



Therapy horse visits  
'good medicine' for  
Tribal Elders — pg. 8

JUNE 1, 2026



# SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

## WorkSource Oregon unveils new mobile center in Grand Ronde

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

**W**orkSource Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted an open house at the Tribal Employment Service Center Monday, May 18, to launch one of three new mobile centers that will travel to job seekers in rural areas.

WorkSource Oregon, along with Willamette Workforce Partnership, is collaborating with the Tribe to bring career support options directly to the reservation. During the open house, attendees had an opportunity to learn more about the options offered in the mobile employment center and to take a tour.

Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Harris Reibach and Tribal Employment and Training/477 Program Manager Michael Herrin provided opening remarks at the event.

"This is really a neat thing we're doing here in terms of collaboration between WorkSource Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, specifically my program and Mike's program, VR 477, that lives in our Social Services Department," Reibach said. "Approximately \$1.2 million in wages were paid out to people in my program last year with the help of my staff. This is another huge, no pun intended, feather in our cap to be able to work with WorkSource Oregon. ... I hope that it provides additional employment resources for not only our Tribal members but the whole community."

Herrin said that in a rural com-

See TERO  
continued on page 10



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and Marine Corps veteran Reyn Leno speaks during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 25.

## Tribe hosts annual Memorial Day Ceremony

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**T**he Tribe held its 23rd annual Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 25, adding four names to the West Valley Veterans Memorial and paying tribute to the Tribe's Gold Star families.

See MEMORIAL DAY  
continued on page 9

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle sings and drums during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 25.



## Book club supports caregivers and patients with dementia

By Nicole Montesano

*Smoke Signals staff writer*

**F**ifty-four years into their marriage, Tribal Elder Ray Petite and his wife, Sally, are facing perhaps their biggest challenge. In September 2025, Ray was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

"He was concerned, because he'd been forgetting things, so he went in for testing," Sally said.

After receiving the results, "The first thought that came into my mind was 'what am I going

See BOOK CLUB  
continued on page 7



Tribal Elder Ray Petite, left, talks with his wife Sally Petite, right, and Tribal Dementia Care Specialist Barbara Worthington during the Mind Readers-Caregivers Book Club at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Tuesday, May 5.

Photo 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, June 3.....4 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17.....4 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1.....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.

# Fun gathering



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Carter Soderberg, 6, adds wildflower seeds to dirt as he creates a greenhouse during the Tribe's Education Department Spring Fun Gathering in the Tribal gym Thursday, May 21. Approximately 150 people attended the event that featured cultural crafts such as bracelet making and weaving, a sweet walk, a dip netting fishing game and dinner.



Tribal member Marcelene Runningbird, 7, adds beaded rhinestones as she decorates a bear during the Tribe's Education Department Spring Fun Gathering in the Tribal gym Thursday, May 21.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**

@SmokeSignalsCTGR



# smok signalz

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### DEADLINE DATE

### ISSUE DATE

### MEMBERS OF:

Friday, June 5..... June 15

Monday, June 22 ..... July 1

Monday, July 6 ..... July 15

Thursday, July 23 ..... Aug 1

Indigenous Journalists Association

Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.

2022 IJA General Excellence

2023 IJA General Excellence

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

# 2026 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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## TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Friday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth commemoration.

# IN THE FUTURE



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

**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 June-teenth commemoration.
- Sunday, June 28 – Tribal Council nominations, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

**sinemakwst-mun (July)**

- Wednesday, July 1 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Thursday-Friday, July 2-3 – Tribal offices close at noon July 2 and remain closed July 3 in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- Friday-Sunday, July 10-12 – Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow. Uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 SW Hebo Road. Grand entries traditionally start at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Monday, July 13 – Elder Honor Day, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino. Doors open at 8 a.m. Lunch is served at noon and bingo will begin at 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be raffled throughout the day.
- Wednesday, July 15 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, July 29 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.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).

## Smoke Signals welcomes Tribal graduate into internship

Publications intern Alexander Bliven joined the Smoke Signals newsroom Monday, May 11, in a temporary position made possible by the Tribe's 477 Employment and Training Program.

"I'm extremely grateful to the Tribe for providing me with this opportunity," Bliven said. "I enjoy writing that is able to inform others, so being in a position where I can do that is a dream come true."

Bliven graduated from Western Oregon University in 2025 with a Bachelor of Arts in English Studies. He is excited to apply what he's learned in the classroom into a real-world setting.

A Tribal member, Bliven is interested in writing, storytelling and learning new things. Through his internship, he hopes to gain even more experience with writing, editing and journalism. He is also excited at the chance to contribute stories meaningful to the Tribal community.

Bliven also views this position as a way for him to thank the Tribe for providing funding for his education.

"The Tribe has supported me all throughout my life and this is my way of giving back," he said.

Bliven has called the Willamette Valley his home his entire life and currently resides in Amity with his parents and beloved cat. In his spare time, he enjoys learning random trivia, studying astronomy and playing video games.

Bliven can be reached at [Alexander.Bliven@grandronde.org](mailto:Alexander.Bliven@grandronde.org). ■



Alexander Bliven



limited space

YOUTH AGES 13-18

**NATIVE YOUTH WELLNESS WARRIOR CAMP**

JUNE 22nd - 25th

**activities**

- \* CONNECTING WITH HORSES
- \* TRADITIONAL ARTS
- \* CULTURE SHARING
- \* COLLECTIVE HEALING
- \* ARCHERY TAG
- \* YOUTH CONNECTIONS

@ GRAND RONDE UYXAT POWWOW GROUNDS

SCAN QR FOR AGENDA

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**Grand Ronde Community Garden:**

