



Tribal artists featured — pg. 6

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## General Council briefed on Economic and Lands Department

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Economic and Lands Director Jan M. Reibach briefed Tribal members during the first General Council meeting of 2026 Sunday, Jan. 4, held at the Governance Center and on Zoom.



Jan M. Reibach

As previously reported in Smoke Signals, Reibach took responsibility for the Economic Development program in June 2025, becoming the Economic and Lands Director. He said that the lands team is ready to manage the program as he has been working with economic development centered projects since 1997 and the lands department has been involved in several large Tribal projects.

Now called EcDev, it functions as a program within the Tribal Lands Department with the goals of "improving efficiencies, better aligning with the Tribe's economy and increasing operational effectiveness."

Part of revamping the EcDev program included updating the Tribal website, [grandronde.org/government/economic-development-program/](http://grandronde.org/government/economic-development-program/), to include a new description, mission statement, project highlights, transportation projects, conservation property recovery statistics and the Tribe's community development plan, Grand Ronde 2033.

The presentation was held in executive session, which limits how

See MEETING continued on page 3

JANUARY 15, 2026

# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA • MOLALLA • ROGUE RIVER • KALAPUYA • CHASTA

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE • [smokesignals.org](http://smokesignals.org)

## Smart vendor

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

The Tribe's Public Health department is embarking on a new project, as part of its expansion of new programs and services — this one offering health aids and information from a "smart" vending machine that went into service in early December.

Users may obtain dental kits for both adults and children, pulse oximeters, smoking cessation kits, naloxone kits, condoms and lubricant, firearm safety locks, first-aid kits and feminine hygiene kits, for free, from the machine, located in the vestibule of the Community Center on the Tribal campus.

In addition, they may watch an educational video on how to use naloxone or send it to their phone for later viewing and look up the locations of services such as dental clinics or drug and alcohol treatment. All items are free. Although users are asked to create an account, it does not require identifying information.

Tribal Public Health Manager Christa Hosley and Tribal Public Health Coordinator Sachen Lampert, who spent much of the last year putting the program together and designing the presentation for the vending machine, said they hope to use data collected about which items are being used most heavily, and by what age groups, to refine the offerings and determine whether additional education

See VENDING continued on page 10

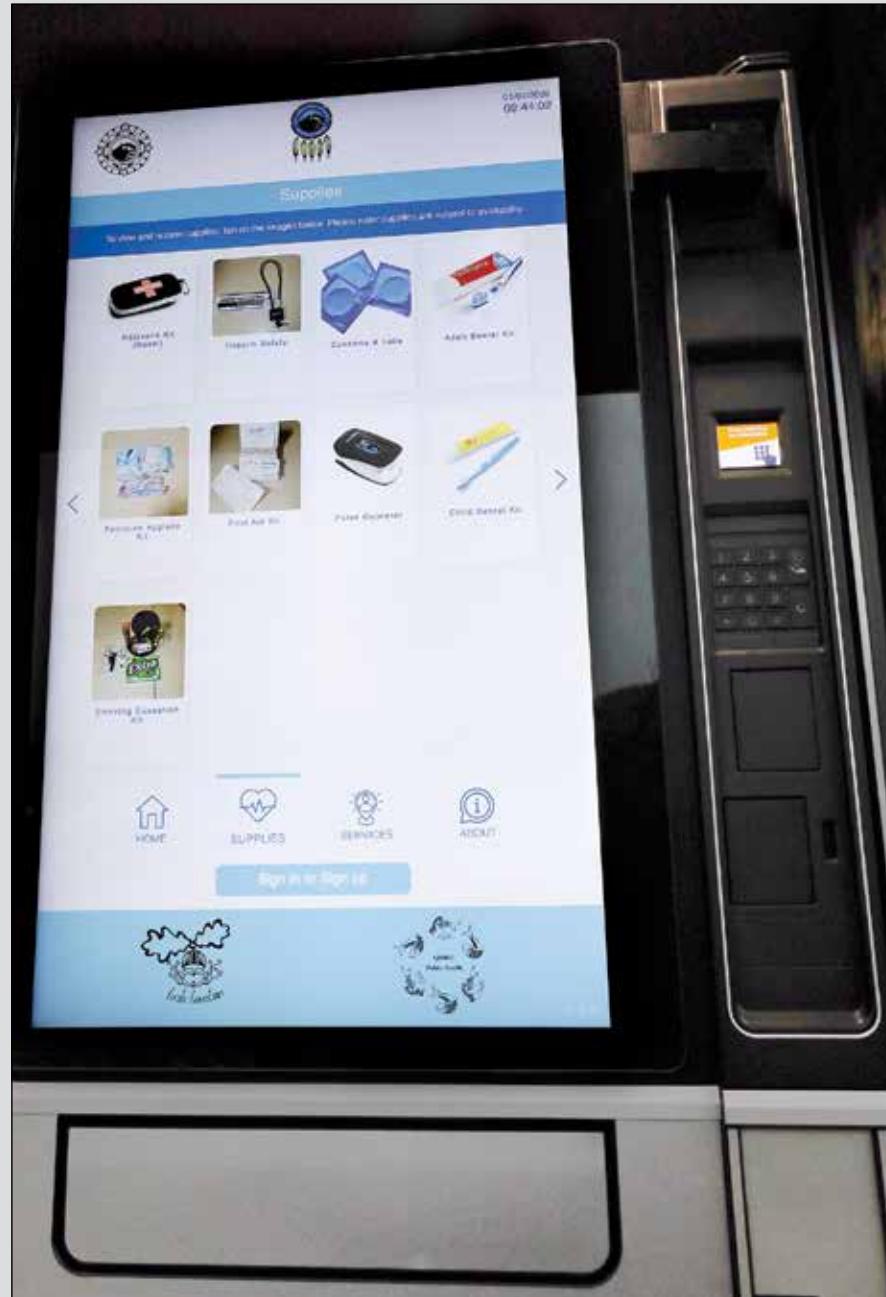


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**The Tribe recently placed a smart vending machine at the Tribal Community Center. It offers a variety of free health promotion items, such as dental kits for adults and children, first aid kits and feminine hygiene products. It's also a navigation tool for healthcare, community, housing, food and substance use support within a 50-mile radius, including resources the Tribe offers.**

## Tribal member completes Honolulu marathon

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

As Tribal member Marianne Blanchard tackled her final miles of the Honolulu Marathon Sunday, Dec. 14, the heat and humidity began to hit hard.

