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cleanup continues  
— pg. 10

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FEBRUARY 15, 2026



# SMOKE SIGNALS

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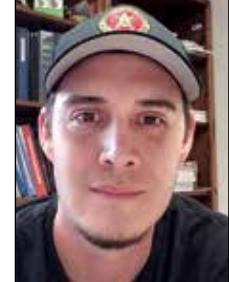
AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE • SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

## General Council briefed on Natural Resources Department

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

PORTLAND — Tribal Natural Resources Department Manager Colby Drake briefed the membership on his department's accomplishments and future goals during the Sunday, Feb. 1, General Council meeting, held at Hilton Garden Inn Clackamas Portland.



Colby Drake

"It's good to be here and to see everyone," he said. "I think that a common theme you'll see in my presentation is that there's a lot of cross collaboration among different programs within the Natural Resources Department. It's awesome to see our teams work together."

Natural Resources programs include Timber Resources, Parks and Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, Fire Management and Protection and the Native Plant Nursery.

Drake noted that Natural Resources continues to grow its programs and have increased staff from 24 to 34 employees since 2015. Fulltime employees do not include the seasonal youth crew or firefighters, which can bolster the department to more than 100 employees during the summer.

"This is a lot to manage with multiple department and program managers," he said. "We've been growing quite a bit."

See REPORT  
continued on page 7



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Toni Quenelle, left, and Tribal member Amanda Freeman hug during a reception for Freeman's exhibit "AMPKWA: munk tush nsayka shawash tilixam; Healing Our Indigenous Relatives" at the Gretchen Schuette Gallery at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Wednesday, Jan. 28. Freeman is the founder and chair of Ampkwa Advocacy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Indigenous communities by raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, promoting safety and prevention, and supporting healing through advocacy, education and art. A photograph of Quenelle is in the exhibit.**

## MMIP healing exhibit



**Tribal member Amanda Freeman's exhibit "AMPKWA: munk tush nsayka shawash tilixam; Healing Our Indigenous Relatives" ran Jan. 14-Feb. 6, at the Gretchen Schuette Gallery at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.**

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY  
Visit YouTube  
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



## ATNI holds winter convention in Portland

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

PORTLAND — Worries over threats to Indian gaming, the problems posed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials, grants for helping Tribes address climate change and a new app that turns a cell phone into a tool to preserve and teach Indigenous languages were among the issues discussed Monday, Feb. 2, at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Winter Convention.

The Tribes also heard about the draft resolu-

tions being considered by ATNI and a budget report.

The annual event was held Sunday, Feb. 1 through Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Hilton Port-

See ATNI  
continued on page 6

**Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George watches a video during the Judicial Discretion Act presentation at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Winter Convention at the Hilton Portland Monday, Feb. 2.**



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

## General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, March 1

### Tribal Council Chambers

Tribal members can participate remotely via Zoom and in-person attendance. Call 800-422-0232 for more information.

### NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

#### DATE TIME

Wednesday, Feb. 25.....4 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 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.*

## LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,  
"Drum Circle and  
the Medicine Way"  
Permission from Terry Filer  
(Sisters of The Osage)  
Inner Oasis Drum Circle

Before the sickness and confusion,  
The old ones used to say,  
There was the Circle and the Drum,  
Living the Medicine Way.

Things were simple then,  
Arrows flew straight and true.  
Hands and hearts were full,  
Herds and families grew.

Dreams were clearer speaking,  
Guided by moons and seasons.  
Fat ran down our faces  
There was peace, and life was easy.

Far off, we heard them coming.  
Metal on metal, grinding, binding  
Poking digging prodding,  
Clamoring and climbing,  
Like a flood from a dam that burst,  
Across the open grasslands like a curse...  
they came.

The old ones said they have no hearts.  
Their words are false and hollow.  
Keep away and don't go near,  
Stay on the trails they can't follow.

You can't stop them.  
So don't try.  
Many did anyway,  
They died.

Women wailed  
Babies cried,  
Our hearts grew heavy,  
As we sacrificed.

Ghosts started dancing then.  
Howling as the land turned white.  
In the snow our bodies froze,  
Laying there in the night.

Spring thaw we fed our forest friends  
With our bodies and our blood.  
We swallowed bitter medicine,  
To keep alive what was good.

Grandmother's heartbeat whisper,  
Reached us, despite all the rules,  
We shuffled along the whitewash halls,  
Of the boarding schools.

The beat would not be silenced.  
No matter how hard they tried.  
Pinching ourselves, we laughed out loud.  
We had made it out and survived.

Always there to guide us,  
As we faced each day,  
There was the Circle and the Drum,  
That Good Old Medicine Way.

We took aim and built casinos,  
Booked out rooms and concert nights.  
Formed corporate confederations  
Bought back our land and stolen rights.

Burn the Sweet Grass, beat the drum  
Dance and sing in life's creation.  
From burning love and cooling ash  
Come families, Tribes and Nations.

We don't care how you got here.  
Just carry the beat through time.  
Help the old ones visit,  
Celebrate, we're all together, still alive.

Join us sisters and brothers,  
Mix the Medicine, with the beat,  
Listen to the ancient spirit's whisper  
"Let the skin drums speak."

The sun is rising. We hold hands,  
Then we start to pray.  
What was "many", is one now,

That's the Drum Circle and the Medicine Way.

Sincerely,  
**John Harper**  
McMinnville, Oregon

## 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. For more information, contact 503-879-2401 or housinginfo@grandronde.org.

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

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

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

# smok signəlz

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### DEADLINE DATE ISSUE DATE

Thursday, Feb. 19 ..... Mar. 1  
Thursday, Mar. 5 ..... Mar. 15  
Friday, March 20 ..... April 1  
Monday, April 6 ..... April 15

### MEMBERS OF:

Indigenous Journalists Association  
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.  
2022 IJA General Excellence  
2023 IJA General Excellence

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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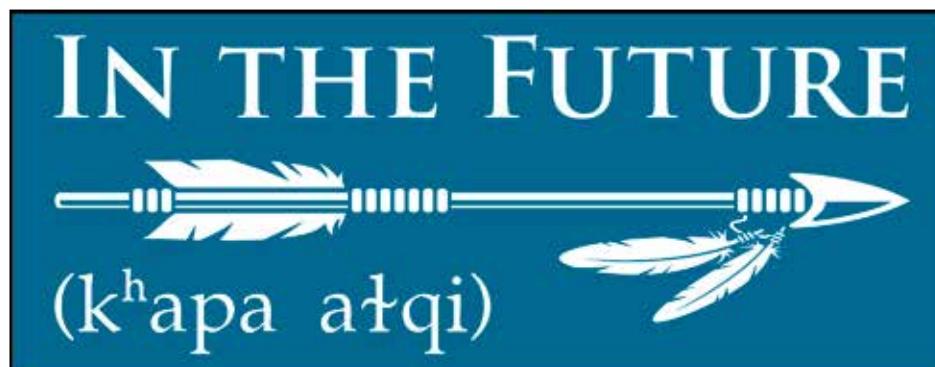
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**makwst-mun (February)**

- 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.
- Friday, March 6 – Agency Creek Round Dance, Tribal gym, 5 p.m. pipe ceremony, 6 p.m. traditional dinner, 7 p.m. Round Dance. No photos or video Friday.
- Saturday, March 7 – Agency Creek Round Dance, Tribal gym, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. Round Dance. Photos and video allowed Saturday.
- 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](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)

**Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:** [facebook.com/GRHWC](https://facebook.com/GRHWC)

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

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**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](https://Facebook.com/EmploymentServices)

## Pop-up sale



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Harold Lyon looks at ribbon shirts that Tribal Elder Tina Leno, left, made during a pop-up market at the Elders Activity Center Thursday, Feb. 5. Several vendors participated in the market. It offered a variety of handmade items, from ribbon shirts and skirts to jewelry, handcrafted pens and popcorn.**



## TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

**Scheduled Appointments Only**

**Walk-In Day**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**To schedule an appointment:**

**Call (503) 879-1424 or**

**[CTGRTribeVSO@GrandRonde.Org](mailto:CTGRTribeVSO@GrandRonde.Org)**

 **WATCH** SMOKE SIGNALS VIDEOS

### Tribal member pledges to wear her culture every day

Tribal member and temporary Tribal Library employee Sonia Lafferty committed herself to wearing a ribbon skirt every day to fully reclaim her identity. Her collection of skirts (currently halfway to her goal of making 100 skirts before she is 50) paints a picture of her life, each one made to represent a person, season or memory that is special to Lafferty. She hopes that wearing her culture everyday will encourage others, including Tribal youth who visit the library, to find ways to express themselves proudly.

