



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Man sentenced for tumwata village fire

OREGON CITY — A Clackamas County judge has sentenced 22-year-old Christian Gannon Dukes to five years in prison for setting a fire in late January at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill, the Tribe's 23-acre tumwata village property, in Oregon City. Dukes pled guilty Thursday, Dec. 4, to first-degree arson in exchange for having additional charges dropped. He admitted to

See FIRE
continued on page 6



Smoke Signals file photo

A Clackamas Fire District firefighter applies water to extinguish a blaze at the Tribe's tumwata village property, the former Blue Heron Paper Mill, in Oregon City January 30. Christian Gannon Dukes pleaded guilty to arson in the first degree Thursday, Dec. 4, for setting the fire at the property.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Rahab's Sisters Executive Director Desiree Eden Ocampo, left, shakes hands with Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie as she accepts her nonprofit organization's check during the fourth-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Community Fund awards \$1.4 million to children, Elders and the environment

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Due to an "atmospheric river" of heavy rains and threats of flooding the preceding day, Tribes from around Oregon stayed home Wednesday, Dec. 10, when the Spirit Mountain Community Fund held its fourth-quarter check presentation at the Governance Center Atrium. The Tribe had asked them not to risk traveling in dangerous conditions, Community Fund Grants

Coordinator Jesse Knight said. They were honored with an announcement of their awards in absentia. The presentation featured speakers from two organizations: Grace Center for Adult Day Services of Corvallis and Assistance League of Salem-Keizer. Total funding for the fourth quarter grant awards was \$1.4 million, with 28 grants awarded. The event

See COMMUNITY FUND
continued on page 11

Tribal member tapped to lead recovery center



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Throughout her childhood, Grand Ronde Tribal member Alicialeigh Selwyn had a dream. She wanted to be a psychiatrist and to help people. She lost that dream for a while, falling into despair, alcohol misuse and drug abuse as a young adult. Once she had sought treatment, she grieved, she said, "for lost time." But those hard, painful years are standing her in good stead. Selwyn is back on her life's path, armed with personal insight into the struggles of those she wants to help along with formal education in psychology and mental health studies. In late November, Painted Horse Recovery, a center dedicated to supporting Native Americans recovering from addiction with peer support

See RECOVERY
continued on page 9

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026

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, Dec. 17.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 31.....	10 a.m.

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

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

I want to thank the Tribe. Thank you to all my ancestors for the hardship they endured. Thank you for the Tribal people that believed and worked so hard for reinstatement. Thank you to all the people that work there for being kind and efficient. Thanks to Smoke Signals for being timely and informative.

I am so grateful, I am a member.

Judith Pettibone
Roll # 717

Dear Smoke Signals,

Congratulations on 42 years since Restoration! I am a former Yamhill County resident who has subscribed to Smoke Signals for a little over a year. The pride, joy and solemnity of the Restoration was clear from page one of Smoke Signals.

May the day come quickly when Confederated Tribes can live off their ancestral lands again. All people of conscience stand with the peoples of Turtle Island and Indigenous Peoples around the world!

Best wishes,

Dot Nelson
Hiroshima, Japan

Wildwood Café seeking donations for meal program


Wildwood Café in Willamina is offering a Feed the People program that allows members of the public to contribute funds or purchase meals. Tickets for dine-in meals are then posted on a board at the restaurant, for use by anyone who is in need.

According to owner April Haller, the program will continue for as long as funds are available to do so. To contribute, people may make a purchase in person at the restaurant, call 503-876-7100, or contribute through venmo.

The restaurant is located at 150 NE Main St. in Willamina. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closing at noon Wednesday, Dec. 24, and remain closed Thursday-Friday, Dec. 25-26, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Offices also will be closing at noon Wednesday, Dec. 31, and remain closed Thursday-Friday, Jan. 1-2, 2026, in observance of New Year’s Day.



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.



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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Monday, Dec. 22	Jan. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Friday, Jan. 23	Feb. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Friday, Feb. 6	Feb. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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


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

2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

taɬlam-pi-wakwst-mun (December)

- 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 Council meeting, 10 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Dec. 31 – Tribal offices closing at noon in observance of New Year’s Eve.

ixt-mun (January)

- Thursday-Friday, Jan. 1-2 – Tribal offices closed in observance of New Year’s Day.
- Sunday, Jan. 4 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Jan. 19 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

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

Help us get your tax documents to you in a timely manner

It is that time of the year where we in the Finance Department are starting to prepare for tax season.

In an effort to have current information for W2s and 1099s, we are asking everyone who has moved in the last calendar year to update their address.

How to update:

If you are a Tribal member, contact Member Services at member-services@grandronde.org or 503-879-2116.

If you are an employee, contact Human Resources at compensation_HRIS@grandronde.org or 503-879-2109 and the reception desk will direct your call to the appropriate person. Alternatively, an employee can make any updates in UKG as well.

If you have recently updated your address at the clinic/pharmacy, you will still need to update your information with either Member Services and/or Human Resources. The clinic/pharmacy does not share your private information due to HIPAA regulations.

Remember that even if you have direct deposit you will need to update your address, as W2s and 1099s are mailed.

The Finance Department thanks you in advance for your assistance in making the upcoming tax season go as smoothly as possible.

The deadline for updating addresses is Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026. We cannot guarantee changes after this date. Both W2 and 1099MISC forms will be mailed before the Saturday, Jan. 31 deadline. ■

Woman's Gathering

@ the Plank house

On December 17th

12~1pm

Woman's Gathering will continue to be on every 3rd Wednesday of the month

Come sit in the warmth of the Plank house, where stories rise like cedar smoke and women gather to remember their strength.

This is a time for healing, & connection

Join other women to share presence, peace, and the medicine that comes from simply being together

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

Smoke Signals:
facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

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

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:
facebook.com/GRHWC

Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:
facebook.com/CTGRCFCS

Grand Ronde Royalty:
facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty

Grand Ronde Education Programs:
facebook.com/CTGREducation

Grand Ronde Youth Council:
facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil

Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

Grand Ronde Social Services Department:
facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices

Grand Ronde Food Bank:
facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank

Spirit Mountain Community Fund:
facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund

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

Grand Ronde Community Garden:
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

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

Grand Ronde Employment Services
Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Visit Member Services at

The Elder Christmas PARTY!

Tuesday, December 23rd

- SET UP/UPDATE DIRECT DEPOSIT
- UPDATE PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL, ADDRESS, & OTHER DETAILS
- UPDATE YOUR TRIBAL ID (& PHOTO!)
- SIGN UP FOR THE MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
- GET ALL YOUR MEMBER SERVICES QUESTIONS ANSWERED WHILE YOU ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Questions?
Please contact Shayla Murphy
Phone: 503-879-1364
Email: shayla.murphy@grandronde.org

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək'hmək 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 December 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. Call the Food Bank at 503-879-3663 for holiday closure information.

