



Veterans Day
photos — pg. 11



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

Tribe offers aid to SNAP recipients

Editor's note: This story is continually evolving. As of presstime Monday, Nov. 10, information was updated to the best of Smoke Signals knowledge.

By Nicole Montesano
& Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff

Tribal Council declared a state of emergency Wednesday, Nov. 5, due to the federal government shutdown and loss of benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program.

"The lack of such benefits will significantly increase hunger, food insecurity, health and safety concerns for our families in need, including children, Elders and individuals with disabilities," Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George read from a prepared statement. "It is important for the Tribe to take extra care in looking out for our Elders and family members during their time of need."

The declaration follows other Oregon Tribes such as Siletz, Klamath and Umatilla, who all passed similar measures.

The Tribe said the state of emergency would be terminated when federal benefits are reinstated.

On Friday, Nov. 7, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek announced that following a federal court order for the Trump administration to release the full funding for SNAP payments, employees in the state's Department of Human Services had worked through the previous

See SNAP
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Fall festival



Photo by Nicole Montesano

Youth from the Tribe's hayu-munk skukum Youth Enrichment Program trick-or-treat in the Governance Center Atrium Friday, Oct. 31. The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, Social Services, the Employment Service Center, Adult Foster Care, Elders Activity Center and the Education complex were some other stops made by trick-or treaters.

Kinzlee Linton, 3, receives candy from the Tribal Police during the Trunk-or-Treat event at the Tribal gym parking lot Thursday, Oct. 30. Children in their Halloween costumes visited several departments from the Grand Ronde Tribe that had set up decorated Halloween booths out of the trunk of cars to hand out candy. Inside the gym, the Halloween Jam offered games, dinner and prizes.

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



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribe touts upcoming dam drawdowns



Smoke Signals file photo

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Council member Kathleen George and Jennifer Fairbrother, legislative and policy director at the Native Fish Society, held a press conference Thursday, Oct. 23, to discuss the importance of deep drawdowns at

several Willamette Valley dams, scheduled to begin later this fall and winter.

The Army Corps of Engineers is under court order to perform the drawdowns to increase

See DAMS
continued on page 9

Fall Creek Reservoir in Fall Creek is shown in deep drawdown in January. The Army Corps of Engineers is under court orders to perform dam drawdowns at several Willamette Valley dams to increase spawning grounds and survival rates for spring Chinook and winter steelhead, as the fish are high risk of extinction. Drawdowns are scheduled to begin later this fall and winter.

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7

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. 19.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 3.....	4 p.m.

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

Letters 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 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.

BE A READING HERO

Volunteer with SMART Reading!

Make a lasting impact in just 30 minutes a week!

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

30 Minutes a week – Tuesdays from 9:45–10:15 – looking to start in early November

Located in the Early Care and Education building

- Books provided – no experience needed!
- Fun, easy, and rewarding!

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:
Tuesday, Nov. 18	Dec. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Dec. 4	Dec. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Monday, Dec. 22	Jan. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Jan. 8	Jan. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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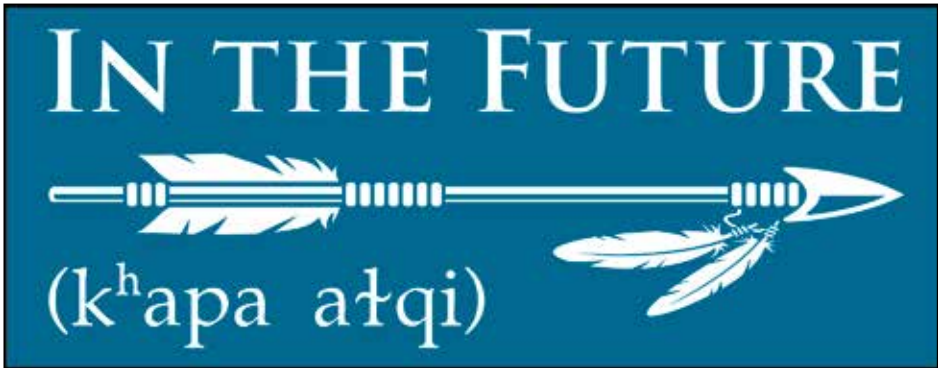
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2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

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- taʔlam-pi-ixt-mun (November)
- 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 indigenoustartattooco@gmail.com for more information regarding powwow.
 - Wednesday, Nov. 26 – Tribal offices closing at noon in observance of Thanksgiving.
 - Thursday-Friday, Nov. 27-28 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

- taʔlam-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-Friday, Dec. 25-26 – 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.

Tribe’s Head Start not yet endangered by lack of funding

Some Head Start programs nationwide are in danger of closing because of lack of funding during the government shutdown, The Hill, an online newspaper that focuses on politics and business in Washington D.C., reported Tuesday, Nov. 4.

However, Tribal Early Childhood Education Program Manager Dawn Doar said the Tribe’s program is not among them.

The free, federally-funded early childhood education program serves more than 750,000 children, with \$12 billion in funding, according to The Hill, which noted that different programs have different starting dates for funding. The 140 programs in danger of closing, it said, are those with funding starting dates in October and November.

Doar said the Tribe’s grant cycle expires on Dec. 31, with the next one scheduled to begin Jan. 1.

