



Pajama Jam
photos — pg. 5



FEBRUARY 1, 2026

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA • MOLALLA • ROGUE RIVER • KALAPUYA • CHASTA

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

Tribal members debate extent of danger posed by ICE

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal members and Tribal Council members debated the extent of the danger posed to Tribal members by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at a Tribal Council meeting Wednesday, Jan. 14, following a week that included an ICE agent killing a woman in Minneapolis and the non-fatal shooting of two people in Portland. None of the people shot were Native American. However, there have been reports of people from different Tribes being detained or questioned by ICE and being told their Tribal identification, which complies with the federal REAL ID Act, is not legitimate.

Tribal member Justine Flynn told council members she was unhappy that it had failed to develop a policy regarding ICE.

"Citizens of federally recognized Tribes are being detained and questioned by federal agents about their citizenship," she said. "Federal agents are accusing Native people of carrying fake Tribal IDs and then taking them from them. I recently watched a federal agent gun down a woman, in the face, in front of people and nothing happened. You have the privilege of sitting in a position of government that most impacts members of this community. That means two things. This is where we are most likely to be heard and this is where we expect our voices to be most reflected."

Flynn emphasized she was unhappy that Tribal Council has not

See ICE
continued on page 9



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, left, gifts Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read a beaded necklace during his meeting with Tribal Council Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Tribal Council meets with Oregon Secretary of State

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

A visit in mid-January with Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read provided Tribal Council with an opportunity to acquaint him with the Tribe's history and concerns, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said.

Read, who was raised in Idaho and moved to Oregon to attend college, spent the afternoon of Wednesday, Jan. 14, visiting the Tribal campus for a meeting with Tribal officials and a chance to better understand the issues that occasionally come up at the state level.

"I'm trying to think of the last time a secretary of state came out here," Mercier said. "He's a cool guy."

Although Read won't have authority over many of the issues that come up between the state and the Tribe, Mercier said, Read had wanted to make sure he understood them, something the Tribe appreciated.

"He said he was embarrassed that he still had a lot to learn about the Tribes and meeting on their home grounds was a good way to gain more familiarity

See MEETING
continued on page 8

Indigenous garden workshops include Tribal members



Smoke Signals file photo

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

First foods are still revered by the Grand Ronde Tribe today and harvested by many Tribal members across Oregon, Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta told his audience in a January lecture.

Archuleta, a Tribal Elder, is participating in the Wildlife and Water Friendly Gardens series cur-

rently being offered by the Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center in Oregon City. It features presentations from Tribal members and organizations about traditional Indigenous perspectives and practices focused on protecting wildlife and watershed health.

See WORKSHOPS
continued on page 10

Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst and Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta leads a tour of the Cozine Creek restoration site during the Camas Festival at Linfield University in McMinnville in May 2022. Archuleta is participating in the Wildlife and Water Friendly Gardens series currently being offered by the Clackamas Community College Environmental Learning Center. During the second workshop Archuleta spoke about how first foods, like camas, still play an important role for many Tribal members.

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 1

Hilton Garden Inn Clackamas Portland
(formerly 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, Feb. 11.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 25.....	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.*

Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

Grand Ronde Tribal members who are incarcerated, have been recently released from prison or are involved in addiction treatment programs don't have to face challenges alone.

The Tribe has a post-prison/post-treatment peer support specialist, Tribal member Joe Ulestad, who is also a certified recovery mentor.

"I want our members who are incarcerated or need help to know we haven't forgotten about them and we're here to help," he said. "They can call me, email or text."

Ulestad can be reached at joe.ulestad@grandronde.org, by text/call at 971-237-5262 or on office line, 503-879-1389. ■

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day.

Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

STORY IDEAS?

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

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

WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

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2023 IJA General Excellence

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa ałqi)

makwst-mun (February)

- Sunday, Feb. 1 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Hilton Garden Inn Clackamas Portland (formerly 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.

łun-mun (March)

- Sunday, March 1 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, March 11 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Wednesday, March 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.

Attention Grand Ronde housing applicants:

If you were accepted to be on our waitlist before 2025 and have not turned in your waitlist update letter, please contact the housing department immediately. We must update this information every year in order to keep our list up to date and have accurate contact information for when your name comes to the top of the waitlist. This is our last effort to reach the few that have not responded to mail, phone or email. If you have not turned in the form and do not contact the housing department by Sunday, March 1, your name will be removed from the waitlist.

Please note it is your responsibility to update housing with your contact information. ■

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. Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

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. ■

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

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

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

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

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

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

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets as needed at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20. 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.

YESTERYEARS | A LOOK BACK...



2021 — Funding awarded to the Tribe from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act enabled the Tribal Council Chambers and conference room to be equipped with technology upgrades to allow the audience and Tribal Council members to better participate in meetings remotely. The Tribe received \$45 million in emergency aid funding and used \$182,000 for the technology upgrades to enable remote meeting attendance and participation.



2021 File photo

2016 — After hearing testimony from Tribal representatives, the Oregon Board of Education approved a resolution and rule to allow schools to keep their Native mascots if they could reach a formal agreement with a local Tribe about acceptable imagery and integrate Native studies into their curriculum. Grand Ronde wanted to work with local schools in order to foster understanding and appreciation of Tribal culture.

2011 — After reaching a three-year deal with the Portland Rose Festival Foundation, Spirit Mountain Casino became the new official sponsor of the Portland Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.

2006 — The Tribal Library was close to reaching capacity after a year of growth in usage, as well as books, videos and magazines. Tribal Librarian Marion Mercier said the library had gone from 884 items circulated in 2004 to 3,025 in 2005. She attributed the increase in part to the public internet connection the library had added on its computers. The library had also joined the state library's EBSCO database research system, which was set to provide each Tribal library in the state with a complete new computer system for patrons.

2001 — For a second year, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund provided support for the Oregon Zoo Foundation's Birds of Prey outreach program. The program introduced predatory birds to 15,000 students in Polk, Marion and Yamhill counties, and stressed the importance of environmental stewardship.