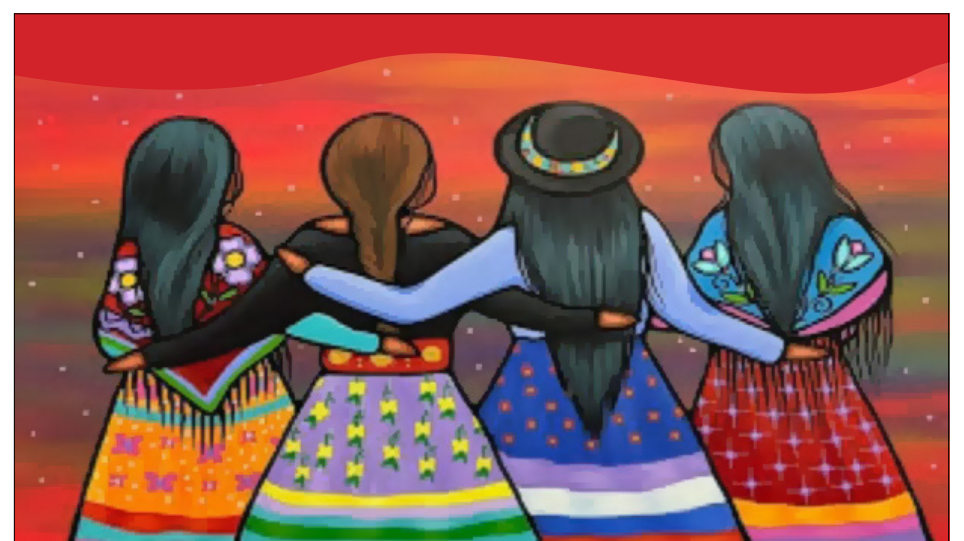
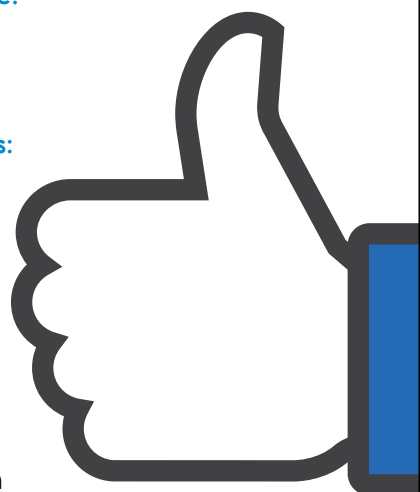
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**Grand Ronde Employment Services**

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



## Elder Honor Day

Monday, July 13 • SMC Event Center

- \*8 a.m. - Doors open
- 9 a.m. - Event starts
- 9:45 a.m. - Welcome - Cheryle A. Kennedy
- 10 a.m. - First raffle
- 12 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. - Bingo
- 2:45 p.m. - Closing remarks

\*Agenda is tentative



# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mak<sup>h</sup>mək haws – is operated by Marion Polk Food Share, which has been leading the fight to end hunger since 1987 because no one should be hungry.

Recipients of SNAP, TANF, SSI or LIHEAP assistance automatically qualify for assistance at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.

“We believe that everyone deserves to have enough to eat,” Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose says. “You are welcome to get a food box at each of our regular weekly distributions. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.”

The Food Bank will hold June food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

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

## Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets as needed at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 1 p.m. Friday, June 12. 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 continued requiring all employees wear masks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, following an announcement by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which stated that vaccinated Americans no longer needed to wear masks in most situations. Additionally, mask mandates were reinstated for all guests at Spirit Mountain Casino. “Throughout this pandemic, CTGR has erred on the side of keeping people safe,” General Manager David Fullerton said in an email to all employees. “Moving forward, we will continue with those same precautions.”

**2016** — Spirit Mountain Casino began a yearlong remodeling project aimed to give the casino an entirely new look and feel by adding new finishes and carpet, visually pleasing lighting displays, ceiling fixtures, state-of-the-art machines, a convenient new entrance and a new casino bar.



2016

File photo

**2011** — The Tribe agreed to buy the vacated middle school facility on the east side of Grand Ronde Road from the Willamina School District. The property was part of the Tribe’s original reservation, given to it in President Franklin Pierce’s 1857 Presidential Order, for \$675,000, and many events were held in the middle school’s gym following 1983’s Restoration.

**2006** — As part of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of state and Tribal government-to-government relations between Oregon and its nine federally recognized Tribes and the state, Tribal Council Chairwomen Cheryle A. Kennedy gave a speech in Salem in which she stated the government-to-government process “is working,” but that “many difficulties and obstacles” were ahead. “Through all the struggles and hardships, you still find respect and still honor one another. To learn from one another, I believe, that is the teaching of our Elders.”

**2001** — Ground was dedicated in a ceremony for a new planned education complex in Grand Ronde. The complex included a preschool, a secondary education building and an adult education building, as well as an auditorium and gymnasium. Tribal youth Cristina Lara spoke to those in attendance. “We should take pride in our education. Now, we are entering a new level of education.”

**1996** — Phase II expansion at Spirit Mountain Casino was underway, with the casino adding 36,500 square feet of new gaming, dining and family entertainment space, including Legends Steakhouse. The expansion also called for approximately 3,000 square feet of banquet and meeting room space, accommodating from 150 to 400 people depending upon the configuration.

**1991** — Community development efforts were in full swing with the pending construction of the Tribal Community Center in the summer, and with planning underway for the future Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center. Some challenges the Tribe faced during development efforts included the expansion of existing utilities to accommodate for future growth.

**1986** — The Tribe finished negotiations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for an agreement that would allow the Tribe to issue elk, deer and bear tags to Tribal members who wished to hunt or fish in designated areas during the state declared seasons.

*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 CONFEDERATED 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. ■

## Ceremonial first fish



Photo by Kamiah Koch

**The Tribe caught the ceremonial first fish Thursday, May 14, at Willamette Falls. From left, Tribal Biologist Kyle McLaughlin heaves a dip net into the falls while Tribal Aquatic Biologist Brandon Weems and Tribal Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen hold his safety rope. A first fish ceremony was held later in the day at the fish weir behind the Grand Ronde Education complex.**

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**  
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## Open for comment

### Nonprofit Corporations Ordinance open for comment

The Tribal Council is considering adopting a Nonprofit Corporations Ordinance. The proposed new ordinance was given a first reading at the Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Tribal Council meeting.

The primary purpose of the proposed ordinance is to set forth policies and procedures for the governance of nonprofit corporations chartered under Tribal law for the benefit of Tribal government or Tribal members and enabling such nonprofit corporations to achieve tax-exempt status pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

The Tribal Council invites comments on the proposed new Non-profit Corporations Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed ordinance, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664 or [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org). Also send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347, or by email to [legal@grandronde.org](mailto:legal@grandronde.org).

