



Tribal Elders visit  
Wapato Lake National  
Wildlife Refuge  
— pg. 10

MAY 15, 2026



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## Four names being added to Veterans Memorial



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle sings and drums a memorial song during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus last May. This year's ceremony is Monday, May 25.

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Four names, including that of Tribal Elder Tim Douglass (Marine Corps), will be added to the West Valley Veterans Memorial during the Monday, May 25, ceremony being held on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus.

The six pillars at the West Valley Veterans Memorial feature the names of Tribal and community members from Grand Ronde, Wil-

lamina and Sheridan who served in the four major branches of the U.S. military – Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The addition of the names this year will increase the number of those honored on all pillars to 2,395.

“A day dedicated to commemorating, remembering and paying tribute to the heroes

See MEMORIAL DAY continued on page 3

## General Council briefed on Community Development Plan, capital improvement projects

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb briefed the membership on various capital improvement projects on and off the reservation during a Sunday, May 3, General Council meeting held via Zoom and in Tribal Council Chambers.

Webb was joined by Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich, who shared an update about the community development plan, Grand Ronde 2033.

“The Community Development Plan was adopted by Tribal Council in 2021,” she said. “Really the focus of that plan is to answer the question, ‘What will the Grand Ronde Tribe look like in 2033?’ It looked across all of our large departments and programs, 15 different focus areas and developed different goals and initiatives to help us achieve what it is the Tribe is looking to accomplish by 2033.”

The Tribe launched the Community Development Plan effort in May 2018 to help guide the decisions and setting of priorities for the Tribe as the 50-year mark of Restoration approaches in 2033.

Svicarovich discussed the plan’s background, 2025 program successes and Tribal organizational highlights, while Webb discussed the various



Ryan Webb



Kristen Svicarovich

See MEETING continued on page 9

## Tribe and university celebrate Camas Festival

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

MCMINNVILLE — It was a perfect day for the Camas Festival on Friday, May 1; sunny and warm, with the tall flower spikes in full bloom against a backdrop of green along the creek bottom by the Linfield University campus.

The annual festival is the result of a partnership between Linfield University and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY



Dozens of people attended, eager to view the camas in bloom, listen to presentations about the iconic flower and taste samples, harvested a few days earlier by the Tribe and

See CAMAS continued on page 8



Breanna Sisneros tries a piece of camas bulb that Tribal Cultural Resources Specialist Chris Rempel, left, has available to sample during the fifth annual Camas Festival at Linfield University in McMinnville Friday, May 1.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

# Tribal Council nominations

11 a.m. Sunday, June 28

Tribal Council Chambers

All nominations are required to be done in-person.

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, May 20.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, June 3.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17.....	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.

## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closing noon Friday, May 22, and closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

# Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

# smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, May 20.....	June 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Friday, June 5.....	June 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Monday, June 22.....	July 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Monday, July 6.....	July 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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## Let's Create Defensible Space

### CHECKLIST:

- Roofs and gutters are clean from leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eaves. A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.
- eaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from the surface of, around, and below decks and fences.
- The driveway is accessible to first responders (e.g., clear of debris and obstructions; meets local height and width requirements; has clearly marked road signs, bridges, & culverts).
- Small BBQ tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away or in an outbuilding.
- Exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios are covered with 1/8" metal wire mesh.



For more information contact your local fire agency or reach out to our Defensible Space Program for more tips on how to protect yourself and your property this wildfire season.

[Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org](mailto:Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org)  
503-879-1701

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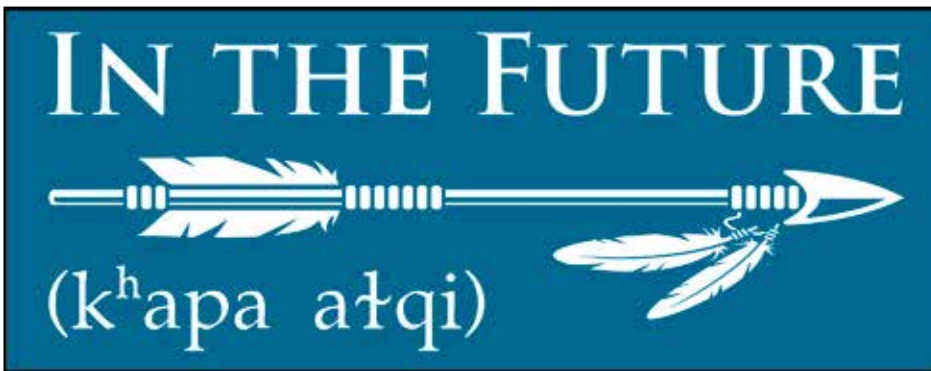
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**qwinem-mun (May)**

- Wednesday, May 20 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., in-person attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304
- Thursday, May 21 – Mental health resource fair and awareness walk, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building.
- 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.

**taxam-mun (June)**

- Wednesday, June 3 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, June 17 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Friday, June 19 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Juneteenth commemoration.
- Sunday, June 28 – Tribal Council nominations, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

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

## Drug take-back kiosk located at Tribal Police Department

There is a new drug take-back kiosk in the front lobby of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road. It is open during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The following items are accepted:

- Unused or expired prescription medications, including pet medications
- Unused or expired over-the-counter medications

The following items are not accepted:

- Thermometers or any item containing mercury
- Needles
- Pre-loaded needles
- Empty bottles
- Personal care products (vitamins, herbal remedies, supplements, cosmetics)
- Batteries
- Illegal drugs
- Aerosol cans ■

## Ceremony will be held at the West Valley Veterans Memorial

### MEMORIAL DAY continued from front page

who gave their lives in service to this nation,” an event flyer stated.

The memorial had four pillars for several years, until 2023, when the Tribe received a \$33,000 grant from Oregon State Parks to install two new black granite slab pillars at the memorial because the ones containing names of Army and Navy veterans were reaching capacity.

Other names being added for this year’s ceremony include Adam R. Lulay and Tyler Mursch on the Army pillar and Craig A. Haymowicz on the Air Force pillar.

The Memorial Day ceremony will begin with a barbeque being served in the Tribal Community Center

by Grand Ronde Tribal Police and the Tribal Emergency Services Department starting at noon. The ceremony will be held outside at the West Valley Veterans Memorial starting at 1 p.m.

The memorial was designed by late Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., a Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran who walked on in August 2022. It features a man and woman dressed in traditional Native clothing standing side by side while reaching for the sky.

This will be the 23rd Memorial Day celebration at the West Valley Veterans Memorial, which was dedicated in May 2003.

For more information, contact Veterans.SE@grandronde.org or Molly Leno at 503-983-6790. ■

## 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. ■

Find us on



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**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:**

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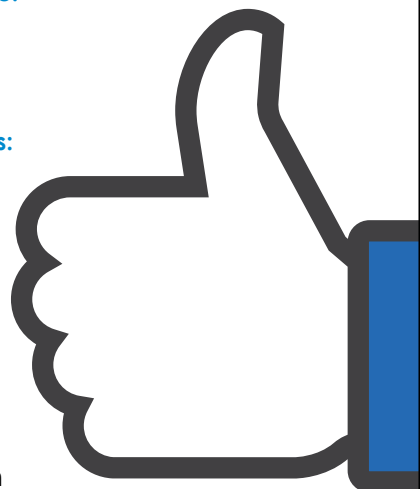
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**

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

**Grand Ronde Employment Services**

Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

The Grand Ronde Community invites you to

*A Memorial Day Observance*

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

Monday, May 25th,  
The West Valley Veterans Memorial  
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
12pm Meal  
Barbecue by Grand Ronde Tribal Police & Emergency Services  
1pm Program

For more information, please contact Veterans.SE@grandronde.org

# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam məkʰmæk 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 May 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 in June. 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** — The Tribe withdrew its membership in the Willamette Falls Trust after being unable to resolve ongoing frustrations with other Tribes involved the trust.