1996 — The Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Program intended to use a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service, shared with the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation Services, to employ fishers to help complete the Tribe's new day use park on the reservation and plant between 4,000 and 8,000 trees on reservation lands.

1991 — After three months of setbacks, the Tribe successfully relocated Tribal offices from the old manor building to a new modular office complex. The manor building had housed the Tribes' offices since 1987 but had problems with wiring and fire safety codes.

1986 — The Tribe's Reservation Plan document had been finalized and submitted to the Department of the Interior on time, but the Tribe had discovered that a great deal of work still had to be completed before a bill could be submitted to Congress, Tribal Council Chair Mark Mercier said. The Tribe was soliciting letters of support from the surrounding counties, churches and social organizations, and meeting with aides for Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin, to address his concerns.

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



It's never too late to heal from addiction.

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

Tribal Council approves contract with consulting firm People Optimize Partners

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a consulting contract with the human resources consulting firm People Optimize Partners during its Wednesday, Jan. 14, meeting.

The contract is for up to \$250,000 and will be utilized to develop a plan to help manage growth of the Tribal workforce.

According to its website, People Optimize Partners “brings curiosity and expertise to your people, process and technology practices to help your people and organization thrive.”

Specifically, it offers services such as “HR tech implementation, benefits strategy, compensation guidance and interim HR leadership to help companies optimize their workforce and achieve sustained performance, working with clients to build scalable, effective people operations.”

“This will be for the organizational assessment work we’ll be taking on with our department managers later this year,” Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said during a Tuesday, Jan. 13, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “It is scalable, so there is an opportunity to come in under \$250,000.”

She continued, “We’ll be able to share out all of the information with managers and council...We’ll schedule kickoff meetings at the end of the month...and the really exciting thing about this work is it really will be driven by our staff and is an inclusive process, so no one is left out of the fold. The main

reason for this work is that we’ve grown so rapidly over the years and want to make sure we’re filling in gaps, identifying any issue areas and working with managers to streamline communications and improve the culture and wellbeing of the organization.”

Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek noted that when some people hear the words “organizational assessment,” it can create fear.

“I want to ensure everybody it is not our intention to remove employees or anyone getting fired,” she said. “That’s not what this is about. I wanted to put that out there to hopefully address any fear that might come from hearing that.”

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for software company Esri, which has all of the Tribal ceded lands data. The company won’t make a change to its binding arbitration until the end of the year when the next contract renewal begins;
- Approved a \$411,000 contract with Advance Native Construction of Aumsville for the Tribal Housing Department roofing project at Raven Loop and Tilixam Circle;
- And approved enrollments for two infants and emergency enrollments for two 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. ■

Pajama party



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members Aiyana Woodward, 7, left, and Hazel Krehbiel, 4, dance during the Pajama Jam in the Tribal gym Thursday, Jan. 22. Attendees were encouraged to wear their “coolest pajamas” to the annual January jam. In addition to drumming, singing and dancing, there were craft tables to make a pipe cleaner snowflake and to decorate sleep masks as well as a cake walk. Breakfast foods were served for dinner.



Tribal member Jeremiah Clark, 6, beads a pipe cleaner while making a snowflake during the Pajama Jam in the Tribal gym Thursday, Jan. 22.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



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ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)

To *Add Your Name:

To the email list

To the mail out list

To the t-shirt list

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

To Receive:

Benefits information & updates

Event invitations

Veteran recognitions

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

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

CTGRTribeVSO@GrandRonde.org

 TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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

Bring your creativity, supplies, and your family.

Start a new project, continue an old one, or just spend time visiting.

A welcoming space for all Tribal households and all ages.

Reach out to the culture committee with questions-

Pamala Warren-Chase
pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com

Marianne Blanchard
indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com

Stephanie Craig
kalapuyaweaiver@gmail.com

Molly Leno
molly.leno@grandronde.org

Tribe keeping an eye on federal trends

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Earlier this year, the federal Department of Energy asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt a policy to remove the ability of Tribes to veto preliminary hydropower projects on their lands, a move that was opposed by numerous Tribes.

Grand Ronde hasn't taken a position on that change, Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh said, because it doesn't directly affect the Tribe.

"There aren't currently any hydro projects on Tribal lands ... for us, it is all on ceded lands," he said.

The Tribe is still awaiting a decision by a federal judge on Portland General Electric's effort to take ownership of Willamette Falls from the state. Expected last summer, that decision has now been more than seven months in the making.

However, Karnosh said, the DOE's request is "alarming because it's part of this larger trend that's going on across the ceded lands of the Tribes. It's hard to believe anyone would advise for a Tribe not to be able to veto a project on their lands. ... It's a shock that the DOE would want to try to insult Tribal sovereignty to that extent, and it just brings to light all the other environmental setbacks. They set them in motion last spring and summer, and they just keep coming, but we're learning to keep a better eye on what the feds do."

He said the Tribe has been seeing that, overall, "Things are getting streamlined. Whole pieces are going missing and Tribes are not as empowered as they were years ago. Another concerning trend is that the agencies that talk to Tribes most often have seen a lot

of personnel cuts. It might not be project staff, but the liaison staff who know the history and understand the Tribes' concerns – those people are gone."

Those mass federal layoffs affected multiple departments and projects.

"Land management agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service terminated all non-wildfire seasonal positions with no plan to ever backfill them, which means that most of the archaeologists, botanists and other specialists that have been conducting Tribal consultation on forest activities with Grand Ronde for decades are now just...gone," Karnosh said. "The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) eliminated thousands more positions at land management, environmental and other resource agencies charged with protecting Tribally important species, habitats, sites and other resources on the landscape, with no apparent plan to ever replace/restore their functions or capacities."

Fortunately, Karnosh said, "Grand Ronde has our own staff, so we have a good team. ... There are a number of other actions over the last year that have really had an impact on the Tribe's ability to confer meaningfully on ceded lands."