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 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact Editorial. Board@grandronde.org for more information.
- **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 — Less than 24 hours after a three-alarm fire started at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site Saturday, Dec. 5, police arrested Enrique Omar Mejia, 29, booking him on three counts of felony second-degree arson, misdemeanor disorderly conduct and trespassing.

2015 — The general membership received a briefing on the Tribe’s attempt to diversify its revenue stream by investing in MicroGREEN Polymers Inc., which manufactured recycled plastic drinking cups. The company was unable to turn a profit and the Tribe foreclosed on it in early 2015. The Tribe lost more than \$28 million.

2010 — A projected shortfall in expected revenue in the Willamina School District led to a proposal to close the middle school in Grand Ronde and to transport sixth through eighth graders to the Willamina High School campus.



2010 File photo

2005 — Tribal Elder Beryle Contreras was reunited with her friend Wilma Mankiller. The pair, who had been friends and roommates, joined the occupation of Alcatraz in 1969, in which thousands of Native Americans made a stand for self-determination, sovereignty and respect for Native cultures. Contreras lived on the island for three months of the 19-month occupation.

2000 — The National Indian Gaming Commission announced that the Grand Ronde Tribe had become the second Tribe in the United States to be recognized for operating a self-regulating Indian casino. The Menominees in Wisconsin were the only other Tribe in the United States to have such a distinction.

1995 — The Tribe hired Francis Somday, a Colville Tribal member, as its Chief Executive Officer, replacing CEO Jim Willis, who had held the position for more than 10 years. Somday was a former president of the Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation and had more than 20 years of experience in executive and managerial positions.

1990 — U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who had gained the reputation among many Tribal leaders as a champion for Indian causes, urged Tribal representatives at the National Congress of American Indians to give Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. a chance to reorganize the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He received three standing ovations from the audience.

1985 — The Tribe was planning its annual Christmas party, a potluck dinner at St. Michael’s Church cafeteria in Grand Ronde, followed by a general meeting.

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

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 Grand Ronde multi-use path study

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a feasibility study for a multiuse path from Grand Ronde to Spirit Mountain Casino during its Wednesday, Dec. 3, meeting.

During a Tuesday, Dec. 2, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said the study would explore different options for a multi-use path. Currently, those without transportation who want to travel from Grand Ronde to the casino must walk along a narrow shoulder on Highway 18.

“I think in 2018, 2019 or even 2020 there was an advisory vote by the membership that they would like us to explore a multi-use path, a better connection, really a safer connection between the Grand Ronde community and the casino,” he said. “So, this is really the first step in that project...to really look at where the preferred alignment will be...By having this feasibility study completed, we’ll be able to go after further funding for design and construction of this.”

The \$268,000 study by Kittelson & Associates Inc. of Portland will be funded by the Oregon Department of Transportation Community Paths Grant.

“I think a lot of this feasibility work, as we have public involvement from the community and the casino, is understanding really a fundamental, ‘What is the func-

tion of this path? Is it a direct A to B type path or would people like more of a leisurely connection?” Webb said.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved an agreement between the Tribal Engineering Department and Linn County to access the Linn County tax lot layer and also approved a limited waiver of immunity to provide that any disputes that arise will be settled in Linn County Circuit Court;
 - Approved a \$210,930 professional services agreement with Architectural Resources Group Inc. of Portland for the design of renovation work for the Grand Ronde Historic Railroad Depot;
 - Approved harvesting of 72.1 acres of the Tribe’s qhwex qhwex logging unit for a project minimum value of \$1.1 million;
 - Approved three limited waivers of sovereign immunity for Cricut Inc., onXmaps Software and Unreal Engine by Epic Games;
 - Approved an annual timber distribution payment of \$570 and a quarterly general welfare distribution of \$2,850, and declared Friday, Dec. 12, as the payment date for both.
 - And approved enrolling three infants and 27 non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Attention Grand Ronde housing tenants

The Grand Ronde Housing Tenant Association now has two report boxes located on the Tribal campus. The first one is at the Tribal Governance Center on a table next to the reception area and the second one is on a table at the Elders Activity Center near the front door.

The boxes are to be used for any possible non-emergency safety concerns or any ideas/suggestions for improving services as provided by groundskeeping or housing. An example might be noticing a sidewalk construction problem or street corner vision blockage by unkempt landscaping.

These boxes will be checked by a tenant association committee member and taken to the Housing Department to be reviewed and cataloged. While any report can be submitted anonymously, it is recommended the writer include their name, enrollment number (just as most correspondence to the Tribal administrators is required) and either a personal email, phone number or both. A committee member or housing staff member will use the contact information to communicate with the report writer regarding the progress of tending to the concern or idea.

“This was and is an avenue whereby the tenants can communicate their concerns as they see them in a manner that is friendly without going to the housing office,” Housing Tenant Association Committee Chair Dave Clark said. “This tenant association was established earlier this year to be a sounding board and informational contact for the tenants to utilize. Let’s get this back on its wheels again.”

Additionally, a special tenants association meeting will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026, at the Tribal Community Center for the purpose of updating the tenants about the committee and providing a meal. There will also be a white elephant gift exchange for adults and children alike. To participate, each adult or child needs to bring a gift.

“More to follow as we continue to develop the event,” Clark said. “It is meant to be a fun time with family and friends, making memories for everyone. Two members of the housing department are instrumental in this endeavor, Shonn Leno and Diana Robertson.” ■

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. ■



TEACH

our children
our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.
APPLY TO AITP
www.pdx.edu/aitp

GRHWC PUBLIC HEALTH

SMART VENDING MACHINE

LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER. BUILDING B.

What is inside?

- ✓ Narcan
- ✓ Feminine Hygiene kits
- ✓ Adult and Child Dental kits
- ✓ Firearm Safety Locks
- ✓ and more!

FAQ's

Do I need to make an account?

- We recommend and encourage you to create an account but it is not required.

How much are items in the vending machine?

- They are FREE!

What else does the vending machine do?

- The Smart Vending machine also has a resource navigation tool that will help to guide you to other resources in the area including all CTGR resources.

When can I access the smart vending machine?

- 6am-9pm including weekends and holidays.

Notice: a problem with the smart vending machine?
(503) 879-6701



Cedar Circle Home Visiting

Now Enrolling Families for Services

Requirements:


- Tribal Member or Tribal Descendants
- No referral needed
- Sign-up period: Prenatal- 3 months of age (please reach out for exceptions).
- Service length: Prenatal- age five*
- First home visit will mark the official enrollment of family.
- Service area within Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Polk, Marion, Yamhill and Tillamook County.