“We have not been notified of any changes with regards to the grant or our grant cycle,” she said. “We will continue to monitor the situation and will keep the general manager and Tribal Council apprised in the event we are notified of any changes in the coming months.” ■

Drug take-back kiosk located at Tribal Police Department

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

The following items are accepted:

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

The following items are not accepted:

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

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Grand Ronde Station:

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Grand Ronde Social Services Department:

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Grand Ronde Food Bank:

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Spirit Mountain Community Fund:

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Grand Ronde Cultural Education:

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Grand Ronde Community Garden:

facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:

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

Grand Ronde Employment Services

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW SIGN AT THE HWC

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





Reminder

TRIBAL MEMBERS ON THE TRIBAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/DISABILITY & MEDICARE PART "B" PROGRAMS

IT'S TIME TO SEND US A COPY OF YOUR '2026' SOCIAL SECURITY AWARD LETTER!

If you haven't received your '2026' Social Security Award letter yet, please get in touch with the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or online at www.ssa.gov

Your current SSA award letter must reach our office by Friday, January 16th, 2026, by 5:00 PM to avoid any future delays in your benefits.

Please send a copy of your 2026 SSA letter to:

CTGR Member Services

Attn. Shayla Murphy

9615 Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Fax: 503-879-2480 - Email: shayla.murphy@grandronde.org

Phone: 503-879-1364 or 1-800-422-0232 Ext. 1364

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Tribal member to notify the Tribe of any changes in your benefits from the Social Security Administration SSI/SSD program. Failure to submit your yearly SSA award letter and/or notify the Tribe of any changes may result in an obligation to repay ineligible benefits received and/or interrupt or delay your Tribal Supplemental Security Income & Disability payments and Medicare Part "B" reimbursements.



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 — Two Tribal government officials tested positive for COVID-19 on a day when the Oregon Health Authority reported a record number of new cases in the state. General Manager David Fullerton limited campus access to only essential staff members for a few days, asking other staff members to work from home or granting them administrative leave, while the facilities were deep cleaned.

2015 — Tribal Council approved a \$13 million loan for an extensive remodel of Spirit Mountain Casino. Casino General Manager Stan Dillon said the loan would pay to renovate about 82,000 square feet of the casino, which had just celebrated its 20th year in business.

2010 — Oregon voters rejected a proposal for a private casino in east Multnomah County by nearly seven out of 10 voters in the November general election, keeping the state’s promise to Oregon Tribes intact.

2005 — Grand Ronde Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and council member Jack Giffen Jr. testified before Congress, along with Indian gaming representatives from across the nation, to urge Congress to block other Tribes from setting up casinos outside their reservations.



File photo

2000 — Warm Springs Tribal member Alyssa Macy was named the third recipient of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship. Macy was scheduled to become the liaison for Native American issues for Rep. Darlene Hooley.

1995 — A 500,000-gallon water tank intended to provide water to Grand Ronde homes and businesses, and increase fire protection in the area, was nearly completed and expected to be on line in early 1996. It was a cooperative effort between the Tribe, the Grand Ronde Water Association, the Economic Development Association, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Spirit Mountain Development Corporation.

1990 — Tribal member Felicia Lewis, 12, and her horse, Shadow, retained her championship in Western horsemanship at the Jackson County Fair in Medford.

1985 — The Tribe’s new Parent Committee officers were Chair Margo George, Vice Chair Mike Larsen, Secretary Sandra Roselle, Treasurer Lennis Mercier, Coordinator Jayne Mercier, L.E.A. Darlene Kepford, Teacher Representative Becky Fendall and Alternative Teacher Representative Sandra Petty.

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

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

GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT
28450 Tyee Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

ATTENTION ALL HOUSING TENANTS AND GUEST
PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN ELDER HOUSING
Also, please make sure and maintain low levels of music in the Elder community.

General Council briefed on 2026 draft budget

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno briefed Tribal members on the draft budget for calendar year 2026 during the Sunday, Nov. 2, General Council meeting held at the Governance Center and on Zoom.

The draft budget portion of the meeting was held in executive session, which limits how much Smoke Signals can report on the details.

Leno’s draft budget presentation ran approximately one hour and 45 minutes, which included a 25-minute break for lunch, and he fielded 22 questions and comments regarding next year’s Tribal spending plan.

Tribal members interested in obtaining the slides of Leno’s presentation should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2304.

The November Tilixam Wawa also features a detailed look at the 2026 draft budget and adult Tribal members have until 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, to submit written comments. The final 2026 budget will be adopted on or before Wednesday, Dec. 31. Written comments can be submitted to 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347; or emailed to chris.leno@grandronde.org.

In other action, the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in Tribal Council chambers and on Zoom, and feature reports from the Tribe’s Cultural Resources and Ceded Lands departments.

Darlene Aaron, Shawn Haggerty, Chris Bailey, Deborah Good and Stefanie Shandy won the \$50 door prizes.

Alyson Day, Pamala Warren-Chase and Angella Schultz won the \$100 door prizes.

The non-executive session portion of the meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Board honor



Photo by Katherine Warren

Tribal Elder Denise Harvey, left, is honored by Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie, second from left, SMCF Board of Trustees Chair Trevor Aaron, second from right, and Director Angie Sears during a lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino Monday, Oct. 27. Harvey, a former Tribal Council member, served on the board from 2015-2025, resigning due to not being reelected to Tribal Council in September. “It was my favorite board to serve on while on Tribal Council,” Harvey said.

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. ■



TRIBAL COMMITTEE /
BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

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

Current vacancies:

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

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

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

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

STORY IDEAS?