**2016** — The Tribe held its fourth annual First Salmon Ceremony in West Linn after harvesting the fish at Willamette Falls. Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno said the ceremony had additional meaning this year after regaining the right from Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to take fish in a traditional way from Willamette Falls for ceremonial purposes.



2016

File photo

**2011** — The board of the Heritage Center at The Mill in Salem voted unanimously to repatriate one of the oldest Native canoes found in Oregon to the Grand Ronde Tribe. The historic Kalapuya shovel-nose river canoe was donated to the Heritage Center in 1980. The donor said it was found when the riverbank was washed away in a flood on the Santiam River near Tangent.

**2006** — Tribal Community meetings underway in Oregon and Washington provided the widest access ever to Tribal members in the region, with the Tribe focusing on the challenge posed by off-Reservation and non-Indian gaming proposals.

**2001** — The Tribe held the first of what was intended to be an annual conference on Elder abuse at Spirit Mountain Casino. An Elders panel convened to speak about views of what abuse is and what it means to them, as well as the need for vigilance.

**1996** — Two attractions were scheduled to open on Highway 18 near Spirit Mountain Casino: Song Basket Marketplace, featuring hand-crafted arts and crafts, with an emphasis on Native American art and the Strawberry Patch, offering fresh fruit milkshakes and strawberry shortcake.

**1991** — The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was waiting on a ruling from U.S. District Court Judge William L. Dwyer of Seattle, on the requirements of the U.S. Forest Service with regard to endangered spotted owls. One pair of spotted owls was nesting on reservation land at the time, according to head Tribal Forester Cliff Adams. “What we’re going to try to do is see if we can’t work around the pair of spotted owls,” Adams said. “We think it is important to try and provide the revenue to the Tribe, but in a way that is not detrimental to the owl.”

**1986** — After failing to provide a new federal number to differentiate the Tribe from its corporation after Restoration, the IRS discovered the error in 1985, and following discussions with the Tribe, agreed that it would provide a separate number to Tribal Council for employees. The end result was that all council and staff received two W-2 forms for the year, resulting in some confusion.

*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.

## Request for Proposals

Engineering and environmental assessment services  
 The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
 TUMWATA VILLAGE RIVERWALK BLOCK 2  
**Proposal due:** 2 p.m., Thursday, June 11, 2026

Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), the CONFEDERTAED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE, is seeking competitive proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms, for the provision of design services for the construction of Riverwalk Block 2 at the tumwata village site in Oregon City. The project is located at 419 Main St., Oregon City, Oregon. Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed in writing to Project Manager Ryan Webb via email at [Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org](mailto:Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org) by 2 p.m., prevailing local time, Friday, June 5, 2026.

Electronic copies of the RFP documents are 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, June 11, 2026, to Project Manager Ryan Webb at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347. Specific information regarding document submittal procedures and due dates will be found in the RFP. ■

## Tribal Council approves application to streamline forest management activities

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

During its Wednesday, May 6, meeting, Tribal Council approved an application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to begin the process of allowing the Tribe to conduct forest land management activities without federal approval under the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act.

The federal legislation was passed in 2016 and authorizes the Department of the Interior to “establish and carry out an Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project,” according to the BIA website.

Under the project, Tribes who conduct forest land management or leasing activities can apply to participate. If selected, Tribes must submit an Indian Trust Asset Management Plan for the management of Tribal trust assets and may also submit Tribal forestry regulations.

“It will allow the Tribe to manage all of its forest lands without first getting approval through the BIA,” Tribal Natural Resources Department Manager Colby Drake said during a Tuesday, May 5, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “We’ve started the process and have our letter drafted and are working with the (Tribal Attorney’s Office). We’re here today to seek approval to keep going.”

- In other news, Tribal Council:
- Approved a first reading of the Tribal Nonprofit Corporations Ordinance setting forth policies and procedures for the governance of nonprofit corporations under Tribal law and enabling the nonprofits to have tax-exempt status as per IRS code;
  - Authorized a limited waiver of sovereign immunity with Apple under its business terms of service;
  - Approved the 2026 Bonneville Power Administration funding agreement for \$141,709 to continue to fund the hydrosystem com-

pliance specialist position, which helps with Tribal representation on BPA processes;

- Approved appointing Angelina Montgomery to the Education Committee with a term ending March 31, 2028;
- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the construction contract with Emery & Sons Construction Group LLC for the construction of civil improvements for phase one at tumwata village;
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with Oregon City and easement for the design and construction of the public Riverwalk Project at tumwata village. This will allow the Tribe to deliver the project on behalf of the city and to use state parks funding as the design and construction leader on the project;
- And approved an emergency enrollment of five non-infants and enrollment of two infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. So far, there have been 36 infants, 16 emergency non-infants and 92 non-infants enrolled into the Tribe in 2026.

Additionally, Tribal Council approved three authorizations to proceed which included: Increasing the Tribal Housing Department’s home repair grant from \$10,000 to \$15,000, adding an \$8,000 dental implant benefit to the Skookum Health Assistance Program to begin July 1 and approving a \$1.50 per gallon gas discount for all Tribal members at Grand Ronde Station (the Tribal gas station at Spirit Mountain Casino) through Monday, Aug. 3, to help ease the financial burden caused by high gas prices.

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



**It's never too late to heal from addiction.**

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

Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center  
 Behavioral Health Program  
 9605 Grand Ronde Rd.  
 Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
 503-879-2026




**TEACH** our children our stories

**BECOME A TEACHER. APPLY TO AITP**  
[www.pdx.edu/aitp](http://www.pdx.edu/aitp)



### TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

**Now accepting new applications**

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

**Current vacancies:**

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

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

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

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

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# Pharmacy robot saves time counting pills

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

Tablet after tablet is counted into tiny vials inside the Grand Ronde Pharmacy, to be handed out to patients throughout the day, a careful, precise task that dominates the pharmacy's working hours.

The pharmacy is a deceptively busy place. Obscured from the view of patients in the clinic by a series of hallways, it's a long, narrow space where cabinets of medicines and medical devices line the walls, and employees work at computers set along a lengthy counter. The pharmacy, which serves Grand Ronde Tribal members and employees, hands out hundreds of prescriptions a day, vial after vial of tablets, each of which must be carefully filled with the correct medication in the correct dosage and the correct amount, to the correct patient.

Until a few years ago, two contract workers came in every day to help with all that counting. Now, occupying the center of the room is "ED," named for a character in the original Terminator movie. But this ED is a robot as big as a large cabinet and considerably heavier, whose purpose is to fill prescriptions.

ED can hold 154 different medications and spends its days filling the pharmacy's most-dispensed tablets, freeing up pharmacy staff to other tasks – including filling prescriptions for items that ED cannot handle, such as liquid medications and patches, along with medications that are less heavily in demand.

Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright, PharmD RPh, said for the month of March, ED averaged filling 175 prescriptions a day – about 39% of the total prescriptions the



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**ED, the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center pharmacy robot, is restocked with ibuprofen recently. ED is restocked twice a day and has filled 114,461 scripts at the clinic since coming online in February 2020.**

pharmacy fills in a day. There are currently 2,298 unique items in the pharmacy, Wright said, but some are much more commonly dispensed than others.

"Some of these we'll hand out 20 times a day," Wright said. ED is restocked twice a day to keep those high-demand items moving briskly.

On one side, ED is covered with rows of tablet dispensers. Inside the machine, the robot counts pills for each prescription into bottles, labels the bottles and photographs the pills inside each one, just in case the prescription needs to be checked later if there are any discrepancies. It then caps the bottles and places them into alphabetized slots on the other side.

ED has been on the job since February 2020, when the pharmacy received an overall software upgrade that enabled the department to use it. ED has filled 114,461

scripts since coming online, Wright said.

Robots like ED are becoming more common in the industry.

"If you peer into your local Fred Meyer pharmacy and don't see an ED, you can guess they're probably filling 300 prescriptions or fewer a day," he said.

Grand Ronde averages 450 to 500 per day, with that number sometimes shooting up to 700 or 800 a day after major holidays.

Since not everyone can get to the

pharmacy during business hours, it also offers a second innovation: lockers that enable patients to pick up their items 24 hours a day.

"We had casino employees who were getting off at odd hours, so we would open up and find people sleeping in the lobby, waiting for us to open, so they could get their prescriptions and go home and go to bed," Wright said. "We were trying to figure out how to serve them while maintaining our hours."

The department soon found that many of their other customers also appreciated the lockers, as it meant not having to rush to the pharmacy before it closed after they got off work, or ask a relative to stop in for them. Patients can request locker pickup online, by phone or via the pharmacy app.

"That's been by far the most popular thing we've done since I started," Wright said.

Installed in December of 2020, the 103 lockers have seen more than 58,315 deliveries with 3,127 patients signed up to use them.

A remodel is in the works for the pharmacy that will extend the building, adding more work space and changing the design that now requires workers in the back to use walkie talkies to communicate with staff at the front desk. Wright said the plans call for adding additional lockers as well. ■



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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**  
indigenoustattoo@gmail.com

**Stephanie Craig**  
kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com

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

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Simply go to the Smoke Signals Facebook page and click "Reviews" below the cover photo. You may need to click "More" to see it.

# Tribe to install more EV charging stations on campus

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe plans to install a total of eight charging stations for electric vehicles on the Tribal campus during the coming months, each with two charging ports.

The chargers are needed as until early May, there was one solar-powered charger in the parking lot of the Governance Center, with two ports that on sunny summer days can charge two cars at once. It was often in heavy demand, particularly during the winter, when charging power is reduced.

On Tuesday, May 5, the Tribe installed two more solar charging stations; one in the parking lot of the Governance Center and the other at the Community Center.

The plan to add more charging stations is a long-standing one. “We received a grant from ODOT’s carbon reduction program in 2023,” Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said. “The money had to be routed through (the Bureau of



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**An electric vehicle charging station is placed in the Governance Center parking lot Tuesday, May 5. The Tribe plans to install a total of eight EV charging stations on the Tribal campus over the coming months. The station in the background was installed in 2023.**

Indian Affairs) to us, so it took two years to get an agreement in place and the money transferred to us. We applied for the grant to be proactive about making sure we had

the EV infrastructure in place as more employees started purchasing EV vehicles.”

Webb said grid-based chargers will be installed at the Governance Center, Adult Education Building

(within the Education Department complex), Employment Service Center, Community Center, Natural Resources Department and the Health & Wellness Center.

Webb said the chargers have been ordered but he doesn’t have an exact timeline for installation yet.

In early April, the Tribe contracted with Risseeuw’s Excavation and Septic LLC for the \$342,930.56 installation.

“This is definitely the direction of the future,” Tribal Council member Kathleen George said during a Tuesday, April 7, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “And we need to meet our clients and our employees there. We see more and more electric vehicles in the parking lot.”

Webb noted that employees need to fill out a form to use the chargers, including the existing ones.

“If you have an EV vehicle and want to start using the chargers around campus, please reach out to me to request the EV Charging Policy and EV usage form,” Webb said.

He can be reached at ryan.webb@grandronde.org. ■

**TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

**Scheduled Appointments Only**      **Walk-In Day**  
**Monday**      **Thursday**  
**Tuesday**

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

**Kick the Habit.**

Call these numbers for free from anywhere in Oregon:  
 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)  
 Español: 1-877-2NO-FUME (1-877-266-3863)  
 TTY: 1-877-777-6534

Or register online at: [www.quitnow.net/oregon/](http://www.quitnow.net/oregon/)

DHS Oregon Department of Human Services

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We ask **young men and women, ages 10-24** to come learn as tribal members Faye Smith, Joanna Brisbois, and Ramona Quenelle lead this regalia making series.

**4:30PM-7:00PM**  
 COMMUNITY CENTER  
**MAY JUNE**

5th	2nd
12th	9th
19th	16th

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER      10 SPOTS AVAILABLE

**TERO small business startup grant**

**TERO grant eligibility:**

- Must be an established business with state registry.
- Business must be less than three years old according to your business articles of organization start date: May 15, 2023 or newer.
- Must be a Grand Ronde Tribal member or descendant.
- Must prepare a detailed allocation of how you plan to utilize the funding and how it will benefit your business.
- Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, May 26
- This grant is open to the first 15 completed and eligible applicants, so please get your applications in as quickly as possible. TERO will reach out if anything else is needed to deem your business eligible once your application has been submitted.
- After the interview process, there will be three chosen applicants that will be awarded an \$8,000 grant.

**For grant applications or questions please contact TERO.**  
 503-879-2146 • 503-879-2188 • TERO@grandronde.org  
 9615 Grand Ronde Rd., Grand Ronde, OR 97347

## ‘Linfield sits on the traditional, unceded homeland of the Kalapuya’

CAMAS continued  
from front page

slow cooked in a crock pot.

Attendees also had the opportunity to pick up some camas seeds to plant, view an artist gallery of work featuring camas and browse the pop-up Indigenous market and the displays from Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center.

“Linfield sits on the traditional and unceded homeland of the Kalapuya people, who were removed to the Grand Ronde reservation in 1855,” Linfield University President Mark Blegen said. “The Camas Festival exists to honor and express deep gratitude for the Kalapuyan peoples who were the original stewards of this place and whose relationship with the land remains unbroken. We are grateful that they are here to share some of those traditions with all of us.”

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George attended the event, with Mercier making opening remarks, noting that the festival is now in its fifth year.

Mercier told the audience that 150 years after the forcible removal of Tribes to Grand Ronde, an area where many of them were unfamiliar, “a lot of our knowledge of our Indigenous foods has been lost. I want to emphasize, lost. Not wiped out; there are some people who still are their own little towers of knowledge that you can go to.”

“But here’s why it’s important for Tribal people,” Mercier said. “There have been multiple studies done ... about how Indigenous people, when given the opportunity to consume some of their traditional foods, every sort of health metric that you can imagine associated with diet has tended to improve.”