*Children will be able to graduate at age three; services will be available through the age of five if Family Support Specialist (FSS) sees fit.

About Cedar Circle Home Visiting

Cedar Circle is a home visiting program that will support parents, caregivers, and babies prenatally through 5 years of age. In this program you will be connected with a Family Support Specialist that will share information about child development and parenting, promote healthy and nurturing parent-child relationships, and provide information and referrals to strengthen families. Our Family Support Specialists have access to supplies for their families to help them meet their needs.

Interested in enrollment?
Jenn Clark
Cedar Circle Home Visiting
Family Support Specialist
503-879-6713



Grand Meadows lot available for lease

Lot 12 in Grand Meadows is now available for lease. Applicants must be preapproved for a new manufactured home. The lot size is 55' x 100' (preapproved manufactured home must fit size of lot) The lot has a 26'8" x 66' 4" cinder block skirting. The sale will be preceded by a lottery system. To be included in the lottery, the leasing application and preapproval letter from a lender must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, 2026. The leasing application is on the Tribal webpage, www.grandronde.org, or applicants can stop by the Tribal Housing Department, 28450 Tyee Road, Grand Ronde, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. ■

Tribe purchased the property in 2019

FIRE continued from front page

having set the fire intentionally, using paper he had stacked up on the floor, because he believed transients camping on the property had stolen some of his belongings. During its investigation of what ignited the blaze, Clackamas Fire District fire investigators were able to determine the location where the fire was started and turned over the criminal investigation to the Oregon City Police Department detectives. Police detectives were able to identify several people who were living at the site and located them for interviews. That ultimately led them to Dukes, who was arrested last June. The three-alarm fire started in the early morning hours of Thursday, Jan. 30, and closed the highway in both directions from Tumwater

Drive to South End Road. All train service was paused as well. It was declared contained later that morning but smoldered for days. The fire caused more than \$50,000 in damage, according to court records. The Grand Ronde Tribe purchased the property in 2019 and has been involved in extensive demolition and environmental remediation efforts since that time. When construction is complete, the property will include a mix of open space, retail, shopping, residential, office, restaurants, and a hotel and event space, as well as access to the river's edge, views of the restored native basalt riverbank and space for public and Tribal gatherings. ■

Contains information from The Oregonian



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. ■



Calling All Tribal Artists

Your Art. Your Story. Our Hall of Legends.

Spirit Mountain Casino is seeking to showcase the incredible talent of our tribal community in the Hall of Legends — a space dedicated to celebrating culture, creativity, and heritage. We invite tribal artists to submit photos of their artwork for consideration. Selected pieces will be featured on semi-permanent loan, proudly displayed within the casino for guests and community members to enjoy year-round.

This is your chance to share your vision, your voice, and your artistry with thousands who walk through our doors. Whether your work is traditional, contemporary, or somewhere beautifully in between — we want to see it!

Submission Deadline: December 19, 2025



General Council hears from two departments

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson updated Tribal members on the department's various programs and accomplishments during a Sunday, Dec. 7, General Council meeting held in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

That presentation was followed by one from Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh.

During Harrelson's approximately 35-minute presentation, he discussed the different programs within the department, various projects and future plans.

"Thank you for having me here to give an update about the department," Harrelson said. "I'm going to do a quick overview about the mission of the department, which is to support a healthy community by facilitating dialogue, maintaining continuity and providing protection of Tribal lifeways for the benefit of future generations."

Cultural Resources programs include the Research Program, Cultural Protection Program and the Archeology and Research Program. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center are also under the umbrella of the department.

Some of the department's highlights include:

Cultural Resources currently has 26 full-time employees. Tribal member and longtime employee Travis Stewart is the Chachalu manager. Briece Edwards serves as the Tribal Historic Preservation Office manager.

Harrelson also took a moment during the presentation to correct the commonly misstated term "Culture Department."

"In the spirit of sharing, I often hear the word 'culture' used and you can really help us by using the term 'Cultural Resources Department,' in place of that," he said. "It also really does help understand that we are helping to build resources and that's how we're structured."

Cultural Resources has hosted various activities during the past year. One was a glass workshop with Tribal member Douglas Burgess, who was one of the department's Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellows this year.

"He came down with a mobile kiln and taught different forms within glass," Harrelson said. "The most exciting thing people had was the ability to make their own beads... The prospect of being able to pull your own glass to make beads was pretty exciting."

Additionally, National Poet Laureate Ada Limón came to Grand Ronde and gave a reading at Chachalu this year as part of a partnership with the Sitka Center for Art & Ecology.

"As a part of that, we gifted her a zine (small self-published booklet) that was created from the zine workshops that we hosted last spring where Tribal member Steph Littlebird came into the community and hosted three different work-

shops," Harrelson said.

Other events included the annual acorn camp at TouVelle State Recreation Site, the celebration of Tribal plankhouse achaf-hammi's 16th birthday in October and some mountain trips to Molalla Table Rock.

"We're looking at future capacity to partner with third-party entities to get Tribal members the opportunity to go into the high country to these important cultural sacred environments and places that our ancestors have talked about," Harrelson said.

The Historic Preservation Office has been coordinating what is now an annual trip to the Obsidian Cliffs in central Oregon near North Sister, an important high country mountain location with Tribally-significant archeological information.

"We go up there into that place with Forest Service staff and we've been able to selectively bring on different staff or sometimes community members on that trip," Harrelson said. "The success of the Obsidian Cliffs trip has actually been a real driver for us wanting to look at mountain trips and how we can scale that because we see there's a demand."

The Historic Preservation Office has also been busy with archeological work after the Tribe took possession of Fort Yamhill State Park early in 2025.

"There's a lot of archeology and cultural resources work that needed to happen there," Harrelson said. "So, the team has been collectively resourcing and thinking about this work. To do so, we were actually able to bring archeologist and Tribal member Sharrah McKenzie, who was originally in our archeological field school years ago. It was really cool to see her come back and do some of that work at Fort Yamhill."

Additionally, the Historic Preservation Office partnered with the Tribal Employment Rights Office this summer to do an archeological monitor training.

"We were able to train up about a dozen archeological monitors who were available to work for contracting consulting firms and it was another example of multiple levels of capacity building and development," Harrelson said.

The Cultural Protection Program has reviewed more than 9,000 project notifications, permits and regulatory inquiries in the last year.

"That continued to go up even through the pandemic," Harrelson said. "There are three employees and you get to a number that is pretty significant but they know about a lot of stuff because they are constantly contextualizing what's important to the Tribe and cultural significance, and how that lays out on the landscape."

Staff recently had the ability to recover whale parts on the Oregon Coast. That work is the culmination of years of time and effort, Harrelson said.

"What was such a success for our staff is now other Tribes are

doing it and the things that we've learned, we've been able to share with them," he said.