Comments must be received by Wednesday, July 1, 2026. ■



## 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.

## LISTEN TO SMOKE SIGNALS PODCASTS



### Great Circle Recovery updates with Jennifer Worth

Smoke Signals met with Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth to discuss the latest updates on the new opioid-treatment locations, mobile clinics and expanded services.

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



VISIT [SMOKESIGNALS.ORG](http://SMOKESIGNALS.ORG) AND CLICK ON PODCAST

## Council approves self-governance funding agreement amendment

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

During its Wednesday, May 20, meeting, Tribal Council approved an amendment to a Department of Interior self-governance funding agreement that will add more than \$2 million in unrestricted funds to the government coffers.

The amendment will cover what is known as Section 105(1) leases, which require the Bureau of Indian Affairs or Indian Health Service to compensate Tribes for the operational costs of Tribal facilities used to deliver federal programs. Unlike a traditional lease, it acts as a cost-based reimbursement method, where Tribes can be compensated for expenses including rent, depreciation, principal and interest on loans, operations, maintenance and repairs, according to the BIA website.

The Tribe and the BIA first entered into the agreement in 2020,

which covered 2020-24. The three leases in the amendment are for 2022-23 and include the Natural Resourced Department, the Tribe's Portland office and the Tribal Governance Center.

"This is a very technical, multi-layered, complicated process," Tribal Economic and Lands Director Jan Looking Wolf Reibach said during a Tuesday, May 12, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "And that's the reason why more Tribes do not take advantage of it. ... We were one of the early Tribes to even file an LOI (letter of intent) and that was just the beginning. You literally have to analyze and document every square foot of the different buildings and match it to a program in their format. It requires Tribal Council approval. It requires a certified license appraisal of that space. Brandy (Humphreys) did an excellent job leading that project and it took years. There were

some delays because of changes in administration and government shutdowns...but we kept moving forward."

In the coming months, Reibach expects additional amendments to the agreement to add leases for Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, as well as for lease renewals.

In other news, Tribal Council:

- Approved a professional services agreement between the Tribe and GLAS Architects LLC of Eugene for up to \$601,715 for design services for the expansion and renovation of the Grand Ronde Shawash-Ili?i Skul (Chinuk Wawa School), which will include a kindergarten through fifth grade Tribally operated school campus;
- Approved the annual O'Link funding agreement between Grand Ronde and 11 other Tribes that will net an estimated \$283,000 in additional housing funds. The annual agreement is necessary because Grand Ronde's Indian Housing Block Grant service areas overlaps with 11 other Tribes in Oregon and California;
- Approved an agreement with the Federal Transit Administration to authorize Tribal Public Works Coordinator John Mercier as the signing authority to access federal grant funding for various transit activities;
- Approved an amendment to the professional services agreement with David Evans & Associates of Portland for up to \$1.5 million for design services related to phase one infrastructure im-

provements at the Tribe's tumwata village project in Oregon City. The amendment covers additional work related to construction, inspection and contract administration:

- Approved the property acquisition of the 334.41-acre Jordan Valley Habitat Conservation Project through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The land is located near Stayton and the property includes upland prairie/oak savanna, oak woodland, wet prairie/wetlands and mixed forest habitats, including Jordan Creek. After closing is complete, this will bring the Tribe's conservation properties to 14 and total acreage to nearly 3,000;
- And approved enrolling eight infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. So far, there have been 44 infants, 16 emergency non-infants and 92 non-infants enrolled into the Tribe in 2026.

In other business, council approved the preparation and submission of a commitment letter and a request for grant proposals to participate in the Rural Health Transformation Program. Council also approved a private stormwater facilities agreement and easement on the Chemawa Station property in Keizer between Chemawa Station LLC and the city of Keizer.

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



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](mailto:pamala.warren-chase@thecommunityfund.com)

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

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

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

## seeking donations

The Grand Ronde Elder Board is seeking gift basket or gift card donations for Elder Honor Day, which will be held Monday, July 13, at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center.

Gift baskets and cards can be donated in the name of the families or individuals for the raffle and those items will be announced during the event as having been donated by specific individuals or families.

The deadline for donations is **Thursday, June 25**. Donations can be dropped off at the Grand Ronde Elders Activity Center. Please contact Melanie Monson at 503-879-2233 to arrange drop-off.

Doors will open for Elder Honor Day at 8 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. The tentative end time is 2:45 p.m. The theme is Rock your Ribbons. Attendees are encouraged to wear ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts.

For more information, contact Elder Board Chair Darlene Aaron at [Grammyaaron48@gmail.com](mailto:Grammyaaron48@gmail.com).



# ‘It’s grown into something much better’

**BOOK CLUB continued  
from front page**

to do, when he forgets who I am?” she said.

Ray didn’t want to believe it.

“There’s a denial to it at first; I don’t have that,” he said.

Afterward, “We went home and turned on the music and danced to, I guess you’d call it our song,” Sally said.

In the weeks that followed, Ray dove into learning about the disease, while Sally called the Tribe’s Community Health program, looking for support.

She found it in the form of a new program offered by the Tribe’s Brain Health program: Mind Readers Brain Health and Story Circle.

Initially, Tribal Dementia Care Specialist Barbara Worthington said the group was envisioned as a supportive book club for caregivers. However, Ray wanted to participate.

“It’s grown into something much better,” she said.

Now, caregivers, spouses, patients and family members are all welcome.

“It changes your life,” Sally said. “It helps you get ready.”

Ray has faced his diagnosis head on.

“I think it’s made me more considerate of other people,” he said.

The couple agreed to tell their story to help others see that they aren’t alone and that support is available.

“I acknowledge that I’ve got it,” Ray said. “A lot of people don’t.”

He said he wants more people to try out the book club.

“I think people would benefit,” he said. “It gets them prepared, even if they’re not (yet) diagnosed with it. People confuse dementia with old age, but that’s not right. It can

**The book group meets at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym, 8720 Grand Ronde Road, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month.**

affect anyone; young, middle-aged, old – and it’s always there. (But) you might not see it for 20 or 30 years.”