In addition, "The president issued several executive orders allowing for the fast-tracking or side-stepping of established federal environmental laws ... on projects that are related to energy, timber production and mineral production," Karnosh said. "The administration and federal courts combined to abolish the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines and to severely restrict the definition

of 'Waters of the United States' through rulemaking."

Karnosh explained that "Grand Ronde has seven ratified treaties with the United States, under which it ceded title to its homelands (but nothing else) to the U.S. Under the Reserved Rights Doctrine, the Tribe retains any and all rights it did not expressly give up in the treaties and the U.S. government has the obligation of protecting those Tribal rights and interests under its jurisdiction within the ceded lands. In other words, before taking any action that could kill/damage/destroy Tribal rights and resources (native salmon, camas fields, water quality, Tribal archaeological sites) the feds must first consult properly with the Tribe among other requirements."

Last April, the Tribe drafted a letter sent out to all agencies with whom the Tribe has interactions, emphasizing that point.

In May, Tribal Council followed it with a resolution declaring that the Tribe recognizes major federal environmental laws, "as they existed in their forms and functions on March 20, 2023, as the standard for minimally sufficient federal law for these purposes."

The resolution states that changes to those laws "resulting in levels of protection and restoration below the baseline standard for Tribal rights and resources will not sufficiently uphold the Tribe's treaty rights or the federal trust responsibility toward the Tribe."

The laws at issue included the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Clean Air Act, and "similar federal laws and regulations."

The letter was written by Karnosh, in consultation with Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez and Interim General Manager Bryan Langley. It reminds federal agency staff that "The

United States has a unique relationship with Indian Tribes, known as the federal trust responsibility. This heightened duty of care for the rights and resources of Indian Tribes is based on valid, well-established executive orders, federal statutes and Supreme Court case law. Similar obligations toward Tribes can be found in state and local law. Government agencies have a responsibility to consult with Tribes when actions have the potential to affect resources important to the Tribes. Consultation is defined by Grand Ronde as 'an equal dialogue between sovereign nations or their agencies at the highest levels of decision-making. Consultation is an ongoing and meaningful dialogue; this means that consultation takes place until project completion, not just until the consultation window is done.' Each Tribal nation has the sovereign right to practice consultation in its own way."

The letter also reminds agencies that "Treaties with Indian Tribes are recognized in Article VI (6) of the Constitution as the 'supreme law of the land.' Any rights not specifically given up in the text of a treaty are reserved by Indian Tribes. These rights included, but are not limited to, hunting, fishing, gathering and access. Specific to cultural resources, Indian Tribes retain the right to access, steward and protect cultural resources, (including natural resources such as fish, water and wildlife) within the treaty-defined area. Any government action potentially impacting treaty rights, interests and/or resources must fulfill Tribal consultation with the affected Tribe(s)."

It notes that "fast tracking projects through consultation and/or reducing consultation resources does not uphold the government's responsibility to Tribes. Such streamlining or resource depletion is an improper, unjust and unlawful abrogation of sovereign trust and treaty rights held by Tribal nations." ■

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

AN ART EXHIBITION HONORING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

JANUARY 14TH - FEBRUARY 6TH

WED, JAN. 28
RECEPTION: 12PM
ARTIST TALK: 12:30

BY ARTIST AND ADVOCATE - AMANDA FREEMAN

AMPKWA: munk lush nsayka shawash tilixam

AMPKWA: HEALING OUR INDIGENOUS RELATIVES

EMAIL: AMANDA@AMPKWAADVOCACY.ORG
AMPKWAADVOCACY.ORG AMPKWAIMAGES.COM

THE GRETCHEN SCHUETTE GALLERY
 CHEMKEKA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 4000 LANCASTER DR NE, SALEM, OREGON

SMGI Board of Directors has new leadership

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

The Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors has undergone several changes in the past year-plus, both in leadership and board member makeup.

Former longtime Tribal Council chairman and SMGI board member Reyn Leno is now the board chair, while current Tribal Council member Toby McClary serves as board vice chair.

The previous chair was Tribal Elder Andy Jenness and the vice chair was Tribal Council member Kathleen George. Leno also served as chair before Jenness was selected in 2021. Jenness is no longer on the board but George still serves on it.

Other newer board members include Tribal member Harris Reibach and Tribal Council member Pete Wakeland.



Reyn Leno

Leno was appointed to the board in December 2024, while Reibach, McClary and Wakeland were appointed in September 2025.

Leno previously served on the board for 25 years and had a 21-year stint on Tribal Council. Currently, he serves as chair of the Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Committee.

"I got involved in the board right after (Spirit Mountain) casino opened (in 1995)," he said.

Leno said he decided to serve as board chair due to his previous experience and a desire to stay busy and involved in the Tribe.

"I'm right here locally so it's easy for me to be involved," he said.

"Right now, the casino is a little flat and I'm concerned with what I have seen...That's the revenue that goes to serve our membership, our kids and grandkids. ... Being a past Tribal Council member also helps with being a good go-between between the Tribal Council and the board."

Other SMGI Board members include Tribal Council members Matthew Haller and Tonya Gleason-Shepek, as well as Tribal members Matthew Kirkland, Lisa Watson and Justin Martin, and non-Tribal member Drew Mahalic, who is former CEO of the nonprofit Oregon Sports Authority.

As per the website, the SMGI

Board is "responsible for protecting Spirit Mountain Casino and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde shareholder interests, establishing policies for management, supporting executives and their teams, maintaining company resources, setting general company goals, making sure that (Spirit Mountain Casino) is equipped with the tools it needs to be managed well, and general oversight of the corporation and making decisions about important issues that the company faces."

For more information, visit spiritmountain.com/corporate-governance/. ■

Majority leader



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Oregon State Senate Majority Leader Kayse Jama speaks during a meet and greet with Tribal Council in Tribal Council Chambers Thursday, Jan. 22. During Jama's first visit to Grand Ronde, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy gave him a brief overview of the Tribe's history and government relations, as well as ways to facilitate better and open lines of communication. Tribal lobbyist Justin Martin was also in the meeting.