The Research Program performs, supports and administers projects that include bringing forward written and recorded information about the Tribe's languages and history.

"You can set up an appointment and work with a librarian to learn about information that relates to the Tribe," Harrelson said.

There are self-published books available for the community and staff ask that it be limited to one per household due to publication costs.

Chachalu has hosted several successful marketplace events this past summer on the third Friday of every month. A holiday market was hosted Friday, Dec. 12.

"That's something we'll definitely be looking at continuing to do," Harrelson said. "It definitely gets a different mix of people coming in the doors and seeing whatever our changeout exhibits are. We do two to three exhibits a year."

Chachalu has also been recruited to be one of four Oregon partners out of 300 different museums and arts organizations across the state for a project called Art Bridges.

Lastly, the museum had its first traveling exhibit open this last year called "Transgressors." The guest curators were Tribal descendant Felix Furby and Tribal member Anthony Hudson. The exhibit will travel for the next two years throughout the state and features the history of Two-Spirit and Indigeneous identities as well as those of contemporary artists.

"That was a growth of a relationship of community coming forward and it started small...then it got bigger and they had a lot of success," Harrelson said. "It just gives you an idea of the portion of Tribal and community members seeing a need, saying something, growing it in small steps and now we have a traveling exhibit."

Cultural Education has hosted different gathering and community trips, workshops and cultural life-ways drop-in programs.

"Our staff have readjusted the work of the program to allow them to support out more often as people provide these classes," Harrelson said. "Culture is everything, so everyone should be able to do culture. Cultural Resources is there to be a resource, not a gatekeeper."

Upcoming department work includes the opening of two new exhibits, a Molalla Table Rock trip, Tribal learning cohorts, place-keeping blog posts and cultural fire activations and collaborations throughout Tribal homelands.

After the presentation, Harrelson took four questions and comments from the audience.

"I appreciate the presentation, the way you put it and all that you do," Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George said. "I think the return of our culture and our cultural knowledge that is happening here...it creates community...especially when you have Elders coming here and others bringing their children and

how all that information is shared in there."

After a lunch break, Karnosh gave an update about the Tribal Ceded Lands Department.

He started the presentation by sharing a map of the combined area of the Tribe's ceded lands.

"We do a variety of things in ceded lands and consider ourselves a service department," Karnosh said. "We work collaboratively with at least seven other Tribal departments on a regular basis."

Ceded Lands has been on the Tribal team for conservation land acquisition since 2011, Karnosh shared, and has helped to acquire almost 2,000 acres throughout the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.

Additionally, Ceded Lands supports government-to-government consultation between Tribal Council and other governmental leaders such as the city of Portland, Clackamas County, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and others.

"You heard David mention the 9,000 notices per year, we actually go through those and highlight the ones that we want to talk about and bring to everyone's attention," Karnosh said. "We want to get the Tribal pieces where they fit best so we get Tribal coverage on all of these things."

Another focus area is working collaboratively with various Tribal departments to build and maintain relationships that allow the Tribe to tell its story. Examples include various memorandums of understanding with government entities as well as partnerships with The Nature Conservancy and McKenzie River Trust.

Currently, Ceded Lands is working with the city of Tigard to create an interpretive walk along the Fanno Creek Trail.

Upcoming work includes developing a project tracker and action organizer with the Tribe's Salmon Strength Team, advocating for Tribal water rights and water quality, assisting with three potential land acquisitions, continuing to build relationships with various government entities and helping secure fee-free recreation and cultural access areas for Tribal members on federal, state and conservation lands.

After his presentation, Karnosh took six questions and comments from the audience.

"Thank you so much for your presentation," Tribal Council member Toby McClary said. "It was very informative"

In other action, it was announced that the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan 4. The hybrid meeting will be held in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Door prize winners were Liena Nelson, Leroy Good and Cassandra Scott \$100; and Collette Abdie, Lisa Maddox, Chris Mansayon, Tammy Cook and Solitare Ramos, \$50.

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

For the birds



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Kim Contreras applies glue to the roof of a birdhouse she made with the help of Tribal Elder Harold Lyon, right, at the Elders Activity Center Tuesday, Dec. 9. A request was made by Elders to have Lyon show them how to make birdhouses. Lyon created a birdhouse kit at his home woodshop for Elders to assemble.



Tribal Elder Kelly Nelson pounds a nail into a birdhouse, with help from Gary Wilson, as she assembles a birdhouse at the Elders Activity Center Tuesday, Dec. 9.

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. ■

ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?

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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:

CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

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Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Selwyn grew up in the Grand Ronde area

**RECOVERY continued
from front page**

and cultural connections, opened a new peer mentoring center in Salem. Selwyn was tapped to lead it, based on those same struggles and her hard work to overcome them.

Located in a historic house in Salem, the Painted Horse Recovery BuffaloBoy Center offers both community members and Native Americans a place to gather and spend time. But for Native Americans who are struggling to find a way out of drug addiction and alcoholism, it offers peer support mentoring and assistance ranging from help with paperwork to accompanying people to court hearings for moral support.

Selwyn said she follows the “two-eyed seeing” approach “taught by Mikmaw Elder Dr. Albert Marshall, learning to see through one eye with Indigenous knowledge and the other with Western knowledge.”

Culturally based support, she said, is crucial for Native people. “The research shows that our people heal best through their culture and community,” she said.

Selwyn grew up in the Grand Ronde area. Her childhood was marked by generational poverty and intergenerational trauma.

“Despite the circumstances, I had a good understanding of why things were the way they were and I wanted to help people,” Selwyn said. “But I didn’t have the tools to make that happen when I was younger and I didn’t have a lot of support.”

As a young adult, there were a lot of ups and downs.

“When I was doing good, I was doing really good, and when I was doing bad, I was doing really bad,” she said. “I got in trouble with the

law, with alcohol and drugs.”

The cycle lasted for several years, she said, but eventually, “I got tired of the series of ups and downs, and being stuck in a dead-end job. ... When COVID hit, I decided to get help. I wanted the second half of my life to be as good as the first half had been bad.”

It wasn’t easy, she said, especially “because I realized that a lot of my identity was a trauma response. I’d been living my life on high alert.”

Still, Selwyn persevered. Getting help, she said, “led me to get a lot more involved and showing up in the community at events and getting involved in the community again. Before that, I was kind of off in my own world.”

As time went on, she remembered that childhood dream.

“I decided I wanted to go back to school and help people,” Selwyn said. “More specifically, help heal our people and our families.”

Three years ago, Selwyn’s niece was born and she found herself more determined than ever to pursue her healing path.