Her walking partner had just left the race after 20 miles, so Blanchard was on her own for the remaining 6.2 miles, often the most challenging of any marathon due to exhaustion, cramping, dehydration and other issues.

"I looked at the sky, it's overcast, trying to be stormy and I said, 'Veronica, I need the same weather I trained in at home for this event,'" she said. "I'm not kidding, it started

pouring down rain those last six miles until I crossed the finish line."

She completed the marathon in eight hours, 31 minutes and 25 seconds.

Blanchard, 37, had spent the better part

See MARATHON continued on page 9

**Tribal member Marianne Blanchard displays a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde flag after completing the Honolulu Marathon in Honolulu, Hawaii, Sunday Dec. 14, with a time of 8 hours, 31 minutes and 25 seconds on the 26.2-mile course.**



Contributed photo

## General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 1

Monarch Hotel & Convention Center,  
12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas

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, Jan. 28	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11	4 p.m.

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

## 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.

The leasing application is on the Tribal webpage, [www.grandronde.org](http://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. ■

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

## STORY IDEAS?

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

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



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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## smok signəlz

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### DEADLINE DATE    ISSUE DATE

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Friday, Jan. 23	Feb. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Feb. 5	Feb. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Feb. 19	Mar. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Mar. 5	Mar. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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# IN THE FUTURE



(k<sup>h</sup>apa ałqi)

## ixt-mun (January)

- Monday, Jan. 19 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Thursday, Jan. 22 – Pajama Jam, 5-7 p.m., Tribal gym.
- Wednesday, Jan. 28 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.

## makwst-mun (February)

- Sunday, Feb. 1 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Monarch Hotel & Convention Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, Feb. 11 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Monday, Feb. 16 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 – 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](http://www.smokesignals.org/calendar).**

## Gas discount in Grand Ronde

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount. ■

**Find us on** 

**OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES**

**Smoke Signals:** [facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR](https://facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR)

**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:** [facebook.com/CTGRgov](https://facebook.com/CTGRgov)

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**Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:** [facebook.com/CTGRCFS](https://facebook.com/CTGRCFS)

**Grand Ronde Royalty:** [facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty](https://facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty)

**Grand Ronde Education Programs:** [facebook.com/CTGREducation](https://facebook.com/CTGREducation)

**Grand Ronde Youth Council:** [facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil](https://facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil)

**Grand Ronde Station:** [facebook.com/GrandRondeStation](https://facebook.com/GrandRondeStation)

**Grand Ronde Social Services Department:** [facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices](https://facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices)

**Grand Ronde Food Bank:** [facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank](https://facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank)

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund:** [facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund](https://facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund)

**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:** [facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education](https://facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education)

**Grand Ronde Community Garden:** [facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden](https://facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden)

**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:** [facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department](https://facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department)

**Grand Ronde Employment Services**

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

## RABBI TRUST FUND AND MINORS' CUSTODIAL TRUST FUND

This announcement is to inform you of the upcoming election opportunity to recommend an investment option that best suits your tolerance for investment risk. The election deadline is Jan. 16, 2026, and the investment period will be effective from Jan. 31, 2026, until modified.

Recognizing that each Tribal member's tolerance for investment risk may be different, parents of minor members ages 17 or younger having balances in the Rabbi Trust Fund and Minors' Custodial Trust Fund, or members ages 18 or older can recommend that these funds be invested in one out of five possible investment options.

Email [deanne.norton@grandronde.org](mailto:deanne.norton@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-2215 to receive your investment risk assessment recommendation form. This form can also be found at [www.grandronde.org/government/finance/](http://www.grandronde.org/government/finance/) and then clicking on the Rabbi Minor Investment Change Form link. This form is optional and open only to those who participate in the Rabbi and Minors' Custodial Trust funds. ■

## smok signəlz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signəlz?

Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else? In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, smok signəlz electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you're set.

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

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

## Non-executive session portion of meeting can be viewed on website

### MEETING continued from front page

much Smoke Signals can report on the details. It ran approximately 45 minutes. Reibach fielded 11 questions and comments.

Tribal members interested in obtaining the slides of Reibach's presentation should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at [stacia.martin@grandronde.org](mailto:stacia.martin@grandronde.org) or call 503-879-2304.

In other action, the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, on Zoom and

in-person at the Monarch Hotel & Convention Center, 12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas. The program report is to be determined.

Jack Giffen, Jr., Desiree Allen, Richard McKnight, Heather Petite and Joyce Kirk won the \$50 door prizes.

Jamie Smallwood, Josephine Ingraham and Elvin Butler, Sr. won the \$100 door prizes.

The non-executive session portion of the meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

 **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**

# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək' mək 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 January food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider. Contact Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or [fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org](mailto: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 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact [Editorial.Board@grandronde.org](mailto: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](mailto:danielle.harrison@grandronde.org).

## YESTERYEARS | A LOOK BACK...



**2021** — The Tribe had hired Portland resident Jennifer Worth as the operations director for its medication assisted treatment facilities and was preparing to open two clinics that would be the first Tribally owned and operated programs in the state to combat opioid addiction.

**2016** — With Tribal Elder and Police Chief Al LaChance retiring, the Tribe selected Tribal member and Police Sgt. Jake McKnight to take on that role. McKnight and LaChance worked simultaneously in the role for two months before finalizing the handoff. In 2011, the Tribe had reclassified McKnight, formerly working as a forest patrol officer, to a police officer. He attended the state police academy and began setting up the Tribe's first police department, which was then initially headed by LaChance for the first few years.



2016

File photo

**2011** — Tribal members were preparing to dance at the third Gathering of Oregon's First Nations Powwow later in the month. It was originally organized to remind Oregonians that Native peoples inhabited the Pacific Northwest long before statehood.

**2006** — Rain, hail and high winds pounded the West Valley and by early January, the region had received more than 300% of its normal rainfall. Agency Creek was four feet above its usual level, interfering with attempts by Natural Resources to count steelhead passing through its fish weir. However, the downpours also served to help refill depleted reservoirs and aquifers.

**2001** — Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board of Directors Chairman Mike Larsen introduced the casino's new CEO Michael Moore to the General Council.

**1996** — Two-and-a-half months into the casino's operations, Bruce Thomas, president of Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc., gave a report to the General Council, saying the casino was doing well and that a larger percentage of its clientele were from larger areas like Portland and Salem, with a slightly smaller percentage coming from local towns and communities.

**1991** — The senior meal site, worked on by maintenance crew member Greg Leno and his uncle Russ Leno, had been completed and was serving hot lunches to Tribal Elders Tuesday through Thursday.