Ray reads the books for the club along with Sally. They discuss their reactions and talk about how things are going at home. There are tears sometimes.

As they discussed a short story titled “I yelled at you today,” Worthington said it hit home for her, bringing back memories of the times she felt she had fallen short as she cared for her grandmother.

“Many times, I didn’t hold it together,” she said.

It hit home for the Petites as well, with Sally acknowledging they’d had “a tough morning.”

“He was yelling at me,” she said.

Sally acknowledged that she too sometimes loses patience, as she reached for a tissue to wipe her eyes.

“I worry about that,” she said. “I should be patient and say, ‘He has dementia.’”

“It’s hard,” Worthington told her. “You can just say that to him; ‘It’s hard today.’”

Ray said he can’t always keep up the way he used to. “She said, ‘You don’t hear me. I said, ‘Yes, I do hear you. I’m slow responding,’” he told Worthington.

It can take longer for people with dementia to process questions and answer them, Worthington noted,

and it’s important not to rush them.

“It takes time,” she said. “If it takes too much time, re-phrase the question and keep it short.”

For the May meeting, the group had been going through the book “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living with Alzheimer’s & Other Dementias,” by Amy Newmark and Angela Timashenka Geiger.

“It goes through the phases each caregiver faces ... how they face it and we see how it affects people and what to expect,” Ray said, saying he finds that helpful. “I’ve learned a lot. I see, I’m at this phase now; here’s what’s coming up and how do I prepare for that. I’ve got a lot more understanding.”

Moving on to another chapter of the book, Ray read aloud for the group a list of the ABCs of interacting with people who have dementia. He and Sally agreed they’d like to have a printout of the list to put on their refrigerator.

Among its suggestions – never argue with the person, follow their lead, let them tell the same stories over again or keep washing the same dish.

They paused to discuss the suggestion to tell fibs if necessary – if, for example, the person is insisting they must drive to pick up a child who has long been grown – rather than upsetting them with the truth.

“Did that bother you? For some people, that’s a hard line,” Worthington said.

“For me, I think that’s a hard line,” Ray said.

“I think sometimes it’s going to be necessary,” Sally said.

For now, she said, “I tell Ray, ‘Don’t worry about it; I’ve got it.’”

Worthington asked if the technique helps.

“Oh, yeah,” Ray said. “Cause I worry a lot. I try to take responsibility for what I do.”

Sally said she wants to keep Ray at home as the disease progresses for as long as possible.

“The only way I would let someone take him is if he got angry and violent. But I don’t think he would do that.”

“I wouldn’t do that,” Ray said. “I like to walk away, to calm down. Like this morning, when she said, ‘You’re yelling.’ Ok, I’m going to walk away; that’s what helps me calm down.”

Worthington said there are other techniques that might help as things progress, such as modeling calming behavior, noting Sally’s earlier observation that Ray often imitates her or repeats what she has said.

“So, if you take a breath, he’ll probably copy that,” Worthington said.

The book group meets at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym, 8720 Grand Ronde Road, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, to give members more flexibility with their schedules.

New members are welcome. To learn more, call Community Health at 503-879-2078. ■

**TOUR EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION**

# youth

## Regalia Making Class

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

# Therapy horse visits offer ‘good medicine’ for Tribal Elders

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

It starts with the route from Grand Ronde to West Salem, a particularly pretty drive on a May afternoon when everything is glowing richly green or bursting into bloom. But for the participating Tribal Elders, it’s the quiet hour in the barn, spending time with the horses, that they come for.

Once a month, the Tribe brings any Elder who wants to participate out to Horses Adaptive Riding & Therapy in West Salem, to spend an hour grooming and bonding with the program’s therapy horses.

“It’s such good medicine and that’s why we’re here,” Tribal Elder and Tribal Enrichment Coordinator Virginia Kimsey-Roof said. “(There’s) a lot of generational trauma.”

The horses listen, “and they don’t tell secrets,” she said, calling them, “a gift from God.”

Tribal Elder Nancy Renfrow agreed.

“I’ve always loved horses, so this way, I get to brush them and talk to them and snuggle them, all that good stuff,” she said. “It’s so relaxing.”

Renfrow said she participates every month. As a child, she said, “I’d go and bother my neighbor’s horses.”

Kimsey-Roof said that she loved being with the horses so much that a few years ago, she began taking riding lessons at the stable as well.

This day was particularly poignant, Kimsey-Roof said, as therapy horse Loki, who was a favorite among the Elders, had tragically



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Elder Nancy Renfrow brushes Piper during the Tribal Elders visit to Horses Adaptive Riding & Therapy in Salem Wednesday, May 13. The Elders visit the barn monthly to groom and visit with the horses.**

**Tribal Elder Cappi George grooms Athena during the Tribal Elders visit to Horses Adaptive Riding & Therapy in Salem.**



SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**

@SmokeSignalsCTGR



with horses. Her father, the late Marvin Kimsey, “rounded up horses on the Warm Springs reservation” as a young man, she said, and later started the Spirit Mountain Stampede rodeo.

“Growing up, he always made sure we had horses,” Kimsey-Roof said. “They’re a comfort ... this is my medicine.”

She said horses have made a big difference in her own mental health.

“I want to bring this back to our own people,” she said.

Kimsey-Roof is planning a Tribal Healing with Horses program. Details are still in the works, she said.

“I’ll probably never stop coming here; the people here are amazing,” she said.

In addition to the Elders, Tribal youth visit the stable for the horses’ healing influence, Kimsey-Roof said. ■


tered back brushed clean, before blond and braided Piper briefly took his place.

After Athena grew impatient for the grain bucket waiting for her, she was returned to her stall to enjoy it. Next, Instructor Jessica Bauscher brought out Oldermann, a Norwegian Fjord who enjoyed the pampering from Renfrow and participant Brandy McKinney so much that he dozed off where he stood as they worked.

Kimsey-Roof said she grew up


succumbed to colic a week earlier. Kimsey-Roof blotted tears as she brushed tall Percheron mix Athena, who stood quietly, accepting tears and hugs. At the other end of the barn, Icelandic pony Thor enjoyed having his thoroughly mud-spat-

## PADDLE PRACTICE



### SCHEDULE FOR 2026

<p><b>March</b></p> <p>3/18 wake up the canoes</p>	<p><b>July</b></p> <p>7/1 Elders Canoe Day @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm</p> <p>7/15 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p>
<p><b>April</b></p> <p>4/13 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p>	<p><b>August</b></p> <p>8/19 Paddle practice @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm</p> <p>8/29 Tentative river paddle</p>
<p><b>May</b></p> <p>5/18 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 1-4pm</p>	<p><b>September</b></p> <p>9/2 Sobriety Paddle @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm</p>
<p><b>June</b></p> <p>6/3 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 1-4pm</p> <p>6/13 Fathers Day Paddle @Devils Lake 10am-1pm</p> <p>6/17 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm</p>	<p>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 ORHWC Facebook for the most up to date schedule as well as more information on upcoming events.</p>




**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>




# Tribe added four names to Veterans Memorial

## MEMORIAL DAY continued from front page

With the new additions, there are now 2,395 names on the memorial, which holds six black granite pillars honoring Tribal and community members from Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan who served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. Designed by the late Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr., a Marine Corps veteran himself, the memorial features a man and a woman in traditional Native garb, reaching toward the sky. It was dedicated in 2003.

Tribal Elder Gene LaBonte and his wife Billie were among those who raised money for the memorial, working with Bobb. The Ad Hoc Veterans Memorial Committee worked to raise nearly \$450,000 for the memorial, including \$175,000 from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund and \$113,000 in Tribal dollars that the then-Tribal Council agreed to have taken out of the Capital Improvement budget. Tribal staff helped, performing project design refinements that trimmed \$100,000 from the cost. The dedication ceremony included a flyover from an Air Force F-15E-Eagle that Billie LaBonte said she arranged for.

“My husband and I worked to put that up there,” she said. “Gene LaBonte, Reyn Leno and myself are the only ones that are still alive. Gene’s 84 and I’m 88, and we moved to Salem so we could be closer to our children.”

This year, the Tribe added the names of Tribal Elder Tim Douglass, Marine Corps; Adam R. Lulay and Tyler Mursch, Army; and Craig A. Haymowicz, Air Force.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Pete Wakefield and Lisa Leno attended the ceremony.

Following a lunch served indoors



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal member and Veterans’ Special Event Board member Marianne Blanchard hands Grand Ronde Honor Guard member and Tribal Elder Jesse Robertson pins during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 25. All veterans in attendance were gifted pins.**



in the Community Center, the crowd moved outdoors to sit under a canopy in front of the memorial, keeping them dry in spite of the rainy day. Veterans’ Special Event Board Chair Molly Leno, who organized the event, served as the master of ceremonies. Kennedy gave the invocation and Tribal member Anthony Quenelle sang in the honor guard as they posted the colors. Quenelle also sang an honor and healing song. Mercier read aloud the names added to the memorial. Honor Guard member and Tribal Elder Jesse Robertson read a poem, “Freedom is not free.”

Tribal Elder Reyn Leno was the guest speaker. Hearing that a few people had stayed inside because of the rain, Leno quipped that “I

served in Vietnam. I served through the monsoons; this is nothing.”

He said he wishes someone would write about the Tribal families of military members.

“Veterans are one thing, but families of veterans is another thing,” Leno said. “Somebody should write a story. We should do it Tribally, we should do something in our cultural department to track families and

have them give family stories.”

He noted that “When we were terminated, in 1954...we were only a Tribe of about 800 and most of them were here at Grand Ronde. Approximately 80 of them served in World War II, so 10% of our Tribe. Actually, every family probably had somebody serving.” Noting that the Tribe’s tribute to Gold Star families listed 10 lives lost, he said, “So 10% of that 10% actually lost their lives during World War II. That is history that we should never forget.”

In his own family, Leno said, his father served in North Africa, while three uncles served in the South Pacific and two more in the United States.

Both Reyn and Molly Leno said they particularly wanted to invite everyone to the 2026 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow, taking place Friday to Sunday, July 10-12, at the uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde.

Mercier also extended an invitation, noting that the Tribe will be hosting more than 100 student athletes from the Big 10 conference at the powwow in July.

“Just know that they could have chosen any Tribe out of Oregon and Washington to do this, and they chose Grand Ronde,” Mercier said. “The entire footprint of the Big 10 will be represented. ... a lot of these students will have never been to a powwow before; they will have never experienced Native culture, so please do your best to be a good host to these people.” ■

## ACUPUNCTURE in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

**TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS**



Mallory Harman, LAc



Alison Healy, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc

**Questions or to schedule:**  
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EMAIL: info@yourdearbody.com



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**PLEASE CALL 503-879-2026 OR STOP BY THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC AT THE GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER.**

# Mobile center will visit Grand Ronde twice monthly

**TERO continued from front page**

munity like Grand Ronde, there are challenges finding Tribal members employment opportunities outside of the Tribal government or Spirit Mountain Casino.

“So, anytime we can partner with somebody that maybe has additional resources in surrounding areas, it’s a benefit to our people,” he said. “I am excited about implementing it and seeing who it affects, then analyzing that data and seeing how we can improve the services. ... Because of the restrictions around our programs, people (in the community) are being underserved. And so, with this collaboration, those people can now come in and get employment services and so I’m excited to see how that affects them. Like I was saying earlier, a rising tide lifts all canoes. So, when anyone in our community does better, we all do better.”

The mobile center will visit Grand Ronde twice monthly, for two to seven hours each time.

“These mobile centers are vans equipped with workstations, computers and secure internet access,”



Photo by Alexander Bliven

**Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Harris Reibach gives welcoming remarks during the launch of the new WorkSource Oregon mobile service center at the Grand Ronde Tribal campus Monday, May 18. The mobile centers are sponsored by the Oregon Employment Department in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services. There are three mobile centers that will be dispatched to various areas of the state, including Grand Ronde. Each is equipped with a Starlink system so that internet access is provided no matter where the unit happens to be.**

a press release stated. “WorkSource Oregon staff drive the vans to communities that do not have a brick-and-mortar WorkSource Oregon center nearby. They provide personalized career support, help finding job and training opportunities and referrals to benefits programs. Services are offered at

no cost to customers and no appointments are required.”

Additionally, Oregonians who receive food benefit assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and who have received an Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents notice from the Oregon Department of Human Services can access employment and training through the mobile centers to meet the work

requirements to stay eligible for services. Those who receive the notice must complete 80 hours a month of work or other activities like volunteers to keep their benefits for more than three months.

“I want to share a lot of gratitude this morning and start with thanking the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and my colleagues on the workforce board for helping us kick off this wonderful event today and helping us bring our new mobile workforce centers to life,” Oregon Employment Department Director Andrew Stolfi said. “We’ve got an important, simple yet challenging mission to support businesses and promote employment. We pursue this mission in lots of different ways. One of the most important and meaningful is helping people find jobs. ... We know that a lot of our customers and particularly those in rural, frontier and Tribal communities have a hard time getting to the (OED) offices. ... These new mobile centers are just another way we and our partners are adapting to the needs of our customers and literally meeting them where they are.”

For more information on when the mobile center will be in Grand Ronde, visit [worksourceoregon.org/for-job-seekers/mobile-worksource-oregon-centers.html](http://worksourceoregon.org/for-job-seekers/mobile-worksource-oregon-centers.html). ■

## Tribal nonemergency text

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

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

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



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[www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org)



## THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE ★ SAVE THE DATE! ★

### 2026 VETERANS SUMMIT FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

DOORS OPEN AT 9 A.M.

Free event!

All Veterans  
Welcome!

Claim  
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Presentations

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Tables

Veteran  
Resources

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



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

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

# Tribal member launches eco-friendly cleaning business

By Danielle Harrison  
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Amber Case-Eastman is hoping to turn her passion for natural, non-toxic cleaning products that help her community into a successful business venture with Red Road Cleaning Co. LLC.

She's already achieved one milestone: Becoming an Indian Owned Business through the Tribe's Tribal Employment Rights Office program.

This milestone was achieved right around the same time as another one: It has been 10 years since Case-Eastman was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer and stage three endometrial cancer.

"Ten years ago, I was told I was terminal," she said. "Today, I own my own business, healthy and grateful for our community."

Case-Eastman first began to get interested in cleaning while working for the Tribe's Community Health program and witnessing the effect it had on clients.

"A clean home isn't just about appearance, it brings relief," she said. "It helps people breathe easier, feel less overwhelmed and regain a sense of dignity, no matter the barriers they're facing. That stayed with me."

After cancer, addiction and ongoing health challenges, Case-Eastman said she needed to find her path.

"I had to find a way forward that fit within my limits but still aligned



Amber Case-Eastman

with who I am," she said. "This is something I've wanted for years and I finally stepped into it. I was meant for the Red Road. Red Road Cleaning Co. is my toxic takeback. Less chemicals. More health. Less judgment. More care."

Case-Eastman offers eco-friendly, pet and child safe cleaning, which includes deep cleans, maintenance, move-in/move-out services and vacation rental cleaning. There's a two-hour minimum booking requirement.

"I show up ready to work, bringing care, consistency and attention to detail into every home I enter," she said. "At the end of the day, I'm still a caregiver. I just care for people in a different way now by creating spaces that feel lighter, safer and more manageable."

She added, "What I hope to build goes beyond cleaning. I see a future where I can hire women from our recovery houses, offering recovery-first, supportive employment that meets them where they are. Work with dignity. Work with purpose. Work that understands the path they're walking, because I've walked it, too."

For more information, call 503-793-2037 or email [redroadcleaning-co.llc@gmail.com](mailto:redroadcleaning-co.llc@gmail.com). ■

# 90 years young



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Anna White cuts a birthday cake in the shape of 90 during a birthday celebration for Tribal Elder Murch White, middle, at the Elders Activity Center Thursday, May 14. Tribal Elder Donna Stronach requested the cake as a surprise for Murch's birthday. Anna White is Murch's sister-in-law. Tribal Nutrition Program Manager Kristy Lawson made the cake. Murch's birthday is May 3.

# Elder Board seeking gift basket donations for Elder Honor Day

The Grand Ronde Elder Board is seeking gift basket or gift card donations for Elder Honor Day, which will be held Monday, July 13, at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center.

Gift baskets and cards can be donated in the name of the families or individuals for the raffle and those items will be announced during the event as having been donated by specific individuals or families.

The deadline for donations is Thursday, June 25. Donations can be dropped off at the Grand Ronde Elders Activity Center. Please contact Melanie Monson at 503-879-2233 to arrange drop-off.

Doors will open for Elder Honor Day at 8 a.m., with the program beginning at 9 a.m. The tentative end time is 2:45 p.m. The theme is Rock your Ribbons. Attendees are encouraged to wear ribbon skirts and ribbon shirts.

For more information, contact Elder Board Chair Darlene Aaron at [Grammyaaron48@gmail.com](mailto:Grammyaaron48@gmail.com). ■

# 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**  
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**Limited Spots Available!**  
**Register ASAP**

# 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.**

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**Questions?**  
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[ZenaG@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:ZenaG@ctsi.nsn.us)  
Angey Rideout, Grand Ronde  
[angeyrideout@gmail.com](mailto:angeyrideout@gmail.com)

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

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE**  
**FAMILY FISHING DAY**

The Hebo Ranger District invites You for the Family Fishing Day in the Forest

**When:** June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm.

**Where:** Hebo Lake in Hebo, OR.

**Fishing Contest and Prizes at 11:00 am for Children (4-15 years old)**

We will have fishing poles and reels, bait, and free fishing lessons available. Parking is free, and kids under 12 years old won't need a Fishing License. For people 12 years and up, a Fishing License is required for this event.