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

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



WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

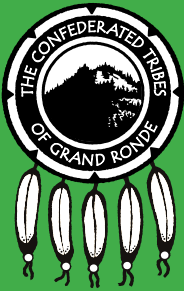
ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

Two alternate board member positions open.

Qualifications:

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

For information contact:
Shannon Ham-Texeira • 503-879-2301
shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org



Tribal Council approves multiple federal grant applications, makes emergency declaration

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved multiple federal grant applications during its Wednesday, Nov. 5, meeting.

During a Tuesday, Nov. 4, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said that the grants team is adhering to the original grant application deadlines and that applications will be evaluated after the government reopens.

The first one introduced was the Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Multipurpose Grant for up to \$4 million over five years. The Tribe has been a previous recipient of this grant for site assessment and cleanup at its tumwata village project in Oregon City.

“Because we have experienced several changes to the length of the application period for many federal grants, such as shortening the application window from months to weeks, I wanted to get this in front of you now so that way we have it on hand when the application opens,” Sparks said. “We’ve received that grant in the past and successfully completed the scope of work.”

Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said the grant will be used to conduct continued environmental cleanup activities necessary to restore the tumwata village site for future development.

“It would really be a continuation of the work that we have done on-site,” he said. “This is more focused on cleanup activities, whereas the previous one included investigation and assessment work as well as cleanup activities. As we move for-

ward with new construction on the site, whether that’s streets, utilities or buildings, we know there’s going to be a level of contamination within that subsurface that we will have to remediate when we construct, and so this grant will help us with removing that contaminated material, putting clean fill back in and it has the ability to help us with any abatement work that is needed related to any of the structures for hazardous materials.”

Tribal Council member Matthew Haller asked if given the uncertainty in the current Trump administration and the knowledge that the Tribe has had a grant rescinded this past year, if the planned environmental cleanup would begin as soon as funds are made available.

“With the Brownfield funding, it’s been reappropriated and so even with the government shutdown and the Big Beautiful Bill, this funding has been very steady throughout decades now,” Webb said. “I think the government takes seriously the work that it does, not from an environmental standpoint but from an economic development standpoint because it allows a lot of regeneration to happen in towns and cities.”

The other three approved grant applications were for up to \$500,000 for the Oregon Department of Human Services Tribal Survivors Investment Partnership, up to \$137,000 for the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care for the Early Childhood Equity Fund and up to \$500,000 for the HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant.

Tribal Council also declared a state of emergency due to the con-

tinuing federal government shutdown and loss of benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program.

“The lack of such benefits will significantly increase hunger, food insecurity, health and safety concerns for our families in need, including children, Elders and individuals with disabilities,” Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George said. “It is important for the Tribe to take extra care in looking out for our Elders and family members during their time of need.”

The declaration follows other Oregon Tribes such as Siletz, Klamath and Umatilla, who all passed similar measures.

The state of emergency will be terminated when federal benefits are reinstated.

The council also approved emergency food assistance for Tribal member individuals and households who have been affected by the delay of SNAP benefits. Individuals are eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$150 and households with two or more people will receive \$400. Ap-

plications will be available at www.grandronde.org starting at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7 and at the Tribe’s Social Services Department. Applications close at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. Applicants must be able to provide verification of SNAP benefits.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved partial funding of up to \$120,000 offered by the Higher Education Coordinating Committee for partial funding of the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department summer youth crew in 2026-27;
 - Approved an amendment to the memorandum of agreement with Indian Health Service for phase two of the Tipsu-ili’i Tribal homeownership development;
 - And approved enrolling three infants, 26 non-infants, one emergency non-infant and reenrolling one non-infant into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance; and approved one voluntary enrollment relinquishment.

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



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



LIGHT PARADE
FLOAT SIGN-UPS NOW OPEN
ROUTE THROUGH GRAND RONDE TRIBAL OFFICES
AND TRIBAL HOUSING

DECEMBER 5TH | EVENT STARTS AT 5 PM
PLEASE CONTACT KAYLENE BARRY FOR SIGN UP INFORMATION

Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org

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Disc golf proves more than a hobby for Tribal member

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

A game that began as an escape and a lifeline for Tribal member Highpine Eastman has become a cherished hobby—one that is slowly filling his shelves with trophies.

Eastman has become a disc golf devotee, and he is working his way up the ranks of the sport, attending multiple competitions every summer.

Eastman didn’t foresee this happening; he just wanted to get out of his apartment for a while.

He was living in Fairview, near his ancestral Chinookan homeland in 2019 and struggling with alcohol addiction.

That same year, Eastman said, he found the Native American Rehabilitation Association.

“I started going to NARA in 2019, on my sober Red Road journey,” he said. “It was such a good help to me; I was learning a lot of things that trigger me, people places and things ... NARA gave me everything that I needed.”

Still, he said, “It was very depressing being stuck in a two-bedroom apartment.” So, Eastman began visiting the nearby Blue Lake Disc Golf Park.



Contributed photo

Tribal member Highpine Eastman displays a trophy he won in a recent disc golf competition. Disc golf has become a cherished hobby for Eastman, who began playing the game as an escape and a lifeline. He has become a disc golf devotee, participating in multiple competitions every summer and working his way up the ranks of the sport.

“I kind of just wanted to get out of the house, was my angle, and I just started walking and throwing the disc,” he recalled. “After three hours, I was done walking the course and it took so much of

my mind, my focus ... instead of being in the apartment, thinking about my addiction, it got me out of the house and just learning how to throw this crazy disc.”

He began visiting regularly, continuing to work on his throwing skills and eventually began buying his own discs.