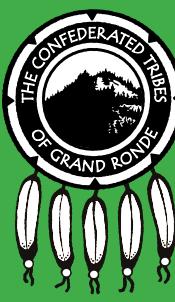


ELECTION BOARD VACANCIES

Two alternate board member positions open.

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

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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Hunting and fishing rights were discussed

MEETING continued from front page

with their histories and issues of importance to them," Mercier said.

Since Tribal law can intersect with so many different areas of state governance, the issues can be complex.

"I appreciate the Tribal Council, the staff of the Natural Resources Department and members of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde for welcoming me and taking the time to meet," Read said in an email. "These conversations are essential to understanding the Tribe's key priorities and to strengthening our partnerships and I look forward to continuing this important work together."

Mercier said the visit began at Natural Resources, with explanations about the department's functions and the Tribe's ceded lands.

"We went over everything that's happened with the memorandum of agreement (expanding Grand Ronde's hunting, fishing and gathering areas) and everything that happened with the (state) in July and our efforts to mitigate the request by other Tribes to have the MOA repealed," Mercier said.

In July 2025, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission voted 4-to-2 to accept a petition by four Tribes – Nez Perce, Yakama, Warm Spring and Umatilla – asking to amend or repeal the Tribe's MOA with the state of Oregon. Nez Perce and Yakama are not Oregon Tribes.

"We wanted to make sure he understood our position," Mercier said. "Tribes from outside the state should not have veto power and



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Oregon Secretary of State Tobias Read speaks during his meeting with Tribal Council Wednesday, Jan. 14.

should not be consulted the same as Tribes inside the state...I told him, our history with other Tribes is not always a positive history. They won't admit it, but the fervent opposition to all things Grand Ronde doesn't always seem to me to lie within the reasons that are stated publicly. So, we spent a good chunk of time talking about hunting and fishing."

In addition, Mercier said, Read discussed the state's corporation division and opportunities for partnerships with the Tribe. Mercier said the council asked whether there might be training sessions or resources available for Tribal members who want to open their own businesses but find the registration system cumbersome.

The state does offer workshops and classes on "navigating the

maze of paperwork and permitting processes," Mercier said.

Classes are offered through the state's network of small business development centers, which are lo-

cated locally in Lincoln City and Salem. Classes and more information may be located at oregonsbdc.org.

The state business information center offers some guidelines at sos.oregon.gov/business/Pages/business-information-center.aspx.

Voting issues also came up, Mercier said, noting that the Tribe's turn out for state and federal elections is about half that of the state average of 60 to 70% – "close to the level of county elections," Mercier said.

Read asked whether the state could be of assistance in "Get out the vote" campaigns, Mercier said, but added, "It's a little tricky ... half the membership does not live in the state."

Read oversees the state archives, among his other duties, and Mercier said the Tribe learned that it's possible there are old Tribal records, undiscovered among the trove of microfiche and old papers stored away, but "it would take quite a bit of effort" to locate them. ■

Tribal Chemical Policy Community Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2026 from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm
Community Center

Presentation followed by Panel Discussion and Q & A

Light Refreshments Provided

2026-27 Royalty Courts

Currently accepting applications.

Application deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, March 27.

Late applications will not be accepted.

General requirements:

- Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member and/or direct descendant of a Tribal member (must show proof via a descendants letter and/or certificate).
- Must be drug, alcohol and tobacco free.
- Attend school regularly and be in good standing.
- Must be single with no dependents.
- Attend mandatory orientation and sign and comply with all royalty guidelines.



For information contact:

Shannon A. Simi
503-879-1358
Shannon.simi@grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



Baker Technical Institute Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Heavy Equipment Operator Training

This course is for participants who want to train on Dozers, Wheel Loaders, Excavators, and more. Students will learn both in our high-tech CAT Simulator mobile classroom and in the field, running equipment side by side with our experienced instructors. This training will prepare you for a great career!

- 3-week course - some type of construction experience is preferred
- Must be 18 years of age and enrolled in the TERO skills pool
- Must sign a contractual agreement that you will complete the course
- A valid driver's license is required

Simulated Training - Tribal Campus/SMC: March 16 - March 27,
2026 Land Lab Training - Albany: March 30 - April 3, 2026

Register for training by calling 503-879-2146 or
tero@grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe will look to develop policy

ICE continued from front page

yet put together a policy in the event that Tribal members are detained.

"How do you proceed?" she said. "What would you expect of this community? What would you ask us to do? What is the role of Tribal police? I can tell you this; I'll be there to meet them when they arrive and I know that I will not be alone. I will not let them take anybody, whether that requires violence or not. What if ICE tried to arrest me for intervening? ... Would you expect Tribal police to allow them to take other people that are standing up and protecting people?"

Tribal Elder Jack Giffen Jr. said that he does not consider federal agents a threat.

"I guess I got a different perspective," he said. "They've got a job — ICE has got a job to do. There's over a million people that came into this country undocumented and you just seen the two people in Portland. Some of them are pretty violent people. Here at the reservation, there ain't even one of us that isn't a documented citizen of the United States. We were born here. We got a roll number with the federal government. I think they

got a tough job and every time we try to throw up a roadblock, they can't do their job, and it makes it even tougher."

In addition, Giffen said, "the bottom line is our sovereignty is governed by the federal government. You know, if we throw a roadblock up to the government agents coming in, they could take that sovereignty away in a heartbeat. They've done it once already. So, you know, I'd be cautious, telling the federal government you can't come on our property. Cause the property's held by them."

Several people, including Flynn, responded to Giffen's comments. "It was once legal for federal agents to come in and take kids," she said. "That was legal. They were doing their job. They had a job to do and they took our kids and they put 'em in boarding schools. It was once legal for them to show up on our Tribal lands and move us wherever they wanted to. They were just doing their job; it was legal. It doesn't mean it was right. It doesn't mean it was OK and it doesn't mean that we comply. We didn't, in those scenarios. The trauma that came out of things like that, we are still experiencing."