**1986** — Tribal membership was nearing 1,800, with numerous enrollments still underway.

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



## CALLING ELTERS: KEEP OUR STORIES ALIVE



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

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

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

**WHY JOIN US?**

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

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

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



**CHACHALU**  
Tribal Museum and Cultural Center



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

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

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

# Tribal Council approves 2026 spending plan

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council held its final meeting of 2025 Wednesday, Dec. 31, and approved the 2026 budget.

The meeting was held at 10 a.m. instead of the usual 4 p.m. time, due to administrative leave that afternoon for the New Year's Day holiday.

The Tribal spending plan is \$357.1 million and includes a 11.7% increase from 2025.

During a Tuesday, Dec. 30, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Council members took an opportunity to thank the Tribe's Finance Department for its work on the budget.

"Thank you for all the work you do with your staff, I know it gets hard on the eyes," Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "But we got through it."

Tribal Council member Kathleen George said she wanted to take an opportunity to, "echo some of the good words said earlier."

"I want to thank (Finance Officer) Chris (Leno) and the whole team, and all of our department managers," she said. "For all of our departments, these have been challenging budget evaluations

the past couple years and for good reasons. We've seen tremendous growth in our Tribal government and the services we provide to our members and that's the fruition of work and plans council set in motion in previous years. With that comes cost and, in some cases, new revenues as well. There have been a lot of conversations with council members and with Chris and his team about our need with this level of growth, to really take a good look at that and how we plan intentionally for that growth and manage it in upcoming years."

The 2026 draft budget was mailed to Tribal members in early November in the Tilixam Wawa and Leno briefed the membership on its specifics in executive session during the November General Council meeting.

Adult Tribal members had until Thursday, Dec. 4, to comment on the draft spending plan.

During the Wednesday meeting, Tribal Council member Toby McClary spoke about the approved budget.

"A lot of hard work was put into this budget...and there is a lot of work to do in terms of managing the growth moving forward," he said. "We realize there is going

to be growth. But how we stay in front of that and how we manage that growth moving forward is also going to be very important. I believe we have the right team, both on Tribal Council and our executive leadership, to look at that with a magnifying glass and really work on providing the most benefits and services to the membership and yet maintaining benefits to the employees."

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for Extended Care Professional software, which will be used by the Tribe's Adult Foster Care lodges to replace paper charting;
- Approved agreements between the Great Circle Recovery Clinic pharmacy and pharmacy benefit management companies Humana, OptumRX and Prime Therapeutics, to bill the insurance plans of clients at the Great

Circle Detox Center, which will open this month;

- Approved a \$225,000 professional services agreement with The Herald Group, a Washington D.C. based company that specializes in advocacy and public affairs campaigns. It replaces the agreement that the Tribe had with Gard Communications of Portland;
- And approved enrolling four infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Tribal Council also set the agenda and time for the next General Council meeting. It was held in Tribal Council Chambers at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, in a hybrid format and featured a report in executive session from the Economic and Lands Department.

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



**TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION**

Now accepting new applications

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

**Current vacancies:**

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

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

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

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

**Woman's Gathering**

Plank house

On

January

21<sup>st</sup>

12~1pm

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.

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

**Grand Ronde Culture Committee**

**Craft Class Days 2026** 10AM-4PM – CTGR Community Center

Sunday – January 25th

Sunday – February 22nd

Sunday – March 22nd

Sunday – April 26th

Sunday – May 31st

Sunday – June 28th

Sunday – July 26th

Sunday – August 23rd

Sunday – September 27th

Sunday – October 25th

Sunday – November 11th

Sunday – December 20th

Reach out to the culture committee with questions – **Pamala Warren-Chase** [pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com](mailto:pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com)

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

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

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

# Mercier honored

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Tribal artist Bobby Mercier has been selected to receive a Persona Art Honors award by the curatorial board of the Contemporary Art Station.

He is one of 50 artists selected by the board, for "their capacity to communicate meaningful concepts and narratives through an innovative visual language uniquely their own."

The board selects artists worldwide for the honor.

Mercier, who is also a Tribal cultural advisor, has received a number of artistic awards for his creative endeavors, which include metal sculptures and traditional Chinook woodcarving, which he taught himself, painstakingly, from studying historic

examples of the art style. Today, he and a handful of like-minded carvers strive to keep the ancient and rare style alive.

"Our art form is very rare and connected to who we are as a Native people and where we come from," Mercier wrote for the display page showcasing his work. "It's the story of our history and our bloodlines and our environment all the way back to the beginning of our people. I love to keep this art form alive."

The Contemporary Art Station, founded in Barcelona, Spain, in 2018, installs exhibitions in unusual places, including the back of airplane seats and metro stations, to bring art to the attention of more people around the world. ■



Contributed photo

**Tribal Cultural Advisor and artist Bobby Mercier has been selected to receive a Persona Art Honors award by the curatorial board of the Contemporary Art Station in Barcelona, Spain.**

# Ampkwa Advocacy art exhibit on display in Salem

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Tribal member Amanda Freeman, who has made advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People her passion, has a photography exhibit on display now at the Gretchen Schuette Gallery at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

Ampkwa: munk lush nsayka shawash tilixam, Healing Our Indigenous Relatives, focuses on Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and features numerous Tribal members in the photos, along with models from Tribes in Alaska and Canada, Freeman said.

The exhibit will be available to view through Friday, Feb. 6. There will be a reception and artist talk open to the public at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 28.

Freeman said she hopes to bring more awareness to the issue. "Even a lot of Indigenous people aren't aware, if they didn't grow up on a reservation or have connections to their people," Freeman said. "Also when we say Indigenous, we think Native women, but it's Hispanic women also, or Aztec ... it's something that a lot of people, even if they are in that category, just don't know about."

Freeman said the photos may be emotional for some viewers.

"I like to give a trigger warning sometimes, because they can be emotional or hard to look at," she said. "Everybody I've photographed has somebody in their family who has gone missing or murdered or experiences domestic violence or addiction."

Freeman said she arrived her advocacy work "by showing up." This includes sitting with families, helping search and being present when cases slow down and urgency fades.

"Watching how quickly attention drops once a case is labeled inactive or exhausted changes how you understand disappearance," she said.



Photo courtesy of Amanda Freeman

**Tribal member Amanda Freeman has an art exhibit honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous People at the Gretchen Schuette Gallery at Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Photographs by Freeman are featured in the exhibit, including this one of Tribal Elder Toni Quenelle.**

"It becomes clear that loss does not end when systems slow down. It continues for families who are left waiting."