“It’s a cheap sport; you just have to buy the discs for \$10 to \$15 each and you can go play for free at the park,” he said.

“They start becoming valuable to you and you start liking them, and you start throwing them really well. So, I’ve learned a lot from when I first started throwing them. I was throwing with my first two fingers and my thumb. After a couple of years, I started

going on YouTube, looking at tutorials. I learned I was grabbing the disc wrong; not holding it with four fingers. When I started doing that, I got another 100 feet in a throw. Power grip, it was called.”

Eastman moved to Grand Ronde in 2020, but he said he’s been disappointed in the lack of local disc golf courses. For a while, he said, after he wrote and suggested one, the Tribe

had a course at the old powwow grounds on campus, but it removed most of the campus baskets.

Tribal Parks and Recreation Coordinator Jerry Bailey said a few baskets remain on the main campus, “with most being behind the main campus education buildings.

“We are looking at a new layout for the baskets down there, but are still in the planning stages,” Bailey said.

In 2021, the Tribe installed a course behind the Plankhouse, east of uyxat Powwow Grounds next to Fort Yamhill State Park. Eastman said he doesn’t use the course at that one much, because it feels less safe to him. Since he tends to practice alone, he said, he’s concerned about wildlife, such as cougars.

But he said he continues to enjoy competing in the sport, racking up a trophy most recently in September at the Oregon Coast Championship, where he took first place in the 40-to 50-year-old bracket. Having met his goal to advance out of the mixed amateur three division, and then to place his average ratings above 900, Eastman said, he’s now setting himself a new goal: To achieve a round rated at 1,000 or better.

There were 423 players with a 1000-plus rating who qualified as PDGA Premier Pros for 2024, the last year full statistics were available from the Professional Disc Golf Association. ■

Hotel room rates increase

As of January 2025, the Spirit Mountain Hotel at Spirit Mountain Casino has implemented a revised pricing structure for the Elders discount, which has remained unchanged since the hotel’s opening in 1997. The new discounted rates are \$99 for mid-week stays, \$109 for weekends and \$129 for holidays.

This adjustment is necessary to better align room rates with the actual cost of room upkeep, while still offering competitive pricing, according to Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier.

The Tribal member discount will reflect a 10% discount on standard room rates. The RV park will offer Elders and Tribal members a \$10 discount off the standard rate at the RV lot.

“The changes ensure that we continue to provide valuable services while maintaining financial sustainability,” Mercier said. ■

School clothes program is open

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

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

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

The program closes Wednesday, Dec. 31. ■

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Visitors to EAC asked to utilize parking lots, not streets

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

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

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

Sharing soup!



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Security Supervisor Roel Hernandez gets some chicken curry soup during the Diabetes Prevention Soup Share and Diabetes Awareness event in the Tribal Community Center Thursday, Nov. 6. The annual Soup Share was combined with an informational diabetes awareness event that included interactive informational stations and resource tables with services available throughout the Tribe and the community. November is Diabetes Awareness Month.



A zuppa toscana was one of 14 soups made for the Soup Share. Soup tasters were able to vote for their favorite soup. Tribal Pharmacy Clerk Amber Thiede received the most votes for a creamy parmesan Italian sausage orzo soup she made, Gabriel Phillips placed second with a chicken curry soup and Tribal Certified Medical Assistant Chrystal Shepherd took third place with a creamy spicy sausage tortellini soup.

NRD Spotlight

Harvest Card holders we want to connect with you!

Please send us your email address to receive hunting and fishing announcements, breaking news and other outdoor related information and opportunities

HuntingandFishing@grandronde.org

Culture Committee Cultural Craft Classes

10-4pm

December 14th @ CTGR Community Center

Come make new projects, work on old projects!
Tribal families welcomed!!
All ages!!

Questions? Please reach out to the Culture Committee:
Pamala Warren-Chase @ Pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com
Marianne Blanchard @ indigenouartstattooco@gmail.com
Stephanie Craig @ kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com
Molly Leno @ molly.leno@grandronde.org



Oregon Department of Human Services

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Walk-ins welcome.

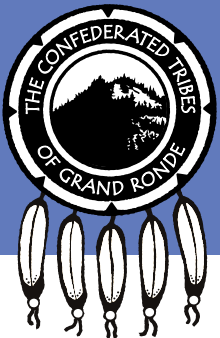
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Community Center (Building B)
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Grand Ronde, OR 97128

Services include:
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For questions call:
503-879-2034

www.grandronde.org



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Public should refrain from recreating in reservoirs

DAMS continued
from front page

spawning grounds and survival rates for spring Chinook and winter steelhead, as the fish are at high risk of extinction. It announced in a September press release that “residents living near Cougar, Green Peter, Lookout Point and Fall Creek reservoirs should expect lower water levels,” as the Army Corps conducts the drawdowns. Beginning in October, it said, “the public should refrain from recreating in the reservoirs due to the drawdowns. Additionally, downstream recreators should use caution as suspended sediment and woody debris are likely to be dislodged during drawdowns, causing low visibility and difficulties in seeing submerged obstacles.”

Exposed areas “may be soft and muddy,” Army Corps Park Ranger Christie Johnson said in the press release.

“There have been several incidents in the past where people and pets have gotten stuck in the mud and required rescue,” she said.

The press release noted that the drawdowns “are a critical element of the 2024 National Marine Fisheries Service’s biological opinion, which aims to help endangered salmon exit the reservoirs through the dams to migrate downriver.”