Giffen said he is concerned about criminal behavior.

"You gotta uphold the laws,

whether you like them or not," he said. "If you don't like 'em, change 'em. Get together and change 'em. But you uphold the ones you got."

Tribal Council members said they don't support federal agents being able to come onto the Tribal campus. Council members Lisa Leno and Matthew Haller said they agreed that council should have acted sooner to develop a policy.

"I definitely think that's something that needs to be a priority and people need to, like you said, people really do need to understand what that would mean in our community, what are the protocols," Leno said, adding that she expects council to hold a work session "very, very soon."

Haller told Flynn, "That's a priority in my eyes. ... And sure, I'll be right beside you; you call me, and I'll be one of the people with my boots on the ground on the front line with you."

Later in the meeting, Haller noted that "In McMinnville, Oregon, not too long ago, a high school student on his lunch break was taken by ICE. ... McMinnville was targeted. Just last night, at their City Council meeting on January 13, there was just a distraught meeting, and a line of high school kids that got up and told testimonies of being fearful to leave campus to go to lunch. That requires some type of protection in my eyes. My daughter leaves the Willamina campus every single day to go to lunch. What if she was just taken or detained? I'm sorry, but I don't care what your federal jurisdiction is, I'm not OK with that."

Tribal Interim General Manager Bryan Langley said he plans to pull in department heads to help craft a policy and would call on Flynn, among others, for her input.

Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said the Tribe "can also verify Tribal enrollment outside office hours, also, if there's a need or if we hear of a situation, put ourselves in a position where we can respond quickly and advocate to get anyone potentially out of custody."

She added that "I will say that our delegation has been super responsive as well, so we continue to work with them very closely."

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier noted that "ICE has been around for a while," but said he

finds recent behavior by agents "pretty appalling and it just seems to me that they're terrorizing certain communities and I don't like what I'm seeing. Having said that, I don't want us to be in a position to where a situation can escalate and we see violence like what we saw in Minneapolis last week. I want to be able to protect our people, but I don't want to put us in a situation where things can blow up and more people get hurt or even worse."

Others who spoke on the issue included Tribal member Katherine Warren, Tribal Elder Darlene Aaron, Tribal Elder Reyn Leno and Tribal Elder Linda Olson.

Tribal Elder Denise Harvey told the council that "I did get several calls from the Oklahoma Tribes, this morning, that ICE was raiding their campuses. So, they were on high alert with that situation and that was this morning. And Justice was correct, there have been many, many Tribes that have put out statements for their members. I have shared those, I'm sure many people have seen them. I shared them because I hadn't seen anything from our Tribe and I at least wanted to give people some thought process on how people are handling that situation."

On Thursday, Jan. 15, United Indian Nations of Oklahoma issued an advisory to Tribal citizens across Oklahoma to "remain vigilant and to carry Tribal identification, along with any state or federally issued identification they may possess." It noted that four enrolled members of the Oglalla Sioux and an Ojibwe/Red Lake Nation descendant had been detained in Minnesota and a member of Arizona's Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community had been detained in Iowa.

The press release also contained guidance issued by the Native American Rights Fund, for both minor and adult Tribal citizens, about how to respond if approached by immigration agents.

It included the following advice:

- You have the right to remain silent;
- Do not lie or physically resist;
- Do not open the door if at home unless the agent has a signed judicial warrant.

More information and advice from NARF is available at: narf.org/ice-resources-2026/. ■

2026 / 2027

LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Income criteria apply.
- Does not require Shut-off Notice.
- Is a "first, come first served" program.
- Assists Tribal members in the 7 county service area (Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas).
- Adult Tribal Members name (adult CTGR tribal member who lives at home) MUST be on the billing statement or Authorized User on the utility account.
- If no adult Tribal Member is in the home, family can still apply if there is a CTGR Tribal Member youth in the home. Must provide documentation of child living in the home.
- LIHEAP assists with electric, natural gas, propane, pellet, oil, or wood
- Typically, LIHEAP is open from October 1st (or when funded) and ends September 30th or when funds have been depleted (whichever comes first).
- If client has received LIHEAP or LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) as of October 1st, 2025, from another agency, they are not eligible to apply through the CTGR Social Services for regular LIHEAP assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM ARE LIMITED.
STRONGLY ADVISE ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO CONTINUE PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL UNTIL THE LIHEAP APPLICATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES AND A CREDIT FROM LIHEAP HAS BEEN APPLIED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

For an application contact:

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Social Service Department
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde OR 97347
1-800-242-8196 or (503) 879-2034 Fax: (503) 879-2127 Email: SSDInfo@grandronde.org

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**

Free weekly workshops are presented on Zoom

WORKSHOPS continued from front page

The free weekly workshops are presented on Zoom at noon every Thursday through February. Signup is available online, at [eventbrite.com/e/wildlife-water-friendly-gardens-free-series-2026-tickets-1964503064549](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildlife-water-friendly-gardens-free-series-2026-tickets-1964503064549).

During the second workshop Jan. 15, Archuleta spoke about Tribal oral histories and how first foods still play an important role for many Tribal members.

Future presentations will include a talk on "Reconstructing Willamette Valley Environments," by Tribal Elder and anthropologist David G. Lewis Feb. 12, and one on "Indigenous Partnerships and Restoration," by Archuleta on Feb. 19.

Some of the most important foods relied on by Indigenous people in the Willamette Valley were camas, cow parsnip, berries, nettles, tarweed, yampah, white oak acorns, hazelnuts and wapato, Archuleta said.

Today, Tribal members sometimes plant them in home gardens. Before contact with European settlers, Tribes encouraged the growth of useful plants in a variety of ways and also traveled regularly to different sites where particular foods were in season.

Camas, which grows in wet soil conditions, was found throughout the Willamette Valley, Archuleta said, and was "a very important first food." The Tribe still has gathering areas throughout western Oregon.