For more information contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or [kamiah.koch@grandronde.org](mailto:kamiah.koch@grandronde.org)

Visit [youtube.com](https://youtube.com) and search [smokesignalsCTGR](https://smokesignalsCTGR)



# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək'əmək 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](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...

*Smoke Signals* 1991 | Smoke Signals 1992 | Smoke Signals 1993 | Smoke Signals 1994 | Smoke Signals 1995 | Smoke Signals 1996 | Smoke Signals 1997 | Smoke Signals 1998 | Smoke Signals 1999 | Smoke Signals 2000 | Smoke Signals 2001 | Smoke Signals 2002 | Smoke Signals 2003 | Smoke Signals 2004 | Smoke Signals 2005 | Smoke Signals 2006 | Smoke Signals 2007 | Smoke Signals 2008 | Smoke Signals 2009 | Smoke Signals 2010 | Smoke Signals 2011 | Smoke Signals 2012 | Smoke Signals 2013 | Smoke Signals 2014 | Smoke Signals 2015 | Smoke Signals 2016 | Smoke Signals 2017 | Smoke Signals 2018 | Smoke Signals 2019 | Smoke Signals 2020 | Smoke Signals 2021

**2021** — When the Tribe began offering COVID-19 vaccines to the community, to ensure that none of the vaccine doses went to waste, people drove from across Oregon and Washington to accept the offer. One family drove from Reno, Nevada; another person arrived from North Dakota. The vaccines took two hours to thaw and were only viable for six hours. Former Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno invoked the words of Tribal Elder and Restoration figure Kathryn Harrison in saying that the Grand Ronde Tribe would care for the community after Restoration because the community cared for the Tribe during its 29 years of Termination.

**2016** — Tribal Council approved an agreement with Marion Polk Food Share to continue operating the Grand Ronde Food Bank for two more years. The Tribe built iskam mək'əmək haws in 2014, with the help of two federal grants.

**2011** — The Tribe held a naming ceremony for its new plank-house, achaf-hammi, a Tualatin-Kalapuya word meaning "a house built of cedar planks," translating to "plank-house."



2011

File photo

**2006** — Spirit Mountain Community Fund awarded \$20,000 to the Wisdom of the Elders Curriculum Project, to develop multi-media curricula for Native American K-12 classrooms.

**2001** — Grand Ronde Tribal representatives attended the winter conference for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and sponsored the Victory Celebration Reception honoring Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison and the exit of Washington Sen. Slade Gorton, seen by many Natives in the region as a threat to sovereignty. Harrison thanked Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield and Rep. Elizabeth Furse, long-time allies of Tribes.

**1996** — Shortly after Spirit Mountain Casino opened in 1995, people began leaving offerings, varying from flowers to cash, at the statue of Martha Jane Sands and her granddaughter. When the accumulated cash reached more than \$2,000, the casino donated the funds to three local Head Start programs. In addition, the casino matched the offerings in its donations.

**1991** — The Tribe opened a new Economic Development Center with the aid of a \$1.5 million federal grant, to benefit the community as well as Tribal members.

**1986** — Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier and Tribal Council members Kathryn Harrison and Merlo Leno attended the Siletz Tribal Council meeting in Siletz to request that Siletz Tribal members Dee Pigsley and Art Bensell attend the next Grand Ronde General Council meeting, to brief the Tribe on their experience in completing the process that led to the establishment of the Siletz Reservation.

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

## NRD TELEGRAPH -

### 2026-27 HUNTING

Big Changes Are Coming.  
Are You Ready?

All hunting information communicated via the alta app, direct email or in-person.

The CTGR alta app is designed to communicate directly with our membership. To download the app, just go to your app store. To read more about this please visit the website at [www.grandronde.org/alta/](http://www.grandronde.org/alta/)



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

# Tribal Council approves Indian Gaming Association delegates

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council approved appointing council member Matthew Haller as a delegate to the Indian Gaming Association and council member Toby McClary as a primary alternate during its Wednesday, Jan. 28, meeting.

However, the appointment was preceded by concerns presented by former Tribal Council member and current Indian Gaming Association Treasurer Denise Harvey, who requested that council let her keep her seat until at least April so she can complete important financial work related to her position as treasurer.

"This is not the standard board position because I was not put in that position by this Tribe," she said during a Tuesday, Jan. 27, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "I was put in the treasurer position as an elected position by Indian Country. The delegate seat that you gave me (provided) the opportunity to obtain (the position) but those (leadership positions) are elected by Indian Country. All of the Tribes had to vote for me. ... I think it's a real opportunity for our Tribe to have somebody at the top national level for Indian gaming and I can stay there if I remain the delegate. You guys can come and do everything you do as a delegate in an alternate position, but you wouldn't be able to obtain the Northwest delegate or the treasurer...I have a lot of financial stuff I'm taking care of for IGA right

now, so I'm worried you guys are blurring the lines by passing this resolution now before April when my term is up. ... You guys aren't paying anything so why not let a Grand Ronde Tribal person be in a leadership position?"

Harvey also serves as the Northwest delegate, an elected position.

Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said that appointing a new delegate and alternate is consistent with past practice.

"We have always replaced the delegates soon after Tribal Council elections, so we have delayed it a little bit longer," she said. "I do believe there is only one conference scheduled to take place between now and April when that term expires anyway, and I'd be happy to follow up on the workload."

Harvey again countered that this situation was different as hers is an elected position and not a delegate role.

"That's why I'm trying to separate the difference between a board position and this position," she said. "It is not the same in any way, shape or form."

McClary said the decision should not rest solely on the Tribe.

"I think in this particular scenario, a body, whether it be Grand Ronde Tribal Council or the IGA board, somebody will have to make an exception to their processes and procedures, and their historic decisions, in keeping you in that position," he said. "I'm not willing to do that for reasons I've explained to you. This could potentially be

where IGA makes an exception to say, 'We're going to let Denise carry out the term of her position but not as the delegate.' ... However, our historic decision making is to fill that seat as it becomes available if there is a Tribal Council member that retires or is not reelected. We are just following protocol we have been following since our inception."

Harvey said that IGA does have the flexibility to allow her to remain as treasurer if another Tribe selects her as a delegate.

"But I don't want to do that because it makes the Tribe that you come from not (look) good in the eyes of Indian Country...I really shy away from that," she said.

During the Tribal Council meeting, Harvey again brought up concerns with leaving a leadership role vacant, noting that it was a volunteer role and not a financial burden on the Tribe.

Tribal Council members again weighed in and explained their decision-making process.

"You and I have talked about this directly and what I shared with you then is what I will share now," Tribal Council member Kathleen George said. "When I evaluate this, it has to be the best policy for the Tribe. It's not about an individual. It's about the fact that there are always transitions when the members of council change...It's not to take away from your very excellent and honorable service that you have provided on behalf of the Tribe. ... For the Indian Gaming Association, it has been the practice of this Tribe to have a Tribal Council member serve as a delegate. I think there's good and important reasons for that."

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said that he supported Harvey finishing out her current term.

"I don't have a problem with your

request that you made last fall to be allowed to serve until April," he said. "I'm a little confused by some of your statements (today) because it feels like you're wanting to serve as the delegate indefinitely and I thought when we met with you in the fall, you just wanted to do it through the end of your term."

Harvey replied that she could finish out her term and if the Tribe were to reappoint her as a delegate, it would be a benefit to the Tribe, Tribal employees and the community.

"Whoever (else) you give the delegate seat to is going to be one of the other 7,000 people walking around the stadium," she said. "They're not going to necessarily get invited to the meetings or know information firsthand. Granted, there's always a few of our other members at these events, but they're not at the high level that I get access to for information."

Mercier replied that being removed from positions is part of the nature of the job of an elected official.

"This is how elections go," he said. "We get removed from positions we previously occupied. That's just democracy. Matt and Toby have their work cut out for them, but you know, they'll have the chance and we'll see how they do."

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a commercial thinning timber sale in the Ulali Thin Logging Unit for an estimated minimum rate of \$44,254.

Tribal Council also set the agenda for the Sunday, Feb. 1, General Council meeting. It was held at 11 a.m. in the Hilton Garden Inn Clackamas Portland (formerly Monarch Hotel Conference Center) and featured a report from the Natural Resources 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) • Veterans Special Event Board\* (1)
- Powwow Special Event Board\* (3) • Health Committee\* (1)
- Housing Grievance Board\* (1) • Enrollment Committee\* (1)

**Board and committee requirements:** No more than three employees per board and committee. This includes all Tribal entities. \*Current vacancies with three employees.

#### For questions email:

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.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## 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




# Making gifts



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Joanna Brisbois makes a beaded necklace during a gift making workshop in the Tribal Community Center Wednesday, Feb. 4. The Tribe's Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program is sponsoring the workshops to make handmade gifts for guests at the annual Agency Creek Round Dance that will take place Friday and Saturday, March 6-7, in the Tribal gym. Additional gift making workshops are scheduled for 4 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 25, at the Community Center.