She continued, "Photography became the way I could respond to what I was witnessing without turning people into symbols, statistics or stories meant to be consumed. It allows Indigenous people to be seen as whole and present. The focus of this work is dignity, relationship and accountability. This exhibit exists because MMIP is ongoing. People are still missing. Families are still waiting. Early decisions still shape whether someone is ever brought home. Silence still gets mistaken for closure. This work is not meant to shock or explain. It is meant to stay with people."

The Gretchen Schuette Gallery is located 400 Lancaster Drive NE. For more information, contact 503-399-2533. ■



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

*Eligibility Requirements*

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

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

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

## New law will enable Tribes to report disease outbreaks

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

A new law taking effect this month will allow the Oregon Health Authority to enter agreements with federally recognized Tribes and Tribal epidemiology centers “to allow the Tribe or center to accept reports of reportable disease and investigate cases of reportable diseases.”

The difference will be significant, according to Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek had asked the state legislature to approve the law and signed it in June 2025. It went into effect Jan. 1. During the government-to-government summit in October 2025, Kotek held a second, ceremonial signing. Rowe spoke at the summit as well, telling Kotek and the assembled dignitaries that “Instead of relying on county or state agencies, with the passing of SB 841, the nine Tribes of Oregon, in collaboration with the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, can now choose to enter into agreements

with the Oregon Health Authority Public Health division.”

She continued, “The agreements are to investigate reportable diseases in our communities and access information to complete investigations similar to the processes we had in place during the pandemic. At Grand Ronde, we have a health system founded on trust, relationships, excellent healthcare and good medicine, so we can go into our own community to do these investigations where people know us and we know them. Familiar faces get more replies and faster responses, which can stop disease spread and save lives. We can monitor disease outbreaks and intervene quickly.”

In an email to Smoke Signals, Rowe said the bill “also provides for data sharing agreements between the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center and the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, so further research and education can be conducted on the opioid epidemic that plagues Tribal communities. The is-

sues with racial misclassification or lack of data access are significant, so this access will provide important information for the (NTEC) and the nine Tribes.”

She said the bill “is an excellent expression of self-governance by supporting our ability to do what is right for Grand Ronde and it respects Tribal sovereignty by protecting the health of our community. The collaboration between the Tribes and the Oregon Health Authority to implement real time disease reporting directed by the Tribes strengthens our public health system — something we are continuously seeking to improve.”

Other Tribes in Oregon also expect the bill to be beneficial.

The Confederated Tribes of the

Umatilla testified in a letter to the Legislature that its Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center “is one of only two Tribal health clinics that currently has the infrastructure to accept reports and investigate our reportable disease cases.”

However, the letter said, “We are limited by lack of access, jurisdiction and data parameters that do not serve Tribal public health programs. Our current data is skewed based on testing location, county decision making and state software. SB841 is the first step in providing more comprehensive communicable disease data to the Tribes, which would allow us to better plan for short-term and long-term public health programming and workforce development.” ■

## ECE Winter Celebration



Contributed photo

**Early Childhood Education students visit with Santa Claus, aka Tribal member Billy Bobb, and his elf, aka Shawn Bobb, a family educator for ECE, during their annual Winter Celebration in the Tribal gym Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. ECE Pre-K Lead Teacher Josh Biery served as the emcee, while Tribal Youth Education Program Academic Coach George Neujahr delighted children by reading “Native American Night Before Christmas” with students joining him on stage. Families and students sang “tush khlisməs,” created crafts and joined in fun reindeer games.**

### ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

Two alternate board member positions open.

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

**For information contact:**  
Shannon Ham-Teixeira • 503-879-2301  
shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

**NEW SIGN AT THE HWC**

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

**PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ONLY**

**NO PARKING**

## Tribal school can now apply to become a public charter school

By Katherine Warren  
Smoke Signals staff member

With the new year underway, Shawash-ili?i Skul Adminstrator Justine Flynn, with approval from Tribal Council, will now be able to apply for the school to become a charter school.

This is due to the passage of House Bill 3953, which allows federally recognized Tribes to ask the State Board of Education directly to be the sponsor for a public charter school. Previously, Tribes had to work through a local school district.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Tawna Sanchez of Portland, at the request of Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Flynn said that first she must send a letter of intent to the Willamina School District 45 days before submitting the application. Once the application is submitted, the State Board of Education will have 180 days to review it. She said the board is confident it will have the ability to review the

application quickly, so the Tribe could potentially receive approved funding before the 2026-27 school year. Funding will still have to flow though the school district before going to the Tribe, but Flynn said she hopes this is a temporary situation.

"We (the Tribe) have been very candid with the state that we will continue to push to make changes within that legislation that allows us the autonomy we would like to operate the charter school," she said.

Currently, the Tribe will have to negotiate with the state board as well as the school district. However, if the Tribe and the school district can't come to an agreement, then the board would step in to help with negotiations.

Flynn said she believes the Tribe needs to ask for the ability to have federally recognized Tribes act as their own sponsors.

"The sponsorship has to do with the oversight, legalities, auditing and things like that," she said. "We have the ability to do all of that

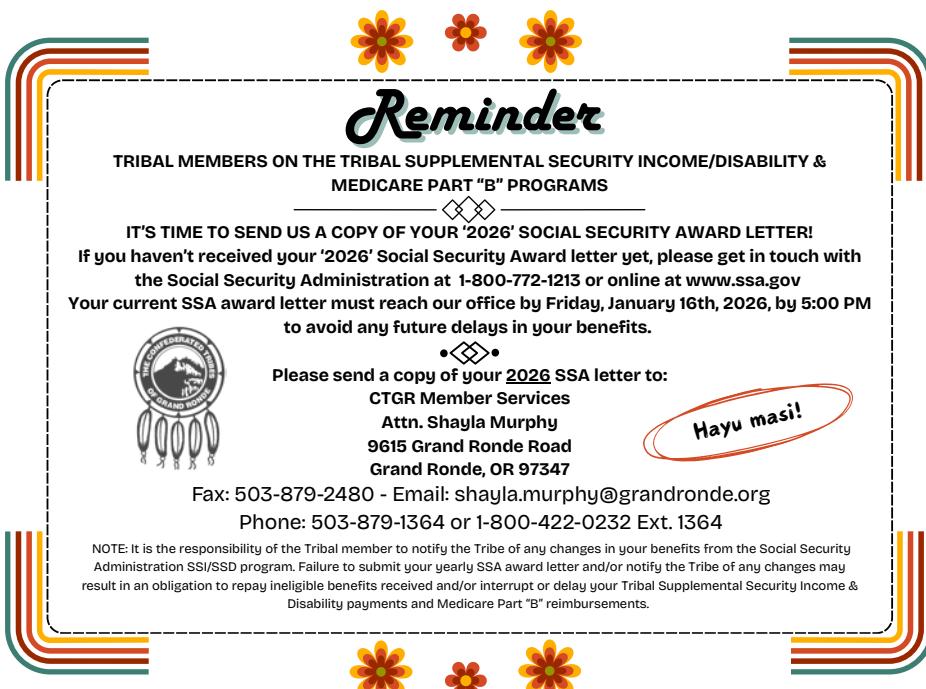
stuff internally, so legislation needs to support that."