Common camas, which has edible bulbs, also grows alongside a more dangerous companion, known as death camas.

"The bulbs are pretty similar so you have to be pretty careful,"



David G. Lewis

Archuleta said. "There are some stories about settlers thinking they were getting wild onions and it turned out to be death camas."

The Tribes, however, considered death camas a useful plant.

"We consider it a medicine and people knew how to fix it in a way that would just make you throw up when you needed to have that happen," he said.

Using digging sticks often made from serviceberry wood, Tribes would gather camas bulbs in large quantities in the fall after flowering was finished and bake them for two or three days in underground earth ovens, sometimes pouring in water to create steam. The lengthy baking transforms the inulin in the bulbs to a more digestible form, Archuleta said.

"Lewis and Clark traded for camas on their journey and a lot of times they had stomach problems due to not preparing it properly," Archuleta said.

Clackamas people, he said, would bake the tubers and store them for winter, while the Kalapuya people mashed the cooked bulbs into large cakes and dehydrated them. The dried cakes were a popular trade item at Tumwata, Archuleta said.

The stalks of cow parsnip and nettle could be peeled, steamed and eaten as a vegetable when young, he said. Strawberries, salmonberries and thimbleberries were generally enjoyed raw, while serviceberries were dried and stored for winter. People also harvested

huckleberries and blue elderberries, he said.

Tarweed, a kind of wild sunflower, was valued for its seeds. In August, Archuleta said, Tribes would set fires to "burn up the tarry substance" the plants are named for, then use seed fans to knock the seeds into gathering baskets.

"Then they would grind them into flour and often use it as a kind of addition to hazelnuts or acorns," he said. "It was pretty extensive in the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon. After contact, a lot of these were removed due to pasturing; they didn't like to get the tarry substance on the animals. You pretty much get that scent all over you."

Yampah, which looks similar to Queen Anne's lace (a flowering plant) and has largely been supplanted by it, was another popular vegetable, often eaten boiled.

"They have a really nice taste, kind of like a yam" Archuleta said, noting that the seeds and leaves are also edible. "But watch for similar-looking hemlock (which is poisonous). You really have to know your plants."

The name Champoeg, Archuleta said, is a corruption of the name for "place of yampah," tchampuick.

There's been significant yampah restoration at the Champoeg State Park site, Archuleta said, and when the Tribe was consulted about restoring the landscape, they made sure yampah was included.

Tribes made extensive use of Oregon white oak acorns, developing different methods to remove the tannins, Archuleta said. Some cracked the acorns and stored them in baskets in streams for a period of time, while others ground them into flour first, then ran either hot or cold water through the meal.

"It's nice to see the old oaks surviving today that probably provided acorns to our ancestors," he said.

Hazelnuts were another important food source and the Tribes set fires to encourage new growth.

"Today, there's a lot of hazel on the landscape that's not being maintained and so it's not very productive and usually the critters get to them before you do," he said. "Hazel is also important in basketry; it has a nice flexibility."

The prevalence of commercial hazelnut orchards has had a detrimental effect, hybridizing with the native trees, Archuleta noted.

"The commercial ones are more brittle, so when we're gathering, we have to do a lot of testing to make sure we're getting the wild ones," he said. "Because of the flexibility, hazel was also used in making rope."

Wapato, a water plant also known as arrowleaf, was traditionally gathered by women wading in shallow ponds and lakes, pushing small gathering canoes. They would wade barefoot and use their feet to search out and loosen the tubers, which would float to the surface, where they could be gathered up and put into the canoes.

"The tuber is starchy, kind of like the Indian potato and you can put it on the coals and bake it that way; you can boil it," he said.

Today, it is harder to obtain.

"We've been doing a lot of testing of different areas, the soil, the water, to be sure the areas we gather from are safe for consumption," Archuleta said.

He noted that there are numerous other plants the Tribes relied on.

"This is just kind of a quick few top ones used for food and basketry," he said. ■

Special Screening with Film Director Kitty Norton

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5 PM

Free • Meal provided • Raffle prizes available

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Tribal Gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347

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A road trip connecting the disconnected – because until there's a cure there's community.

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PH: GREG RIVERS AND TAKI OLDFHAM • PRO: KITTY NORTON AND BETH RIGAZIO • PRO: KITTY NORTON

www.wineanddementia.com

WATCH THE TRAILER!

EVENT PROVIDED BY
CTGR COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPT.
BRAIN HEALTH PROGRAM
503-879-2078

Starting Tue. February 24th!

CAREGIVER BOOK CLUB

MIND READERS

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUES.

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

CTGR Tribal Library

Join the Mind Readers Book Club—a new, free, supportive space for caregivers to learn, connect, and grow through reading. Designed for those caring for loved ones with memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's.

Books are FREE & provided for all CTGR members

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY 2/1/26!
(Please specify your preferred book club time)

CALL COMMUNITY HEALTH TO REGISTER 503-879-2078

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/



VISIT OUR POP-UP MARKET

February 5th, 2026

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR PLEASE CALL: 503-879-2233

PREFERENCE TO TRIBAL ELDERS




10AM - 2PM

ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER
48940 BLACKTAIL DRIVE
GRAND RONDE

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



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. ■

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS



January 23, 2026

Apply online at: www.grandronde.org

  **CTGR EMPLOYMENT**

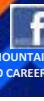
Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Barista Trainee – Limited Duration	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	01/26/2026
Care Coordinator – Salem – GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	Until Filled
Certified Applications Assistor – PRC Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	02/02/2026
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Therapist	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Client Registration Specialist – Salem - GCR	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	02/02/2026
Clinical Manager – Salem - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Clinical Manager – Salem Detox - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	01/26/2026
Clinical Supervisor – Salem - GCR	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	02/02/2026
Cook – Adult Foster Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/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 – Sheridan - GCR	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	02/02/2026
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.	Until Filled
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner – Salem - GCR	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Staff Pharmacist - On-Call	19	\$66.30/hr.	\$89.72/hr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem Detox - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,484.88/yr.	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
Village Case Aide - Behavioral Health	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	01/26/2026
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

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



 **SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS**

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Pastry Sous Chef	Until Filled	\$23.23/hr. DOE
Player Services Representative I	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. 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.