“I decided to get into dancing, because I always wished I had an auntie to teach me cultural traditions,” she said. “She was a big part of my commitment. I spent a lot of time taking care of her while her parents were at work. I wanted to be a good example for her. I never wanted to be incapacitated in a way that I couldn’t be there for her.”

A nephew has since joined the family, and Selwyn said being an aunt to the children “is the best part of my life.”

As she graduates from George Fox University and turns 38 in the same month, while also starting her career as the director of the Buffalo-

Boy Center, Selwyn said, she feels as though she’s following “a sacred calling.” The center is named for Debra BuffaloBoy, a member of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Nation. She is a prominent member of the Indigenous addiction recovery field who serves on the board of Painted Horse Recovery.

The BuffaloBoy center is crucial for other Native Americans who want to extricate themselves from a life of drinking and drugs, Selwyn said, because there are few culturally based services available. All employees must be Native American and have lived experience with addiction, Selwyn said.

“They actually reached out to me,” she said, to offer the director position. “I do know the founder from back in the day – party days, those younger, not-so-healthy versions of ourselves. And he knows the journey I’ve been on.”

Selwyn said she had planned to go to graduate school next but decided the job wasn’t one she could pass up.

“It felt like a sacred calling,” she

said. “It’s a large responsibility to be in this position in this organization and I was always taught that when a sacred calling comes along, you answer it, so long as you understand the responsibility and have what it takes to answer it. And I believe that even without experience, I can be successful at this. It aligns perfectly with my vision and values and wanting to serve my people.”

The center so far has two peer mentors to serve clients. Eventually, Selwyn said, the plan is to expand the center to add counseling services. She said she still plans to go to grad school part-time so that she can eventually become a counselor.

In addition to mentoring services, the center will offer community events and cultural activities such as classes in drum making, regalia making and dancing. It will also offer 12-step meetings.

The BuffaloBoy Center is located at 1800 State St. in Salem. To reach the center, call 503-810-5281, visit www.paintedhorserecovery.org or walk in. ■

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. ■

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nicholas.oldenbourg@grandronde.org



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. ■

smok signalz offering fast email subscription

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Why would you want to do that? The PDF version is available before the newspaper is sent to our printing contractor in Salem. You can read the paper on your computer or print out a copy of individual pages yourself. And you will receive Tribal news much faster than the current standard mailing utilized by the Tribe.

If you would like to receive an emailed PDF version of smok signalz and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your email to esubscription@grandronde.org. Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■



It's never too late to heal from addiction.

Have a courageous spirit. Reach out now, for you and your children.

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. ■



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.

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Competition for grants grows as a result of federal funding cuts

COMMUNITY FUND continued from front page

marked an overall funding total to date of \$103.2 million and 3,482 grants.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy told the assembled guests that the grants “are not about giving back” but are rather a continuation of the Tribe’s ancient cultural practice of potlatch. Kennedy gave a brief history of the Tribe, following a prayer and welcome drum song by Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Toby McClary, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Kathleen George also attended the ceremony.

Community Fund Executive Director Angie Sears told the audience that because of federal funding cuts, competition for the grants has grown so intense that the fund was only able to fill 9% of the large grant requests and 13% of the small grant requests.

Grace Center for Adult Day Services Community Outreach Coordinator Cassie Cruz told the audience that her agency offers respite care for adults with neurocognitive disorders and those in rehabilitation, with the goal of enabling adults to remain in their homes for as long as possible. It received a \$50,000 grant.

One of the center’s goals is to provide culturally appropriate care, Cruze said, as adults with dementia and related disorders react best to the smells, sounds and languages of their youth. She recalled a woman who had grown up in Haiti, saying that “just having hibiscus tea and some simple foods that we could make brought this woman alive.”

The center also runs a support



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Assistance League of Salem-Keizer’s Toni Phipps speaks about the nonprofit during the Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s fourth-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Dec. 10.

group for caregivers, led by a certified therapist. Cruze said helps them to learn coping techniques from each other and to feel less isolated.

The Assistance League of Salem-Keizer works to meet critical needs of low-income children as part of Operation School Bell. It received a grant of \$7,500.

Representative Toni Phipps told the audience that the all-volunteer league makes about 50% of its operating funds by operating two thrift shops. It uses the funds to purchase clothing and shoes for children in the school district, a number of whom are homeless. It also offers grants to teachers to help them purchase specialty items for their classrooms.

“This grant will help us so much in being able to meet the needs of our community,” Phipps said.

After presenting the grant awards, the Community Fund drew names

in a raffle, presenting beaded necklaces to representatives from the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon TRIO Association and the Grace Center. It presented a Tribal blanket to McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity.

The fund awarded 11 large grants totaling \$585,000 to the following organizations:

- Domestic Violence Resource Center Inc., Washington County, for domestic violence survivor legal fund, \$50,000;
- Elevate Oregon, Multnomah County, for culturally responsive mentoring; empower-

ing diverse youth to success, \$50,000;

- Grace Center for Adult Day Services, Benton County, for dementia and post-rehab care with counseling and support group services, \$50,000;
- Juliette’s House, Yamhill County, for Juliette’s House Year of Hope, \$50,000;
- Liberty House, Marion County, for trauma-focused therapy for children and families, \$50,000;
- Ophelia’s Place, Lane County, for youth empowerment program to promote safe school environments, \$50,000;
- Oregon Coast Aquarium, Lincoln County, for Sis-Xa Xwee-Nish Marine Wildlife Center, \$100,000;
- The Arc of Lane County, Lane County, for Arc Park, a play destination for children of all abilities, \$100,000;
- Water Watch of Oregon, Multnomah County, for protecting and restoring water and river flows in the Willamette Basin, \$25,000;
- Yamhill Community Care, Yamhill County, for social-emotional learning programs, \$35,000;
- Yamhill County CASA, Yamhill County, for expanding capacity, \$25,000.

The fund awarded nine small grants, totaling \$63,750 to the following organizations:


- Assistance League of Salem-Keizer, Marion County, for meet-

ing critical needs of low-income children, Operation School Bell, \$7,500;

- Bridgeworks Oregon, Marion County, for Pony Express Journal, Best Issue 2025, \$3,750;
 - McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity, Yamhill County, for 2025 townhouse build, \$7,500;
 - Northwest Alliance for Alternative Media and Education, Multnomah County, for building out new space and program to serve underserved populations, \$7,500;
 - Nuu-da’ Mv-ne’, Lincoln County, for Nuu-wee-ya’, Nuu-da’-ye’: Creating a Dv-ne Cultural Action fund, \$7,500;
 - Oregon Health and Education Collaborative, Lane County, for deepening innovation, \$7,500;
 - Oregon TRIO Association, Multnomah County, for sustaining educational equity in Oregon, \$7,500;
 - Rahab’s Sisters, Multnomah County, for operational support for access to holistic health care, \$7,500;
 - Street Roots, Multnomah County, for year one of operating support for showers and laundry, \$7,500.
- Eight Tribal grants totaling \$799,159 were awarded to the following Tribes:

