost 12.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

Sunday, September 21

- Officers assisted an outside agency near the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18B near milepost 1.
- A domestic call was reported near the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 22000 block of Willamina Creek Road.

Monday, September 22

- A drug complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in Sheridan.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18.

Tuesday, September 23

- Officers assisted an outside agency with concerning domestic violence reports.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred over the phone due to some text messages.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Wednesday, September 24

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance near the 7000 block of Alvord Alley.
- Illegal parking was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic hazard on Hebo Road near milepost 22.

Thursday, September 25

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic hazard on Highway 18 near milepost 15.
- Officers assisted paramedics with a patient on Yamhill River Road.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, September 26

- A drug call occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, September 27

- Officers responded to a crash at Highway 18 near milepost 24.

Sunday, September 28

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driving complaint at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Abandoned minors were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, September 29

- A drug complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a welfare check on McPherson Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash on Highway 18 near milepost 24.
- A traffic assist occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 18.

Tuesday, September 30

- Officers assisted an outside agency with an arrest at the 8000 block of Sawtell Road.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 23000 block of Yamhill River Road.
- A crash was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 23.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department Officer Brian Hamlin

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



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



Handwarmers, small blankets



Journals, pens, and
handwritten words of
encouragement



First aid
(band-aids, ointment,
wipes)



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



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

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

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

Walking On...

Marion Rose Mercier

July 6, 1954 – Aug. 31, 2025

Family, friends and community gathered Sept. 23, 2025, to celebrate the life of Tribal Elder and longtime Tribal librarian Marion Rose Mercier. Her family would like to thank all those who were able to join them and express their appreciation for all the love that was shared. It was a beautiful celebration.

Marion passed away in her home on Aug. 31. She was surrounded in love.

Marion was born July 6, 1954, in McMinnville to Rose Reznicek and Marion Mercier. She grew up in Grand Ronde and always considered it home. Her gathering was held at the Tribal Elders Activity Center. Family and friends filled the building, which was no surprise as Marion was loved by so many and will be dearly missed.

Marion dedicated 29 years of service working for the Tribe until retiring in 2019. During her role as Education Department manager, she helped plan the current library's construction before moving into the role of librarian in 2006, a position dear to her heart.

Marion's loved ones include children, Candi and Anthony Henry; grandkids, Josh Henry and Ava Fagundes- Olhausen and grandson-in-law Jaxon Olhausen; son in-law, Vince Fagundes; daughter in-law, Michelle Henry, brothers, David Mercier, Bruce Mercier and brother in-law Daryl Wright; and sisters, Joann Mercier, Chris Payne, Terr Wright, Joan Payne and Kim Payne. She also had many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews, along with many cousins. Marion loved and cherished her family above all else.

Marion was preceded in death by her mom, Rose Birt; dads, Roger Birt and Argie Payne; her father, Marion Mercier; her children's father, Pat Henry and many other dear loved ones.

A letter of thanks from Marion's kids and grandkids:

We would like to thank Kristy and her staff at the EAC for sharing your beautiful facility with us to honor our mom/gram. The meal was wonderful and we appreciate all the hard work and love that went into helping us make the day special and it was.

We want to thank Mike Colton for sharing our mom's story with everyone for us. You presented in a way that was so heartfelt and would have made our mom proud.

We would also like to thank our Tribal family and friends that drummed. It was a beautiful song that was felt by everyone.

To all of mom's loved ones, family and friends who attended, please know that all of the hugs, stories, love, tears and laughs are what got us through and what made the day so special. We thank you. Mom loved a good gathering and this one we know in our hearts she would have approved of.

Our love to you all,
Candi, Anthony, Josh and Ava



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. ■



2025-2026 Back-to-School Assistance Program

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

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

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

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

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



youtheducation@grandronde.org

Benedict Gene Petite

June 6, 1956 – Oct. 12, 2025

Tribal Elder Benedict Gene Petite passed away Oct. 12, 2025, at the age of 69.

Baird Memorial Chapel in La Pine is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were not available before press time.

GET STARTED TODAY WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS

GED

- ✓ This program can be done online/on your own or you can take classes at the local Community College.
- ✓ You must be at least 16 years old for this program
- ✓ To earn your GED you will need to pass four tests; Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science.
- ✓ The Grand Ronde Higher Education Department will provide you with study materials and tutoring as needed

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

- ✓ In the Adult High School Completion program you will earn an Oregon State High School Diploma.
- ✓ Any High School credits you earned in High School (no matter how long ago) can/will be applied towards the 24 required credits needed.
- ✓ This program is online and is self-paced.

GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION Tracy Biery

503-879-4591 tracy.biery@grandronde.org

Service offered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building





Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Becky Johnson

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

Contact Details

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

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

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. ■

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.



	FALL 2025 VACCINE GUIDANCE		
	Updated 10/9/2025		
	Influenza (Flu) Vaccine	RSV Vaccine	Covid-19 Vaccine
Who can get the vaccine?	All children 6 months and older Some children may need multiple doses Sources: AAP, CDC	All infants <8 months old and children 8-19 months with risk factors Sources: AAP, CDC	All children 6-23 months AND children 2-17 years with risk factors OR if parents request vaccination Source: AAP
INFANTS & CHILDREN			
PREGNANT PEOPLE	All At any point in pregnancy Sources: ACOG, CDC	Between weeks 32-36 of pregnancy Sources: ACOG, CDC	All At any point in pregnancy Sources: ACOG, CDC
ADULTS AGES 18-50	All Source: CDC	Not recommended If you are pregnant, see box above.	All Source: CDC
ADULTS AGES 50+	All If you are 65+, it is recommended to get a high-dose, recombinant or adjuvanted flu vaccine if available. Source: CDC	All 75+ and adults 50-74 with risk factors As of now, you only need one lifetime dose of RSV vaccine. Source: CDC	All Sources: CDC, AAP
How well do they work?	Reduces the risk of going to the doctor by 30-60%	Reduces the risk of severe disease by 80-96%	Provides 30-60% additional protection against illness and severe disease
When should I get it?	October is ideal. Vaccine protection is strongest a few weeks after getting the shot and then slowly decreases over the season.	Infants: Oct-March Pregnancy: Sept-Jan Older adults: Now	October is ideal (see flu vaccine). If you were recently infected, wait 3 months.

Now accepting new residents

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

We are proud to welcome new residents to chaku tush t̥əmt̥əm 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



ELDERS LIVING WITH
LONELINESS
IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

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

THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

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

LOVE - FUN AND ADVENTURE

A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY DAYCARE

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

Paid ad

TYPES OF IN HOME SERVICES

Home Health Care

Home health care providers services in a patient's home to treat an illness or injury. These services are provided by licensed nurses, therapists, home health aids. Insurance *may* cover home health care if the patient is homebound or needs intermittent skilled nursing or therapy (care at least once every 60 days, but no more than once a day for up to three weeks). Requires referral from healthcare provider.

SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Nursing Care for wound care, medication administration, pain management, and more
- Physical, Speech, Occupational Therapy
- Activities of Daily Living Assistance
- Medication Management

Home Care Services

Home care is care that allows a person to stay in their home. It can be for people who are chronically ill, recovering from surgery and do not qualify for home health care, or have a disability, or are aging and wish to stay home. Home care services, are not covered by insurance, but covered out of pocket by the person receiving the care.

SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Personal care such as helping with bathing, washing hair, or getting dressed
- Household chores such as cleaning, yard work, laundry
- Cooking or delivering meals
- Money management
- Medical transportation

Grand Ronde Community Health

Community Health provider a community approach for improving the overall health, preventing disease and reducing health disparities by addressing the whole person. Services and support is offered to Tribal Elders and Native Family Caregivers.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Medical Transportation
- Care Management
- Medication Delivery
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Life Alert Services
- Home Safety Visits
- Elder Justice Support
- Wellness Checks
- Dementia Care Support
- ER/Hospital Discharge Calls
- Any many more....

Paid ad

EnergyTrust of Oregon

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.

Paid ad

Reading volunteers needed

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

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

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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 24, 2025

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Assistant Controller	19	\$137,901.75/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	Until Filled
Cashier/Fueler – Part Time – Variable Shifts	5	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	10/27/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Front Desk Dental Assistant	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	11/03/2025
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 Counselor – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Therapist – Behavioral Health	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Nurse Practitioner – Health & Wellness	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Senior Lead Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	11/03/2025
Social Emotional Learning Specialist	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/yr.	Until Filled
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.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	11/03/2025
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

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Amore Buspendon (*Part-Time)	10/30/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	10/30/2025	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	10/30/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	10/30/2025	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	10/30/2025	\$18.55/hr. DOE
IT Production Supervisor	10/30/2025	\$83,914.69/yr. DOE
Promotion/Events Coordinator	10/30/2025	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Surveillance Technician Supervisor	10/30/2025	\$52,937.25/yr. DOE
Amore Restaurant Manager	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Bar Porter	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cage Cashier (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. + Tips
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	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

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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.