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

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

✓ Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

employmentteam@spiritmtn.com [https://www.spiritmtn.com/careers](http://www.spiritmtn.com/careers)
Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

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. ■

Request for Proposals
Construction Management/ General Contractor Services
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Modernization
Project Proposal due by 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Modernization Project. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR), seek competitive proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms, hereafter, "Proposer," for the provision of Construction Management/ General Contractor (CM/GC) services for CTGR's Health & Wellness Center, "Project."

The purpose of this solicitation is to secure proposals from CM/GC teams who have experience in pre-construction services, and construction of facilities similar in scope and scale. Sealed bids must be received by Project Manager Andrew Freeman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, by or before 2 p.m. local time, Thursday Feb. 12, 2026. Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed in writing to the Project Manager Andrew Freeman via email at Andrew.Freeman@grandronde.org by 2 p.m., prevailing local time, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026.

Electronic copy of the RFP is available by emailing Andrew Freeman at Andrew.Freeman@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-1922.

Respondents shall provide a written proposal by 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, to Project Manager Andrew Freeman, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. Specific information regarding document submittal procedures and due dates will be found in the RFP. ■

We seek a vision of the Bright Future for the Chinook People. The Great Wealth of the Strongest Water Rights upon Yakulte Wimakl the Great River, together with the Original Ultimate Title to the Best Homeland on Earth, provide the Foundation of the Future. We are charting our course with the Design, Construction and Implementation of a National Constitution.

CHINOOK SOVEREIGNTY CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 14th, 2026 Willapa Harbor Community Center, South Bend 10 AM-4 PM
 Bring Us Your Vision! chinooknation@gmail.com 360 642-4897

Paid ad

wic GRAND RONDE

NOW OPEN TO CTGR TRIBAL MEMBERS

Grand Ronde WIC is a public health nutrition program serving CTGR members.

TO SUPPORT YOU WE OFFER:

- Pregnancy and breastfeeding guidance
- Wholesome foods
- Nutrition-focused counseling
- Free health screenings
- Connections to resources

WIC is all about healthy babies, kids, and families. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have a child under 5, WIC could be for you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 503-879-6701

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.





Happy sixth birthday

Odin!

Happy sixth birthday to Jeffers descendant Odin Nicholson, grandson of Tribal member Joanne Lucille Lynch, and son of Emma Bradshaw and Ryan Nicholson.

May our ancestors continue to watch over you and may your angels and guides always be near!
 We love you sweet boy!



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
tumwata village – Infrastructure Improvements Phase 1
Proposal due 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde tumwata village Infrastructure Improvements Phase 1 Project. Sealed bids must be received by Ryan Webb, Project Manager, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, by or before 2 p.m. local time Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026.

The project includes constructing new storm and sewer systems, water main system, curbs, sidewalks, pavement, illumination and utilities for the successful completion of the project. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 1 p.m. local time, Wednesday Feb. 4, 2026, at 419 Main St., Oregon City, Oregon, 97045. Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed in writing to the Project Manager, Ryan Webb via email at Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org by 2 p.m. local time, Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026.

Electronic copies of the plans and bid booklet are available by emailing Ryan Webb at Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-2404.

Respondents shall provide a written proposal by 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, to Ryan Webb, Project Manager at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. Specific information regarding document submittal procedures and due dates will be found in the bid booklet. ■



Elderberry Wisdom Farm

2026 TEK Habitat Restoration Internship Opportunity

Winter and Spring Internships

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

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

Paid ad



'Mobile vet clinic treats 'rez dogs' for free to prevent overpopulation'

(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

Reservation dogs, commonly called "rez dogs," are a staple across many Tribal reservations.

Grand Ronde has its own version of rez dogs, usually a family's domesticated dog that has escaped its backyard and is seen running around Tribal housing. On other reservations, rez dogs live without the confines of a fence and are free-roaming members of the Tribal community. This also means that these dogs are often not vaccinated or spayed/neutered, leading to health concerns and overpopulation.

To combat that, First Nations Veterinary Director Gia Clemmer (Choctaw Nation) says they bring their mobile vet clinic to reservations to perform these necessary procedures.

Oregon Public Broadcasting followed First Nations Veterinary's mobile clinic to the Warm Springs Reservation in central Oregon.

"Here on the Warm Springs Reservation, like so many other reservations, there is lack of access to veterinary care," Clemmer said. "So, what we like to do is come up here and do 100 spay/neuters, which translates to about 300 births prevented."

Clemmer advocates for high volume spay/neuter events like this because by reducing the overall population, it reduces animal suffering seen especially with rez dogs.

Former Warm Springs Tribal Council Vice Chair Aurolyn Stwyer is shown speaking to the volunteers at the mobile vet clinic about her Tribal Elder aunt who often spoke about how her people always took care of the four-legged friends.

"It's been handed down in our generations," Stwyer said. "She speaks very eloquently about how important it is that we look after the animals."

At these mobile vet clinics, Tribal community members can bring cats and dogs to receive spay/neuter procedures, vaccinations, microchips and 12 months of flea and tick medication, all for free.

According to the First Nations Veterinary website, the mobile clinic visits several of the Oregon Tribal reservations including Grand Ronde later this year. You can visit their website to find out more.

Watch the full OPB video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCAY_aj-DIHw. ■

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

December 2025 students of the month

The Tribe's Youth Enrichment Program hayu-munk skukum implemented student of the month awards for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-12. Students of the month for December 2025 were named in January.



AvaMarie Robertson was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 for her outstanding kindness and leadership in the classroom because she is always willing to lend a helping hand to teachers and students. She shows good leadership by always following directions and being a good role model for the other kids to follow. She always shows up with a smile on her face and willingness to participate in every activity and always has a positive attitude.