## 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**



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians President Leonard Forsman speaks during the organizations 2026 Winter Convention at the Hilton Portland Downtown Monday, Feb. 2.

## BIA Director Bryan Mercier gave an update

ATNI continued  
from front page

land Downtown. Representatives from 30 Tribes across the Pacific Northwest attended. Veterans from the Cowlitz Tribe posted the colors.

Grand Ronde's participation was less than in past years, with Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George attending from the Tribal Council. He gave the invocation for the event.

Former Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, currently serving as treasurer of the Indian Gaming Association, also attended and was given a round of applause by the audience when pointed out by Indian Gaming Association Chairman David Bean. He spoke about the rising threat of online gaming and prediction markets to Tribal casinos and ultimately, sovereignty.

On Tuesday, Tribal member and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie gave a presentation about the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship the Tribe offers to Native American college graduates and

graduate students across the United States.

On Wednesday, Tribal member and Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Bryan Mercier gave an update about the agency.

On Monday, the assembled Tribes heard from Washington Supreme Court Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis (Isleta/Laguna), and four incarcerated Indigenous men speaking by video about Indigenous incarceration and spiritual rehabilitation. Montoya-Lewis noted that incarcerated Indigenous men have few, if any resources, as they are separated from their culture and often are dealing with intergenerational trauma.

LoVina Louie of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe shared information about a new project for language retention and teaching. Coyote Stories is an education app designed by Coeur d'Alene Tribal member Kenny Louie-McGee and it provides stories in Salish in the Coeur d'Alene dialect, interactive quizzes and Indigenous art. Louie encouraged other Tribes to reach out to Louie-McGee if they were interested in creating a similar program. ■



**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.

# 'We're a nationally available (fire) program'

**REPORT** continued  
from front page

Highlights include:

**Timber Resources:** The 10-year Natural Resource Management Plan has been completed and is currently implemented on all NRD managed lands. Additionally, the program has completed hiring of all new staff due to long-term employees retiring. Recently, the program has been relocated to the Bailey house on Hebo Road, located near the entrance of uyxat Powwow Grounds.

"It's working out really well and this is helping us to move people around," Drake said. "Natural Resources is kind of outgrowing the building itself so this works out really well for us. We have our staff, we have our team and things are moving forward."

**Parks and Recreation:** Big Buck Campground is now open for reservations. It is an online reservation system. Non-Tribal members pay a daily use fee and Tribal members do not pay a fee.

Another area that the program has worked on during the past year includes the Nature Playground on the Tribal campus across the street from the Elders Activity Center. Additionally, Parks and Recreation works with the summer youth crew.

"This is one of those programs that really creates a lot of opportunity," Drake said. "They can work on the youth crew, build trails, work on team building and they can transition right into our fire program (at 18 or older)."

**Fish and Wildlife:** The program coordinates ceremonial fishing, administers the Tribal hunting program and manages the annual fish distribution program, along with

other opportunities for wild game.

"This last year, we were able to distribute 17,500 pounds of protein and not just fish," Drake said. "We have elk, deer, sometimes bear, we have programs with OSP if there is poaching or roadkill, we can access and process that and have it available. Also, we had a day where (the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) had whole, round fish available at one of the hatcheries. On that day, we were able to give out over 1,000 pounds of fish."

Fish and Wildlife manages the hunting program, which includes the Tribe's memorandum of understanding with the state of Oregon for expanded hunting, fishing and gathering rights beyond the reservation boundaries.

The ODFW Commission approved the MOA with Grand Ronde in 2023, which expanded the cultural hunting, fishing and gathering area from the 1,300-square-mile Trask Unit to more than 11,000 square miles. The agreement is limited to subsistence and ceremonial harvest. In July 2025, the commission voted to accept a petition filed by four Tribes requesting to amend or repeal the MOA with Grand Ronde. However, that decision will have no effect on the 2026 hunting and fishing program, Drake said.

"There were a lot of concerns it could impact the 2026 season, but there are no impacts and we are moving forward with everything we've planned," he said. "I'm really excited and proud about some of the opportunities we are able to offer our membership and it's something we've never been able to do before. We're doing it and that's something that's really cool."

Drake noted that the 2026 program will greatly expand the sea-

son and bag limits in some areas and Natural Resources is planning to release a hunting and fishing program synopsis in late March with a hunter education meeting being held before Wednesday, April 1, when the spring bear season begins.

On the Tribal conservation properties, Fish and Wildlife has been able to secure more than \$4.3 million in grants and has reforested 225 acres, restored 750 acres, replaced two large fish passage barriers and reconnected floodplains by removing three barriers.

There are more than 5,000 acres of conservation and restoration properties. In 2026, some will be open to ceremonial hunting. For information on accessing the properties, contact naturalresources@grandronde.org.

**Fire Management and Protection:** The purpose of the program is to carry on the Tribal tradition of natural resources stewardship through minimizing damage to natural resources caused by wildlife and other events, while providing for firefighter and public safety. Additionally, the program aims to maintain forest health and future productivity through the use of silviculture, prescribed fire, Tribal ecological knowledge and the best available science, Drake said.

"We're a nationally available (fire) program and we currently have two fire trucks back in North Carolina right now and we'll have staff going back there and working with the Cherokee nation and helping them do prescribed fire and get their fire program running," he said. "In my opinion, Grand Ronde is a leader when it comes to wildland fire. It's something I'm really proud of."

**Native Plant Nursery:** The Native Plant Nursery was established

in 2014 and has become one of the department's signature programs, according to Drake.

It was established to increase the availability of culturally significant plant materials for both restoration and cultural activities. There are 45 species total. Plant distribution throughout the Tribe's ceded lands has included 86 combined sales and plant donations, with 59 entities in 41 locations that have received plant materials in 17 municipalities. Lastly, 58% of the distribution stayed within the Grand Ronde community.

After the presentation, Drake took seven questions and comments from the audience.

"Thank you, Colby, that was absolutely amazing and you guys are doing great," Tribal Council member Matthew Haller said. "Going back to the MOA...It's our job as individual Tribal members to have increased stewardship. One Tribal member's decision could affect how we look as a Tribe for the entire MOA. With that, I just encourage you guys, don't be prideful, if you're questioning something, call NRD and say, 'Hey, I really want to know what these details are.' I just want to say it's so important to stay within approved areas, time frames and bag limits."

In other action, Tribal Council set the time and date for the next General Council meeting. It will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 1, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Door prize winners included Valerie Alexander, Kathie Levine and Dallas Archuleta, \$100; and Chris Bailey, Simone Auger, Mike Wilson, Dominik Williams and Tracy Cooney, \$50.

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



**Friday March 6**  
5pm Pipe Ceremony  
6pm Traditional Dinner  
7pm Round Dance  
NO PHOTOS/VIDEOS

**Saturday March 7**  
6pm Dinner  
7pm Round Dance

**\*\*NO VENDING ALLOWED THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND\*\***

Room block available at Spirit Mountain  
Casino 1-800-760-7977

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, alcohol, or weapons to this event.

# YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINICS



We invite youth to come improve basketball skills to the next level! Clinics will be held in the Tribal GYM.

<b>SUNDAYS</b> <b>Feb 8</b> <b>Mar 1</b> <b>Mar 15</b>	<b>10-14 Years</b> <b>9:30AM-11AM</b>  <b>14-18 Years</b> <b>11AM-12:30PM</b>	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> <b>Feb 8</b> <b>Feb 18</b> <b>Mar 4</b> <b>Mar 11</b>	<b>10-14 Years</b> <b>5:30PM-7PM</b>  <b>14-18 Years</b> <b>7PM-8:30PM</b>
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**BAAD TOURNAMENT**  
 YEP is excited to announce that this year we will be sponsoring a team(s) to participate in the annual BAAD youth basketball tournament hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians. All are welcome to join us, the highlight of these clinics is to prepare any youth interested in joining the Grand Ronde team(s). Try outs will be taking place when clinics have concluded.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION [YEP@grandronde.org](mailto:YEP@grandronde.org)  
For more information please email us!

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde Community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, commercial tobacco, alcohol or weapons to this event.

# Judge upholds acquittal of Chris Cherry

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Tribal Court Chief Judge Patrick Melendy has upheld an original ruling acquitting former Spirit Mountain Casino Marketing Manager Chris Cherry of violating the Tribe's Public Safety Ordinance.

In November 2025, a Tribal Appeals Court panel reversed and remanded Melendy's March 2025 decision back to the lower court, directing it to either dismiss or affirm the citation against Cherry, setting out its reasoning in a written opinion.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, Melendy upheld his original ruling acquitting Cherry.