Once the charter school is approved, the district will allocate state per-student funding to it, for each of its students. However, the Tribe will have to negotiate a percentage rate with both the state for its oversight and with the school district, so it will not receive the full amount. However, Flynn said, she hopes to reduce the allocation the school receives from the Tribe by \$300,000 the first year. In the second year, she said, she hopes to reduce the allocation from the Tribe by \$500,000.

As the school grows, Flynn said,

so will the amount allocated to it by the state. She said her proposal to Tribal Council included a three-year expansion, with additional money coming in from the state each year, to decrease the amount needed from the Tribal budget.

By year three, she hopes to have the school offering full-time kindergarten through fifth grade, with the state funding \$700,000 annually, and the Tribe funding \$800,000. Most of the Tribe's portion, she said, will go to supporting the language nest, which includes two early childhood language classrooms offering immersive chinuk wawa and cultural education. ■



**ELDERS LIVING WITH  
LONELINESS  
IN ADULT FOSTER CARE**

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

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- 3-week course - some type of construction experience is preferred
- Must be 18 years of age and enrolled in the TERO skills pool
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Simulated Training - Tribal Campus/SMC: February 17 - February 27, 2026

Land Lab Training - Albany: March 2-6, 2026

Register for training by calling 503-879-2146 or email [tero@grandronde.org](mailto:tero@grandronde.org)

# Goodbye doc



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Dr. Randy Blome, middle, is presented a Pendleton Tribal blanket by Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, left, and Tribal Council member Toby McClary during Blome's retirement party at the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Monday, Dec. 29. He had been a physician at the Tribe for eight years. His last day was Dec. 30, 2025.**

## Reading volunteers needed

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

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

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

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING...

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## Blanchard grateful for support of the Grand Ronde Tribal community

### MARATHON continued from front page

of a year training for the Honolulu Marathon in honor of her aunt, Tribal Elder Veronica Gaston, who walked on Dec. 4, 2024, just days before she was due to fly out to Hawaii to walk the marathon.

Gaston had been training for much of 2024 and could frequently be seen walking up and down Grand Ronde Road and through the Tribal campus in all kinds of weather. She was motivated to sign up for the marathon after losing more than 100 pounds. She specifically chose Honolulu because it is one of the few races of that distance to keep the course open until every participant crosses the finish line.

"She worked really, really hard," Blanchard said. "It was a freak accident that took her. ... I told her while she was in the hospital, dying, that I would do anything for her. (Later), people in the community kept asking if I was going to do the Honolulu Marathon in her honor, and I said, 'Why not?' It was her destination marathon and she had worked so hard."

Blanchard, who doesn't consider herself an endurance athlete and wondered aloud why people do marathons, began training like it was her job.

"I walked up and down Grand Ronde Road and continued to do that according to how long it would have taken Veronica to complete the distance," she said. "Two weeks before, I walked and jogged 20 miles."

Blanchard said the most challenging part of marathon training was finding the time and the most rewarding part being able to bring the medal home to Grand Ronde.

"Receiving closure was the best part," she said. "I did one last thing for her. I got to finish what she started...I gave her a year and then eight-and-a-half hours of marathon time."

Blanchard is grateful for the support of the Grand Ronde Tribal community.

"I'm thankful for literally everyone in the community," she said. "Jon (George), Cheryle (Kennedy), Chelsea (Clark), so many were cheering me on...The community rallied around me. It was an amazing feeling." ■

## Hotel room rates increase

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. ■

## GIFT MAKING WORKSHOPS

GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY CENTER

Wednesday 01/21 4:00pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday 01/28 11:00am-2:00pm  
Wednesday 02/04 4:00pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday 02/11 11:00am-2:00pm  
Wednesday 02/18 4:00pm-6:30pm  
Wednesday 02/25 11:00am-2:00pm

All are welcome to join us in preparing for our annual Agency Creek Round Dance. We would love your help in making beautiful, handmade gifts for our guests. Materials and a meal will be provided at each session.



## Smart vending service has been a year in the making

### VENDING continued from front page

is needed about specific services.

The service has been a year in the making. Initially, Lampert said, in late 2024, Tribal Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe brought in a flyer she had picked up at an opioid abuse summit about a new smart vending machine that dispensed Narcan, the brand name for naloxone, for treating opioid overdose. Lampert said she and Hosley talked over the idea with Rowe and Tribal Operations Director Tresa Mercier and all four were excited about the possibility of bringing a similar tool to Grand Ronde.

It proved to be a longer and more complicated project than expected, however, although both said it was well worth the effort.

"We've been in meetings on Zoom for the last year, weekly, until it

was installed in late November," Hosley said.

First, they discovered that the funding they were hoping to use for the project – the Oregon Tribal Public Health Modernization Grant – would not cover the project just for dispensing the opioid overdose medication, as it was intended for wider promotion of public health issues. Undeterred, they decided to broaden their approach to make it a "resource navigation" and health promotion tool. Uses of the grant funding have to be approved by the Oregon Health Authority's Tribal liaison for the grant, but with the expanded purpose, approval was granted readily, Lampert said. The vending machine still dispenses Narcan – but now, users can also obtain numerous other items.

Next, they learned that their idea of changing the products dispensed regularly wasn't going to work.

"We have our health promotion events every month, so at first, we were going to focus on transition products," Lampert said. "But because of the internal processes and the coils, we decided to focus on things people would need at all times."

Hosley explained that "we had to send the items we wanted to put in the machine to the company for the machine to be configured, so it was quite a process. They even had suggestions for modifications for product size and what they were placed in, like whether it was a foil bag or a mailer. So, it was pretty particular planning."

In the end, she said, they tried to choose a wide variety of items that people might need at any given time. The machine's software tracks which items are most requested, so they may be refined over time.

"Picking the items was one of the first things we did, because once we did, we had to create a resource navigation tool, and we chose it to be within a 50-mile radius of Grand Ronde," Lampert said.

That means people searching for related health services can find what's available in McMinnville, Salem or Lincoln City, as well as Grand Ronde, Sheridan and Willamina.

They also considered how best to make the machine easily accessible for users. They chose to put it in the entry to the Community Center. "Security has set the doors to be open so people can access it from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, including weekends and holidays," Hosley said. "We didn't want it to be closed off during our off times, in case somebody in the community had a need."

The machine is on a three-year lease, so company officials handle the maintenance and software, although staff can reload the machine as needed.

In the first three weeks, Lampert said 55 users signed up for accounts, and 42 items were successfully obtained from the machine. So far, Lampert said, the smoking cessation kit and the pulse oximeter have been the most requested items.

Eventually, they may want to expand to more locations, Lampert said.

"We're supposed to give a small presentation to the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, because other Tribes will probably want to follow us," Hosley said.

She noted that in other states, the vending machines have been installed in casinos, jails and homeless shelters.

"It was interesting to see the different possibilities," she said. ■

## 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 ■

## Special Screening with Film Director Kitty Norton

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5 PM  
Free • Meal provided • Raffle prizes available  
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## 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. ■

Starting Tue. February 24th!

### CAREGIVER BOOK CLUB

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10:00-11:30 AM  
&  
3:30-5:00 PM

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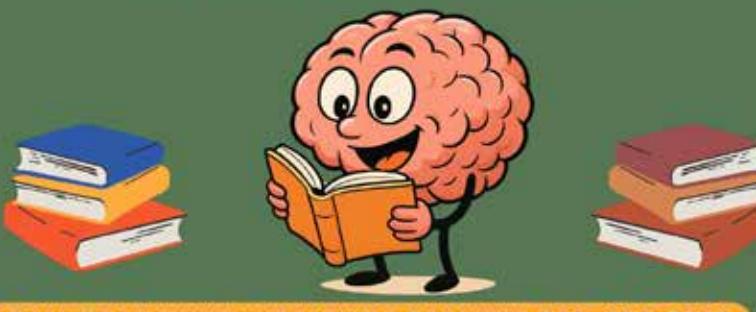


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(Please specify your preferred book club time)



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# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG

**Monday, December 1**

- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 26.

**Tuesday, December 2**

- A warrant arrest occurred at the 22900 block of Spirit Mountain Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of McPherson Road.

**Wednesday, December 3**

- Fraud was reported at the 25000 block of Southwest Blue Jay Court.
- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Thursday, December 4**

- Drug possession occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 22 near milepost 5.
- Harassment was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 47000 block of Hebo Road.

**Friday, December 5**

- A domestic disturbance was reported on the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 49000 block of Hebo Road.
- A possible stolen vehicle was reported by Salmon River Highway and Hebo Road.

**Saturday, December 6**

- An arrest was made at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Burglary was reported in the area of South Street.

**Sunday, December 7**

- Officers assisted a motorist after an elk was struck in the area of Highway 22 near milepost 1.
- A firearm was found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a crash near Agency Creek Road.
- Officers took a report regarding some suspicious activity that occurred around the 9600 block of Tiliixam Circle.

**Monday, December 8**

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers conducted an area check in the area of Grand Ronde and Andy Riggs roads after a report of a male lurking.

**Tuesday, December 9**

- Officers assisted an outside agency at Highway 18 near milepost 16.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the area of Raven Loop.
- Drug use was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Wednesday, December 10**

- An alarm was reported at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency on Highway 18 near milepost 18.

**Thursday, December 11**

- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving under the influence of intoxicants arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 24.

**Friday, December 12**

- Officers investigated a report of theft at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers conducted a civil standby at the 1000 block of Oaken Hills Drive in Willamina.

**Saturday, December 13**

- Officers responded to the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road for a report of a found assault rifle.

**Sunday, December 14**

- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Southwest Coyote Court.

**Monday, December 15**

- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to a hit-and-run crash that occurred at Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover in the Willamina area.

**Tuesday, December 16**

- No calls or incidents were reported with an address.

**Wednesday, December 17**

- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 46000 block of Hebo Road.
- An arrest was made due to a driving complaint on Highway 18 near

milepost 22.

**Thursday, December 18**

- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- A welfare check occurred at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Friday, December 19**

- A domestic violence arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by responding to a crash outside of Sheridan.
- Officers responded to the area of Ballston and DeJong roads after a driver got swept up into a flooding river.
- A welfare check occurred in the area of Coyote Court.

**Saturday, December 20**

- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 25000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- A liquor violation occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Drug possession was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Sunday, December 21**

- Drug possession was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Monday, December 22**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance call that occurred in the 45000 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emotionally disturbed person in the 54000 block of Hebo Road.
- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Tuesday, December 23**

- Officers contacted two vehicles that were trespassing on Tribal property. The involved parties had gotten their vehicle stuck in the mud and were towed.
- An arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

**Wednesday, December 24**

- No calls were reported with information about location or landmarks.

**Thursday, December 25**

- Disorderly conduct was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Friday, December 26**

- A disorderly conduct arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emotionally distressed person in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a two-vehicle crash that occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

**Saturday, December 27**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash that occurred at the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for an emotionally distressed individual.

**Sunday, December 28**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a driver near the area of Highway 22 near milepost 11.

**Monday, December 29**

- Possible drug use was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A drug-related arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Tuesday, December 30**

- Officers responded to a minor crash that occurred at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash that occurred in the Sheridan area.

**Wednesday, December 31**

- Officers responded to a sudden death that occurred in the North Street area.
- Officers responded to a theft that occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a possible armed person in the Sheridan area.

## We want to hear from you!

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

## TERO Worker of the Month

### December 2025

**Name:** Vernon Squiemphen

**Employer:** Suulutaaq

**Position:** Heavy equipment operator

Vernon came to the TERO program in 2024 with an extensive wealth of knowledge from years of heavy civil construction. Vernon is currently dispatched to the Abernethy Bridge Project located on I-205 in Oregon City. Vernon is part of an all Native TERO crew on that project, which consists of nine TERO workers.

Vernon says he was raised in what he calls "ranch life", which instilled hard work in him while growing up. That hard work has led him through his construction career. He started in the trenches and began working his way up doing various jobs such as asphalt paver, bridge worker, concrete paving and heavy equipment operator. He is now working to pass on his extensive knowledge to the young guys who are eager, strong and ready to learn and carry on what they've been taught.

We asked Vernon about TERO, and he said he is proud to represent TERO and that he is a strong believer of and what it represents.