Oliver LaBonte was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 because he is super helpful around the classroom, plays well with other students and his smile brightens up the classroom. Oliver always knows how to cheer people up and make them laugh.



Lucy Fox was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 because she is always a great helper, always very respectful and a great friend to others.



Keenyn Holmes was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 because he is a great example of a leader among his classmates. He always listens without questioning or having something to say back, which is the qualities that make him amazing to have in class and will build him into a great mentor and peer for others. He always helps out when needed and is good at getting his friends engaged in activities. He is also just a very calm and relaxed student which helps others stay calm. He is appreciated for being an understanding student and always comes into class with a chill and positive attitude.

Contributed photos



Tyson Johnson was chosen as student of the month for grades 6-12. Tyson is new to the program but has quickly become a positive influence on others by being a willing participant in activities, from games with Shane to cooking and crafting. Tyson has a positive attitude and a willingness to help his peers and staff. We look forward to watching him grow as a student, athlete and form some solid friendships here at hayu-munk skukum!

Walking On...

Thomas Leroy LaChance

May 23, 1939 – Dec. 3, 2025

Tribal Elder Thomas Leroy LaChance of Dayton, Oregon, passed away peacefully on Dec. 3, 2025, at the age of 86.

He was born May 23, 1939, in Astoria, Oregon, to Harvey LaChance and Virginia Krippendorf.

Tom was married to Charlene Howard LaChance and moved to Dayton, Oregon. Charlene preceded him in death earlier in 2025. Together, they raised three children: Howard Thomas LaChance, Cheri Hodgson and Toni Stahl.

Tom was a grandfather to seven grandchildren and great-grandfather to five great-grandchildren.



An enrolled Tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Tom honored his heritage throughout his life. He worked for Freightliner Corporation for more than 30 years, demonstrating dedication and skill in his career. Outside of work, Tom enjoyed riding motorcycles and had a talent for carpentry, electrical work and auto mechanics.

A memorial service was held at noon, Friday, Jan. 30, at the Tribal plankhouse acha-hammi. Friends were invited to join in celebrating Tom's life and legacy.

He will be remembered for his kindness, craftsmanship and love for family. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Sharon Louise Mitchell

May 8, 1947 – Jan. 20, 2026

Tribal Elder Sharon Louise Mitchell passed away Jan. 20, 2026, at the age of 78.

Sharp Funeral Homes in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Kenneth Eugene Martin

Oct. 21, 1973 – Jan. 23, 2026

Tribal member Kenneth Eugene Martin passed away Jan. 23, 2026, at the age of 52.

Funeral services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Tribal gym, followed by a meal at the Community Center.

Bollman's Tribute Center in Dallas is assisting the family.

Howard Leslie Davis

April 24, 1947 – Jan. 24, 2026

Tribal Elder Howard Leslie Davis passed away Jan. 24, 2026, at the age of 78.

Bollman's Tribute Center in Dallas is assisting the family.

Funeral service information was unavailable before presstime.

LONELINESS
IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

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

THERE IS NO REPLACEMENT FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS!

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

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 gardens 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:

- 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, 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. ■

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.



THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE ★SAVE THE DATE!★ 2026 VETERANS SUMMIT FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 9 A.M.

Free event!

All Veterans Welcome!

Claim Assistance



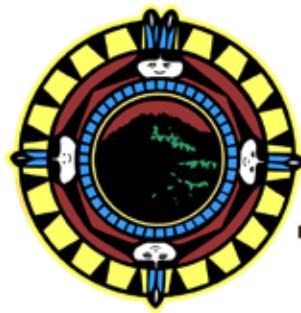
Presentations
Resource Tables
Veteran Resources

AT THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE ~ UYXAT POWHOW GROUNDS
9600 S.W. HEBO RD. GRAND RONDE OR, 97347



STAY THE WEEKEND TO ATTEND THE 2026 MARCELLUS NORWEST VETERANS POWHOW! CULTURAL DANCING, SINGING AND FOOD! VETERANS HONORING IS ON SATURDAY AT THE 1 P.M. GRAND ENTRY.

POWHOW GRAND ENTRIES: FRIDAY, JULY 10, SATURDAY, JULY 11, AND SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026
FRIDAY ~ 7 P.M., SATURDAY ~ 1 P.M. & 7 P.M., AND SUNDAY ~ NOON



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 təmtəm haws – Grand Ronde's new treatment program in Sheridan, Oregon

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

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

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



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

Inclement weather alert!

Please be sure to call the Health & Wellness Center before traveling in to appointments at the clinic during inclement weather.

Health & Wellness Center staff will make every attempt to call patients during closures. Also, sign up for emergency notifications about Tribal campus closures on the Tribal website at www.grandronde.org or follow the Tribe's primary page on Facebook. ■

Please scan the QR code to take the *Pharmacy Survey* TODAY



DIABETES EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

NEWSLETTER

February 2026 | Heart Health Month



Reminders

Awareness of symptoms can be life-saving. While chest pain is common, symptoms can vary, particularly in women:

- Chest Pain: Pressure, tightness, or aching that may radiate to the neck, back, or arms.
- Shortness of Breath: Difficulty breathing with or without chest discomfort.
- Fatigue & Lightheadedness: Unexplained exhaustion or sudden dizziness.
- Nausea & Sweating: Often mistaken for indigestion or "the flu," especially in women.

Upcoming Events

Feb 23 Diabetes Ed and prevention meeting 11:30-12:30 Cheryl Kennedy

Building

Sweetheart Jam Feb 12 Tribal Gym 5pm-

7pm Contact Info

Email: charlene.brewer@grandronde.org

jeannette.cavan@grandronde.org

Phone: 503-879-2002

FUN FACT:

The average golf ball has 336 dimples.





SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA • MOLALLA • ROGUE RIVER • KALAPUYA • CHASTA

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

Name:

E-mail:

Address:

Phone: