



Stratus Village  
opening photos  
— pg. 11

APRIL 15, 2026



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## Tribal officials lobbying for lands bill

By Danielle Harrison  
*Smoke Signals editor*

Several Tribal officials visited Washington, D.C., in late March to lobby for the Tribe's proposed acquisition of 18,628 acres of U.S. Forest Service land in the Siuslaw National Forest.

Since the land transfer literally takes an act of Congress, Tribal officials met with the Oregon congressional delegation, as well as forest service officials, to garner support for the effort before legislation is proposed.



Toby McClary

"We were back there lobbying for that effort," Tribal Council member Toby McClary said during a Tuesday, March 24, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "That work has been going on for a while... the staffers in D.C. for each of our delegates back there were very informed and they knew what we were there for and were very up-to-speed with what was going on. We were able to meet face-to-face with each of our representatives and both senators...It was very good, positive feedback overall and everybody was supportive."

McClary noted that the Tribe had draft language for the land transfer that would potentially be

See LAND  
continued on page 7

## Easter activities



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Jude Rock, 4, knocks an egg off the slide as he collects treats during the Tribal Housing Department's Easter Egg Hunt at Tribal Housing Saturday, April 4. For more information and photos, turn to page 9.

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO

@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrsmokesignals @SmokeSignalsCTGR

## Tribe offers help for students to be prom ready



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Nicole Montesano  
*Smoke Signals staff writer*

A rainbow of formal dresses adorns the walls of the small room – different styles, lengths and sizes, just waiting for the youth who will wear them. A rack holds suit jackets and pants, mostly in gray and black, but also two recently-made ribbon shirts that hang nearby

as well.

The room in the Tribe's Behavioral Health Department has been transformed into a prom closet, that Tribal Peer Support Supervisor Sydney Clark said is being created "to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to feel confident and celebrated

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY  
Visit YouTube  
@SmokeSignalsCTGR

See PROM  
continued on page 3

Tribal Peer Support Specialist Stacey Runningbird displays some dresses that are available at the prom closet at the Tribe's Behavioral Health Department. Gently used dresses, suits, shoes and accessories have been gathered and youth can choose what they need at no cost for prom, graduation or homecoming next fall.

# General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, May 3

Tribal Council Chambers

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

## NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, April 22.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, May 6.....	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.


### FISCAL MANAGEMENT, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCES OPEN FOR COMMENT

Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Fiscal Management, Personnel Management and Executive Management ordinances. The proposed amendments were given a first reading at the March 11, 2026, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments to each ordinance reflect modifications to the organizational reporting structure and certain position responsibilities, other administrative updates and may include minor technical (i.e., formatting and typographical) modifications.

Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed amendments to the Fiscal Management, Personnel Management and Executive Management ordinances. For copies of the proposed amendments, please contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664 or legal@grandronde.org. Send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by Friday, May 1, 2026. ■



**NRD TELEGRAPH**


Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members, in person hunters and fishers meeting

9 a.m. • Sunday, April 19

Grand Ronde Community Center

RSVP to 503-879-2424

2026 – 27 hunting information announced in the alta app, direct email and in person.



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, April 22.....	May 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Wednesday, May 6.....	May 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Wednesday, May 20.....	June 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Monday, July 6.....	June 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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# STORY IDEAS?

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


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



[WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG)

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# IN THE FUTURE



(k<sup>h</sup>apa atqi)

**lakit-mun (April)**

- Wednesday, April 22 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 800-422-0232.
- Thursday, April 23 – Earth Day Jam, 5 p.m., Tribal gym.

**qwinəm-mun (May)**

- Sunday, May 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, May 6 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Saturday, May 9 – mək mək Mania, 10 a.m., Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.
- Wednesday, May 20 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, May 25 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.
- Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Ceremony, 1 p.m., West Valley Veterans Memorial, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. Meal served at noon in the Tribal Community Center.

**To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit [www.smokesignals.org/calendar](http://www.smokesignals.org/calendar).**

# TERO on board



Contributed photo

**The Tribal Employment Rights Office recently installed a 12-by-48 foot billboard on southwest Highway 99 near McMinnville to help in its recruiting efforts. TERO staff, from left, are Compliance Officer Matt Lux, Administrative Assistant Kristy Summers, Senior Compliance Officer Duke Kimsey, TERO Director Harris Reibach, Training and Development Coordinator Jacob Boekhoff and Senior Executive Assistant Caden Leno. The billboard will be up for eight weeks.**

## 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. ■

## Donations are still being accepted at the Behavioral Health Department

**PROM continued from front page**

on their special night.”

“We know that prom attire can be costly, especially for something that may only be worn once,” Clark said. “To help ease that burden, we are gathering gently used dresses, suits, shoes and accessories so our youth can choose what they need at no cost.”

High school students in need of clothing for upcoming proms are welcome to come and “shop” for their perfect outfit, while community members are also asked to check their own closets for no-longer-needed gowns, suits, accessories and shoes to donate.

“Your generosity reflects the values of care, support and community that we hold close and it truly makes a difference for our young people,” Clark said.

Post Treatment Support Counselor Tannith McNeel said Clark “just had this idea a couple of months ago, so we made up a poster.”

The response has been heartfelt, she said.

“I can’t believe we’ve got as much as we do,” she said. “The whole community came together.”

McNeel noted that one donor had dropped off several items with

purchase tags still attached.

“We still need a few more boys’ clothes and maybe some shoes and accessories,” she said.

Prom season starts in late April in the West Valley and McNeel said the closet “is open to everyone.”

It will also be open for upcoming graduations, as well as homecoming next fall.

McNeel and another staff member sewed two ribbon shirts for the collection and McNeel has also been putting her sewing skills to work mending small tears and removing stains.

“This dress came in and it was slightly damaged, so I just sewed it up,” she said, holding up a long black gown. “So even if it’s slightly damaged, we have people who can repair it.”

Donations are still being accepted and McNeel urges people to call if they need assistance. They may also call to make appointments to come in and pick out an outfit.

To make an appointment to view the clothes or for questions about donations, call 503-879-2026. Donations can be dropped off at the Behavioral Health Department front desk, 9605 Grand Ronde Road. The department is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. ■

## Find us on



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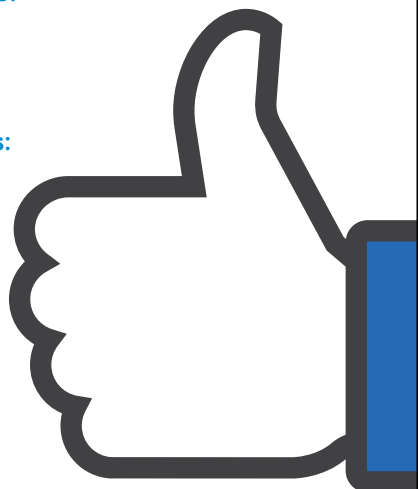

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**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**

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

**Grand Ronde Employment Services**

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

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

# Food Bank news

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets as needed at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 28. Chair: Mia Prickett. Contact Editorial.Board@grandronde.org for more information.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- **Elder Board** meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Reyn Leno.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Monday of the month in the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Molly Leno.

To update information on this list, contact Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or danielle.harrison@grandronde.org.



**2021** — For the second year in a row the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde canceled its two main powwows, the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow in July and the Contest Powwow held in August, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. “This was a difficult decision to make and one that we do not take lightly,” the Tribe announced on its Facebook page. “The ongoing gathering restrictions as well as the lack of time to plan these events if restrictions are lifted led to the decision to cancel.”

**2016** — Tribal Council awarded an \$888,777 contract to Konell Construction & Demolition Corp. of Sandy, Oregon, to demolish the structures on the 31-acre site in Wood Village that used to house Multnomah Greyhound Park.

**2011** — The Tribe purchased nearly two acres of land immediately north of the Tribal Cemetery, just two months after purchasing 139 acres that connected Tribal lands together in Grand Ronde, Tribal Lands Manager Jan Reibach said in a report to the membership at the April General Council meeting.