# Mini mile runners



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Shawash-ili?i Skul kindergarten and first-grade students take off as they begin a mile run around the old powwow grounds on the Tribal campus Tuesday, May 19. Tribal Shawash-ili?i Skul qisqis lead teacher AJ Farmer challenged his students to run a mile and if they completed the run he would perform the sea lion dance challenge that is trending on social media. He originally asked that the parents confirm or submit video proof that the student completed the mile run. Shawash-ili?i Skul administrative staff caught wind of the challenge and decided to support and facilitate all students completing the mile while in class to ensure they all had the opportunity.**



**Tribal Health & Physical Education Coach Shane Thomas, left, and Tribal Shawash-ili?i Skul qisqis lead teacher AJ Farmer perform the sea lion dance challenge with Shawash-ili?i Skul students in the Tribal gym Tuesday, May 19. Kindergarten and first-grade students completed a challenge to run a mile in exchange for the two to perform the dance challenge.**

# Tribal youth earns championship at state cornhole tournament

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal member Bob Haller said he first got interested in cornhole — a popular lawn game where players toss fabric bean bags at an angled board — because his dad, Tribal Council member Matt Haller, enjoyed it.

A few years ago, they held a fundraising tournament for the city of Willamina to put on a fireworks display and brought in \$2,000.

“They had a really amazing fireworks display that year,” Matt Haller recalled.

The tournament also sparked Bob’s interest in the sport and now, he often beats his dad at the game. This year, the 12th annual Oregon State Cornhole Championships were held at Spirit Mountain Casino and 13-year-old Bob walked away with a junior league championship, a first-place win in tier three singles and notched third place playing doubles with his uncle.

Because the tournament was sponsored by the American Cornhole League, rather than the casino, Matt said, they were able to participate.

Bob said he enjoyed being able to compete close to home so he wasn’t tired out by travel by the time he got to play.

Traveling around the state participating in cornhole tournaments is one of Bob’s joys in life, particu-



Bob Haller

larly since he has kidney disease, which often leaves him not feeling well. He is on the waiting list for a new kidney, with friends and family lined up to be evaluated, but that takes time. While he waits, he attends school online and participates in as many tournaments as he can.

He’s known as “Big Bob,” in cornhole circles.

“He’s gonna be a pro and he knows it,” Matt said.

Bob said he enjoys both the game and the friendly atmosphere.

“I like the social activity in it; you get to talk to a lot of people,” he said.

This summer, for his son’s 14th birthday, Matt is planning a cornhole tournament among Tribal employees, to raise money for the Grand Ronde Food Bank. Bob said he’s looking forward to participating. ■

# Family fishing day set June 18

The Hebo Ranger District is hosting a Family Fishing Day for Tribal member families at Hebo Lake from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18. The lake is also being stocked with fish by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for that day. There will be free fishing lessons and gear available to use, along with a fishing contest for youth. There is no parking fee.

Enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal members older than 12 need to have a fishing license to participate, which can be obtained by contacting the Tribal Natural Resources Department at 503-879-2424. ■

IN THE TRIBAL COURT OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE  
GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON  
CIVIL COURT

FILED  
MAY 13 2026  
TRIBAL COURT

In the Matter of: ) Case No. 26C0007  
TERRY, JILLIAN )  
PETITIONER ) ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO CHANGE  
NAME

Based on the allegations set forth in the Petition for Name Change filed by Petitioner on April 21, 2026;

**THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOW:**

The Petition  does  does not meet the requirements of the Name Change Ordinance, Chapter 303 and the Petition is  dismissed  granted;

The Court  has  does not have jurisdiction over the Petitioner and  subject matter of the Petition herein;

The Petitioner  is  is not over 18 years old;

The Petitioner  is  is not an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;

Petitioner  has  has not petitioned or been granted a change of name by the Tribal Court within the past twelve (12) months;

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

The Petition for Name Change is not granted and is dismissed without prejudice.

The Petition for Name Change is granted and Petitioner's name is changed from JILLIAN TERRY to JILLIAN MARIE CARSON

The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall cause a copy of this Order to be published in the Tribal Newsletter;

The Clerk of the Tribal Court shall submit a certified copy of this Order to the Grand Ronde Tribal Enrollment Office and to the State Department of Vital Statistics Office in the state in which Petitioner was born.

DATED THIS 13TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.

Patrick S Melendy  
 Chief Judge

**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**

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 503-879-1364

# 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). ■

# 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. ■

# Resource fair



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal Registered Nurse Manager Crystal Schese paints a portion of a butterfly during the Mental Health Awareness Resource Fair at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building Thursday, May 21. Different color paints representing different feelings were available for attendees to paint the butterfly with the color of how they were feeling. When complete, the butterfly will show a representation of how the community is feeling. The annual event featured resource tables from several Tribal departments offering information on ways to support mental wellbeing and lunch was provided. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.**



**Walkers take part in the Mental Health Awareness Walk through the Tribal campus Thursday, May 21. Supplies to make signs to display on the walk were available.**

## shati pi ishish

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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

WED. JUNE 10	<b>4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM</b> <small>HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION</small> <small>GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED</small>
WED. JUNE 24	<b>2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM</b> <small>HOSTED BY GRHWC &amp; PUBLIC HEALTH</small> <small>SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED</small>
WED. JULY 8	<b>4:30-6:30 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM</b> <small>HOSTED BY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION</small> <small>GRAB AND GO DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED</small>
WED. JULY 22	<b>2:30-4:00 PM IN THE TRIBAL GYMNASIUM</b> <small>HOSTED BY GRHWC &amp; PUBLIC HEALTH</small> <small>SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED</small>

YOUTH EDUCATION

# Explore Arizona!

JULY 13<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

## 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or Graduating Seniors. See link or QR code for more info. & to apply.

LINK: <https://forms.gle/XkYikbbNiFzYwD7B8>

- Hualapai Tribe
- Saguaro National Park
- Kit Peak Observatory
- Heard Museum

- Grand Canyon, West
- Zipline, Pink Jeep Tour
- Honanki Heritage Site
- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor

503-879-2101
youtheducation@grandronde.org



## Watchlist: ‘Reclaimed: The Lifeblood of Navajo Nation’

By Kamiah Koch

Social media digital journalist

Indigenous peoples’ history and culture have been passed down for generations through oral storytelling. That tradition lives on today and with technology involved, those stories are now being recorded.