Cherry had been cited in August 2024 for violating the Tribal Public Safety Ordinance, by committing a campaign violation. He was accused of using his work computer to print campaign signs for his wife Michael Cherry's re-election campaign, following a complaint to the Tribal Police. In the wake of that civil citation, Chris Cherry was dismissed from his job at the casino. Michael Cherry lost her re-election bid.

The case went to trial in March 2025. Melendy found that the Tribe had not met its burden of proof and acquitted Cherry. The Tribe appealed the ruling, resulting in the directive from the appeals court to Melendy to spell out his reasoning.

Melendy wrote in his new ruling that he still finds the evidence in Cherry's favor.

He noted that the court found the testimony presented by Cherry, investigating Tribal Police Officer Tokata Tehama and Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight to be credible. However, he wrote, he did not believe the matter rose to the level of violating the ordinance.

"The crux of the allegation was that Cherry had used his work computer and a work printer to print campaign signs ... The Tribe argued that this was a violation of the Public Safety Ordinance because Cherry used Tribal resources to solicit or distribute campaign materials or petitions as prohibited in the Public Safety Ordinance," Melendy wrote.

He noted that, "The evidence and testimony presented by both the Tribe and Cherry were largely undisputed." However, "Cherry did not print actual banners or signs for his wife's Tribal campaign. ... the evidence was that the Tribe's own printers were not capable of printing banners as used by Michael Cherry during her campaign. The credible evidence was that Cherry did print three 'test pages' on normal printer paper for the graphic to be used for his wife's campaign. Cherry testified that he did this to 'troubleshoot issues' with the graphic design of the poster/banner."

Melendy noted that the software used to track Cherry's work on the computer showed that "Cherry accessed these files on July 13, 2024, between 9:21:55 a.m. and 9:27:36 a.m. for approximately five minutes and forty-one seconds."

Melendy continued, "It is undisputed that Cherry did not 'distribute' campaign materials or petitions in violation of the ordinance, the focus is whether or not he 'solicited' campaign materials ... using Tribal resources" by emailing a vendor from his private email account while using his work computer.

Melendy found that he did not.

"If the court were to apply the ordinance as argued by the Tribe, then anyone who accesses the Tribal Wi-Fi resources on their

own personal cell phone and then were to text someone to request the designing of a Tribal campaign sign would be guilty of violating this ordinance," Melendy wrote.

He noted that, "The ordinance in the findings and purpose section gives the court guidance in this case. The court finds that Cherry's use of Tribal resources was so de minimis in this case and because there was no evidence that this limited use of resources interfered with his 'work performance or productivity ... during normal business hours,' the court cannot find this to have violated the ordinance as intended by the Tribal ordinance."

"De minimis" is a legal term meaning a matter is too trivial for the law to address.

The Tribal Attorney's Office did not respond to a request for comment. Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said the Tribe "has nothing to add at this time."

Cherry said, "I appreciate the Tribal Court for remaining objective and once again reaffirming its not guilty ruling. As a lifelong community member with many Tribal family members and friends, I continue to wish for the ongoing success of the casino and the Tribe in all its endeavors."

However, he wrote in his email, "The circumstances surrounding this case remain deeply troubling. What began with an anonymous online smear campaign was followed by a Tribal Council member reporting the allegation to police, unprecedented publicity surrounding a \$50 citation and a rushed employment decision citing 'breaking Tribal law' and that 'It makes the casino look bad.' Those actions created lasting harm well beyond the courtroom."

Cherry continued, "I would like

to think we can move past what felt like back-alley bully tactics and instead focus on shared values such as community well-being and strengthening relationships. It was therefore especially disheartening that five council members chose to pursue an appeal despite the trial court's clear ruling. After 28 years of dedicated service to the Tribe and the casino, it has been deeply distressing to have my reputation publicly and repeatedly challenged over a matter the courts have now twice ruled in my favor."

Michael Cherry also expressed her gratitude for the ruling as well as her frustration.

"I thank the Creator for justice once again in my husband Chris Cherry's case, following an unnecessary appeal filed nearly a year ago by five Tribal Council members against his original win," she wrote in an email. "I no longer refer to this as something done by 'the Tribe,' as these actions were taken by five individuals who do not represent the voice of the full council or the Tribe as a whole. Notably, the initial police report was filed by one of these council members, while two others were actively seeking reelection at the same time as me, presenting, in my humble opinion, a clear conflict of interest."

She continued, "I've said it before and I will say it again: Leaders entrusted with governing a Tribal nation should be focused more on protecting Tribal sovereignty and strengthening the community, not expending time, money, energy and resources targeting Tribal families for political purposes. My family and I have taken the high road and chosen forgiveness and now we pray for humility in our leadership and the wisdom to focus on what truly matters." ■

*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**  
**Marianne Blanchard**  
**Stephanie Craig**  
**Molly Leno**

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.

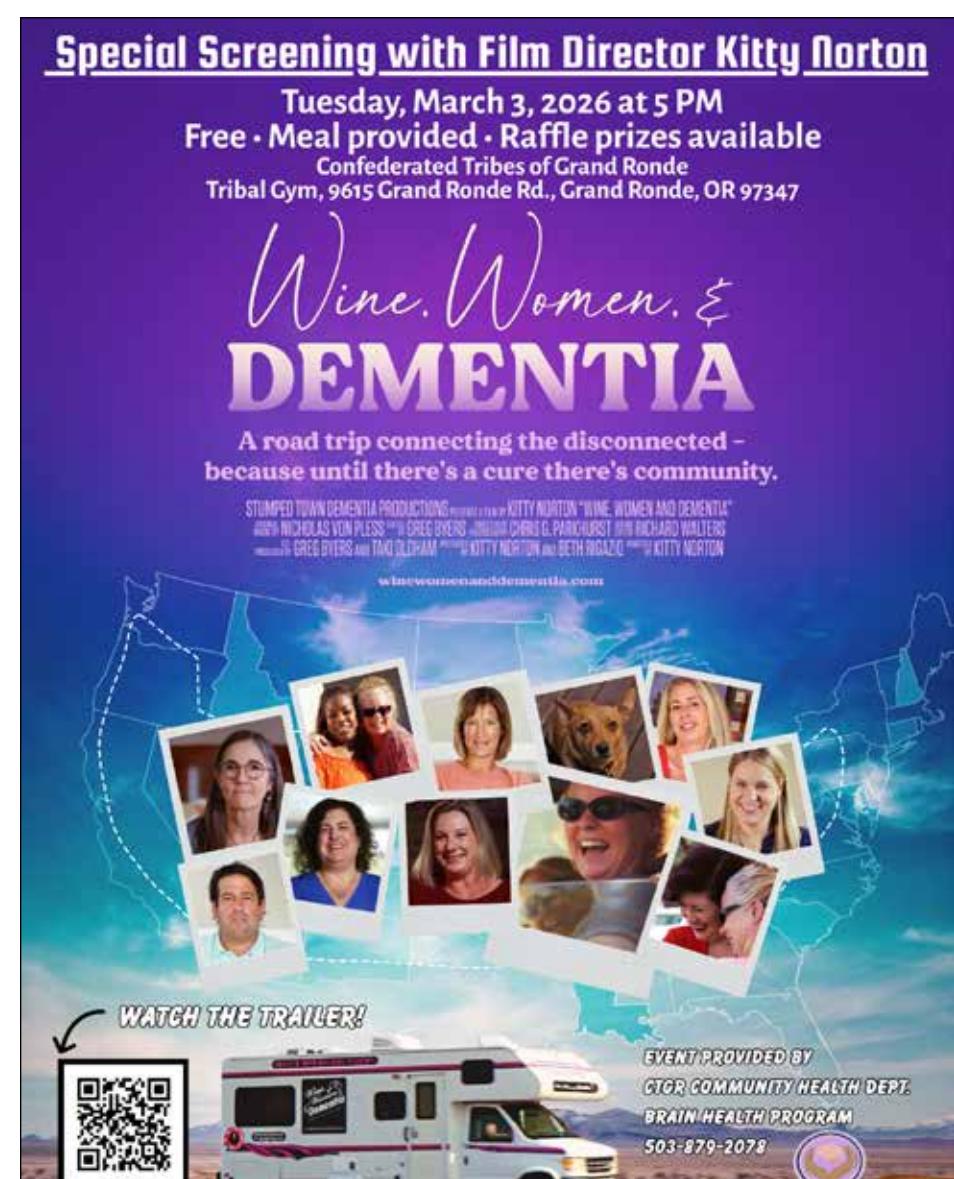
**Special Screening with Film Director Kitty Norton**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 5 PM**  
**Free • Meal provided • Raffle prizes available**  
**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**  
**Tribal Gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347**

*Wine. Women. & DEMENTIA*

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

STUMPED TOWN DEMENTIA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: KITTY NORTON "WINE, WOMEN AND DEMENTIA"  
WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS VON PLESS • DIRECTED BY GREG BYERS • PRODUCED BY CHRIS G. PARCOURST • EDITED BY RICHARD WALTERS  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY GREG BYERS AND TAYLOR DILHAM • MUSIC BY KITTY NORTON AND BETH RIZZOZI • PROPS BY KITTY NORTON

[www.wineanddementia.com](http://www.wineanddementia.com)



**WATCH THE TRAILER!**



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

# Tribe to hold screening of dementia documentary

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

In 2016, Kitty Norton moved to Portland from Los Angeles, leaving behind her job as an NBC assistant editor to join her sister in caring for their mother, Gloria, who had been diagnosed with dementia.