**2006** — Tribal Council members toured the new Tribal Housing Development set to open in the summer, as the Tribe advertised rental openings for Tribal member families. The units offered from one to five bedrooms, with general rental and low-income rental units available.



2006

File photo

**2001** — Tribal Elders Mabel Gaston, 89, Ila Dowd, 92, and Nora Kimsey, 92, retired from the Enrollment Committee after serving a combined 58 years, tracking ancestors and family members for Tribal descendants wanting to be enrolled. The committee was created in 1979.

**1996** — Tribal Council passed a Housing Ordinance, establishing the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Authority and a plan to guide the new agency in developing and implementing housing projects. It also appointed a seven-member board of commissioners to manage the new agency.

**1991** — Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier gave a report on attending a Tribal Leaders Forum with council member Larry Brandon in Washington, D.C., where the assembled leaders heard a presentation by Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

**1986** — Enrollment Clerk Margo George reported that Tribal membership had reached 1,835. George said she was preparing requests for blood degree corrections. In addition, she was compiling a resource library for Tribal members seeking information on their family backgrounds and was interested in copying any old Tribal records that families had in their possession for the collection.

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

**CTGR**  
**Portland Area Office**  
**4445 SW Barbur Blvd.**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**8am-5pm**



### GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

28450 Tyee Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

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

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

# Tribal Council approves design phase of Health & Wellness Center upgrades

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a contract for the design phase of a planned upgrade to the aging Tribal Health & Wellness Center during a Wednesday, April 8, meeting.

The design will cost approximately \$20,000 and is funded by Health & Wellness Center revenue.

“At this moment, we’re asking for approval to move forward with the design phase, where they’ll be working with a contractor that has already secured an architect, Anderson Shirley Architects,” Project Manager in Training Andrew Freeman said during a Tuesday, April 7, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “After that phase, then we’ll move on to develop the maximum price based on the design and we’ll have a lot better idea of the actual project costs there. Then, we’ll do a construction phase amendment to this contract.”

The construction phase will be done by Triplett Wellman Contractors of Woodburn and will include an upgrade to building systems,

such as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, as well as improving interior areas for better functionality. Triplett Wellman was also the contractor during the original construction. More recently, the company was the general contractor for the Tribe’s Early Care and Education building.

Construction of the Health & Wellness Center started in October 1996. Design began in August 1995 and the construction budget for the 29,000-square-foot, two-story structure was approximately \$4 million. Future expansion of the building would be easy, architect Frank Whalen said at the time, because of the design in the shape of a medicine wheel with four separate wings.

Ground-breaking occurred in August 1996 with then-Health & Human Services Director Cheryle A. Kennedy mounting a backhoe to move the first clump of dirt.

“As we’ve grown and done several expansions to the clinic and grown different programs into it, we’ve kind of exceeded the space,” Tribal Executive Director of Health

Services Kelly Rowe said. “Each program has pushed against the space that’s allowed because each program gets bigger and bigger, and each time that happens, what was put into place in 1997 is not supporting what is there now. What we’re trying to do is upgrade it and make sure that we’re moving into the next generations of the community. So that’s what this expansion is about.”

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved an application to the U.S. Department of Education, Indian Education 2025-27 Tribal Languages Revitalization & Education Grant for up to \$200,000;
- Approved an application to the Oregon Department of Human Services Family Support and Connections grant for up to \$250,000;
- Approved an application to Oregon Housing and Community Services for its Tribal Housing Grant Fund for up to \$1.375 million;
- Approved a construction contract with Risseeuw’s Excavation and Septic LLC of Sheridan for \$342,930 to construct eight elec-

tric vehicle charging stations on the Tribal campus;

- Approved a construction contract with Emery & Sons Construction Group, LLC of Salem for civil improvements at the Tribe’s tumwata village property in Oregon City. The work will include the first phase of infrastructure improvements such as roads, sidewalks and underground utilities;
- Approved reappointing Jonathan R. George, Mel Holmes and Jerry George to the Timber Committee with terms ending March 31, 2028; reappointing Shelby Maerz to the Education Committee with a term ending March 31, 2028; and reappointing Terri Warren to the Election Board with a term ending March 31, 2028;
- And approved enrolling seven infants and 13 non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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



**Shawash-ili?i Skul**  
**MEET & GREETES**

Shawash-ili?i Skul will be hosting our annual meet and greets to share information about our school with families interested in enrolling their child for the 2026-2027 school year. Attendance to one of the offered meet and greets is **required** for your child to be considered during selection.

If your child is already enrolled with SIS, you do not need to attend.

SIS will have availability in the following classrooms:

- lilu 3-4 year old Classroom
- q’alās 4-5 year old Classroom
- k’wichiti Kindergarten Classroom
- qisqis First Grade Classroom

Space is limited!

Meet and Greets will be offered on the following days and times:

- Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 5:15pm in person at SIS
- Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ noon in person at SIS
- Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5:15pm on zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83757681882?pwd=k7yUvJf2dy8nabq5E7Wdc1FlwhfuvU.1>

Meeting ID: 837 5768 1882  
Passcode: 866307

If you have any questions about SIS or the upcoming meet and greets, please reach out to Justine Flynn by phone at (503)879-1857 or by email at [Justine.Flynn@grandronde.org](mailto:Justine.Flynn@grandronde.org).

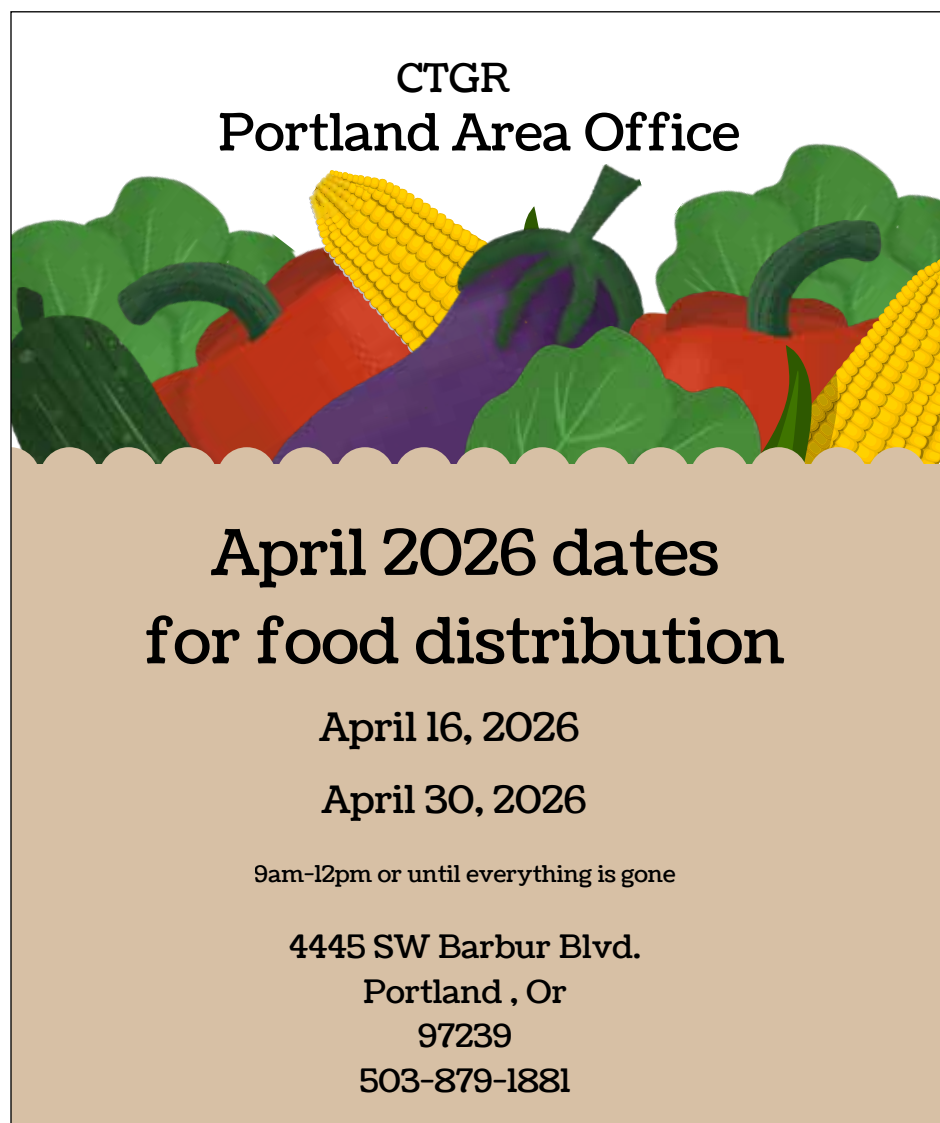
## Great Circle Recovery has updated hours, mobile dosing services

Great Circle Recovery Clinic has updated hours for both its Portland and Salem locations. Open hours are 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday to Friday and 7 a.m. to noon Saturday. The clinic is closed on Sunday.


Additionally, for those who cannot make it to the clinic, there are mobile dosing services. These are offered in Grand Ronde, behind the veterans services building in the parking lot, from 8 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday at First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows St., McMinnville.

Great Circle Recovery offers whole person care and medications for opioid use disorder. The Salem office is located at 1011 Commercial St., and the Portland office is located at 3580 SE 82nd Ave.

For more information, call 503-983-9900 (Salem) or 971-339-9240 (Portland). ■



**CTGR**  
**Portland Area Office**




**April 2026 dates**  
**for food distribution**

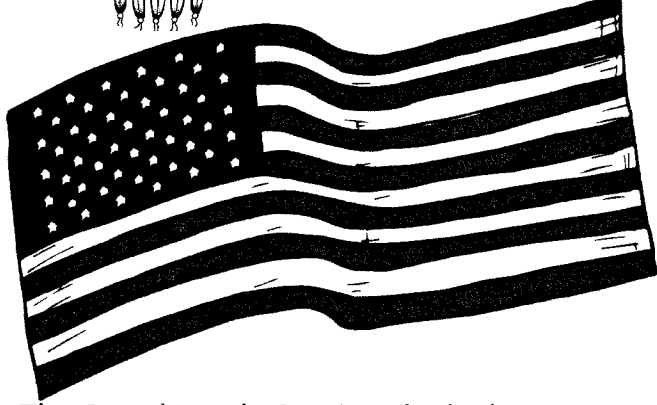
April 16, 2026  
April 30, 2026

9am-12pm or until everything is gone

4445 SW Barbur Blvd.  
Portland, Or  
97239  
503-879-1881



**Confederated Tribes**  
**of Grand Ronde**



The Grand Ronde Community invites you to

A day dedicated to commemorating, remembering, and paying tribute to the heroes who gave their lives in service to our nation.

The West Valley Veterans Memorial  
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Barbecue by Grand Ronde Tribal Police & Emergency Services

For more information, please contact [Veterans.SEB@grandronde.org](mailto:Veterans.SEB@grandronde.org)

# Tribe participates in ‘Reimagine the River’

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

PORTLAND — Tribal representatives, nonprofits, government officials and service agencies gathered Wednesday, March 18, during an event that promoted reconnecting



Kathleen George

communities through restoration, redevelopment and cultural renewal along the Willamette River. “Reimagine the River,” organized by the 1803 Fund, Ecotrust and Willamette Falls Trust, was held at The Redd in Portland and focused on the various groups in attendance learning more about other projects promoting public access, environmental stewardship and economic opportunities.

There were approximately 400 attendees in person and online.

“The goal of ‘Reimagine the River,’ was to bring together several communities and leaders who are all engaged in redevelopment work so that we can better understand the work that each of us is doing,” Tribal Council member Kathleen George, who attended the event, said. “I think one of the things that came out of it is a shared vision of restoring community around our Willamette River. This was an opportunity to not only talk about the work we are doing at tumwata village, but also to expand the conversations we’ve been having with the local cities and counties to other groups who are doing community river restoration as well.”

During the event, George dis-



Contributed photo

**Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb gives a presentation on work at tumwata village during the Wednesday, March 18, “Reimagine the River” event in Portland. It brought together various Tribes, nonprofits, government officials and service agencies to learn more about the different revitalization projects along with Willamette River.**

cussed the intent for the day and also moderated a panel discussion about effectively building coalitions.

“I led a conversation between the leaders of the 1803 Fund, Ecotrust and the Willamette Falls Trust to share some reflections on what we had heard that day and then invited each of them to share their thoughts about next steps coming out of the event,” she said.

The Tribe is in the demolition phase of its tumwata village project in Oregon City and on the other side of the river in West Linn, the Willamette Falls Trust has its own project promoting inter-Tribal access, a collaboration between the Warm Springs, Siletz, Umatilla and Yakama Nation Tribes.

The event was the first time the

Tribes met to discuss their projects after longstanding tensions between Grand Ronde and the Willamette Falls Trust. The Tribe was part of the trust until withdrawing from the group in 2021, citing an undermining of the Tribe’s sovereignty and micro-aggressions at the staff and board levels.

“In talking about the event with Tribal Council, we very much wanted to participate in the hopes that we could focus on the good that can come out of community redevelopment of our river and this was an opportunity to approach conversations that can do that,” George said. “I had the opportunity to welcome everyone there to our Tribe’s homelands and to share our vision of how restoring healing to the river can restore healing to the community. Our hope was that participating in a positive way can be a part of that.”

George noted that the Tribe’s work on the Willamette River and at tumwata village is “going to be there forever.”

“It’s going to continue,” she said. “We are going to rebuild community and invite people back to the falls. Willamette Falls Trust is working on identifying a project that they hope to move forward on the West Linn side of the river. And if there are opportunities to be knowledgeable about each other’s work and to

create projects that the most people can benefit from, we want to be a part of that...I think Grand Ronde hopes to see healing of relationships and we’re hoping that this can be a step in that healing process.”

In addition to George, Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb, Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich and Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh attended the event.

Webb served as a panelist during a discussion about restructuring, reinvesting and rethinking the value of waterfront development along the river, where he gave a presentation on tumwata village.

“I always enjoy any opportunity to talk about the progress the Tribe has made at this site since we purchased it in 2019,” he said. “My presentation was short as I shared the stage with other presenters, however, I think I was able to convey to the audience how much work the Tribe has accomplished. Given all the other presenters there throughout the day I think it was clear that the Tribe has made significant progress on developing our site along the Willamette River compared to other entities/nonprofits and their respective sites.”

George agreed.

“The work at tumwata village has been enormous and the 24-acre site is just huge with all of the buildings and structures that were on there,” she said. “I think just so many people looked and saw this old, industrial monstrosity and this was an opportunity for Ryan to really talk about how much work has already occurred. So many people came up to me and shared their excitement about the progress they saw and their excitement about the vision that Ryan shared.”

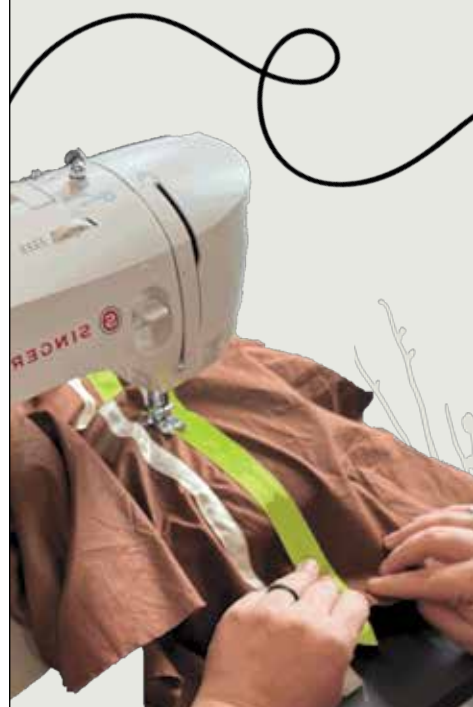
George said that overall, the event was a strong start to a “much needed,” conversation.

“One of the things we heard loud and clear is that people want this to be the first of several meetings and so I think the group will come back together and give some thought about how we can continue that,” she said. “What we want to avoid is people working in their very community specific silos...We can do our best when we’re talking to one another.” ■

Grand Ronde Culture Committee

## Craft Class Days

2026 10AM-4PM - CTGR Community Center



Sunday – January 25th

Sunday – February 22nd

Sunday – March 22nd

Sunday - April 26th

Sunday - May 31st

Sunday - June 28th

Sunday - July 26th

Sunday - August 23rd

Sunday - September 27th

Sunday - October 25th

Sunday - November 11th

Sunday - December 20th

Bring your creativity, supplies, and your family.

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

A welcoming space for all Tribal households and all ages.

Reach out to the culture committee with questions-

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

**Marianne Blanchard**  
indigenouartstattoo@gmail.com

**Stephanie Craig**  
kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com

**Molly Leno**  
molly.leno@grandronde.org

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AMERICAN INDIAN TEACHER PROGRAM

**Request for Proposals  
Architectural & Engineering Services  
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde**

GRAND RONDE HOUSING OFFICE EXPANSION  
AND RENOVATION PROJECT

**Proposal due:** 2 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 2026

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE, HOUSING  
OFFICE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR), seeks competitive proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms (hereafter, proposer) for the provision of Architectural & Engineering services for CTGR's Housing Office Expansion and Renovation (project). Sealed bids must be received by Project Manager Ryan Webb, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, by or before 2 p.m. local time, Thursday, May 7, 2026. Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed in writing to Project Manager Ryan Webb at [Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org](mailto:Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org) by 2 p.m., prevailing local time, Friday, May 1, 2026.

An electronic copy of the RFP is available by emailing Ryan Webb at [Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org](mailto:Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org) or calling 503-879-2404.

Respondents shall provide a written proposal by 2 p.m. Thursday, May 7, 2026, to Project Manager Ryan Webb at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Specific information regarding document submittal procedures and due dates can be found in the RFP. ■

## Both Tillamook and Yamhill County Board of Commissioners expressed support of Tribe

**LAND continued  
from front page**

introduced in the Senate soon.

"It was a very productive trip," he said. "We also met with the chief of the Forest Service and there is no opposition from their office...But there are a couple of decisions still to be made yet and some work to be done there but we are optimistic about moving this forward and putting this into play."

In addition to McClary, Tribal Council member Pete Wakeland, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez and Tribal Attorney Kim D'Aquila went on the lobbying trip. They were assisted by former Tribal Attorney Rob Greene.

"Knowing the landscape back there, I was pretty impressed with the obvious amount of communication that had taken place prior to us getting out there," Wakeland said at the LAC meeting. "As Toby said, the staffers and members that we met with were very informed on why we were out there and it was really nice walking away from there knowing that we had basically the current commitment to supporting this lands bill...Ten years ago, I never would have thought this would have even been possible but I think we're really close. It was a really great trip."

So far, Tribal Council has met with both the Tillamook Board of County Commissioners as well as the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners regarding the land transfer. Both have expressed their support for the Tribe's efforts.

According to reporting in the Tillamook Headlight Herald, commissioners signed a letter of support for the Tribe's proposed land acquisition at a Wednesday, March 18, meeting.

"The expansion would more than double the size of the reservation

and representatives from the Tribe said that they planned to bring more active management to the land, achieving conservation and recreational goals they have prioritized on the more than 16,000 acres of land they currently manage," the article stated. "Commissioners lauded the Tribe's management, saying that they believed (that) style would lower wildfire risk and said that they looked forward to strengthening their relationship with the Tribe."

The Yamhill County letter of support was written to Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, as well as Rep. Andrea Salinas.

"We are writing to express our strong support for the 2026 Grand Ronde Tribal Lands Bill," it stated. "(It) will enhance and strengthen the stewardship of our region's natural resources. The Grand Ronde Tribe is a vital part of Yamhill County's history, economy and community."

The letter continued that Yamhill County supports the land transfer for four key reasons, which are proven stewardship, economic vitality, enhanced safety and public benefit.

"This transfer benefits all Oregonians," the letter stated. "The Tribe has a long-standing history of keeping their fisheries and big-game programs open to the public. We are confident that this expansion will result in increased recreation, hunting and fishing opportunities for the entire community. We respectfully urge you to support this important legislation to strengthen Oregon's forests, economy and community health."

Tribal officials met with Polk County Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst in February but the county commission had not yet submitted a letter of support as of Thursday, March 26. ■

## smok signəlz offering fast email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signəlz? Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

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

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

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# Hatfield Fellow Chrissa Wilkie meets with Tribal Council

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Writing a memo for House Rep. Andrea Salinas about the efforts by the Chinook Indian Nation to achieve federal recognition is one of the priorities for 2025-26 Hatfield Fellow Chrissa Wilkie (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians).

Wilkie, who had been living in Portland before she was selected for the fellowship, has spent much of the past year in Washington, D.C., working as an aide to Salinas. On Wednesday, April 8, she visited Tribal Council, along with Community Fund Executive Director Angie Sears and Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Secretary Jon A. George and council members Matthew Haller, Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Kathleen George and Lisa Leno were on hand to meet with Wilkie and talk about her experiences.

The Community Fund is currently accepting applications for the next Hatfield Fellowship. Every year, the Community Fund selects a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in the Washington D.C., office of one of Oregon's Congressional delegates. The Tribe established the Mark O.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**2025-26 Hatfield Fellow Chrissa Wilkie (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians) visited with Tribal Council members in their conference room Wednesday, April 8.**

Hatfield Fellowship in 1998, as a living tribute to Sen. Mark Hatfield. It lasts nine months.

The Chinook Indian Nation has been fighting for federal recognition since 2002. Its efforts are supported by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Some neighboring Tribes oppose the effort.

"It's scarcity mindset, I feel like is kind of driving that, which I feel

is what the federal government wants, is for Tribes to be against each other and have that scarcity mindset and you know, not support each other," Wilkie said.

She said she is pointing out that the lack of recognition also means no health care dollars and other federal aid.

It is one of several political issues Wilkie has had the chance to work on. Tribal issues and natural resources are her priorities, she told Tribal Council, but she has also had the opportunity to work on other matters of importance.

Those have included a report on the United States-Mexico trade agreement.

"(That) taught me a lot, because I did not know a lot about it before," Wilkie said. "But my office has been pretty great about kind of bringing me into the fold and keeping

me involved in everything so far. They've been including me a lot on meetings with Tribes that come to visit, which has been amazing, and kind of just asking questions about different Tribal issues, which I really appreciated. Recently, they've kind of mapped out what the end of my fellowship is going to look like with a few capstone projects, (one of) which is coming up with a bill idea, which is quite a bit but I'm very excited about it. And so, lately I've been doing a lot of research on what federal recognition bills look like, because I know that the Chinook Indian Nation has been fighting for recognition for quite some time now, so that's something I've been raising in the office, especially because a lot of my colleagues don't know much about it. So, I've been working on a memo for the congresswoman regarding that issue."

Wilkie told the council that, "I've also been doing a lot of research on prediction markets and online gambling because I know that that is a pretty big issue right now. I know that Tribes have reached out and have been concerned about all of that, so that's something I've kind of been dipping my toe into lately."

Kathleen George told Wilkie that even if Congress is unlikely to pass legislation to regulate predictions markets, holding hearings on the issue to educate Americans about the problems can be helpful.

The Tribe hopes these experiences will train the next generation of young Tribal members about political activism, as well as raising more awareness of Tribal issues among Oregon's congressional representatives. Wilkie said she has met several former Hatfield recipients working in various fields related to their fellowship experiences. ■

## 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. ■

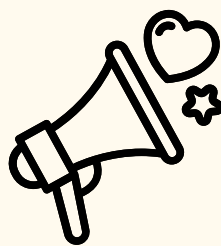
### Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Education & Awareness Event

**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**CTGR Employment Service Center BLDG C**  
**Doors open at 4:45 for sign-in**  
**Dinner & event to follow**

Join us as we bring I/DD education and awareness to our community. If you're seeking services, connections, or answers, we're here to help you and your family get the support you need.

Featuring:

- Guest Speakers
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Hosted in partnership by The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR)



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 FRIDAY ~ 7 P.M., SATURDAY ~ 1 P.M. & 7 P.M., AND SUNDAY ~ NOON

# Easter time at the Tribe

**11-month-old Tribal member Cecelia Schlappie-Guerrera puts eggs in a basket that her grandmother, Tribal member Angela Schlappie, holds during the Tribal Housing Department's Easter Egg Hunt at Tribal Housing Saturday, April 4.**



The Tribal Housing Department held its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Tribal Housing Saturday, April 4. Children hunted for about 3,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy. There were four hunt categories for ages 1 to 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. Following the Easter Egg Hunt, an "Honor Our Children" mini powwow was held at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym. The powwow was hosted by the Tribe's Children & Family Services Program to recognize April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Tribal member Oliver LaBonte, 8, fills his flower pot with dirt after decorating it during the "Honor Our Children" mini powwow held at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Saturday, April 4.**



**Photos by Michelle Alaimo**



**Rynley Bates, 3, and her father, Chris Bates, open eggs to see what's inside after she collected the treats during the Tribal Housing Department's Easter Egg Hunt at Tribal Housing Saturday, April 4.**



**Jessilyn Hitchcock, 5, dances during the "Honor Our Children" mini powwow held at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Saturday, April 4.**

**Tribal member Leloo Quenelle, 13, dances during the "Honor Our Children" mini powwow held at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Saturday, April 4.**

## Bipartisan effort underway to update Native American Housing Act

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

An effort to streamline the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, being led by Oregon Rep. Janelle Bynum, along with Rep. Troy Downing (R-MT) and Sens. Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), is underway.

“(It’s) long overdue,” Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said. “By updating the framework, the act would allow Tribes greater financial flexibility, streamlined compliance processes, expanded homeownership opportunities and improved autonomy, all of which will benefit Indian Country for years to come.”

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the act, generally referred to by its acronym, NAHASDA, “reorganized the system of housing assistance provided to Native Americans through the Department of Housing and Urban Development by eliminating several separate programs of assistance and replacing them with a block grant program.”

Under the act, there are two programs authorized: The Indian Housing Block Grant, a formula-based grant program, and the Title VI Loan Guarantee, which “provides financing guarantees to Indian Tribes



Smoke Signals file photo

**An effort to streamline the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act is underway. There are two programs authorized under the act, the Indian Housing Block Grant and the Title VI Loan Guarantee. The Tribe’s allocation in Indian Housing Block Grants for 2025 was \$6.2 million.**

for private market loans to develop affordable housing.”

NAHASDA was enacted in 1996 and expired in 2013. Now Bynum and her fellow congressional members are introducing bills to update it. They noted in a press release that the Act “has served as a cornerstone of federal housing policy in Indian Country. The law consolidated multiple federal housing programs into a streamlined block grant system, including the Indian Housing Block Grant and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, enabling Tribal Nations to design and implement housing solutions that meet their unique

needs. NAHASDA was last authorized in 2008 and expired in 2013.”

In 2025, the National American Indian Housing Council released a video advocating for the reauthorization of the act after visiting Tribes across the country, including Grand Ronde’s Tribal Housing and Elder Housing.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde established the Grand Ronde Housing Department on March 27, 1996. The Tribe’s allocation in Indian Housing Block Grants for 2025

was \$6.2 million.

According to the National American Indian Housing Council, the failure to update NAHASDA has left Tribal nations “bound by outdated requirements even as housing needs grow more severe.”

The funds can be used for construction of new housing, operation, improving housing and providing housing services.

The proposed bills offer an extensive list of additions to the act. These include: Allowing for a pilot program to offer grants and forgivable loans for home repairs and mitigation of health hazards, simplifying reviews, a grant program to help communities establish pre-approved housing designs, a pilot program to convert vacant/abandoned buildings into housing, helping families save for housing and authorizing disaster recovery grants.

“For too long, Tribal communities have not had the tools they need to build and maintain affordable housing,” Rep. Bynum said. “They deserve access to resources that provide long-term stability and expand pathways to homeownership, which is exactly what my bill does.” ■

## 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. ■

## Tribal nonemergency text

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

“If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line,” said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight.

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

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**From 10am-2pm**

Organized by Grand Ronde's Food Access and Community Team, this initiative is sponsored by Marion-Polk Food Share and The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**HAYC Board of Commissioners Chair Toney Cinnamon cuts the ribbon during the Stratus Village grand opening in McMinnville Tuesday, March 31.**

# Grand opening

The grand opening of Stratus Village, a Housing Authority of Yamhill County affordable housing apartment complex in McMinnville, was held Tuesday, March 31. Stratus Village has 175 units, 20 of which are designated for Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal members.

The Tribe also has a designated office that other Tribal departments can use and contributed \$7 million to the project. Tribal members living in Status Village have similar opportunities as those living in Tribal Housing, including being able to practice cultural traditions such as drumming and smudging, even though it is a smoke-free facility. The property also features a mural by Tribal member Kitana Connelly in the clubhouse and a metal sculpture by Tribal member Bobby Mercier in the courtyard.

**Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier says hayu masi as he ends his speech during the Stratus Village grand opening.**



## PADDLE PRACTICE

### SCHEDULE FOR 2026

<p><b>March</b> 3/18 Wake up the canoes</p> <p><b>April</b> 4/15 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p> <p><b>May</b> 5/9 Mothers Day Paddle @Devils Lake 10am-1pm 5/13 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 1-4pm 5/20 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p> <p><b>June</b> 6/3 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 1-4pm 6/13 Fathers Day Paddle @Devils Lake 10am-1pm 6/17 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p>	<p><b>July</b> 7/1 Elders Canoe Day @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm 7/15 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p> <p><b>August</b> 8/19 Paddle practice @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm 8/29 Tentative river paddle</p> <p><b>September</b> 9/2 Sobriety Paddle @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm</p>
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Please remember that this schedule is tentative and may change throughout the year. Paddle practices in early 2026 are weather permitting. Be sure to follow GRHWC Facebook for the most up to date schedule as well as more information on upcoming events.

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## 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. ■

## Tribal members, employees no longer need to pay bridge toll

Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members and Grand Ronde Tribal government employees may now cross the Bridge of the Gods in Cascade Locks toll-free.

Using this new system is as simple as showing your Tribal identification or Tribal government employee badge. Individuals must stop at the red light and present their ID, and they will be allowed to pass without paying the toll. The Port of Cascade Locks has been provided with sample badge images for all Tribal ID cards as well as Tribal government employee badges and has trained their toll booth operators. This new system is available immediately.

Those wishing to cross the Columbia River using the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge may also do so toll-free by using the Breezeby system. Tribal members and Tribal government employees should apply for a Breezeby account at: [www.portofhoodriver.com/tribal-member-breezeby-account-registration](http://www.portofhoodriver.com/tribal-member-breezeby-account-registration). Once there, you will be required to upload a copy of your ID or employee badge and will be granted toll-free passage over that bridge. The Port of Hood River has a license plate reader, so once vehicle information has been entered into this system, individuals should be able to cross without stopping, unless requested to do so by a toll booth operator.

"We're grateful that the Port of Cascade Locks commissioners recognize the importance of granting Grand Ronde Tribal members and Tribal government employees toll-free passage," Tribal Communications Director Sara Thompson said. ■

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[winewomenanddementia.com](http://winewomenanddementia.com)

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

# GRADUATION Celebration

Are you a CTGR Tribal member graduating from high school, completing your GED/Adult High School Completion, or earning a college degree? Join us with your family on June 26th at 5:30pm at Spirit Mountain Casino to share a meal and celebrate your achievement at our Graduation Celebration event! Registration is required.

**JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

Fill out this link or scan the QR code to participate:  
<https://forms.gle/1kJFjKy8hyKjcY1UA>

## Grand Ronde Head Start Preschool

Apply starting : **April 01, 2026**

Applications due by : **June 5, 2026**

Head Start nurtures the growth of **you and your child**.  
Join our supportive community and give your child a strong **head start**.

**For Kids:**

- Safe, quality early education
- Qualified teachers
- Healthy meals
- Cultural opportunities
- Transportation may be available

**For Parents:**

- Connection to housing resources
- Employment assistance
- Parent training & support
- Enrollment opportunities for pregnant women
- Enrollment opportunities for all income levels

**Eligibility:** Grand Ronde Tribal Member/Descendant; Federally Recognized Tribal Member/Descendant; community member living in the Grand Ronde Community.

**WAYS TO APPLY:**

ONLINE at: <https://www.grandronde.org/services/education/early-childhood-education/>  
Email [amber.wright@grandronde.org](mailto:amber.wright@grandronde.org) for an application

Or Scan QR Code:

Enrolling Prenatal to 4 years old

**To Learn More: [amber.wright@grandronde.org](mailto:amber.wright@grandronde.org)  
503-879-1434**

## March 2026 students of the month

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



**Tribal member Avalyn Anderson was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 for demonstrating great cooperation in the classroom, being an active listener and helping others resolve conflicts with peers. Avalyn always maintains a positive attitude in the classroom. She follows through on classroom responsibilities, such as helping with cleaning up the classroom, without being asked.**



**Paytin Bruckner was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 for demonstrating exceptional cooperation in the classroom, a willingness to work with others, listening to the teachers and helping clean up the classroom. She has shown such growth since she started the program and is such a joy to have in the classroom. She is a great friend to everyone and is always making sure everyone is included in everything we do.**



**Abby Bly was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 due to her participation and involvement with class activities and expectations. She always shows that she is a great listener who follows directions and if asked to do something, she is good at doing it. Her cooperation in the classroom, as well as during off-campus field trips, is very much appreciated because she is and will be an amazing role model and leader within the community. We just appreciate her optimism and positivity, as well as her hard work, so for that we would like to say hayu masi Abby for being a great student to have and work with.**



**Vanessa Hernandez-Chavez was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 for consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic, positive attitude and leadership among peers. She goes above and beyond in her classroom, shows respect to others and contributes positively to the community environment. Vanessa does not complain when she is told what the plan for the day is and is grateful to be here every day. Vanessa is a student that has a big heart and always makes sure her classmates feel included and comfortable.**



**Tribal member Leo Pond, right, was chosen as student of the month for grades 6-12 because he has consistently demonstrated leadership by setting a positive example for everyone. He creates a welcoming environment by encouraging everyone to participate and his dedication to our space is evident in the way he helps keep it clean and tidy.**

Contributed photos

## TERO Worker of the Month March 2026

**Name:** Kayonda Flores  
**Employer:** West Side Iron Inc.  
**Position:** Ironwork apprentice

After applying for TERO services, Kayonda was assessed as a good candidate for an iron worker apprentice opportunity available at that time through West Side Iron Inc.

In this apprenticeship, Kayonda has learned skills such as rigging/signaling, blueprint reading, PPE safety, teamwork, bolt organization/identification and more. Kayonda said she learns a lot through observing in her role as apprentice and has continued to add to her skillset. She said her boss and other co-workers are very helpful and make it easy to ask questions whenever learning new aspects of ironwork.

Prior to utilizing TERO, Kayonda was living in a homeless shelter with her two young sons. A staff member at the shelter provided her with a pamphlet and told Kayonda about Grand Ronde TERO and the career opportunities it may afford someone in her position.

Kayonda's goal was to establish a career that would support her and her children, while also allowing her time to spend with them.

Kayonda shows sincere gratitude for getting this opportunity through Grand Ronde TERO. She works hard each day to capitalize on the learning opportunity that the day brings. Kayonda shares that this work opportunity provided by TERO has "changed her life for the better."

We at TERO are proud to spotlight the hard work and dedication Kayonda has shown in this role. Congratulations Kayonda, keep up the good work!

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



Kayonda Flores

## 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. ■

**Women's Gathering**  
 Plankhouse  
 Every  
 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Wednesday  
 12pm~1pm

**And at the Chachalu**  
 Every  
 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 &  
 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Wednesday  
 12pm~1pm

If you would like to bring food to share please do



**Happy birthday**

Sister is 1 year old on May 5! Your first trip around the sun was absolutely magical, Cecelia Renee. You are one special baby girl with a bright future ahead of you.  
nsayka hayu q'at mayka

Mama, daddy and big brother Benny.

**CULTURAL EDUCATION SPRING 2026  
PLANT GATHERING/PROCESSING**

4/9 - THURSDAY  
4/14 - TUESDAY  
4/21 - TUESDAY  
4/30 - THURSDAY  
5/7 - THURSDAY

**RSVP REQUIRED  
BEGINS AT 9AM**

We will be heading out into the land each day to gather cultural plant materials and process them for traditional use. To RSVP or for more information contact:  
**CULTURALEUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG**

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund seeking Hatfield Fellowship applicants**

Applications for the 2026-27 Hatfield Fellowship program are being accepted through Friday, May 1. The fellowship program is funded by the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Each year, the Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in a congressional office. Placement of the fellow rotates through the Oregon congressional delegation to enhance the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country. Fellows are given an invaluable opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington, while working on issues that directly affect Native Americans.

The Hatfield Fellow will begin their Capitol Hill experience in November with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association, followed by an eight-month term in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend, relocation and travel expenses.

This life-changing opportunity is extended to Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, as well as Tribal members from any Tribe within the United States, who are currently living within the Pacific Northwest. Preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree (or be graduating in June 2026) and be at least 21 years of age to apply.

The Hatfield Fellowship was created in 1998 to honor Oregon Sen. Mark O. Hatfield's public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. For more information about the program or to apply, visit [thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/](https://thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/) or go to [youtu.be/9QLMuOETaaI](https://youtu.be/9QLMuOETaaI) to view a Hatfield Fellowship informational video. ■

**American Museum of Natural History internship applications open**

The application for the American Museum of Natural History internship is open. The application can be found on the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center website: <https://chachalu.org/events/amnh-internship/>

The annual internship in New York City is open to current Tribal member sophomores, juniors or seniors in high school with a GPA of 2.5 or above and who are Oregon residents.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, April 27. The internship begins in June.

For more information, contact Tribal Cultural Education Specialist Cristina Lara at 503-879-1690. ■

**Prom Closet Donations Needed**

Help a student shine on prom night

Prom season is here, and we're building a **Prom Closet** to support local students who need attire for their special night.

What We're Collecting:

- Gently used dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories

Where to Donate:

Drop off items at the **Behavioral Health front desk** anytime.

Your donation can make a meaningful difference for a student preparing for prom. Thank you for supporting our youth!

If have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Tannith ~503 879 2476 or Sydney~ 503 879 1404

**GRAND RONDE**

**FREE SPAY & NEUTER CLINIC**

MAY 23-24, 2026



**FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Spay or neuter surgery
- Vaccinations
- Microchip
- Flea and tick treatment

**WHO QUALIFIES:**

- Pets 5 years old or younger
- Pets 60 lbs or less
- Must live on Grand Ronde or zip code 97347

REGISTER NOW



[firstnationsvet.com](https://firstnationsvet.com)

Help keep your pets healthy and your community strong.



## FATHERHOOD IS SACRED, MOTHERHOOD IS SACRED

A 7-WEEK GATHERING TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, RECONNECT WITH OUR VALUES, AND HONOR THE SACRED ROLE OF PARENTHOOD

MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 5:30PM TO 7:30PM

**DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED- CLASS STARTS ON**

- APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> AND 24<sup>TH</sup>
- APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> AND MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>
- MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>
- MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>
- MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>
- MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> AND 29<sup>TH</sup>
- JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup>

THIS 7-WEEK SERIES SUPPORTS PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS IN STRENGTHENING FAMILY BONDS, RECONNECTING WITH CULTURAL VALUES, AND BUILDING SKILLS FOR NURTURING, RESILIENT HOMES. TOGETHER WE EXPLORE IDENTITY, RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE SACRED ROLE OF RAISING OUR CHILDREN WITH LOVE, BALANCE, AND PURPOSE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL MELINDA MATHEWS @ 503-879-1521 OR JOSEPH COX @ 503-879-1669  
RSVP BY USING QR CODE:



LOCATION: PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING



## Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service. 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 503-879-1488. ■

## 2026 / 2027 LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

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

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

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

For an application contact:

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



### Services Provided:

- Criminal record expungements
- Eviction expungements
- And tenant advocacy letters
- Court fines and fee waiver petitions
- Legal name and gender marker changes
- Referrals for other legal services

**There is an Oregon State police charge of \$33 for finger printing for all criminal expungements**

Cash, Card or Money order

**Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> 3-7 pm**

**Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> 10am -2pm**

Gym Building I  
9615 Grand Ronde Road Grand Ronde, OR



## 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

## AIR PURIFIERS AND HEALTHY HOMES

**Income Restrictions Do apply**

**Just In Time for the Colder Months!**

Public Health is thrilled to announce that we have air purifiers available for low-income tribal households through our Healthy Homes grant! Interested participants need to fill out the form at the QR code below and then will be contacted when the air purifiers are ready to be picked up. Please note that you will need to make a free account to fill out the form.



For More Information Contact  
Nick Oldenbourg (503)-879-6716  
nicholas.oldenbourg@grandronde.org



# DISCOVER RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY

## Navigate Life After Military Service at

# BeyondTheMilitaryUniform.com



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



# Reading volunteers needed

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

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

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




**Who Is This Program For?**

For CTGR Tribal Member youth between the ages of 14-18 at the time employment starts and will be enrolled in the 9-12 grades for the 2026-2027 school year.



**What Types Of Internships Will Be Offered?**

There will be a limited number of internships at various CTGR departments. Job areas include Facilities, Health Care, Education, Natural Resources, Culture, Spirit Mountain Community Fund etc.. Please note that some positions may have a minimum age requirement.

**2026 SUMMER YOUTH INTERNSHIP**

**APPLICATION DATE TO APPLY: APRIL 3 - 17**

**INTERNSHIP JUNE 8 - AUGUST 14**

**Program Requirements**

- Complete application online
  - Please note: When you apply, use your personal email, not a parent/guardian email. Also, please opt in for text messaging to receive updates and notifications from Employment
- Complete Interview. Mark your Calendar! May 5<sup>th</sup> 4pm Tribal Gym
- Complete onboarding process
- Attend orientation (first day of work)
- Attend 5 mandatory Professional Development trainings (dates, times, location TBD)
- Complete Exit essay of work experience at end of Internship

**When Will I Be Notified for the Job That I Have Applied For?**

Once the application has been received, a follow up email will be sent with key information and next steps.

**Tribal Youth, Do You Need Help Completing Your Application?**

We are here for you! If you need support in this area, please email [youthenrichment@grandronde.org](mailto:youthenrichment@grandronde.org). Please reach out to us to schedule an appointment with staff to help guide you through the application process.

For General Questions email [youthenrichment@grandronde.org](mailto:youthenrichment@grandronde.org)

For Application/Hiring Process Questions email [employmentteam@grandronde.org](mailto:employmentteam@grandronde.org)



April 10, 2026 Apply online at: [www.grandronde.org/government/employment](http://www.grandronde.org/government/employment) CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Assistant Teacher	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Behavioral Health Scheduler	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	04/13/2026
Certified Applications Assistant – PRC Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	04/20/2026
Certified Medical Assistant – Salem Primary Care	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	04/19/2026
CFS Caseworker – Portland Office	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Construction Supervisor – Natural Resources	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	04/19/2026
Cultural Center Specialist II	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	04/13/2026
Family Partnership Specialist – Early Childhood Education	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	04/20/2026
Family Support Services Specialist – Social Services	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95	04/20/2026
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Engine Boss/Crew Boss/EMT) – Seasonal/Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Forestry Technician (Intermediate Level Fire Suppression/Prevention) – Seasonal/Limited Duration	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Groundskeeper	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	04/20/2026
Health Care Payment Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95	04/20/2026
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Medication Aide – Adult Foster Care	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	04/20/2026
Nurse Practitioner	22	\$176,393.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	04/20/2026
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.	Until Filled
Pow Wow 2026 Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	04/20/2026
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Summer Youth Internship 2026	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	04/17/2026
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Full Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	
Youth Crew Leader – Limited Duration (Seasonal)	3	\$20.00/hr.	\$20.00/hr.	Until Filled
Youth Crew Member – Limited Duration (Seasonal)	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Medical Assistant – Salem Detox - GCR	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Clinic Manager – Salem - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Clinic 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
Cook – Salem Detox - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Housekeeper – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Physician – Salem - GCR	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$330,026.39/yr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem Detox - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Portland - GCR	10	\$61,901.61/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled

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.
2. Tribal member spouses, parents and/or legal guardians of Grand Ronde Tribal member children, current regular CTGR employees, enrolled members of other Native American Tribes, and Veterans.
3. External candidates including current Spirit Mountain Casino employees.



## WELLNESS WARRIOR LOGO CONTEST


Eligibility: Native Youth ages 10-24  
 Deadline: FRIDAY APRIL 17TH  
 Submissions:  
 email to [YEP@grandronde.org](mailto:YEP@grandronde.org)  
 OR  
 Drop off at Community Center

SHOW US what being a #WellnessWarrior means to YOU.

Winner will receive a \$100 giftcard AND their logo will be used on t-shirts for our annual ʘush tæmtæm jam!





POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Assistant Casino Controller	4/16/2026	\$69,737.82/yr. DOE
Banquet Server (*Part-Time)	4/16/2026	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Chef de Cuisine – Banquet/Production	4/16/2016	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	4/16/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Services Lead	4/16/2016	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk (*Part-Time)	4/16/2016	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Kitchen Steward (*Part-Time)	4/16/2016	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Assistant Shift Supervisor	4/16/2016	\$52,937.25/yr. DOE
Table Games Dealer – Multi-Game (*Full-Time & Part-Time)	4/16/2016	\$15.05/hr. + Tips
Table Games Floor Supervisor	4/16/2016	\$23.23/hr. DOE
Amore Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Cage Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Mountain View Sports Bar Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Sports Bar Bussperson (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/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 applies certain preference in all employment opportunities to applicants who meet the requirements of the job by utilizing the following preference tier system:
  - Tier 1: Enrolled Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Members
  - Tier 2: Spouses, Parents and/or Legal Guardians of CTGR Members, enrolled members of other Indian Tribes, Veterans, and Current Employees
  - Tier 3: External Candidates – qualified applicants not falling within Tier 1 & 2
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus
- ✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.

✉ [employmentteam@spiritmtn.com](mailto:employmentteam@spiritmtn.com) <https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>  
 Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

## 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**



# shati pi ishish



SPRING/SUMMER 2026

GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION ARE HOSTING SHATI PI ISHISH PRACTICE.

WED. APRIL 29	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY GRHWC & PUBLIC HEALTH SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. APRIL 29	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. MAY 6	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. MAY 27	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY GRHWC & PUBLIC HEALTH SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JUNE 10	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JUNE 24	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY GRHWC & PUBLIC HEALTH SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JULY 8	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JULY 22	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM	HOSTED BY GRHWC & PUBLIC HEALTH SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED

## Upcoming Chachalu Friday Marketplace vendors wanted

Request a vendor application now. Email [chachalu.marketplace@grandronde.org](mailto:chachalu.marketplace@grandronde.org) or contact Kyoni Mercier for more information at 503-879-2226.

# Chachalu Friday Marketplace

FOOD // ART // CRAFTS



### UPCOMING MARKETS

- May 8
- June 12
- July 31
- August 28
- September 11
- October 9
- November 6
- December 11 // Holly Jolly

**10 AM-4PM | RAIN OR SHINE**  
In case of rain, we'll be in the Chachalu Gym.

VENDOR INFO / [CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG](mailto:CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG)

8720 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OREGON

# NEW YORK 2026

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

# SAVE THE DATE

Open to High School youth that meet the following qualifications/

Enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Current Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in High School

G.P.A. of 2.5 or above

Oregon Resident

APPLICATION DEADLINE/  
**April 27, 2026**

APPLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE/  
**March 18, 2026**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT/  
**Cristina Lara**  
[cristina.lara@grandronde.org](mailto:cristina.lara@grandronde.org)  
503.879.1690



## Elderberry Wisdom Farm

Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summer Internship Opportunity

June 30, 2026 – August 27, 2026

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm, is recruiting Native American and other interns interested in conservation career pathways to apply for our 2026 Summer TEK Workforce Development Internship. Classes are held three days a week with a monthly stipend of \$1,500, although some interns may opt to work four days weekly for a \$2,000 monthly stipend.

Interns will learn to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and climate adaptation practices into restoration projects, including urban forestry, native plant nursery development, organic farming and micro-enterprises. Culturally tailored classroom education, experiential service-learning work and mentoring will strengthen their conservation workforce readiness. Interns will also participate in additional service-learning and community outreach activities with partners, including Oregon Department of Forestry: Urban & Community Forestry Program and City of Salem: Urban Forestry.

Diverse and exciting activities will include:

- \* Learning to cultivate native tree, shrub and pollinator species at our Native American Plant Nursery
- \* Learning to mentor high school youth as they explore conservation careers through urban forestry
- \* Helping us prepare to teach tree canopy development to students in local schools
- \* Help us plan a Farm Open House and Harvest Celebration at our newest farm, Geercrest Farm
- \* Providing Blue Elderberry Farm herbal products at local Farmers Markets in Salem and Corvallis
- \* Volunteer learn TV production serving on our local TV show: Elderberry Wisdom TV Program

Applications will continue to be accepted until June for this paid internship opportunity. Candidates must live near training and work sites in or near Salem, Oregon in Oregon's Willamette Valley or be willing to move to the surrounding area to participate. If you are interested in applying or have questions, feel free to contact us. More information about the opportunity is available in our monthly newsletters and at our website [www.elderberrywisdom.org](http://www.elderberrywisdom.org). You can also send your resume and letter of interest to us by email at [accounts@elderberrywisdom.org](mailto:accounts@elderberrywisdom.org) and request an interview.



Left image: Our brilliant Summer 2025 TEK Interns



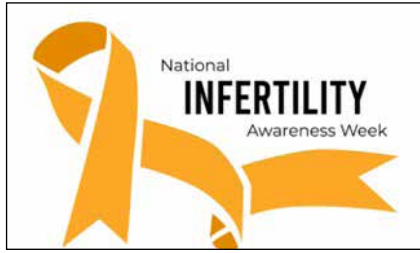
Right: Winter Our amazing new 2026 TEK Interns



# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## National Infertility Awareness Week

National Infertility Awareness Week, April 19-25, is a time to talk about infertility and support people who are trying to have a baby. Infertility means not being able to get pregnant after trying for one year or six months for people over age 35.



Infertility is common and can affect anyone. It is a medical condition, not a personal failure. Both women and men can have fertility problems. Many health issues, such as hormone problems, infections or chronic illness, can affect fertility.

Infertility can also affect mental and emotional health. People may feel sad, stressed or alone. Talking with a doctor, counselor or trusted person can help. Support groups can also provide comfort and understanding.

There are steps people can take to support fertility health:

- Visit a health care provider for regular checkups.
- Eat healthy foods and stay active.
- Avoid smoking, drugs and too much alcohol.
- Manage stress when possible.
- Ask a doctor about fertility concerns early.

National Infertility Awareness Week reminds us that infertility is a health issue that deserves care, understanding and support. Learning about fertility health can help people make informed choices and seek help when they need it. ■

### Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation.

## Opioid Medication Education

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

**Possible side effects of opioid medications include:**

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

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

**Controlled medication rules include:**

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

**Opioid pain medication may be stopped if:**

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

## 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.

## Skookum Health announces coverage changes for 2026

There are several changes to the Skookum Health Assistance Program. This ensures that those on the waiting list for any of these services can begin accessing those through Skookum without further delay, as the services below have been merged into Skookum.

The new/additional benefits are as follows:

- LASIK eye surgery: \$5,000 maximum – twice per lifetime (spousal exclusion);
- Hearing aids: \$3,500 every 3 years (spousal exclusion);
- Vision: No service area restrictions. Benefits include a vision exam that is 100% covered (once per calendar year) and up to \$185 for frames (once per calendar year). Lenses, including single, bifocal, trifocal lenticular and progressive, are 100% covered with a prescription; or contacts in place of glasses are 100% covered for a one-year supply;
- Inpatient drug or alcohol treatment – 100% covered in-network;
- Dental (spousal exclusion): No service area restrictions, \$4,000 annual maximum per calendar year;
- Orthodontics: \$6,000 lifetime maximum (spousal exclusion).

If you have primary insurance that covers any of these benefits, that will need to be utilized before Skookum. For assistance, contact Forest County Potawatomi at 715-478-4610. For dental inquiries, call 503-879-2343 or 503-879-2197. ■

## We want to hear from you!

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

## DIABETES EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

April 2026

### Alcohol Awareness

April is Alcohol Awareness Month a national initiative aimed at reducing the stigma of addiction, providing education on misuse, and encouraging healthier habits. Excessive alcohol use is the third-leading preventable cause of death in the U.S., causing roughly 95,000–140,000 deaths annually. Key focus areas include preventing underage drinking, recognizing signs of addiction, and understanding the risks of binge drinking.

Despite the potential health perks of drinking alcohol, there are some cautions as well. The biggest concern is hypoglycemia (low blood glucose). When drinking alcohol is combined with the medications most often used to treat diabetes—particularly insulin and sulfonylureas, low blood glucose can result. While a glass of wine with dinner probably isn't a big deal, a mojito on an empty stomach at happy hour is.

"Rethink Your Drink" is a Public Health Initiative encouraging people to replace sugary drinks—soda, sports drinks, energy drinks, and specialty coffees—with healthier alternatives like water. The goal is to reduce consumption of added sugars, which are linked to obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

### Upcoming Events

- 4/16 STI prevention event
- 4/20 monthly meeting 12:30-1:30
- 4/23 Earth Day Jam 5/7pm gym
- 4/27 Mobile Mammograms
- 4/29 Fentanyl Awareness Day

### Contact Info

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

Phone: 503-879-2002



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## NEW NAVY ZIP-UP HOODIES AND T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE



NAVY ZIP-UP:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL ZIP-UP:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



GRAY ZIP-UP:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK ZIP-UP:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK PULL-OVER:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



NAVY T-SHIRT:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL T-SHIRT:  
FRONT GRAPHIC



GRAY T-SHIRT:  
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:  
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:  
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC

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

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<b>FREE SHIPPING!</b>		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X-LARGE	3X-LARGE	4X-LARGE
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ZIP-UP HOODIE (GRAY) \$35								Not Available
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ZIP-UP HOODIE (NAVY) \$35								Not Available
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T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT GRAPHIC \$15								
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