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier gives opening remarks during the fifth annual Camas Festival at Linfield University in McMinnville Friday, May 1.**

Making those First Foods widely available, however, is a challenge, Mercier said.

“I live in a community of hunters, so you know, getting game meat isn’t that hard but when I’ve been out with people who really know what the food is, I’m amazed by how many plants that we walk by in our hikes, that at one point were a source of sustenance for our Tribal people,” he said. “When I talk about how knowledge is lost and how it’s being regained, that’s exactly what I’m talking about. I would have never known that you can eat nettle; that’s not something you normally think, ‘Oh, I’m going to go eat some nettle,’ because if you’ve experienced nettle, eating it is the last thing that you think of. But it’s doable and camas produces these gorgeous flowers. Don’t eat the white ones, just so you know. But who’d have known that it was a staple of the people.”

The festival features tours of the camas growing along Cozine Creek



**Camas is in bloom in the Cozine Creek camas patch at Linfield University in McMinnville.**

behind the president’s house on campus.

“That patch may very well have been cultivated and harvested since before the arrival of European settlers to this region,” Blegen said. “For years it lay hidden, overgrown by invasive Himalayan blackberry until environmental studies students, as part of a broader Cozine Creek restoration effort, cleared the way and allowed it to re-emerge. But the camas was here all along, quietly enduring as a lesson in resilience.”

Blegen said that resilience “echoes something larger. The resilience and endurance of the people who have tended this land for generations. Camas also offers us another lesson; one that feels important to hold onto. That human beings can be a positive force for the natural world. That is a counternarrative worth celebrating. As we have learned from our Tribal partners, when camas is harvested in the right way, with traditional tools and knowledge, it doesn’t deplete the patch. It improves the soil and makes it healthier over time. Reciprocity, not extraction.”

Tribal members are still working on relearning how to prepare many First Foods. The traditional method for preparing camas, Tribal member and Cultural Resources Specialist Chris Rempel explained during an afternoon presentation, is to cook it underground in a pit oven for two or three days, which slowly changes the inulin fiber in the tubers into a more digestible form.

It turns out there’s a lot to learn, Rempel said. The bulbs must be peeled the day they are harvested

or they become intractably sticky, and peeling takes much more time and effort. They must be cooked long enough to be sweet and flavorful, but not over-cooked, which may mean anywhere from 48 to 60 hours.

The traditional pit oven technique, he said, has not so far yielded great results for him, despite several attempts. The first one, a few years ago, he said, resulted in bulbs that were “burned to a crisp,” because the oven had been too hot. The next attempt, using some insulation between the bulbs and the fire, worked, but the bulbs were smoky-tasting, dry and leathery.

The problem, Rempel said, is that “you don’t know how much heat you’re trapping in the oven,”

with no way to gauge the temperature. So, he turned to using a crock pot instead, which has yielded better results. Rempel said he has tasted really good camas bulbs – dark brown, sweet and flavorful – but hasn’t quite figured out how to achieve that result consistently.

In addition to storing baked camas bulbs over the winter, some Tribes formed camas cakes, sometimes mixed with dried fruit or berries.

“I’ve never seen a description of the texture; just the process,” he said.

He tried mixing some with dried serviceberry and baking it.

“It tasted Ok, but it was very leathery,” Rempel said. He put the next mixture in the blender with some water, before forming it into cakes and baking. This one refused to hold together, crumbling into powder. Rempel said he also mixed some of the camas with huckleberries but felt that they overwhelmed the camas flavor.

The Tribe is also experimenting with growing conditions. On a site near the powwow grounds, it has divided a field into four squares: A control plot, where no action is taken; a plot that is mowed, a plot that is burned seasonally and a plot where the Tribe does both mowing and burning. The idea is to compare how each of the plots does over five years.

So far, Rempel said, the mowed-only patch has produced the thickest blooms, but it’s not yet clear which plot will ultimately produce the best quality or how the soil will respond to the different treatments.

As with the Linfield site, members of the Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department told the audience that camas can be present but unnoticed in areas long turned to other uses.

“In 2005 or 2006, there was a wildfire on this property (at the time under different ownership),” Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson said. “And every year after that, the camas exploded.”

The landowners later sold the property to the Tribe. ■

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK

THURSDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2026

CHERYLE A. KENNEDY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

11:30am - 12:30 pm  
12:30pm - 1:00 pm

Mental health resource fair  
Mental health walk through CTGR campus

Join us as we learn about ways to support our mental wellbeing and honor those who have walked on. CTGR programs will be providing resources and activities during the health fair, including an optional sign-making table for the walk (you can also make your own ahead of time and bring with you, or not make a sign if you don’t want to). Lunch provided while supplies last.

This is a free event, open to all CTGR Tribal Members, employees, families and community members. No registration required.

If you or someone you know are in need of support, you can call, text, or chat 988. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

YOU BELONG



# Meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal website

MEETING continued  
from front page

construction projects underway on and off the reservation.

Programmatic successes included various Tribal land acquisitions, cultural arts program, adding a first-grade classroom to the shawash-ili?i skul (Tribal school), TERO annual appreciation lunch, temporary Tribal nutrition assistance program, integrated pest management policy, navigating state and federal grants during a time of transition, the campus master plan and climate adaptation plan.

“So, for programmatic successes, one of the big ones this year is just our Lands Department and the sheer amount of work that they continue to do on behalf of the Tribe,” Svicarovich said. “The Tribe acquired six different properties in 2025 and three of them were in the general Grand Ronde area. (The other three) were conservation properties throughout the Tribe’s homelands. The big one that’s highlighted is Fort Yamhill, over 100 acres that was transferred back to the Tribe through the state parks (department). There was a really tremendous effort led by our lands team in getting that land back.”

Organizational highlights included implementing the General Welfare Assistance Program for all Tribal members, a new public safety ordinance protecting vulnerable adults and Elders, the Spirit Mountain community path project, electric vehicle charging stations and continuing to work toward building a resident and recreation center.

“A real highlight from 2025 is the rollout of the General Welfare Assistance Program,” Svicarovich said. “It was approved in August and the first payment went out in September...It replaces per capita and allows for payments that are non-taxable made to eligible members. It’s really just a different approach to providing support for Tribal members.”

## Capital improvement projects

Webb provided the Tribal audience with an update of phase two of the Tribal homeownership development, phase three and 3.1 of the Wind River Apartments, Early Care and Education building, seed processing building, resident and recreation center, railroad depot building remodel, shawash-ili?i skul remodel, health and wellness projects, nature playground, street light upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations, the tumwata village project in Oregon City, and transportation planning and improvement.

“Phase one of the homeownership development was completed a few years ago now and all of the 20 homes are occupied by Tribal members,” Webb said. “That was really a great success as a project that has a lot of challenges as we worked through both design and construction but I think it’s really a testament to see it’s really turned into a thriving community with some amazing young families that

*“A real highlight from 2025 is the rollout of the General Welfare Assistance Program.”*

~ Tribal Community Development  
Manager Kristen Svicarovich

are getting to grow up here on the reservation...Now we’ve turned our focus to phase two.”

**Homeownership phase two:** Road, sidewalk and utility installation is underway and includes 32 lots. Homes will likely range from 1,200 to 2,000 square feet and include three- and four-bedroom units. Each one will be solar ready. Home construction rollout is still under discussion. TERO workers have spent 547 hours so far working on the project.

**Wind River Apartments, phase three:** There will be up to 45 units within 10 apartment buildings located adjacent to the Tribe’s Housing Department offices at 28450 Tyee Road. The apartments will contain a mix of one- and two-bedroom market rate and low-income, solar ready units. Construction is underway and the first buildings are expected to be complete by the end of the summer. TERO workers have spent 4,033 hours working on the project.

A separate project, Wind River Apartments phase 3.1, will include an additional eight units, all two bedroom. The Tribe is in the bidding process for the project and a tentative completion date is spring 2027.

**Early Care and Education:** The 26,000-square-foot building includes 12 classrooms, a new kitchen, outdoor play areas and support areas, and is located behind the old powwow grounds near the existing Tribal gym.

The project was funded with federal, Tribal and grant funds and was approximately \$16 million. Construction began in December 2023 and was completed in March 2025. TERO workers spent 3,353 hours working on the project.

**Seed processing unit:** The grant funded project at the Natural Resources Department provides enclosed space for NRD staff to harvest and process seeds from native plants.

**Resident and recreation center:** Design is almost complete on the 45,000-square-foot building, which will be located on the Smith property across from Tribal Housing Department offices. It includes a fitness center, physical therapy areas, medical exam spaces, craft rooms, gym, event center and outdoor sports facilities, splash pad and playground.

“This is an amazing project that has thrown us nothing but obstacles,” Webb said. “I presented this last year and definitely had better news then. What I mean by bad news is that we were awarded a \$20 million grant from EPA in 2024 and due to the change in administration, that grant was rescinded. We tried to fight to make sure that they lived up to their obligation but

unfortunately, it has not gone our way and left a big hole in construction funding.”

Webb added that the Tribal grants team was continuing to look for new ways to secure funding for the project.

**Railroad Depot:** The Tribally owned historic building near Grand Ronde Road will be redesigned so that it can house two Tribal departments. The design phase is underway and expected to be complete by fall 2026. A grant will cover design work and some construction, but more funding will be needed to complete the building.

**shawash-ili?i skul:** There is a planned renovation and expansion of the building to accommodate for future program growth. An architect has been selected and design work should start soon and be finished by the end of the year. The new construction will connect the school with the Youth Education Department and will include a phased approach to minimize disruption to the programs. It will cost approximately \$12 million and grant funding is being sought to cover expenses.

**Health and wellness projects:** The Main Street Recovery House in Sheridan was complete in 2025 and is a treatment program with lodging and wraparound supports for residents. Additionally, a detox center has been added to the Great Circle Recovery medication assisted treatment clinic in Salem.

There will be a remodel of the Health & Wellness Center’s HVAC systems, an elevator modernization and pharmacy expansion. Webb noted that the building is one of the oldest on the Tribal campus. A contractor has been hired and work is expected to be completed in spring 2027.

**Nature playground and street light upgrades:** The nature playground, located between the Tribal Governance Center and the Elders Activity Center, provides a needed outdoor space for children to explore and was opened in 2025.

The street light upgrades included replacing 251 street light fixtures on the Tribal campus and in housing with LED lighting for a projected annual savings of \$20,000.

**Electric vehicle charging stations:** One solar charging station was installed at the Tribal Governance Center in 2023. Two more have been purchased and six other EV chargers will be located on the campus and two electric vehicles will be added to the Tribal fleet for employee use.

The chargers and stations are being funded through an Oregon Department of Transportation Carbon Reduction Grant.

**Multi-use path from Grand Ronde to Spirit Mountain Casino:** The Tribe received a \$206,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Community Paths Program for a feasibility study for a pedestrian/bike connection between Grand Ronde Road and Spirit Mountain Casino. The intent is to use the old railroad alignment as much as possible. Work is in the planning phase.

**tumwata village:** Demolition of old structures at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City continues. So far, 75% of the existing buildings have been demolished.

At the same time, work has been ongoing for designing the infrastructure and utility improvements that will be phase one. The Tribe was awarded \$2 million in federal funding to assist with the efforts and a groundbreaking ceremony for block one improvements is set for Thursday, May 28. Additionally, an intergovernmental agreement was signed with Oregon City for \$12.5 million to reinvigorate the Riverwalk Project at the site and the Tribe is working on securing \$20 million from Metro.

Webb also gave a brief update about the projects Public Works Coordinator John Mercier has been working on during the past year. These include transportation planning, transit, transportation improvement and maintenance.

Mercier completed the Long-Range Transportation Plan update and it was approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs last year. Approximately \$25 to \$30 million will need to be spent on improvement projects or maintenance activities for roads in and around the Tribal campus.

In the area of transportation improvement, an access road to Fort Yamhill was repaired and culvert work was complete to reduce pavement erosion. Additional maintenance work included patching potholes, restriping pavement markings, gravel road treatment to reduce dust and debris clearing from various roads.

After the nearly hour-long presentation concluded, Webb fielded 12 questions and comments from the audience.

“Wow. Thank you, Ryan,” Tribal Council member Matthew Haller said. “When you see (these projects) rolled up into what you presented today, it’s amazing. It’s shocking. I love that you highlighted all the areas of success.”

In other action, door prize winners were Mike Portwood, Deborah Gilbert, Jesse Norton, Linda Olson and Valeria Atanacio, \$50 each; and Will Rife, Lenny Logan and Chris Bailey, \$100 each.

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 28, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, for the purpose of Tribal Council nominations. All nominations must be made in person.

The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government’s website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

# Tribal Elders visit Wapato Lake

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

GASTON — Tribal Elders ceremonially planted a blue elderberry seedling and scattered yarrow and biscuitroot seeds along the banks of Wapato Creek in the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge Wednesday, April 29.

Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tribe has been helping to restore the lake and surrounding lands once called home by the Tualatin Kalapuya, before their forcible relocation to Grand Ronde. After being drained for farming in 1930s, Wapato Lake is once again holding water and thousands of wapato tubers have been planted.

During the Tribal Elders visit, the site was also formally renamed: Ma'mBit, in honor of a village that stood further upstream by Wapato Creek — the village of the People of the Creek — in the Tualatin Kalapuya language.

Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta told the Elders that the Tribe has been working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the site, planting wapato tubers, along with yampah and biscuitroot, tarweed, camas, oak, elderberries and other First Foods that once provided an abundant living. Wapato was so prevalent that the explorers Lewis and Clark originally called the region along the Columbia River Wapato Valley, Archuleta said. The Tribe's native plant nursery provided many of the seeds and tubers used in the restoration.

Refuge Manager Rebecca Gomez Chuck told the Elders that the part-



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Laura Lund, middle, and Linda Newby plant an elderberry seedling near Wapato Creek in Gaston Wednesday, April 29. A group of Tribal Elders visited a site at the Wapato Lake National Wildlife Refuge for a renaming ceremony of the site and to scatter yarrow and biscuitroot seeds to help restore First Foods. On the left is Tualatin River Wildlife Refuge Tribal Land Steward Breanna Sisneros.**



**Tribal Elder Enrichment Coordinator and Tribal Elder Virginia Roof spreads biscuitroot seeds along the bank of Wapato Creek.**

nership with the Tribe “is our most important relationship. We work very hard to make sure you have access.” No herbicides are used in the wetlands, she added.

“We’re working on the restoration of wapato and other First Foods, and a big concern is, is it safe for consumption?” Archuleta said.