Realizing she needed more support, she created a blog, "Stumped Town Dementia," to connect with other caregivers and through it, made friends around the country. After Gloria's death in 2021, Norton decided to drive an RV across the United States to meet many of those online friends in person and to create a documentary about the experience. A friend, producer Beth Rigazio, journeyed from her home in California to join Norton on her trip, accompanied by a film crew.

The result is "Wine, Women & Dementia," an hour and a half-long film about the realities – difficult, funny and heartbreak – of caring for a loved one with dementia. It is intended, Norton said, to reassure caregivers that, "You're not the only one who has these feelings you don't feel like you can say out loud," and to encourage them to connect with other caregivers for mutual support.

The Tribe's Brain Health program in the Community Health Department is presenting a free screening of the film for the Grand Ronde community at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 3 in the Tribal gym. It will be followed by a discussion led by Norton. The event is open to the community. A meal will be provided and raffle prizes will be given away. Contact Community Health at 503-879-2078 for more information.

Tribal Dementia Care Specialist Barbara Worthington, who organized the screening, said she has first-hand experience with the subject.

"I, too, have been a caregiver to three family members with differing types of dementia," Worthington said. In September 2025, "I was invited to attend a W.W.D. screening ... by a former Northwest Senior and Disabilities colleague of mine, Suzy Deeds. While I was unable to attend that day, I was captivated by the trailer and synopsis, which I felt reflected the love, humor, dedication and heartbreak that come with providing care to a family member living with dementia," she said. "I then stumbled upon Kitty's website/blog, "Stumped Town Dementia," which is every bit as raw, insightful, humorous and helpful as the screening."

Norton's blog, Worthington said, "felt like a family caregiver speaking directly to family caregivers, so I decided to fill out a "contact us" request on her site — adding a humorous subject line to get her attention ('You had me at poop').

"It worked," Worthington said. "We quickly connected, as family caregivers tend to do and met up for lunch ... and the rest is history. Sometimes the bravest step in caregiving is taking a small risk to reach out, connect and realize you don't have to do this alone. I applied that to connecting with Kitty and am grateful that she reciprocated the feeling."



**Beth Rigazio, left, producer of "Wine, Women & Dementia" and Kitty Norton, right, director of the documentary, have lunch together at the end of the trip to film the documentary that follows a cross-country journey connecting caregivers, individuals living with dementia and communities, highlighting the importance of connection, education and support. A free screening of the movie is Tuesday, March 3 at 5 p.m., in the Tribal gym.**

## Upcoming dementia events

Community Health's Brain Health program is offering two upcoming events: A book club for caregivers who are supporting loved ones who have memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer's disease, and the screening of the film "Wine, Women & Dementia."

### Caregiver Book Club

When: Begins Tuesday, Feb. 24. Two meeting times are offered.

Meets every first and third Tuesday of the month.

Times: 10 to 11:30 a.m. or 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Where: Tribal library

Free books are provided to Tribal members or those supporting a Tribal Elder (Elder's name required at registration; commitment to regular attendance is expected).

Club is intended to be a free, supportive space for caregivers to learn, connect and grow through reading.

### Film screening:

"Wine, Women & Dementia" film screening

When: 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 3

Where: Tribal gym

The event is free and open to all. It will include a meal, raffle prizes and an opportunity to engage with film director Kitty Norton.

"Wine, Women & Dementia" is a documentary that follows a cross-country journey connecting caregivers, individuals living with dementia and communities, highlighting the importance of connection, education and support. ■

It's not only the grief of navigating the loss of a loved one's memories and mental competence that makes caring for someone with dementia so incredibly difficult; if anything, Norton said, that's the least of it. It's the strangeness of the behaviors that can emerge. It's the combination of grief with hilarity, resentment, anger, anguish, shame for falling short along the way and the lack of clear medical answers, leading to endless uncertainty about what to do. One of the caregivers featured in the film notes her frustration with continually being offered lists of things she and her husband "could try" for her father, rather than clear recommendations from medical professionals.

Norton came away from her experiences with two messages for caregivers: Reject what she calls "the tragedy narrative" and find other caregivers to lean on along the way.

"Get out there and get 'em. I don't know how you think you can get through this without 'em," she said.

According to surveys provided to audiences, Norton said, the film is leaving people feeling validated and better able to support loved ones with dementia, which is what she

wanted to accomplish.

"We're not doing anything magical in the film except bringing a different perspective," she said. "Bringing some humor to your journey might help you and having someone to talk to, sit and have a cup of tea with, and sit and bitch and vent ... and when you go back to your person, you're a little more supported, you have more perspective. Now you can find a little humor, instead of just falling off a cliff of anger."

The film aims to "talk about what it's really like – when you can't get away from your person and they're already mad at you and dealing with what all that looks like," she said.

People ask regularly, Norton said, what can be done to support the caregivers in their lives and there's one overwhelmingly consistent answer.

"We want time away," she said. "I'm not talking a one-week vacation. I'm talking about somebody shows up three times a week and gives me a few hours."

That might be accomplished by friends or family volunteering to sit with the person or helping out with money, so caregivers can pay for a

helper, she said, or by using respite care centers that are available in some places.

The tragedy narrative, Norton said, will make a difficult journey harder than it needs to be.

"There's a lot of tragedy in this journey, but there's a lot of tragedy in every end-of-life journey," she said.

People often think that, "As soon as you get this diagnosis, the person in your family just turns into a babbling idiot and it's like no – they probably have mild cognitive impairment at that point. They still have opinions; there are a lot of things they still can do."

Norton said she's in touch with people with dementia both in the United States and elsewhere, who are taking charge of their own futures and despite their cognitive impairment, are researching where to live, offering testimony, even writing legislation, to improve life for people with dementia and for their caregivers.

"I'm finding that very inspiring," she said. "There's this guy I met when I was taking care of Mom, I think he was diagnosed in like 2011 and he is still attending the world dementia conferences, he's still giving his input of 'nothing about us without us. You need to talk to us.'"

Even at stages of greater impairment, Norton said, people with dementia are not inert or voiceless.

"If you want to pretend your person is never going to have feelings again, never going to have likes and dislikes and opinions about issues, you're selling everybody short," she said. "I think a lot of caregivers find that. You don't necessarily want mom's opinion on what to have for supper, but she certainly has one."

Norton said that her mother rejected many of the foods she had previously loved, but found new enjoyment in different foods that had not been favorites before.

There were other surprises, as well, she said, recalling a day when she cut herself on a piece of broken glassware, so severely that she had to call the paramedics for assistance.

"I'm trying to call paramedics and keep mom calm and keep a towel on my thumb ... and then after the paramedics got there, there was mom, calmly cleaning up the blood," she said.

She said she learned she needed to "kind of lock the house down, because she was a wanderer," but that "I finally got calm enough to let her have her own thing, once I made sure she wasn't going to wander off in a snowstorm. ... I kind of bought myself time by relaxing and letting her do her own thing."

There will be days, Norton acknowledged, when "There's no humor to be found," and on those days, the support of another caregiver who understands can be vital.

Acceptance was also key.

"Letting her be herself, even though that self was wildly different than the self I had known most of my life, was certainly worth knowing and worth doing," she said. ■

# Cleanup work continues for tumwata village

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb gave an update about the cleanup process and future plans for tumwata village during a Monday, Jan. 26, Zoom meeting.

The meeting was part of a requirement for an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Cleanup Grant application. The Tribe previously received a \$800,000 EPA Multipurpose Grant in 2021 for site assessment, cleanup and site reuse planning.

Webb said the purpose of the meeting was to give attendees background information, history about the property's various uses and details about the upcoming grant.

"The Tribe isn't new to the EPA Brownfield grants...and this work will help us to continue with the efforts that we've been able to do onsite to date as well," he said. "If we are successful with our application, then there will be further public meetings we will hold as we move through that grant as well. I appreciate everyone taking time out this evening to hear our presentation. ... Grants like this one and previous grants have allowed us to continue cleanup work and redevelopment at (the site)."