- Burns-Paiute Tribe, for gathering center solar installation, \$100,000;
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, for Culture is Prevention, \$100,000;
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, for STAHS – Sustaining Culture and Community, \$100,000;
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, for community safety and policing project, \$99,159;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, for its Txtayma Food Truck Park, phase two, \$100,000;
- Coquille Indian Tribe, for Coquille Indian Tribe properties comprehensive assessment, \$100,000;
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, for renewal of the museum’s permanent exhibit and support for Camp Naimuma, \$100,000;
- The Klamath Tribes, for public safety infrastructure, \$100,000. ■

Now Accepting Applications



ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

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- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

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ALISHA.PARKSSHELL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

If level of need and/or safety concerns at time of admission exceed a Level 2 Classification as defined by Oregon Department of Health Services OAR 411-049-0125, the applicant will be notified of Ineligibility

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 ■

Oregon Tribal Student Grant applications open for 2026-27

Oregon Tribal members attending college, who need money for the 2026-27 academic year are invited to apply for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant. This program is expected to pay for most or all public college-related expenses — including tuition, housing, books and other costs not covered by other grants — for eligible Oregon Tribal students. It can be applied toward undergraduate or graduate study at Oregon public colleges and universities as well as eligible private non-profit institutions, where award amounts can go up to the public institution maximum level. After all federal and state grants and scholarships have been applied, the Oregon Tribal Student Grant can be used toward the remaining average cost of attendance.

To be eligible for the program students must be an enrolled member of one of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an Oregon college or university, and have a valid FAFSA or ORSAA for the 2026-27 academic year. Additional eligibility information can be found on the Oregon Tribal Student Grant website.

For more information, call 541-509-7624 or email PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov. ■

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. ■

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Mallory Harman, LAc



Ellisia B. Grove, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc



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



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Scheduled Appointments Only
Monday
Tuesday

Walk-In Day
Thursday

To schedule an appointment:
Call (503) 879-1424 or
CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org



APPLY BY 1/31/26



Apply online at nnacoe.org/tribal-health-scholars

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

Tribal Health Scholars is a paid externship program that supports and inspires AIAN high school students to envision themselves as healthcare professionals.

The program features 10 weeks of virtual courses and 10 hours of clinical shadowing at local tribal health clinics or hospitals.

Scholars from our partner communities, as well as from any Tribes in the Pacific Northwest, are encouraged to apply.

Presented by





NAYA Family Center

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

Open Positions

Resident Services Manager

\$72-76K/yr

Early Childhood Coordinator/ Site Director

\$65K/yr

Family Shelter Advocate (On Call)

\$28-30/hr

Domestic Violence Community Advocate

\$27/hr

Alcohol & Drug Specialist

\$25-27/hr

Youth Housing Advocate

\$22-25/hr

Foster Care Support Specialist

\$24+/hr



All jobs are located in Portland or Vancouver.

Visit nayapdx.org/jobs to learn more.

11/18/25




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

Text JOIN to
(971) 318-3459



Raya Renee Bobb
Nov. 6, 2025
8 pounds, 1 ounce,
20 inches long
Proud Parents:
Wilson and Taylor Bobb
Grandparents: Billy and Shawn
Bobb, Launa Ottele
Great-grandparents:
Steve and Connie Bobb






Jane Marie Bobb
Nov. 6, 2025
8 pounds, 15 ounces, 21.75 inches
Proud parents:
Brenon and Cheyanne Bobb
Grandparents: Steve Bobb Jr.
and Stephanie Bobb,
Greg Kier and Heather Wolf
Great-grandparents:
Steve and Connie Bobb

COMMUNITY HEALTH

ELDER JUSTICE

Do you feel respected as an elder?

Studies show that a significant amount of Native American Elders (one in three) are actively experiencing physical, emotional, spiritual, sexual, and/or financial maltreatment/abuse/disrespect




nsayka munk-kintoks nsayka ulman tilixam
“we respect/honor our elders”


If you or someone you know is experiencing disrespect and would like support, make a confidential report by calling
503-879-SAFE

Follow up and support will be completed by the Community Health Elder Justice Coordinator

Isla Jean Ryan
Nov. 2, 2025
Parents: Patrick and Abigail
Brothers: Declan and Reece
Grandparents: Billy
and Shawn Bobb
Great-grandparents:
Steve and Connie Bobb



Happy birthday!
Happy first birthday
Ivory Salal!
Love, mom, dad
Ronan and Willow



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



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.

Kick the Habit.

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





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

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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

SCAN, CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO
PHONE: 503-879-2039
EMAIL: AUDRA.SHERWOOD@GRANDRONDE.ORG



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



JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



Apply online at: www.grandronde.org

CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Assistant Teacher – Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	12/15/2025
Care Coordinator – Sheridan - GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	12/15/2025
CFS Caseworker - Portland	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	12/15/2025
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Clinical Manager – Salem - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Early Childhood Education	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Salem - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	12/15/2025
Cook – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	12/15/2025
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	12/15/2025
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	12/15/2025
Groundskeeper	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	12/15/2025
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time (Variable Shifts)	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Part Time & On-Call (Variable Shifts)	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full Time, Part Time & On-Call - Grave	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Maintenance & Safety Technician Supervisor – Salem - GCR	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	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.	Until Filled
Nursing Supervisor - Salem Detox - GCR	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/yr.	Until Filled
Peer Support Specialist - Behavioral Health	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	12/15/2025
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Physician – Salem - GCR	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	12/15/2025
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – Salem - GCR	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	12/15/2025
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
School Administration Coordinator – Limited Duration	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Senior Lead Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Single Role Paramedic	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	12/15/2025
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

- Grand Ronde Tribal members.
(Qualified Grand Ronde Tribal members who show they meet the minimum qualifications of the position during the course of the screening and interview process will be given first consideration for hire and the recruitment process will end)
- Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children & current regular Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde employees.
- External candidates including current Spirit Mountain Casino employees.



POSTING TITLE

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Amore-Buspersion (*Part-Time)	12/11/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Barista (*Part-Time)	12/11/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Count Operations Attendant I	12/11/2025	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Count Operations Attendant II	12/11/2025	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Kitchen Steward (*Part-Time)	12/11/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	12/11/2025	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Room Chef Banquet/Production	12/11/2025	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Room Chef Outlets/Sports Bar	12/11/2025	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Bar Porter	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
Count Operations Technician III	Until Filled	\$25.45/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.	✓ Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.	✓ 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.



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!