For the last few years, more than 500 soil samples have been taken to ensure the wapato is uncontaminated, both at Ma'mBit and several other locations in the area. The Tribe is still waiting for the results of those tests, which Archuleta said

birds, as well as for wapato. Later, the lake was pumped for irrigation of the onion fields around Gaston. Flooding in 1996 essentially ended the onion farming business there and in 2000, farmers asked the federal government to purchase the land. It became a wildlife refuge in 2013 and in 2024, managers began leaving water in the lake bed.

However, Archuleta said, the draining of the lake bed scoured away the original lake bottom, so that some water had to be removed to keep it low enough for the wapato tubers, which want relatively shallow water.

Archuleta handed around plastic baggies filled with yarrow and biscuit root seed for the Elders to scatter along the creek bank. “We’ll probably come by and spread some water and maybe a little soil just to help them get started,” he said.

Several people exclaimed over the fragrance of the biscuit root seed, which can also be chewed or used as a kind of celery-flavored spice. They then carefully planted a blue elderberry seedling a few feet away from the creek. In the future, Archuleta said, he hopes to see the area become a place where Elders and other Tribal members can visit to gather traditional First Foods.

After their visit, the Elders were treated to a lunch of elk stew, cornbread and lemonade, prepared by the rangers in a house that still stands on the property. ■

## 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. ■

**CRAFTS + GAMES | DRUMMING & SINGING**  
**NATIVE PLANTS TALK | FOOD + FIRE**

**Limited Spots Available!**  
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# Camas Camp

Hosted by the  
Indigenous Gardens Network

**June 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>**  
At Vesper Meadow in  
Ashland, OR

**Available to Siletz & Grand Ronde Tribal members and their families**

**Practicing stewardship and positive relationships with the land.**

**All food & lodging provided**

**Questions?**  
Zena Green, Siletz  
ZenaG@ctsinsn.us  
Angey Rideout, Grand Ronde  
angeyrideout@gmail.com

**Drug and alcohol-free event. Please plan for limited cell service. Gas cards will be provided. Camping is available.**

# 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> 5/3 Mother's Day Paddle @Devils Lake 10am-1pm 5/15 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.

# mək mək Mania



Photos by Kamiah Koch

From left, Tribal Elders Perri McDaniel and Denise Harvey examine items at Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta's display table during the annual mək mək Mania event held Saturday, May 9, at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym. Several Tribal and local food programs set up tables to offer attendees information on available resources.



Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier welcomed attendees to the 2026 mək mək Mania held at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Saturday, May 9. Behind Mercier, multiple tables with silent auction items and raffle prizes were on display.

## Council approves additional gas discount for Tribal members

Tribal Council has approved a \$1.50 total per gallon gas discount for all Tribal members at Grand Ronde Station (the Tribal gas station at Spirit Mountain Casino) through Monday, Aug. 3, to help ease the financial burden caused by high gas prices.

Previously, Tribal members received a 30-cent per gallon discount at the Tribal gas station.

Grand Ronde Station is located at 26820 SW Salmon River Highway. ■

## 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. ■

## Prom attire donations needed

The Tribe's Behavioral Health Department is preparing a prom closet to ensure that every youth has the opportunity to feel confident and celebrated on their special night.

"We know that prom attire can be costly, especially for something that may only be worn once," organizers 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."

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.

For more information, contact 503-879-2476 or 503-879-1404. ■



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE  
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



## smok signəlz offering fast email subscription

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

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

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

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

## Tribe offers members Amazon benefit

The Tribe announced on its website and the Tribal member app, CTGR alta, that Tribal members can now participate in the Tribe's centralized Amazon Business account, free of charge.

The benefit includes free expedited shipping with Business Prime; business discounts, including the ability to choose delivery days that maximize discounts and business-specific pricing, including quantity or bulk discounts on eligible items. The Tribe said it's working with Amazon to highlight local businesses, diverse sellers and sustainable products.

Members also will have access to a specialized Amazon Business customer service team by clicking on customer service on the website or by calling 833-972-6630.

Tribal members must have their membership confirmed to participate and approvals may take up to three business days.

The Tribe noted that individuals will be responsible for administering their own accounts. The benefit does not include Prime, video or music.

Most Tribal members who live in Oregon will automatically receive a tax exemption based on their shipping code. However, members who live in states that have a sales tax will need to save their receipts or run an order report to receive refunds. These should not be uploaded to the group account; they will be removed.

To apply, click the link in the app or visit the webpage at [www.grandronde.org/amazon](http://www.grandronde.org/amazon). ■

**ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?**

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)

To \*Add Your Name:

- To the email list
- To the mail out list
- To the t-shirt list

To Recieve:

- Benefits information & updates
- Event invitations
- Veteran recognitions

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

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

If you have any questions or want more information, email: [CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org](mailto:CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org)

TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

**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**

whatbin.com

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE  
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Become a Foster Parent  
Open Your Home,  
Strengthen Our Community

**Why Foster?**  
Cultural connection  
Stability & Care  
Healing & Support  
Strengthen community

**Who Can Foster?**  
Age 21+  
Safe, stable home  
Compassionate  
Support Culture

**Support Provided**  
Training  
Financial help  
Caseworker support  
Tribal Resources

**URGENT NEED:**  
TEENS-SIBLING GROUPS-CULTURAL HOMES

**Contact**  
Get Started Today  
9615 Grand Ronde Rd  
Grand Ronde OR 97347  
Building B  
503-879-2039  
[audra.sherwood@grandronde.org](mailto:audra.sherwood@grandronde.org)  
[josie.justen@grandronde.org](mailto:josie.justen@grandronde.org)

HONOR OUR FUTURE. CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN

**6-12  
BREAKFAST  
MONDAY  
MEET UP!**

The enrichment staff will be cooking a hearty hot breakfast, come join us!

**LOCATION:**  
COVERED AREA IN  
TRIBAL HOUSING

**TIME:**  
9:45 AM-  
10:30 AM

Questions call 503-879-2101  
or email  
[enrichment@grandronde.org](mailto:enrichment@grandronde.org)

# Hunters Education Field Day set for June 6

The Natural Resources Department Parks and Recreation program is coordinating a Hunters Education Field Day Saturday, June 6, at the Natural Resources building, 47010 NW Hebo Road.

Registration for the class must be done online at [vem.myodfw.com/eventprofile/687](http://vem.myodfw.com/eventprofile/687).

There is a \$10 per student fee associated with the class. It will be open to both Tribal and non-Tribal members who will be 12 to 17 years old by the beginning of the 2026 hunting season. This class is only the field day and all students must have attended either a conventional course or an online course prior to the field day. There will be limited spots for the field day.

In Oregon, all youth hunters 17 years old and younger must pass a certified hunter education class prior to hunting, unless they are participating in the Mentor Youth Hunter Program (youth age 9 to 14 eligible).

The minimum age to hunt big game is 12 (at the time of the hunt) and hunters age 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older when hunting, unless on land owned by a parent or legal guardian.

Hunter education requirements can be completed with a conventional classroom course or online course with a hands-on field day. Students must attend all sessions of the course they sign up for.