It quoted Kathryn Tackley, a program manager at the Portland district who is working to implement the measure, saying that the



“If the Army Corps of Engineers had invested in the reality that they needed to analyze what the impacts of drawdowns would be and work with affected communities proactively, we might be in a better place than we are today.”

~ Tribal Council member Kathleen George

drawdowns should be considered “the new normal” for these reservoirs until USACE constructs physical fish-passage structures.”

The Tribe and Native Fish Society have been among the entities pushing compliance with drawdown requirements. However, George said, the Tribe is sympathetic to the frustrations of cities whose drinking water was negatively affected by the drawdowns in 2023 and 2024. The cities of Lebanon and Sweet Home filed a lawsuit against the Army Corps Wednesday, Oct. 1, over damage they say was caused by silt released from the drawdowns clogging their water treatment systems. The cities are seeking more than \$37 million in damages.

The cities also accuse the Army Corps of causing the damage by failing to implement recommendations from the National Marine Fisheries Service issued in 2008 for salmon survival and by failing to comply with an order to maintain water quality.

“This failure by the corps had

several negative repercussions, including harm to the threatened species, extensive litigation and fallout from the actions necessary to remediate the corps’ failure to act, including harm to its beneficial use in providing water supply for public, private, and industrial use,” attorneys for the two cities wrote in the lawsuit.

It continued, “The court was explicit that the corps must not violate the (Clean Water Act) and state water quality standards,” the attorneys wrote. “The corps did so anyway.”

George echoed some of that criticism.

“If the Army Corps of Engineers had invested in the reality that they needed to analyze what the impacts of (what) drawdowns would be and work with affected communities proactively, we might be in a better place than we are today,” she said.

The corps pledged in its press release to work closely with cities.

“We are committed to balancing the needs of the communities with our responsibility to protect endangered species,” Col. Dale Caswell, commander of the Portland District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said in the press release. “During these drawdowns, we will continue to coordinate with downstream communities and state agencies to monitor and address drinking water concerns.”

George said that “the sediment that has built up behind those enormous walls for decades is moving through the system and we understand that creates some challenges.”

George said those challenges will lessen as the built-up silt is flushed out of the reservoirs. In the meantime, however, “We welcome the conversation about how we can support those communities while sediment is an issue for them,” she said.

“Certainly, drinking water is essential to every community, and we certainly understand communities’ concerns about that,” she said. “We will continue to reach out to those communities and offer any help where we can and because we want to understand their needs. We want to, where we can, partner and support them in seeking solutions. We understand that for example in Lowell, local officials successfully used federal funding to upgrade their water treatment system. ... It’s through having more dialogue with those communities that we’re going to understand the variety of what those impacts look like and what support they need.”

Fairbrother said the Native Fish

Society is also willing to work with cities to help them obtain federal and state funding.

“Salmon recovery and clean water are not competing goals – we can and must protect both community water systems and the salmon populations vital to our cultures, communities and landscapes,” Fairbrother said in an email.

The drawdowns are crucial for long-term salmon survival, Fairbrother added.

“NOAA fisheries came out last year with a status update that indicated that within the next 15 years, by 2040, we were likely to see Willamette salmon or steelhead run start to go extinct if we didn’t make any changes,” she said. “And even before that, now and for the last decade, we’ve been seeing the impacts of these declines year after year. The state has been asking, and the federal government has been declaring disasters for the Chinook salmon fishery. Recreational anglers have lost days of angling, seasons of angling and then harvest opportunities. Our landscapes for decades have been deprived of the nutrients that these salmon bring back that cultivate our farms and our forests, and our communities for decades have lost their connection to these fish. The health of salmon really does reflect the health of our waterways, our landscapes, our economies and ultimately our communities here.”

The buildup of silt is already decreasing, Fairbrother said.

“We also have already seen that there’s been a substantial reduction in turbidity between the first and second seasons of the drawdowns at Green Peter and Lookout Point, and the Corps has indicated that the rivers have rebounded quickly and that there’s likely been no impact on the salmon themselves,” she said.

George noted that drawdowns have proven effective in earlier trials at Fall Creek, where “after lowering the reservoir pool during juvenile migration at Fall Creek, the corps’ data showed roughly a tenfold increase in the adult salmon that later returned to Fall Creek. That is incredibly encouraging news and we can build on that – we absolutely have to. The corps studies also indicate a 98 to 99% survival rate for those out-migrating Chinook juveniles at Fall Creek during the 2015 deep drawdown.”

She added that “on the nearby Clackamas River basin, salmon and steelhead have more free movement through the dam systems, and that’s where we also see one of the strongest salmon and steelhead runs in the Willamette Valley.”

Drawdowns at Detroit Dam are scheduled to begin in 2026.

“Early modeling from the Army Corps of Engineers shows that a smaller portion of the lake should be exposed compared to Green Peter, which is encouraging,” George said. “So based on that, we’re hopeful and optimistic that turbidity impacts in Detroit will be less severe...the truth is, we won’t know until we’re in it.” ■



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Food drives being held at the Tribal campus

SNAP continued from front page

night to issue full November benefits for all Oregonians on SNAP, regardless of their usual payment schedule.

Also on Friday, the Trump administration appealed the federal court order to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Kotek said the emergency declaration she declared on Nov. 5 will remain in place “until the uncertainty from the federal government is resolved.”

Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said the Tribe will also be keeping its cash assistance and state of emergency in place for the time being. Check grandronde.org for updates.

Oregonians should check their EBT card balances, to make sure their benefits have been issued before shopping, a press release stated. If they are expecting a balance and don’t see one, they should call the ONE Customer Center at 800-699-9075.

Tribal Council approved emergency food assistance Wednesday, Nov. 5, for Tribal member individuals and households who have been affected by the delay of SNAP benefits. Individuals are eligible to receive a one-time payment of \$150 and households with two or more people will receive \$400. Applications will be available at www.grandronde.org starting at 8 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7 and at the Tribe’s Social Services Department. Ap-

plications close at 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24. Applicants must be able to provide verification of SNAP benefits.

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Kotek announced that she had directed the Oregon Department of Human Services to distribute \$1 million in emergency assistance to the nine federally recognized Tribes in the state to help address food security.

The press release said the money was “part of a broader effort that also includes \$5 million in state-directed funding to the Oregon Food Bank statewide network.”

It said the ODHS Office of Resilience and Emergency Management would send grant agreements to each Tribal emergency manager and social services director no later than Friday, Nov. 7, to “expedite the release of funds and provide flexibility for each Tribal government to determine how best to use the resources to support their communities.”

At the local level, there are food drives being held at the Tribal campus and the Culture Committee plans to hold a canned food drive and a “Fill the Boot” event during the Restoration Powwow Saturday, Nov. 22. Proceeds will be used to purchase food for the Grand Ronde Food Bank – *iskam məkʰmək haws*.

Youth Empowerment is offering Soup for the Soul at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15. All are welcome, an event flyer stated, noting that it “especially hopes to nourish those feeling the impact of recent SNAP benefit delays. Join

us for a warm meal, good company and community connection.”

The Tribe is offering hot soup and meals in a bag for Tribal member families on two upcoming occasions at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building. There will be limited supply available from noon to 2 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, families may pick up to-go loaded potato soup and a Thanksgiving meal in a bag.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16, families may pick up to-go taco soup, and a meal in a bag featuring white chicken chili.

In Willamina, Wildwood Hotel, Lounge and Restaurant, owned by a Tribal member family, is offering free meal tickets to those in need. The restaurant is located at 150 N.E. Main St.

Statewide, the Oregon Farmers Market Fund has launched “Emergency Double Up Food Bucks.” It will allow people with Oregon Trail cards to get up to \$20 to spend on local produce at participating Double Up famers markets through Sunday, Nov. 30. As of Monday, Nov. 10, the fund is still offering the \$20 match through November. Check doubleuporegon.org for updates.

Participants must bring an Oregon Trail card to participating farmers markets. The market will swipe the card for \$1 and match it with \$20 to spend on fruits, vegetables, dried beans and fresh herbs. The cap for matching funds is \$20 per market visit.

Participating markets include:

Portland Area: Beaverton Farmers Market, Hood River Farmers Market, Hillsdale Farmers Market, Hollywood Farmers Market, Montavilla Farmers Market, Oregon City Farmers Market, People’s Farmers’ Market, Portland Farmers Market at PSU, King, Lents, St. Johns Farmers Market;

Southern Coast: Brookings Harbor Farmers Markets (Saturday and Wednesday);

Southern Oregon: Canyonville Farmers Market, Rogue Valley Growers & Crafters Market, Grants Pass Growers Market, Umpqua Valley Farmers Market;

Willamette Valley: Corvallis Albany Farmers Markets, Lane County Farmers Market, Silverton Farmers Market, Westfir Oakridge Community Farmers Market;

Coast: Newport Farmers Market. ■

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. ■

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

**If you are already on the list, but need to update your information, please email those changes.*

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:

CTETribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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. ■

TO-GO SOUPS AND MEAL IN A BAG

For Tribal Member Families

Please join us on November 25th and December 16th from 12-2pm at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building for to-go soup and a meal in a bag to take home. There will be a **limited supply** available.

Menu:

November 25th

To-go Loaded Potato Soup

Meal in a bag: Thanksgiving in a bag

December 16th

To-go Taco soup

Meal in a bag: White chicken chili

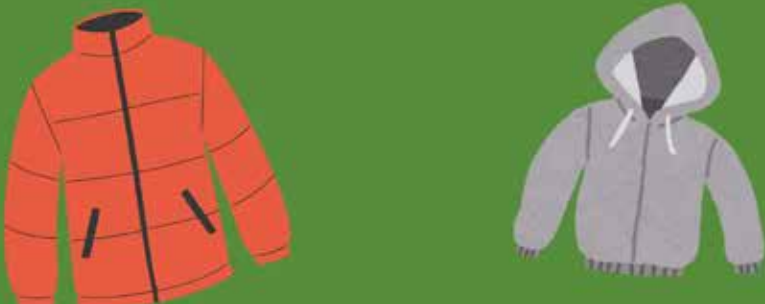
Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

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. ■



Education Division

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Questions: email education@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2275



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



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

(503) 879-1484 • CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

Veterans honored



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

The Tribe's Tribal Veterans Service Officer Ramona Quenelle, left, gifts Tribal Elder and Army veteran Guy Schultz a paperweight that is engraved with "Honored CTGR veteran" during the 2025 Veterans Day Luncheon at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Monday, Nov. 10. The event included lunch, veterans recognition with the veterans having the opportunity to introduce themselves and receive a paperweight, medicine bag and raffle prizes. About 30 veterans were recognized for their service at the event sponsored by the Tribe's Tribal Veterans Service Office.



Tribal Elder and Air Force veteran Jerry George, right, is served by Senior Miss Grand Ronde Marie Quenelle during the 2025 Veterans Day Luncheon at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Monday, Nov. 10.





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Watchlist: ‘Uncovering Boarding Schools’

(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

In 1880, the federal government opened the second off-reservation Indian boarding school in the United States in Forest Grove, Oregon. This would later become Chemawa Indian School, which still exists today and has been located in Salem since 1885.

Oregon Public Radio aired a 90-minute documentary Monday, Nov. 3, called “Uncovering Boarding Schools: Stories of Resistance and Resilience,” which follows Oregon’s history with Indian boarding schools

Posted on the OPB website is more educational material on Indian boarding schools, including a shortened 8-minute version of the documentary.

“The way they went about disciplining kids for stepping out of line was really truly brutal,” Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and Anthropology & Indigenous Studies Expert David Lewis said in the video.

Klamath Tribal Elder Yvonne “Bonnie” Parazoo said she never considered the residential school she attended a school; she refers to it as a concentration camp.

“The off-reservation boarding schools were initially supposed to be industrial and agriculture training schools where the children who attended them could learn to be farmers and wagon makers and kind of have a more-or-less education,” Chemawa Indian School Historian SuAnn Reddick said. “They were supposed to learn to speak English, ideally they were supposed to be Christianized, but effectively they were supposed to become workers and this was their worker training.”

Accompanying what Reddick said, black and white photos of the Indian boarding schools are shown. Many of these photos include Native children in uniforms in classrooms, working outside a barn shoveling something into a horse-drawn wagon and young children digging in field while an older white man looks on.

Researchers found that at least 270 children died at Chemawa Indian School. Educator Gabriann Hall said in the video that if this was happening to another group of people, it would have been considered a crime scene.

You can learn more about Oregon’s boarding schools by watching the short documentary at www.opb.org/promotions/boardingschools/ or find a screening of the full-length documentary at <https://www.opb.org/promotions/boardingschools/>. ■

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

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. ■



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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. ■

November talham-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



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Open Positions

Chief Financial Officer	\$160- 180K/yr
Resident Services Manager	\$72-76K/yr
Early Childhood Coordinator/ Site Leader	\$65K+/yr
Family Shelter Advocate (On Call)	\$28-30/hr
Resident Services Coordinator	\$26-27/hr
Alcohol & Drug Specialist	\$25-27/hr
Youth Housing Advocate	\$22-25/hr
Foster Care Support Specialist	\$24+/hr
Youth Advocate	\$23+/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit nayapdx.org/jobs
to learn more.

10/22/25

Paid ad

West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2026

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

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

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



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Wednesday, October 1

- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 33.
- Officers assisted an outside agency near the 29000 block of Joe Day Way.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, October 2

- Officers assisted an outside agency with trespassing at the 51000 block of Hebo Road.
- Citizen contact occurred on Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with clearing deer from the road-way.

Friday, October 3

- Officers assisted an outside agency near the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- A domestic disturbance was reported near the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for reports of several armed intoxicated people on the property.

Saturday, October 4

- Drugs were reported at the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A possible intoxicated driver was reported on Highway 18 headed east from the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An animal call occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, October 5

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance in Sheridan.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.

Monday, October 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emotionally disturbed person in Willamina.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers cleared multiple traffic hazards from the roadway.
- Officers assisted a citizen with properly securing wood.
- Officers assisted a motorist with attempting to locate a dog that was allegedly hit by another vehicle near Sheridan.

Tuesday, October 7

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a prowler call at the 7000 block of Fire Hall Road.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 26.

Wednesday, October 8

- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle.
- Trespassing was reported near Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, October 9

- Officers stopped a vehicle that resulted in criminally citing the driver for failure to register as a sex offender.

Friday, October 10

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a single vehicle crash.
- Officers assisted with a road rage incident with no charges pursued by the victim.

Saturday, October 11

- Trespassing occurred on Hebo Road near milepost 24.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, October 12

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a medical call at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, October 13

- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 11.
- Officers responded to a 911 hangup call at the 25000 block of Coyote Court.

Tuesday, October 14

- A disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a sudden death that occurred at the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway, which resulted in a driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest of the driver.

Wednesday, October 15

- Officers assisted multiple outside agencies with warrant sweeps across multiple counties.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, October 16

- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred.
- A disturbance was reported at the 25000 block of Coyote Court.

Friday, October 17

- A crash occurred at Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers responded to police lights being used by someone who wasn't a police officer on Highway 18 near Highway 22.
- Officers responded to a report of a male acting erratically by Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, October 18

- Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash involving elk that were crossing the roadway by Highway 22 near milepost one.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18.
- A disturbance was reported at the 9000 block of Raven Loop.

Sunday, October 19

- Officers assisted an outside agency with an out-of-control burn pile at the 24000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a stolen vehicle report.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance in Willamina.

Monday, October 20

- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle that was involved in a pursuit.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on a welfare check for an emotionally disturbed person at the 7900 block of A R Ford Road.
- Drugs were found during a traffic stop on Highway 18 near milepost 25.

Tuesday, October 21

- Officers responded to a medical call at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway that resulted in a sudden death.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a crash that occurred at Grand Ronde and A Akerson Road.

Wednesday, October 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency with previous cases.
- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported disturbance on Yamhill River Road.

Thursday, October 23

- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway after a reported break in.
- A gas leak was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a disturbance call that occurred on Yamhill River Road.

Friday, October 24

- A crash occurred on Highway 18B near milepost 1.
- Officers responded to an emergency medical call at Fire Hall and Andy Riggs roads.

Saturday, October 25

- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 25000 block of Coyote Court.
- Officers responded to a 911 hangup call at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, October 26

- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with traffic control for a crash on Highway 18B and Rock Creek Road.

Monday, October 27

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a suicidal subject reported on Yamhill River Road.
- An overdose was reported at the 25000 block of Coyote Court.

Tuesday, October 28

- A welfare check occurred at Southwest Eagle Loop.
- A crash was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, October 29

- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, October 30

- Officers conducted traffic enforcement.

Friday, October 31

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Prommissee Thornley*

LOVE - FUN AND ADVENTURE



LICENSED - ERDC QUALIFIED - CPR CERTIFIED

1930'S SCHOOLHOUSE IN SHERIDAN RURAL SETTING

WITH 2 ACRES OF FENCED YARD AND ORIGINAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

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

WELCOMING CHILDREN FROM 6 WEEKS TO 13 YEARS OLD

FULL-TIME CARE WITH NEGOTIABLE HOURS

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



Paid ad

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. ■

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....

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



November 7, 2025

CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Assistant Controller	19	\$137,901.75/yr.	\$186,617.49/yr.	Until Filled
GFS Caseworker – Grand Ronde	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	11/10/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Client Registration Specialist - Salem Detox - GCR	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	11/17/2025
Clinical Manager – Salem - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	11/17/2025
Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	11/17/2025
Cook – Early Childhood Education	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	11/10/2025
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	11/10/2025
Front Desk Dental Assistant - Updated	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	11/17/2025
Housekeeper - Swing	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	11/17/2025
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	11/17/2025
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
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem Detox – GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	11/17/2025
Milieu Safety Technician – Sheridan - GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	11/17/2025
Nursing Supervisor - Salem Detox - GCR	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/yr.	11/17/2025
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
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	11/10/2025
Recovery House Manager – Sheridan – GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	11/10/2025
Senior Lead Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Silviculture Coordinator	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	11/10/2025
Social Emotional Learning Specialist	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/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.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

WHAT POWERS YOU?



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Created a comfortable home and haven for her community, and families in need.

Offering energy savings and solutions that power your life.

Find cash incentives and resources at energytrust.org

EnergyTrust

of Oregon

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
Count Operations Technician III	11/13/2025	\$25.45/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	11/13/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk (*Part-Time)	11/13/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Kitchen Steward	11/13/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Amore Restaurant Manager	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/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
Cleaning Attendant	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
IT Production Supervisor	Until Filled	\$83,914.69/yr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
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@spiritmntn.com

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

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

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)



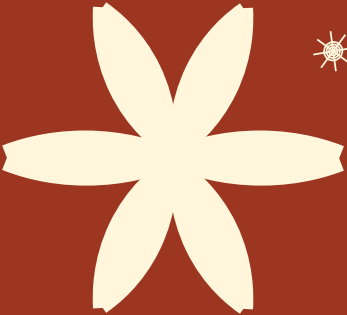
Journals, pens,
and handwritten words
of encouragement

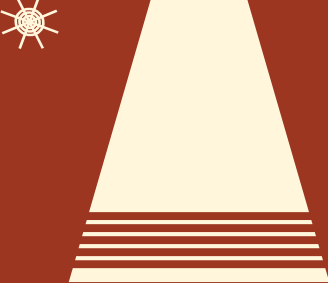
Every gift is a prayer in action. Every bag is a spark of hope. Together, we can turn the chill of September into the warmth of compassion.

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

Chachalu Friday Marketplace

FOOD // ART // CRAFTS





December 12
Holly Jolly Marketplace
10AM - 5PM



MARKET IS HELD IN THE CHACHALU GYM

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...

Kelly Stuart Mercier
Nov. 19, 1963 – Nov. 1, 2025
Tribal Elder Kelly Stuart Mercier passed away Nov. 1, 2025, at the age of 61.
Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Tribal gym with a meal served at the Community Center.
Bollman’s Tribute Center in Dallas is assisting the family.

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. ■

Volunteers Wanted



Volunteers Wanted

Grand Ronde Tribal Emergency Services is looking for Volunteers

If you are interested in helping to service your community, please apply by visiting [Emergency Services](http://www.Grandronde.org) at www.Grandronde.org

Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Firefighter
- Water Tender Driver
- EMS
- Auxiliary
- Chaplaincy



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Emergency Services
9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347 503-879-3473





Welcome Dr. Katelyn Bailey

Dr. Katelyn Bailey is a naturopathic physician and acupuncturist. Naturopathic medicine focuses on treating the whole person by addressing root causes of illness and using evidence based natural therapies in addition to prescribed medications. In her visits, she explores how factors like lifestyle, stress, environment, sleep, and nutrition may be affecting your health. Katelyn works with patients diagnosed with chronic conditions, new medical issues, as well as preventative medicine. Katelyn completed her training at the National University of Natural Medicine in Portland. After graduation, she completed a two-year residency in pain management and orthopedic injuries. She strives to create an inclusive space where all patients feel empowered to achieve their wellness goals.

EARN YOUR GED/ HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

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

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

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

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



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!



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

NEW NAVY ZIP-UP HOODIES AND T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE



NAVY ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



GRAY ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK PULL-OVER:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



NAVY T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



GRAY T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC

T-SHIRTS • ZIP-UP HOODIES • PULL-OVER HOODIES
TRUCKER CAPS • BEANIES • PATCHES • STICKERS • FREE SHIPPING!

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T-SHIRT (NAVY) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC \$15								Not Available

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