Checks, cash or money orders only please: Make payable to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Memo: Editorial Board
Please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

FREE SHIPPING!		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X-LARGE	3X-LARGE	4X-LARGE
PULL OVER HOODIE (BLACK)	\$35							
ZIP-UP HOODIE (BLACK)	\$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (GRAY)	\$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (TEAL)	\$35							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (NAVY)	\$35							Not Available
T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC	\$15	Sold Out	Sold Out		Sold Out	Sold Out		
T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT GRAPHIC	\$15							
T-SHIRT (GRAY) FRONT GRAPHIC	\$15							
T-SHIRT (TEAL) FRONT GRAPHIC	\$15							
T-SHIRT (NAVY) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC	\$15							Not Available


TRUCKER CAP \$15		BEANIES \$15		PATCHES \$5		STICKERS \$1	
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Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Saturday, November 1

- A hit-and-run occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, November 2

- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a warrant in the Sheridan area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash in the Willamina area.

Monday, November 3

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic call in Willamina.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Domestic disturbance occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Tuesday, November 4

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a found juvenile at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, November 5

- A domestic call was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with 911 hangup calls at the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A disturbance was reported at Oaken Hills Drive in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a potentially suicidal subject in Sheridan.

Thursday, November 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency with CPR in progress at the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash that occurred at Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- A warrant arrest occurred at Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- A hit-and-run was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance that occurred at the 26000 block of Joe Day Way.

Friday, November 7

- Citizen contact occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, November 8

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance that occurred at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, November 9

- A sex offense was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Possible elder abuse was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, November 10

- A welfare check occurred at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Found property was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, November 11

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Underage drinking was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, November 12

- There were no calls that included addresses or landmarks.

Thursday, November 13

- Officers contacted an emotionally disturbed person over the phone at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Friday, November 14

- An arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A deer versus automobile crash occurred at the 8000 block of Hebo Road.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, November 15

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a possible physical domestic assault.

- Officers responded to a reported possible intoxicated driver at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18.

Sunday, November 16

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic assault that occurred in Willamina.
- A loose dog was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, November 17

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with serving an eviction notice.
- Officers assisted an owner with a vehicle at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 48000 block of Eagle Loop.

Tuesday, November 18

- A crash occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 22.
- Vehicle theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 46000 block of Lachance Road.

Wednesday, November 19

- Officers contacted a vehicle parked at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 22 near milepost 1.

Thursday, November 20

- Officers gave a courtesy transport to three individuals stranded on the highway.
- Officers were dispatched to a possible physical domestic assault that occurred in a vehicle and the male party was arrested for kidnapping and harassment.

Friday, November 21

- No calls were reported with addresses or landmarks.

Saturday, November 22

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance at the 23000 block of Yamhill River Road.

Sunday, November 23

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a structure fire that occurred by Highway 18 and Jahn Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a possible intoxicated driver heading toward Hebo Road.
- Officers stopped a vehicle in the area of Highway 18B that resulted in an arrest for a crime in a neighboring county.
- A stolen vehicle was found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, November 24

- A welfare check occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a possible overdose of a juvenile in the Sheridan area.
- Theft was reported at the 9600 block of Tilixam Circle.

Tuesday, November 25

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

Wednesday, November 26

- An arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance that occurred in the Willamina area.
- Trespassing and a domestic disturbance were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, November 27

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the area of 47000 block of Hebo Road with a domestic call.

Friday, November 28

- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- A crash occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, November 29

- Trespassing was reported at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driver who was stopped for speeding on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Drugs were reported at the 28600 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, November 30

- Suspicious activity was reported at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers cleared debris from the Highway 18 near milepost 22.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Prommisse Thornley

Acupuncture in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS





Mallory Harman, LAc



Alison Healy, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc

Acupuncture can help with...

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



ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES

Questions or to schedule:

CALL OR TEXT: 503-482-9370

EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com

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. ■

FILED
DEC - 2 2025
TRIBAL COURT

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

In the Matter of:)
CAPELLINO, ANDREA NICOLE)
PETITIONER)

Case No. 25C0019
ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME

Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Name Change filed by Petitioner on November 5, 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 ANDREA NICOLE CAPELLINO to ANDIE NICOLE HARRIS.


☒ 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 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025.

Patrick Melendy

Patrick S Melendy
Chief Judge







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

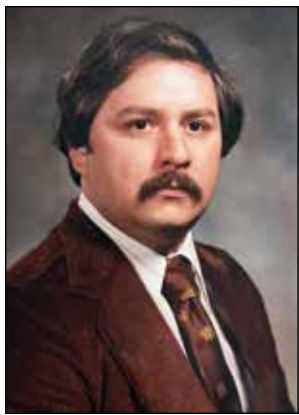
A message in partnership with Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Paid ad

Walking On...

Gerard “Gery” Croy Bolden

Jan. 8, 1949 – Nov. 23, 2025



Tribal Elder Gerald “Gery” Croy Bolden, 76, of Portland, Oregon, passed on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, with his children by his side.

Born in Portland, Gery was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. He was a brilliant young man with smarts that turned into wisdom as he mellowed with age. He had a deep sense of curiosity, always seeking new experiences and found joy in sharing new foods, places and hobbies with the people he loved.

Gery proudly served his country as a United States Marine and Vietnam veteran. Following his military service, he earned his degree from the University of Portland and went on to spend nearly 30 years with Bonneville Power Administration.

Like his father, Jim Bolden, who passed before him, Gery was passionate about being outdoors. His younger years were spent camping all over Oregon, his later years kept him closer to home but he could often be found picking huckleberries, fishing, crabbing, clamming or just walking along the beach.

Gery’s family and friends will remember him for his boundless curiosity, quick wit, generosity of spirit and his deep love for the people he cared about.

He is survived by his children, Joylyn (Skip) Ankeney and Toby (Georgia) Bolden; grandchildren, George, Ben, Kiera, Maggie and Gabe; mother, June Bolden; girlfriend, Jessie Cousins; sister and brother, Daphne (John Houle) Turner and Del (Kim) Bolden; the cousins he loved like brothers, along with countless friends who became family.

A memorial celebration for Gery’s friends and family will be held at the Sherwood Elks Lodge from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27. Attendees are asked to RSVP to Toby and Joylyn at AnkeneyRSVP@gmail.com or via text to 503-970-4918.

We ask that you wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt.

Gery will also be interred at Willamette National Cemetery in a private ceremony for family Monday, Dec. 29.



Thomas Leroy Lachance

May 23, 1939 – Dec. 3, 2025

Tribal Elder Thomas Leroy Lachance passed away Dec. 3, 2025, at the age of 86.

Macy & Son Funeral Directors is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Charles Henry Taylor

April 11, 1960 – Nov. 20, 2025

Tribal Elder Charles Henry Taylor passed away Nov. 20, 2025, at the age of 65.