For a full list of youth hunter regulations, visit [myodfw.com/articles/hunting-opportunities-youth](http://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-opportunities-youth). ■

**2ND ANNUAL**  
**LEBANON, OREGON**  
**POWWOW**  
*Free Event*  
**MAY 30, 2026**  
**12PM - 10PM**  
**1700 S. FIFTH ST. LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL**  
**GRAND ENTRY: 1PM AND 6PM**

Paid ad

# 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. ■

CTGR Education Department

*chxi-wam-ili?i hihi-lu?lu*

Spring Fun Gathering

**When: Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm**  
**Location: Tribal Gym**

Join us for the Education Department's Spring Fun Gathering! Enjoy dinner, cultural crafts, games and more!

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

**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	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
01	SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. APRIL	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
08	SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. APRIL	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
25	GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. MAY	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
06	GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. MAY	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
27	SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JUNE	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
10	GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JUNE	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
24	SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JULY	4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
08	GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED
WED. JULY	2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM
22	SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED

Get your Tribal ID at the Portland office & Members Services assistance!

- Eagle Feather Permits
- Medicare Part B Reimbursement
- Elder's Direct Deposit
- And more!

10AM-2PM During Food Box Distribution

May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup>, September 15<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup> & December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Please contact **Shayla Murphy**, Member Services Administrator  
[shayla.murphy@grandronde.org](mailto:shayla.murphy@grandronde.org) 503-879-1364

Congratulations to Willow

Congratulations Willow, on being crowned in Suquamish, Washington as Junior Miss Renewal Queen. We are so incredibly proud of you!

Love always, Mom, Dad, Hawk and Ivory



TERO Worker of the Month April 2026

Name: Daniel Alexander
Employer: Moore Excavating Inc.
Position: Flagger



Daniel Alexander

Daniel first joined our TERO program in 2016 and has been a great asset to the many TERO projects he has been on. He was one of the first flaggers that TERO referred out when our program was just starting. During the past 10 years, Daniel has worked for numerous flagging companies and has proven to be a dependable, hardworking and a very knowledgeable flagger.

We asked Daniel what he liked about our program, and he said that TERO can help you get a job with top-notch companies that offer very good wages and benefits. He goes on to say that he plans on staying with Moore Excavating and representing our TERO program in a good way. He also said he appreciates the TERO staff and program for everything they've done for him.

We want to thank Daniel for his exceptional work and representation of the Grand Ronde TERO program. We are proud to announce Daniel as our April TERO worker of the month.

Great job Daniel, 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

Paramedic graduate



Contributed photo

Tribal member Jared Ripley, center, graduated from the Los Angeles County Paramedic Program's Paramedic Training Institute Wednesday, April 22. Ripley, 34, is the son of Tribal Elder Denise Harvey and has been employed by Los Angeles County as a firefighter since 2017. In 2023, Ripley was deployed to Turkey as a part of an urban search and rescue team after a deadly earthquake.

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 Cowls 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).

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

Help keep your pets healthy and your community strong.



Explore Arizona! JULY 13th - 18th
YED High School Summer Trip
Travel with us through the Southwest to see places like the Grand Canyon, visit natural museums & deserts, & learn about ancient and modern Indigenous cultures.
For incoming 11th, 12th or Graduating Seniors. See link or QR code for more info. & to apply.
LINK: https://forms.gle/XkYikbbNifzYwD7B8
List of locations: Hualapai Tribe, Grand Canyon, West, Saguaro National Park, Zipline, Pink Jeep Tour, Kit Peak Observatory, Honanki Heritage Site, Heard Museum, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor.
Contact: 503-879-2101, youtheducation@grandronde.org



### Watchlist: ‘Alternative high school in Portland invests in Native American, BIPOC students’

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

Many Nations Academy, a four-year alternative high school serving Native American and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) students in Portland, was recently featured on the local KOIN 6 news channel.

Many Nations Academy operates through the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA).

According to Principal Jay Hosteen, the school’s mission is simple: ensure students feel like they belong.

“We are investing in our students and their education – not just the education of western society has, but their Indigenous culture and their Indigenous history,” Hosteen said.

The school uses partnerships to get access to technology and hands-on learning. KOIN 6 shows a clip of students awarding thousands of dollars to local nonprofits in their Community 101 class.

“What’s really important is that our teachings here are based on Native cultures and Indigenous values,” NAYA CEO Oscar Arana said.

From humble beginnings, Many Nations Academy started with seven students in 2007. KOIN 6 says the school now has hundreds of graduates.

You can learn more about NAYA’s Many Nations Academy in the KOIN 6 story at <https://www.koin.com/news/portland/alternative-high-school-in-portland-invests-in-native-american-bipoc-students/>. ■

## 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)

## Tribal nonemergency text

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a non-emergency 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. ■



## 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*



# You're invited! Chat with the Chief

**When:** Tuesday, June 23, 2026  
**Time:** Noon-2 p.m.  
**Where:** Tribal Police Department  
 We are inviting you and your family to join us for hotdogs and ice cream. That's right, ice cream!  
 Hope you can join us. ■

## 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. ■



### MOST OF OUR ENERGY IS SPENT HELPING YOU GET THE MOST OUT OF YOURS.

We offer resources and cash incentives to reduce your energy costs and generate clean power. Learn more at [energytrust.org](http://energytrust.org).



MORE POLICY TO YOU.



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
<del>Administrative Assistant – Human Resources</del>	<del>8</del>	<del>\$24.60/hr.</del>	<del>\$31.84/hr.</del>	<del>05/18/2026</del>
Audit Director	21	\$160,360.03/yr.	\$225,696.79/yr.	05/18/2026
Behavioral Health Scheduler	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Applications Assistant – PRC Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Medical Assistant – Salem Primary Care	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
<del>Dentist</del>	<del>20</del>	<del>\$151,691.92/yr.</del>	<del>\$205,141.88/yr.</del>	<del>05/11/2026</del>
Dishwasher/Prep Cook – ECE	3	\$16.00/hr.	\$20.01/hr.	05/18/2026
Driver/Wellness Assistant	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Elder Care Administrator	16	\$107,644.28/yr.	\$140,433.67/yr.	Until Filled
Family Partnership Specialist – Early Childhood Education	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Family Support Services Specialist – Social Services	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95	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
Health Care Payment Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
<del>High School Intern – Part Time – Youth Enrichment</del>	<del>4</del>	<del>\$16.00/hr.</del>	<del>\$16.00/hr.</del>	<del>05/11/2026</del>
Housekeeper	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	05/18/2026
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – FT & PT All Shifts	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	05/18/2026
Medication Aide – Adult Foster Care	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Nurse Practitioner – Health & Wellness	22	\$176,393.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Physician – Salem Primary Care	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Pow Wow 2026 Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Preschool Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Restoration Technician – Equipment Operator – NRD	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Senior Dental Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	05/18/2026
Silviculture & Fire Grant Technician – FT Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Tobacco Prevention Assistant	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	05/18/2026
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Client Registration Specialist – Salem OTP	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	05/18/2026
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
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Portland - GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem OTP - GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Sheridan	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	05/18/2026
<del>Nursing Supervisor – Salem Detox – GCR</del>	<del>13</del>	<del>\$82,391.14/yr.</del>	<del>\$105,817.37/yr.</del>	<del>05/11/2026</del>
Physician – Salem Detox - GCR	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem Detox - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem OTP	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	05/18/2026
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem OTP	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	05/18/2026

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.