Webb was joined at the presentation by Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich and tumwata village consultant Leonard Farr Jr. of Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

"I really want to draw attention to the fact that Kristen and I really manage a lot of the work that happens at the tumwata village



Smoke Signals file photo

**An excavator is used to demolish the water treatment building at tumwata village in April 2022. A Zoom meeting addressing an update about the cleanup process and future plans for tumwata village was held Monday, Jan. 26.**

site and Kristen has done some wonderful work heading up a lot of the land use and planning work, really setting forth what the goal is for cleanup and development of the site," Webb said, noting that Stantec had been a big help as well. "I've been managing the cleanup work as well as the demolition activities...We're two people trying to redevelop a contaminated, 23-acre site."

The Tribe purchased tumwata village, formerly the Blue Heron Paper Mill in Oregon City, in 2019 for \$15.25 million.

The lands were once home to the Charcowah village of the Clowewalla (Willamette band of Tumwaters) and the Kosh-huk-shix Village of Clackamas people. They were ceded

to the United States government under the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty, many Tribal members were forcibly removed from Willamette Falls and relocated to Grand Ronde.

After removal, the site had various industrial uses, including a lumber mill, flour mill, woolen mill and then a paper mill, which resulted in 150-plus years of onsite contamination.

After the Tribe purchased the site, environmental cleanup work began, including a chemical inventory and investigation work.

"As we purchased this site, we knew there were a lot of chemicals on this site, stored in various containers, including 55-gallon

drums to above ground storage tanks to underground storage tanks," Webb said. "What we didn't know was where those chemicals were and really what they all were...Ultimately, we were able to dispose of those chemicals correctly."

Phase one of demolition took place in 2021, with several subsequent rounds occurring during the next four years. The site itself has approximately 17 acres that are developable. Grand Ronde's vision for the site includes environmental and cultural restoration, new development, renewed economic opportunities and the Tribe continuing its role as stewards of the falls.

"Now, we have completed the design where permits are ready and I am soliciting bids to get a general contractor on board to help us with that (roads and utilities) construction, with the hope to be breaking ground in the next couple of months," Webb said.

The current EPA Brownfield Grant application is for a four-year, \$4 million grant to help with continued cleanup work for brownfield sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants or petroleum.

If awarded, funding will be available to the Tribe in October, with all cleanup activities to be completed by September 2029.

For more information about tumwata village, contact Webb at ryan.webb@grandronde.org or 503-879-2404 or visit tumwatavillage.org. ■



## We're Hiring

Wildland Firefighters  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde



**National Dispatch + Overtime + Hazard Pay + IRPP**

**Application Period: February 5 – March 13, 2026**

**Seeking highly motivated individuals for a range of positions on our Tribal/DOI wildfire crews.**



- No experience necessary
- Experience preferred and valued
- All basic training provided
- Significant overtime potential
- Tiered pay series based on experience
- Basic fire line gear provided
- Rewarding public service work
- Schedule suitable for summer break
- Career potential



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

Search job titles: Forestry Technician  
(Entry Level/Intermediate/Engine Boss, Crew Boss, EMT)

Questions? Contact Andrew Puerini, (503) 879-1696 or Jim Pinder, (503) 879-2332

# Tribe unveils new pest management policy

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals* staff writer

Members of the Tribe's interdisciplinary working group, which includes staff from several different Tribal departments, have been meeting since April 2025 to create a new integrated pest management policy applicable to all lands owned by the Tribe.

They unveiled their work Thursday, Feb. 5, during a meeting in the Tribal Community Center. The group is accepting comments on the proposed pest management policy.

These may be submitted by email to [nrd@grandronde.org](mailto:nrd@grandronde.org). Copies of the document may be requested from the executive office. The group includes members from the Tribal Executive Office, Facilities, Ceded Lands, Tribal Lands and Natural Resources. It hopes to have the policy approved by Tribal Council by late February, with implementation beginning Sunday, March 1.

Tribal Council members Kathleen George, Tonya Gleason-Shepeck, Lisa Leno, Matthew Haller and Pete Wakeland attended the meeting, some virtually and some in person.

Last year, the Tribe discontinued the use of glyphosate, a controversial herbicide also known by the brand name Roundup. It then discontinued the use of herbicides and pesticides altogether on the Tribal campus and housing grounds. The ban did not extend to other Tribally owned lands.

Tribal Interim General Manager Bryan Langley said at the meeting the Tribe would like to eventually eliminate all use of chemical herbicides and pesticides, but that it will take some time.

Tribal Natural Resources Department Restoration Ecologist

and Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst Lindsay McClary moderated the meeting. She told the audience that in her work restoring conservation lands, she often relies on herbicides to clear out large areas of aggressive and invasive plants before she can begin restoring native habitat. She said she chooses products that degrade quickly and are considered low risk and views their use as a tool for aiding restoration.

Several audience members expressed unhappiness with allowing any amount of usage. Some said they were also unhappy at not being included earlier in the process.

The new policy divides the 17,075 acres of Tribal lands into different zones, where different levels of chemical intervention are allowed, referring to them as low risk, moderate risk and high risk/alternative strategy. It also requires that anyone applying herbicides or pesticides on Tribal lands have a pesticide applicators license from the state, a signed contract with the Tribe if they are not Tribal employees, keep careful and clear records and wear appropriate protective equipment.

The alternative strategy category covers some 1,374 acres, including all Tribal housing, tumwata village in Oregon City, Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, Fort Yamhill and the Tribal campus.

It is the most restrictive in terms of allowed chemicals, according to Tribal Natural Resources Specialist Anna Ramthun.

"In general, we are proposing non-chemical options for pest control in housing and Tribal campus, so the low-risk options are not allowed," she said in an email. "However, we anticipate that there may be a need for exemption for pests

that can carry disease or cause structural damage to buildings. In those events, departments involved can seek exemptions, which are reviewed by the tech team, with the intention of the review being to identify alternate strategies if they exist and help identify lowest risk pesticides if they are deemed necessary."

The largest category, moderate risk, encompasses 14,720 acres, including such areas as the reservation forestlands, Ellendale, Eel Rock, Cherry City, the Portland Office and the Tribal Police station.

The remaining category, low risk, has 981 acres, including Noble Oaks, Rattlesnake Butte, Chase and Chemawa Station.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has approved 15,000 products for use in Oregon. The group evaluated 83 of them to come up with a list of what would be allowed in which areas and the policy includes a chart to walk users through what actions are allowed in which areas. It includes a list of 11 chemical products that are categorized as low risk, including things such as ant bait; 16 considered "moderate" risk and 37 that may be used only with the approval of the team, a category that includes glyphosate. All others are prohibited.

The team noted that there are further actions the Tribe may wish to consider, such as changing landscaping on the campus from grass lawns to native plantings and increasing or improving mechanical options, such as hand-pulling of weeds. Some audience members said they are interested in pursuing the idea of changing campus landscaping to more native plants.

George told the audience Tribal Council has approved four more landscaping positions to account for the increased workload of relying on strategies such as hand-weeding instead of spraying.

Some audience members questioned how the policy would affect dealing with issues such as nests of yellow jackets around campus or on the powwow grounds.

Ramthun said in an email that wasp control "would fall under an exemption for human health pests in high use areas. Wasp sprays generally cover a very small treatment area and help protect those with allergies. We also encourage use of traps, sealing of potential nesting areas in buildings and structures, and placing attractants (like recycling containers) further from high use areas to reduce the need for chemical treatment."

McClary noted, however, that permission would be required for applying any sprays. "Spray for stinging insects are in the exempt category which means they would need pre-approval before application," she said in an email. "Essentially, this is the current process where requests are sent to Bryan Langley. Our policy would offer a place for Bryan to send those requests."

The document contains additional sections that expand on areas of the policy and are expected to be regularly updated. It defines pests as falling into four categories: Vegetation, fungus, insects and rodents. However, the group noted that pests are often context dependent.

"You may have a species that's a pest in housing, that we wouldn't blink an eye at in Natural Resources," Ramthun said. ■

**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**

**GET TICKETS HERE**

**SCAN ME**

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

**VETERAN SWEAT**  
**7 A.M. TO 10 A.M.**

**TRIBAL VETERANS**  
**SERVICE OFFICE**  
(503) 879-1484 • [TGRVSO@GrandRonde.Org](mailto:TGRVSO@GrandRonde.Org)

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

POWWOW 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

**Children & Family SERVICES**

**POSITIVE INDIAN PARENTING**  
*Honoring Our Children By Honoring Our Traditions*



Every Tuesday & Thursday for 8 Weeks | Starting February 24<sup>th</sup> | 12pm - 1pm  
Community Center on CTGR Campus | 9615 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR

Together we will explore the values and attitudes expressed in traditional child-rearing practices and apply them to modern parenting. The curriculum draws on the strengths of traditional Indian parenting practices using storytelling, cradleboard, harmony, lessons of nature, behavior management, and the use of praise. It also addresses the historical impact of boarding schools, intergenerational trauma and grief, and forced assimilation of parenting.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER**  
Call/Text Alex W. at 541-921-0610  
or email [alexandria.warren-masters@grandronde.org](mailto:alexandria.warren-masters@grandronde.org)

## Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

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

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

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

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



## 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 descendancy 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](mailto:Shannon.simi@grandronde.org)



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



## Watchlist: 'Natives Fear ICE Raids'

*(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*

Tribal people across the country have seen an increase in contact with United States federal agents during the last few months, specifically Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In the first week of February, ICT (formerly Indian Country Today) published a video on YouTube that reported accounts of Native Americans being detained by ICE agents during an ongoing immigration crackdown in Minnesota that is supposed to be looking for people in the country illegally.

Minnesota is home to 11 federally recognized Tribes. Many of those Tribal communities are still reconciling with the federal boarding school era experienced in the last century, where Native American children were separated from their families by U.S. federal agents and forced to assimilate.

Video recordings of ICE agents detaining Native Americans are circulating online and triggering a painful reminder of that time.

Executive Director of the Minneapolis American Indian Center Mary LaGrand (White Earth Band of Ojibwe) said it has been scary in Minneapolis.

Two Americans were shot and killed by ICE agents during separate altercations in the first month of 2026, which has escalated protests against ICE's operations.

Brothertown Indian Nation descendant and ICT reporter Amelia Schafer interviewed Native American leaders like LaGrand and Seven Star Holdings CEO Michael Stopp (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) to understand the Minnesota Tribal community's response.

"What we're seeing is that the Tribes are doing ID events here in the Twin Cities," LaGrand said. "The White Earth Band of Ojibwe is doing free IDs, but we've heard that there are other Tribes that will also be having events to get IDs to their community members."

Stopp reiterated that sentiment by saying he's heard Tribes communicating with members to make sure they always have their Tribal IDs on them to ensure their recognition as a Native American and citizen.

"I never ever thought that I would have to wear my Tribal ID," LaGrand said, holding up her laminated ID card connected to a beaded lanyard. "Everybody is. We are all wearing our Tribal IDs around our neck. This is ridiculous. We shouldn't have to do this in our own land, but this is what it's come to."

Stopp said that although many people are frightened by the heavy presence of ICE in their community, it is a legal exercise of power from the Trump administration. Stopp encourages citizens who oppose ICE to call their representatives in congress to change it.

"We need to look at why those laws are the way they are and have them changed to reflect what we as a people want to see," Stopp said.

You can watch the entire ICT video on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ\\_1ITi96cc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ_1ITi96cc). ■

## 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. ■



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

Text JOIN to (971) 318-3459



## Visitors to EAC asked to utilize parking lots, not streets

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

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

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



**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

## Emergency Services & Food Security Community Conversation

March 5th at 5:30 PM  
Grand Ronde Fire Station

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

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

Bring your family and friends!

28480 McPherson Rd, Grand Ronde, OR 97347









## 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 email [tero@grandronde.org](mailto:tero@grandronde.org)



## West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2027

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

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

Any applications received after January 15, 2027, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2028.

## 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

## ELDERS LIVING WITH LONELINESS

IN ADULT FOSTER CARE

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

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

THERE IS NO  
REPLACEMENT FOR  
FAMILY & FRIENDS!

## DISCOVER RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY

Navigate Life After Military Service at

**BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com**



Paid for by the Oregon Charitable Checkoff  
Fund for Veteran Suicide Prevention



## Clackamas Community College offers free garden workshops

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

Each week, various Tribal members and organizations presented on practices that focus on protecting wildlife and watershed health from an Indigenous perspective. The final workshop will be held virtually from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, featuring Grand Ronde Tribal Elder and Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta.

For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/ELCgardenseries2026>.

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

## 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.

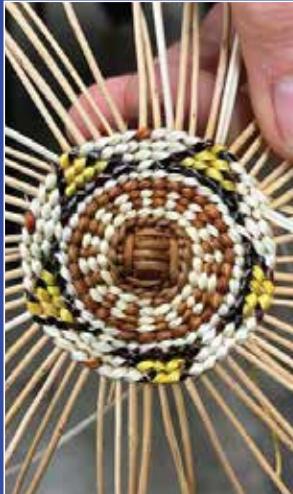
Tribal Library patrons should visit the Tribal Library and update their information and obtain a new Regional Library Service card.

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

## CULTURAL EDUCATION DROP-IN DAYS



~~2/3~~  
~~2/10~~  
~~2/17~~  
~~2/24~~  
~~3/10~~  
~~3/17~~



NOON - 5PM @ CHACHALU

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

CONTACT: [CULTURALEDUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:CULTURALEDUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG)



### FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



SATURDAY March 21, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location**  
 CTGR Campus  
 Procurement Building V  
 9635 Grand Ronde Rd  
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347



**Formore information**  
 Lindsay McClary  
 Natural Resources Department  
 503-879-2387

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS				
 <a href="http://www.grandronde.org">Apply online at: www.grandronde.org</a>   <b>CTGR EMPLOYMENT</b>				
Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Business-Office Assistant	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	02/09/2026
Care Coordinator – Portland - GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	02/16/2026
Care Coordinator – Salem - GCR	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	Until Filled
Certified Applications Assistant – PRC Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
CFS Caseworker – Portland Office	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	02/16/2026
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.	Until Filled
Clinic Administrator – Salem Primary Care	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	02/16/2026
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.	Until Filled
Clinical Supervisor – Salem - GCR	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Entry Level Fire Suppression/Prevention) – Seasonal/Limited Duration	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	02/16/2026
Forestry Technician (Intermediate Level Fire Suppression/Prevention) – Seasonal/Limited Duration	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	02/16/2026
Forestry Technician (Engine Boss/Crew Boss/EMT) – Seasonal/Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	02/16/2026
Grant Assistant	9	\$56,274.26/yr.	\$72,705.24/yr.	02/09/2026
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	02/16/2026
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 Primary Care	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	02/16/2026
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem Detox - GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Peer Support Specialist – Sheridan - GCR	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Physician – Salem Primary Care	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	02/09/2026
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
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	02/16/2026
Psychiatric Mental Health NP – 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
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.06/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	02/09/2026
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:  
 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.



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Barista (*Part-Time)	2/12/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	2/12/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	2/12/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	2/12/2026	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	2/12/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pastry Sous Chef	Until Filled	\$23.23/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.spiritmountain.com/careers>  
 Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

## Happy birthday Jasai

Happy first birthday Jasai!  
We love you to the moon  
and back, and back again!  
— Mom, Dad,  
Freedom and Junnie



### Request for bids

**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)  
INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION PROJECT  
Bids due at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026**

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE, ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION PROJECT. Through this request for bids, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) seeks sealed bids from qualified and experienced contractors, hereafter, "Bidder" for the construction of the Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Expansion Project "Project" located in Grand Ronde, Oregon.

The "Project" generally includes furnishing and installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure at multiple locations, including associated site preparation, as further described in the bid booklet. 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. 26, 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, Monday, Feb. 23, 2026.

An electronic copy of the bid booklet is available by emailing Andrew Freeman at Andrew.Freeman@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-1922.

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

### 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 was 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. ■

## 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. ■

**Agency: USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Meeting: Polk County Local Work Group Meeting**

**Date: 02/27/2026**

**Time: 9:00am-12:30pm**

**Location: Monmouth City Hall,  
151 Main St. W, Monmouth, OR 97361**

**For more information, contact: Trevor Crandall, 503-376-2839**

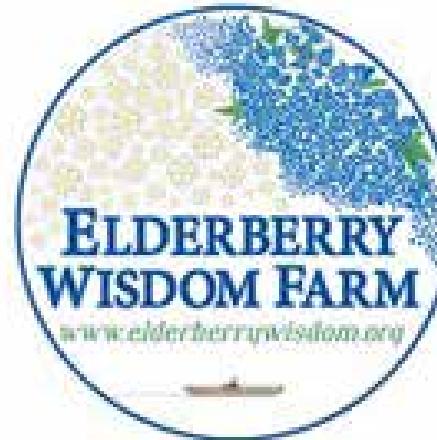
Purpose: NRCS is holding a Local Work Group Meeting to gather input from farmers, ranchers, state and federal agencies, and agriculture and conservation organizations regarding natural resource conservation priorities and opportunities to invest collaboratively in Polk County.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. A request for accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made 48 hours before the meeting. Please contact Trevor Crandall, 503-376-2839, for arrangements.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive agency and public input in agricultural interests and natural resources issues to help guide the conservation efforts of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Polk County. Topics we will be focusing on are:

- Livestock
- Soil Health
- Forestry
- Wildlife

For questions or concerns, please contact Trevor Crandall with the USDA NRCS at 503-376-2839 or by email at [trevor.crandall@usda.gov](mailto:trevor.crandall@usda.gov). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



## 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).



# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG

**Thursday, Jan. 1**

- A warrant arrest occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a multiple vehicle crash on Highway 18 near milepost 11.
- Officers responded to an audible alarm that went off at the 8000 block of Fort Hill Road.

**Friday, Jan. 2**

- A welfare check occurred at the 28000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Sheridan area.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 29000 block of Joe Day Way.

**Saturday, Jan. 3**

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Willamina area.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Sunday, Jan. 4**

- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a misplaced firearm.

**Monday, Jan. 5**

- A warrant arrest occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.

**Tuesday, Jan. 6**

- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers attempted to locate a woman at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway who had an outstanding warrant.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**

- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a counterfeit bill that was used. The bill turned out to be used by mistake.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover on a physical domestic call in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a possible stolen vehicle in the Sheridan area.

**Thursday, Jan. 8**

- Officers responded to a single vehicle crash on Hebo Road near milepost 16.

**Friday, Jan. 9**

- Officers assisted an outside agency by responding to a two-vehicle crash that occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 23.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A animal complaint was reported at the 23000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Saturday, Jan. 10**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle involved in a driving complaint.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a possible stabbing that occurred in Sheridan.

**Sunday, Jan. 11**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Monday, Jan. 12**

- A drug 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 22.

**Tuesday, Jan. 13**

- A warrant arrest occurred at the intersection of Andy Riggs and Grand Ronde roads.
- Officers responded to the 28000 block of Andy Riggs Road after a stolen trailer was located.

**Wednesday, Jan. 14**

- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway after a male was reported for not identifying himself at a 21-and-older establishment. Officers identified the male, who was of age.
- A hit-and-run was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Thursday, Jan. 15**

- Trespassing was reported on Hebo Road near milepost 24.

**Friday, Jan. 16**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a wanted male in Willamina.

**Saturday, Jan. 17**

- A traffic call resulted in a medical emergency on Highway 18 near milepost 25.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway after officers were notified emergency roadside assistance was needed. Officers were able to determine it was an accidental notification.

**Sunday, Jan. 18**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a crash that occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Monday, Jan. 19**

- An abandoned vehicle was reported at the 9500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A drug complaint was reported at the 48000 block of Raven Loop.

**Tuesday, Jan. 20**

- Officers stopped for a vehicle on Highway 18 near milepost 25. The occupant was looking for a lost cellphone.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 21.
- A welfare check occurred on North Street.

**Wednesday, Jan. 21**

- A driving complaint occurred on Highway 18 near milepost 20.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for vehicle pursuit in the Willamina area.
- Trespassing was reported at the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- A single car crash occurred at the 50000 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted paramedics with a medical call at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Thursday, Jan. 22**

- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover in the Sheridan area.
- An attempted break-in was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Friday, Jan. 23**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with locating a suspected vehicle in a hit-and-run on Highway 18 near milepost 27.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle involved with theft in the area of Lincoln City.

**Saturday, Jan. 24**

- Possible found drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle involved in a driving complaint on Highway 18 near milepost 15.
- A possible disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Sunday, Jan. 25**

- A possible physical abuse situation was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a domestic disturbance in Willamina.

**Monday, Jan. 26**

- A report of two missing juveniles was made but they were located before officers arrived at Southwest Hebo Road.
- A theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a domestic disturbance at the 48000 block of Hebo Road.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a possible stolen puppy on Yamhill River Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a CPR in progress on Yamhill River Road.

**Wednesday, Jan. 28**

- Officers conducted a civil standby at the 25000 block of Coyote Court.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18 near milepost 28.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a wanted person at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

**Friday, Jan. 30**

- A welfare check occurred at the 49000 block of Hebo Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 25000 block of Southwest Coyote Court.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a non-injury crash on Highway 18 near 23.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

**Saturday, Jan. 31**

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a vehicle driving complaint on Highway 22 near milepost 10.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a theft investigation at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Walking On...

### Mario Carlos LaBonte Martinez

Sept. 25, 1953 – Dec. 31, 2025

On Jan. 22, 2026, at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery sanctuary, we gathered to honor and remember my father, Mario Carlos LaBonte Martinez — a man whose journey through life crossed oceans, cultures and generations, and whose greatest legacy lives on through the family he built and the many lives he touched.

My father passed away at the age of 72 and was found peacefully in his home Dec. 31, 2025. He was a respected Tribal Elder, a storyteller, a keeper of culture and a man deeply rooted in Native traditions. His presence was steady, his wisdom generous and his love for his people unwavering.

My father was born in Portland, Oregon, but much of his early life was spent growing up in the Philippines. Those formative years shaped him profoundly. They gave him resilience, adaptability and a deep appreciation for people from all walks of life. Wherever he went, he carried those experiences with him, allowing him to connect easily and genuinely with others.

Later in life, he chose to serve his country by joining the United States Navy, where he served honorably as an aviation electrician. His work required precision, responsibility and dedication — qualities he carried into every part of his life. The discipline, pride and strong sense of duty he gained during his service stayed with him long after his discharge.

While stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, he met my mother. That meeting changed the course of his life. Together, they married, built a home and raised three children.

My father didn't just create a family — he built a foundation. He taught us that family stands together, no matter what. Loyalty, love and having each other's backs weren't choices; they were expectations. These lessons weren't always spoken aloud but they were shown in the way he lived and loved every day.

For much of his life, my dad was also searching — searching for his roots, for connection and for where he truly belonged. When he found his family and returned to Grand Ronde, something settled in him. He was content. He had found his place. There, he fully embraced his Native culture. He loved powwows, gatherings, ceremonies and traditions. He took great pride in reconnecting with who he was and where he came from. He absorbed the teachings of the Elders and in turn, became one himself, always willing to share knowledge and stories with anyone who would listen.

He truly loved sharing stories — stories of his life, his travels, his culture and his family. In his quieter moments, one of his simple joys was gathering with fellow Elders at the Elder buffet on Monday nights at Spirit Mountain Casino, where laughter, conversation and community brought him comfort.

My father touched countless lives through his kindness, humor and wisdom. He believed in honoring the past while guiding the future, and he worked to keep culture alive through connection, memory and presence. Though his physical journey in this world has ended, his spirit continues on.

Now, he walks on with the ancestors, his path carried by the songs of the drums and the prayers spoken in ceremony. The eagle rises to carry his spirit higher, closer to the Saghaliie Tyee — the Creator — where he is welcomed home by those who walked before him. We give háyú thanks for the life he lived, the teachings he shared and the love he left behind.

His teachings remain with us — in the rhythm of the drum, in the stories shared and in the way we continue to honor our people. As his daughter, I carry his legacy forward with pride, walking in his footsteps and keeping his spirit alive through our culture and our ways. He is not gone — he has simply crossed over.

Klahowya, dad. May you walk in a good way, surrounded by the ancestors, guided by the Creator and carried onward in peace. Háyú masi,

■ Kandyl Martinez

### ATTENTION!!!

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

CTGR FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

RECYCLE



### Jason Damion Gilcrest

Jan. 9, 1973 – Jan. 22, 2026

Tribal member Jason Damion Gilchrist passed away Jan. 22, 2026, at the age of 53.

Danekas Funeral Home in Ritzville, Wash, is assisting the family. Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

### William Jerome Hawks

Nov. 17, 1954 – Jan. 29, 2026

Tribal Elder William Jerome Hawks passed away Jan. 29, 2026, at the age of 71.

A celebration of life was held Monday, Feb. 6, at the Elders Activity Center.

West Valley Funeral Home in Sheridan assisted the family.

### Advanced Directives & Power of Attorney



TRIBAL POP UP DRABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY/ADVANCED DIRECTIVES CLINIC

APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026

9AM-4:30PM

@

ELDERS ACTIVITY CENTER

SIGNUP AT CENTER ...OR CALL

503-879-2145 or 503-879-2233

Or email [Virginia.roof@grandronde.org](mailto:Virginia.roof@grandronde.org)

COMMUNITY CENTER 5PM-6PM



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

LOVE  
ROCKS

Feb 24th

ROCK  
PAINTING

STICKER  
MAKING

PIZZA,  
PRIZES,  
&  
MORE

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

[YEP@GRANDERONDE.ORG](mailto:YEP@GRANDERONDE.ORG)



# 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 Treatment Program in Sheridan, Oregon

We are proud to welcome new residents to chaku tush təmtəm haws, a 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.

Must be 18 years and older, priority access to all Grand Ronde Tribal members.

**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](http://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](mailto:charlene.brewer@grandronde.org)

[jeannette.cavan@grandronde.org](mailto: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



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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

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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:

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