We are proud to have Vernon Squiemphen as part of our team. Congratulations on being December's TERO Worker of the Month.

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



**Vernon Squiemphen**



### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE GYM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Gym hours: Monday- Sunday 6am-9pm.

\*hours of operations and recreational activities are subject to change without notice due to scheduled events. Contact security for entrance on non-working regular hours.

*"Do something today that your future self will thank you for"*

- Sean Patrick Flanery



*\*Must be 18 years or older. Under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18+. Any person using the facilities do so at their own risk. All individuals must adhere to all rules and regulations.*

#### FITNESS/WEIGHT ROOM

MONDAY-SUNDAY  
6:00 AM- 9:00 PM

#### SPIN CLASSES

(GENERALLY OFFERED)  
TUESDAY  
12:15PM - 12:45PM

#### BASKETBALL

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY  
5:30PM - 9:00PM

#### DANCE (ZUMBA)

MONDAY  
5:15PM - 6:30PM

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Recreation Coordinator  
(503) 879-1369

Security  
(971) 901-1031

Follow our Facebook page  
[@Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recreation Program.](https://www.facebook.com/ConfederatedTribesGrandRondeRecreationProgram)

## FROM GRAND RONDE WITH LOVE

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

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

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

#### Suggested Donations



Warm socks, gloves, beanies



First aid  
(band-aids, ointment, wipes)



Handwarmers, small blankets



Journals, pens, and handwritten words of encouragement



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

Journals, pens, and handwritten words of encouragement

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

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



**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](mailto:accounts@elderberrywisdom.org). More info is available in newsletters at [www.elderberrywisdom.org](http://www.elderberrywisdom.org).



## 'Why Native Americans are facing high rates of mental decline'

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

By Kamiah Koch

*Social media/digital journalist*

A 2024 National Institutes of Health study found that 54% of older Native Americans have cognitive impairment which can lead to degenerative diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Just a state line away at the University of Washington School of Medicine, more than 4,000 brains are preserved for studying. According to a PBS NewsHour story published at the end of 2025, reporter Stephanie Sy said that among the thousands of brains in UW's lab, less than five have been donated from Native Americans.

Dr. C. Dirk Keene is shown holding a brain as he tells Sy that not having many Native American brains to study makes it difficult to understand what happens to them before they die.

UW Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Director Dr. Thomas Grabowski says Native Americans have higher rates of risk factors that may lead to dementia and Alzheimer's disease, factors like diabetes, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcoholism and traumatic brain injuries.

In the interview with Grabowski, Sy asks why there isn't more research into Native Americans' cognitive decline and the comorbidities that lead to it.

"It's a collection of communities which are particularly weary of the institutionalized scientific process in the United States," Grabowski said. "Building trust with the communities is harder and slower, it's a long process."

Former Health Director for the Squamish Tribe and Tribal member Linda Holt is shown trying to bridge that gap. Once a year she takes a two-hour journey to UW Medicine to take a series of tests that will examine her cognitive health in ongoing research into Alzheimer's disease.

"Native Americans are hesitant about volunteering for these types of things and that comes historically from studies that were involuntarily done on Native American people," Holt said.

The UW program continues to actively recruit Native Americans to participate in researching cognitive health, with the goal of enrolling 100 in the next few years.

You can watch the rest of the story at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYj-tUB9Qh0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYj-tUB9Qh0). ■

## NRD Spotlight

Harvest Card holders we want to connect with you! Please send us your email address to receive hunting and fishing announcements, breaking news and other outdoor related information and opportunities

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

## 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. ■

**Welcome**

**Dr. Katelyn Bailey**

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

**BE A READING HERO**

**Volunteer with SMART Reading!**

Make a lasting impact in just 30 minutes a week!

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

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

Located in the Early Care and Education building

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

Learn more & sign up: [ashlee.webb@grandronde.org](mailto:ashlee.webb@grandronde.org)

Learn more about SMART Reading: [SMART Reading Children's Literacy Nonprofit](http://SMARTReading.org)

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

## Walking On...

### John Michael McKinney

Aug. 25, 1984 – Dec. 22, 2025

Tribal member John Michael McKinney passed away Dec. 22, 2025, at the age of 41.

Bateman Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

### Mario Carlos LaBonte Martinez

Sept. 25, 1953 – Dec. 31, 2025

Tribal Elder Mario Carlos LaBonte Martinez passed away Dec. 31, 2025, at the age of 72.

Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

### Carolyn Jean Griggs

Oct. 30, 1949 – Jan. 7, 2026

Tribal Elder Carolyn Jean Griggs passed away Jan. 7, 2026, at the age of 76.

Prineville Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

#### 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.



#### 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.

Call Us to make an appointment

(503) 879-6701

Disclaimer: Many insurance companies will cover your B12 shot.



Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center Public Health

## Clackamas Community College offers free garden workshops with Indigenous perspective

OREGON CITY – The Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center is hosting free weekly wildlife and water-friendly garden workshops – with an emphasis on Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge.

Each week, various Tribal members and organizations will present on practices that focus on protecting wildlife and watershed health from an Indigenous perspective. Workshops will be held virtually from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday through Feb. 19.

The workshops topics include:

- Jan. 15 – Landscape and first foods
- Jan. 22 – Medicinal plants
- Jan. 29 – Introduction to Indigenous knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge and how it is used to make Tribal resource management decisions

• Feb. 5 – Presentation by Ecotrust  
• Feb. 12 – Reconstructing Willamette Valley environments  
• Feb. 19 – Indigenous partnerships and restoration

Grand Ronde presenters include Tribal Elder and Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta Thursday, Jan. 15 and Feb. 19; and Tribal Elder and Oregon State University assistant anthropology and Indigenous studies professor David G. Lewis, presenting Thursday, Feb. 12.

For more information about the workshops, visit <https://bit.ly/ELC-gardenseries2026>.

For questions, email [michelle.scholz@clackamas.edu](mailto:michelle.scholz@clackamas.edu). ■

## Durable Power of Attorney Advanced Directive Clinic

@  
Elder Activity Center  
FEBRUARY 20, 2026  
9AM-4:30PM

**SIGN UP AT ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER OR CALL TO SIGN UP**  
**503-879-2145 OR 503-879-2233**

## The Village

*k<sup>h</sup>anamakwst nsayka chaku-hayash  
(Together We Grow Stronger)*

If you are currently unhoused and a Grand Ronde Tribal Member - The Village could be a resource for you

The Village is intended to provide support services to unsheltered/houseless Grand Ronde tribal members.

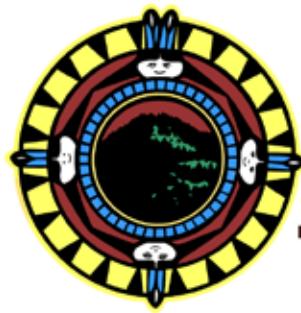
The Village will provide case management and wrap services intended to move the population towards permanent housing and wellness.

Each applicant will go through an application process which will include a limited background check, prior to move in.



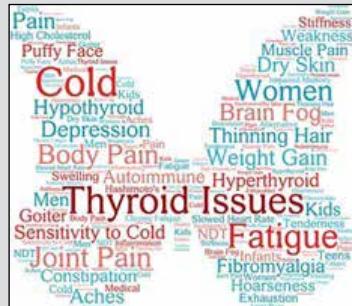
For more information please call :  
Grand Ronde Behavioral Health

503-879-2026



# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## Thyroid Awareness Month



This month helps people learn about the thyroid — a small gland in your neck that has a big job. Your thyroid makes hormones that help control your energy, heart rate, weight and body temperature.

### What is the thyroid?

The thyroid is shaped like a butterfly and sits at the front of your neck. Even though it is small, it affects almost every part of your body. When the thyroid is not working well, you may feel sick or tired without knowing why.

Two of the most common thyroid problems are: Hypothyroidism (low thyroid)

This means your thyroid is not making enough hormone. Symptoms may include:

- Feeling tired a lot
- Gaining weight
- Feeling cold
- Dry skin
- Depression or low mood
- Hair loss

### Hyperthyroidism (high thyroid)

This means your thyroid is making too much hormone. These symptoms include:

- Feeling nervous or anxious
- Losing weight
- Fast heartbeat
- Trouble sleeping
- Feeling hot

These symptoms can be easy to miss because they can look like other health problems.

### How do you check your thyroid?

A simple blood test can show how well your thyroid is working.

If you have symptoms or if thyroid problems run in your family, talk to your doctor. Early testing can help you feel better faster.

### How are thyroid problems treated?

Good news: thyroid problems are usually very treatable.

Depending on your condition, a doctor may prescribe:

- Daily medicine to replace missing thyroid hormone
- Medicine to slow down a thyroid that is working too hard
- In some cases, special treatments or surgery

Most people feel much better once they get the right treatment. ■

## Women's Transitional Living Center Chxi-san (New Day)

The Grand Ronde Women's Transitional Living Center (WTLC) is a facility for female individuals who meet one of the following criteria:

- Evidence of successful completion of a residential alcohol/drug treatment program and/or intensive outpatient program (IOP) within the past 30 days.
- Post incarceration and have been assessed for substance abuse and safety risk
- Eligibility for admission is based on the following criteria:  
First priority: Grand Ronde female tribal members  
Second priority: Mother of a Grand Ronde tribal child

Please Call  
Grand Ronde Behavioral Health for more information  
503-879-2026

## Glaucoma Awareness Month

This month reminds us to take care of our eyes and learn about glaucoma — a serious eye disease that can cause vision loss if it is not found early.

### What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve, the part of the eye that sends messages to the brain so we can see.

This damage often happens because of high pressure inside the eye.

Glaucoma usually has no early symptoms, which is why many people don't know they have it until vision is already damaged.

### Who is at higher risk?

Anyone can get glaucoma, but some people have a higher chance, including:

- Adults over 40 years old
- People with a family history of glaucoma
- People with diabetes
- People who are very near-sighted or far-sighted
- People who have had eye injuries

### Signs and symptoms

Most people do not notice symptoms in the beginning. That's why eye exams are so important.

As glaucoma gets worse, a person may notice:

- Trouble seeing to the side (loss of side vision)
- Blurry vision
- Seeing rainbows or colors around lights

If you ever have sudden eye pain, headache or sudden vision changes, get medical help right away.

### How is glaucoma treated?

There is no cure, but treatment can help slow or stop vision loss.

Common treatments include:

- Eye drops- Taking eye drops every day, exactly as the doctor says, is very important!

- Laser treatments
- Surgery

### What you can do this month

- Schedule an eye exam, especially if you are over 40
- Learn your family's eye health history
- Take eye medicines as directed
- Share information to help others protect their vision

Early testing is the best way to protect your eyesight. ■



## DIABETES EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

January 2026



Start the new year off in a good way

Set new health goals by keeping a health journal to help and ensure appointments are kept, with notes to refer back to if needed. Set goals to become more active. A good place to start is walking every day for 15 minutes.

### Upcoming Events

Jan 19, 2026 Monthly meeting  
11:30/12:30  
Cheryl Kennedy Memorial building

Jan 22, 2026 Pajama Jam 5:00  
Tribal Gym (wear your pajamas!)

### Contact Info

Email:  
Charlene.Brewer@grandronde.org  
Jeanette.cavan@grandronde.org

Phone: 503-879-2002



**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/](http://www.quitnow.net/oregon/)



## Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

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

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

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

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

### TYPES OF IN HOME SERVICES

**Home Health Care**

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

**SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:**

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

**Home Care Services**

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

**SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:**

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

**Grand Ronde Community Health**

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

**SERVICES INCLUDE:**

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

**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**



**Children & Family SERVICES**



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

  CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Administrative Assistant – Youth Programs	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	01/19/2026
Care Coordinator – Salem – GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	01/19/2026
CFS Caseworker – Grand Ronde	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
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
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Medical Insurance Claims Assister/Customer Service Representative	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	01/19/2026
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
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.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	01/19/2026
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.	Until Filled
Recovery House Program Manager – Sheridan - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Senior Lead Auditor	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Silviculture & Fire Protection Technician	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Single Role Paramedic	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	Until Filled
Staff Pharmacist - On-Call	19	\$66.30/hr.	\$89.72/hr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem Detox	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	01/19/2026
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	01/19/2026
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Security Officer	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Security Officer – On Call (Oregon City)	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.

   SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Cage Cashier	1/15/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cleaning Attendant	1/15/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pastry Sous Chef	1/15/2026	\$23.23/hr. DOE
Prep Cook	1/15/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pro Shop Host (*Part-Time)	1/15/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Promotion/Events Coordinator	1/15/2026	\$21.22/hr. DOE
Cage Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Marketing Manager	Until Filled	\$92,072.45/yr. DOE
Room Chef Banquet/Production	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Slot Technician I	Until Filled	\$19.39/hr. DOE

**\$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](http://www.spiritmountain.com/careers)  
Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.