Legends Tri County Funeral Home in Seguin, Texas, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Janet Yvonne Taggart

July 10, 1947 – Nov. 28, 2025

Tribal Elder Janet Yvonne Taggart passed away Nov. 28, 2025, at the age of 78.

Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 12, at the Tribal gym, with a meal that followed at the Elders Activity Center.

Bollman’s Tribute Center is assisting the family. There will be a full obituary in the Jan. 1 edition.

David Arnold Leno

Oct. 27, 1942 – Dec. 5, 2025


Tribal Elder David Arnold Leno passed away Dec. 5, 2025, at the age of 83.


A viewing will be held from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, at Bollman’s Tribute Center.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 19, at the Tribal gym followed by a meal at the Elders Activity Center.

Bollman’s Tribute Center is assisting the family.

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.




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.





DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY/ADVANCED DIRECTIVE CLINIC

WHEN:
FRIDAY...
FEBRUARY 20TH, 2026
9AM-4PM
WHERE:
ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER

SIGN UP AT ELDER CENTER OR

CALL * 503-879-2145 * 503-8792233



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Attention pharmacy locker users

The pharmacy department has a policy regarding perishable items that are placed in the lockers. In an effort to ensure that these medications are stored properly, items left in a locker for more than 48 hours will be overnighted free of charge to the patient’s address on file. Patients who leave perishable items in the lockers beyond 48 hours will also be restricted from having refrigerated items placed in the lockers for six months. Pick up or mail delivery options are available for these items during that time.

Now accepting new residents

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

We are proud to welcome new residents to chaku tush tæmtæm 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



Holiday loneliness

The holiday season often brings bright lights, fun gatherings and happy faces. But if you’re feeling lonely or disconnected during this time, you are not alone.

Why loneliness can hit during the holidays

- There may be fewer visits, travel may be hard or old family traditions might have changed.
- Big expectations: We often see images of perfect family celebrations and that can make us feel like we’re missing out.
- The weather and shorter days can bring on a low mood for many people.

How to support yourself or others

- Reach out and connect
 - Call or video chat with someone you trust — a friend, family member or neighbor. Just “Hi, how are you?” can go a long way.
 - Write a letter, send a card or use social media to say you’re thinking of someone. Small gestures matter.
- Be kind to yourself
 - It’s okay to feel lonely or sad — those feelings are real and valid.
 - Do something you enjoy: Read a book, take a walk, watch a movie you like. It doesn’t have to be big.
- Volunteer or help someone else
 - Helping others gives you connection and purpose. It also reminds you that you are part of something larger.
 - Even small things count: Drop off a card, make a phone call, offer a ride.
- Watch for signs you may need extra support
 - If loneliness turns into sadness that lasts many days or you stop doing things you used to enjoy, you could benefit from talking with a professional.
- Invite them
 - Ask if they’d like to join you for something low key — a walk, a coffee, a movie. The invite itself shows you care.
- Know when it’s more than loneliness
 - If you notice serious changes (sleep, eating, mood) help steer them toward talking with a health professional. You matter. Your feelings matter. Even when things feel hard, small steps can create meaning. If you or someone you know is feeling really down or unsafe, please reach out for help — you don’t have to face it alone.

Vitamin b12 Shots

Now Offered at GRHWC Public Health



What is Vitamin B12?
Vitamin B12 is a water-soluble vitamin that helps us make red blood cells, supports our nerve cells, and helps keep our heart and blood vessels healthy. We get B12 from animal-based foods like meat, eggs, and dairy, as well as fortified foods where B12 is added such as cereals and beverages.

Low B12 levels can cause fatigue, numbness, tingling, memory issues, muscle weakness, and depressed mood. B12 can be low in those eating vegan/vegetarian diets, older adults, those with digestive issues, or those taking medications such as metformin or proton pump inhibitors.



B12 helps keep our heart and blood vessels healthy.



Low B12 levels can cause fatigue, numbness, tingling, memory issues, muscle weakness.



Generally, side-effects are uncommon, often mild, and usually resolve within a few days of treatment.

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center Public Health

Call Us to make an appointment
(503) 879-6701

Disclaimer: Most insurance companies will cover your B-12 shot.



Opioid Medication Education

Opioid medications may help some people manage pain and improve their daily function. Your provider may prescribe them for a short period of time or long-term use depending on your health condition. Opioids can be used safely under close medical supervision.

Possible side effects of opioid medications include:

- Slowed or difficult breathing
- Slow heart rate
- Confusion
- Constipation
- Excess sweating
- Dizziness or drowsiness
- Nausea
- Difficulty urinating
- Impaired judgement
- Vomiting
- Physical or psychological dependence

There are possible adverse effects of opioid medications that are potentially dangerous. Our medical providers at Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center consider your safety and health their top priority. Long-term prescribing of opioids requires a Pain Medication Agreement that is signed annually. This provides education as well as controlled medication rules to keep you safe. We also have Narcan available that is used to reverse the effects of a potential life-threatening opioid emergency.

Controlled medication rules include:

- Taking your medication only as prescribed with no early refills.
- The use of only one pharmacy and to notify your provider of any pharmacy changes.
- Tell your provider about all other medications you are taking.
- Store your medications safely as lost or stolen medications will not be replaced.
- Avoid alcohol, street drugs, or medications not prescribed to you.
- Agree to random drug testing.
- Contact your doctor in emergencies and report any additional pain medication if prescribed by another provider.

Opioid pain medication may be stopped if:

- You misuse, share, or sell your medication.
- You fail a drug test or refuse to provide a urine sample.
- You miss a lot of scheduled appointments or break the pain medication agreement.
- Your provider determines the risks outweigh the benefits of taking opioid medication.



GRAND RONDE HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

NEW YEAR'S EVE

sobriety Lunch & Movie



Come join the Youth Empowerment & Prevention team for an unforgettable New Year's Eve lunch & Movie filled with laughter, family, and community.
All the information you need will be in the QR code below.



WE WILL HAVE 10 FAMILY RAFFLES , AND 5 YOUTH RAFFLES (FOR AGES 10-24). EVERYONE WILL GET A RAFFLE TICKET.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED, EVERY CHILD AGES 9 AND UNDER WILL GET A SNACK VOUCHER: POPCORN, SODA, AND A FRUIT SNACK. EVERY PERSON AGES 10 AND UP WILL GET A CONCESSION STAND GIFT CARD.



31 DECEMBER 2025

Doors open at 12pm, check in, get your gift cards, and raffle, and pizza.

REGAL SANTIAM STADIUM 11

365 Lancaster dr.
Salem, Ore. 97317

THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY & CULTURE BY NOT DISPLAYING GANG AFFILIATION AND BY NOT BRINGING DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR WEAPONS TO THIS EVENT.