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
<del>Cage Cashier</del>	<del>5/14/2026</del>	<del>\$18.29/hr. DOE</del>
<del>Food Runner (*Part Time)</del>	<del>5/14/2026</del>	<del>\$18.02/hr. DOE</del>
<del>Hotel Laundry Attendant (*Part Time)</del>	<del>5/14/2026</del>	<del>\$18.02/hr. DOE</del>
<del>Hotel Room Attendant Lead</del>	<del>5/14/2026</del>	<del>\$18.55/hr. DOE</del>
<del>Slot Attendant (*Part Time)</del>	<del>5/14/2026</del>	<del>\$15.05/hr. DOE</del>
Baker	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Banquet Server (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. DOE + Tips
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Bellstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent I	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer – Multi-Game (*Full-Time & Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.05/hr. + Tips

**\$1,000** Hire-On Bonus All Positions  
**\$500** Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees

\*Part-time employees are eligible for a 20% differential pay to their base wage if they are scheduled to work up to 29.99 hours per week.

#### SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- ✓ SMGI 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.

## April 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 April were named in May.



**Tribal member Wyatt Zimbrick is student of the month for grades K-2 for courage and in recognition of his outstanding character and bravery. By choosing kindness and standing up for his friends, he has shown that the greatest courage is the kind that supports others. His willingness to dive into new challenges with a smile inspires us all to be a little braver every day.**



**Tribal member Isaac Weatherall is student of the month for grades K-2 for courage. He has shown that being brave isn't about not being scared, it's about trying your best, asking for help and pushing forward even when situations feel tough. His resilience inspires us all.**



**Stella Rentsch was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 because she has demonstrated outstanding courage throughout the month. She consistently steps outside of her comfort zone, whether by participating in class, trying new challenges or standing up for what is right. Even when faced with difficulties, she shows determination and a positive attitude, refusing to give up. Her bravery inspires others to be confident and take risks in their own learning. This student truly embodies courage both inside and outside the classroom.**



**Tribal member Azariah Sherwood was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 for always coming in with a positive attitude. He is willing to help others out and give positive feedback. He is always super understanding when he can't do something or accomplish something in a timeframe. He has a lot of courage in terms of stepping up and speaking when he feels like he needs to. He isn't afraid to tell people if they aren't doing something right or if they are doing something that is bothering him or the whole class. He truly is a young leader and role model for his friends and peers and I am always so proud of him for just being a great and understanding student. Talking basketball with him is a favorite part of every day because he knows ball for sure.**



Contributed photos

**Nova Goudge was chosen as student of the month for grades 6-12 because she is a star when it comes to taking healthy risks. She shows this by stepping outside her comfort zone, trying new things and speaking up when it matters. Through her actions, she sets a strong example for others and shows what it means to grow with courage and respect.**

## 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). ■

## Oregon Tribal Student Grant applications open for 2026-27

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

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

For more information, call 541-509-7624 or email [PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov). ■

## 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



# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month

This month reminds people to learn about high blood pressure and how to keep their hearts healthy.

### What is high blood pressure?

High blood pressure or hypertension happens when the force of blood pushing against your artery walls is too high. Over time, this can damage your heart and blood vessels.

Doctors measure blood pressure with two numbers:

- Systolic pressure: pressure when the heart beats
- Diastolic pressure: pressure when the heart rests between beats

A normal reading is usually less than 120/80 mm Hg. Blood pressure is considered high when it is 130/80 mm Hg or higher.

### Why high blood pressure matters

High blood pressure is often called the “silent killer.” Many people do not feel sick or notice symptoms, but the condition can still harm the body.

Over time, high blood pressure can increase the risk of:

- Heart disease
- Stroke
- Kidney disease
- Problems during pregnancy

In the United States, high blood pressure is a major cause of heart disease and stroke, which are leading causes of death.

### Simple steps to protect your heart

The good news is that high blood pressure can often be prevented or controlled with healthy habits, such as:

1. Check your blood pressure regularly — Ask your doctor to check it at medical visits or use a home monitor.
2. Eat heart-healthy foods — Choose fruits, vegetables, whole grains and foods low in salt.
3. Stay physically active — Try to move your body at least 30 minutes most days of the week.
4. Maintain a healthy weight — Even small weight loss can help lower blood pressure.
5. Do not smoke and limit alcohol — These habits can raise blood pressure and damage the heart.

Lifestyle changes can help lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. ■



## National Senior Health & Fitness Day

National Senior Health & Fitness Day is celebrated this year on May 27. The day encourages older adults to stay active and take care of their health. Many activities, including health screenings, exercise classes and wellness activities to support healthy aging, are available in Grand Ronde.



As people get older, taking care of their health becomes even more important.

### Staying active can help older adults:

- Improve balance and reduce the risk of falls;
- Keep muscles and bones strong;
- Lower the risk of heart disease and stroke;
- Improve mood and mental health;
- Help manage chronic conditions such as diabetes or arthritis.

Regular activity can also help older adults maintain independence and improve quality of life.

### What types of activities are helpful?

Exercise does not have to be difficult or intense. Even small amounts of movement can help improve health.

1. Aerobic activities — This includes activities that raise the heart rate, such as walking, swimming or dancing.
2. Strength exercises — Using light weights or resistance bands can help keep muscles strong.
3. Balance exercises — Simple activities like standing on one foot can help prevent falls.
4. Flexibility exercises — Stretching helps keep joints flexible and improves movement.

Older adults should try to move their bodies regularly and choose activities they enjoy.

### Simple ways Elders can stay active

Many everyday activities can support good health. Simple ways to stay active include:

- Take a short walk each day;
- Do gentle stretching in the morning;
- Join a community exercise class;
- Garden or do light yard work;
- Play with grandchildren or pets.

Even a few minutes of activity at a time can add up and provide health benefits. ■

MAY 2026

## DIABETES EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

**MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH!**  
Mental Health Awareness month in May was founded in 1949, and aims to reduce stigma, educate the public, and promote support for mental health conditions. It highlights that mental wellbeing is crucial for coping with life's stresses, with many people experiencing conditions like anxiety or depression. Get involved by sharing stories with #MyMentalHealth, attending local events, or practicing self-care.

**Eating for Stress Relief: Foods that Can Help Reduce Stress**

<b>Fruits:</b> Fruits high in vitamin C including citrus fruit and strawberries. Vitamin C deficiency has been linked to stress.	<b>Avocados:</b> Magnesium and fiber help reduce cortisol levels- high cortisol is linked to depression and anxiety.	<b>Nuts:</b> Proteins and heart healthy fats contain Seleniun- a mineral shown to help lower post pardom depression.	<b>Spinach, Kale, Broccoli:</b> Leafy green vegi's high in fiber can help lower anxiety	<b>Beans and Lentils, and chickpeas contain Fiber,</b> magnesium, fiber, and L-trytophan, your body uses to create serotonin
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Self-Care & Action: Simple steps include exercising, adequate sleep, and using techniques like the 3-3-3 rule for anxiety (identifying 3 things you see, hear, and move).

Healthy habits can help prevent Type 2 Diabetes, manage stress more effeciently, and help live a full and happy life.

Contact:  
Charlene.brewer@grandronde.org  
Jeannette.cavan@grandronde.org  
503-879-2002

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# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

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T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT GRAPHIC \$15								
T-SHIRT (GRAY) FRONT GRAPHIC \$15								
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T-SHIRT (NAVY) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC \$15								Not Available

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