The next few Watchlist articles would be more appropriately named “listen-lists” because they are going to be recommending podcasts rather than videos.

In November 2025, a podcast called “Reclaimed: The Lifeblood of Navajo Nation,” hosted by journalist and Navajo Nation citizen Charly Edsitty, was first published by ABC Audio.

Using her own family’s history, Edsitty explores the Navajo Nation’s century-long fight for water equality rights.

“In this season of ‘Reclaimed,’ I’ll take you back over 100 years to when a controversial deal was signed that would change the fate of the Navajo,” Edsitty said in the trailer episode of the podcast. “And how today, a new deal is being negotiated between the Tribe and its neighboring states that may do it again.”

This four-part podcast begins with an explanation of the Navajo Nation’s current access to water – or lack thereof. In episode one, Edsitty explains many of the Navajo Nation residents drive miles to fill up water tanks or collect water from unregulated wells, which are often contaminated.

Edsitty said this all began when Navajo people were marched onto the reservation in the 1800s just before the Colorado River was diverted to growing cities in states like California and New Mexico. By 1922, the Colorado River Compact was negotiated and signed between states, essentially excluding the Navajo Nation from the water-access agreement.

“Because looking after the Tribes was the federal government’s job, the individual states in the compact washed their hands of the whole Indian question,” Edsitty said.

A century later, it has only gotten worse.

“To this day, the Navajo Nation has no guaranteed share of any water from the main part of the Colorado River, even though it borders the northwest edge of the reservation,” Edsitty said. “What this means is the Tribe has been stuck in the past.”

In episode two, Edsitty follows the United States being held accountable in a Supreme Court case to the treaties they signed and episode three follows Navajo citizen’s limited solutions to clean water. In the fourth episode, the Navajo Nation attempts to renegotiate a water deal.

You can listen to this podcast wherever you listen to podcasts or find ways to listen at <https://abcaudio.com/podcasts/reclaimed-navajo-nation/>. ■

## Tribal artist receives honor

Tribal artist Bobby Mercier has been selected as a recipient of the Premier Artist Prize award by the Curatorial Board of the Contemporary Art Station.

Mercier is one of 50 artists chosen this year to receive the award, which recognizes contemporary artists around the world and “highlights not only their artistic excellence, but also the meaningful impact



Bobby Mercier

their work has made within the contemporary art landscape,” according to an award letter from the Contemporary Art Station. Mercier’s work will be showcased in the 2026 edition of the Premier Artist Prize Book.

A Grand Ronde Tribal member and Tribal cultural advisor, Mercier has received a number of awards for his artistic creations, including the Persona Art Honors award from the Contemporary Art Station earlier this year.

Mercier’s creative endeavors include metal sculpting and traditional Chinook woodcarving, a style which he painstakingly taught himself after studying historic examples of the art style. He and several other carvers dedicate themselves to ensuring the rare and ancient style survives.

Since its 2018 founding in Barcelona, Spain, the Contemporary Art Station installs art exhibits in non-traditional spaces, such as airplane seats or metro stations, with the goal of making art accessible to people worldwide. ■

### 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**

Bottles and Tubs 4oz or Larger      Metals      Mixed Paper and Cardboard

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

**Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)**

**To Add Your Name:**

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

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

**To Receive:**

- Benefits information & updates
- Event invitations
- Veteran recognitions

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

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

[CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org](mailto:CTGRtribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org)

**TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**

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



# GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



## Wednesday, April 1

- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a domestic occurrence at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover in Willamina.

## Thursday, April 2

- Trespassing occurred at the 28000 block of Jahn Road.
- Trespassing occurred at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a road rage incident that turned into an assault.

## Friday, April 3

- A traffic stop occurred near milepost 28 on Highway 18 for a possible DUI.
- Disorderly conduct occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers put down a deer that was wounded after getting struck by a vehicle.

## Saturday, April 4

- Drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A burglary was reported at the 9600 block of Tillixam Circle.
- A disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Sunday, April 5

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a trespass call on Hebo and Grand Ronde roads.
- A driving complaint occurred at the 9000 block of Raven Loop.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Stranded motorists were helped on Grand Ronde and Agency Creek roads.

## Monday, April 6

- A drug complaint was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a 911 hang up call near 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Tuesday, April 7

- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover when taking a subject into custody for trespassing near the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by collecting evidence for an investigation.

## Wednesday, April 8

- Officers assisted an outside agency with transporting a subject in custody to the county jail.
- A subject was cited for driving while suspended at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers provided courtesy transport for a stranded motorist near Highway 18 and milepost 26.

## Thursday, April 9

- Officers took a report of theft that occurred on Tribal property in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a medical call near Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency conducting a welfare check at the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a domestic call that occurred in Willamina.

## Friday, April 10

- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a two-vehicle crash that occurred on Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a reckless driver going more than 100 mph.
- Trespassing occurred at the 9000 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## Saturday, April 11

- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for a possible suicidal subject near Grand Ronde and Andy Riggs roads.
- A welfare check occurred in Tribal housing.

## Sunday, April 12

- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a vehicle crash near milepost 26 on Highway 18.
- Trespassing occurred on the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted a stranded motorist that got locked out their vehicle at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers contacted a subject at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway as he was under investigation.
- A welfare check occurred at the 8000 block of Andy Riggs Road.
- Trespassing occurred at the 9000 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## Monday, April 13

- Officers took a report of a suspicious person near Andy Riggs Road.
- Officers took reports of possible illegal hunting occurring near Fire Hall Road.

## Tuesday, April 14

- Officers cleared a deceased animal from the roadway near Tribal

housing.

## Wednesday, April 15

- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Thursday, April 16

- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with attempting to locate a subject of interest in Willamina.

## Friday, April 17

- Officers conducted a traffic stop near milepost 25 on Highway 18.

## Saturday, April 18

- Officers assisted an outside agency by responding to a non-injury crash that occurred by A R Ford Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by responding to a crash near milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by conducting a welfare check near milepost 27 on Highway 18.

## Sunday, April 19

- Officers stopped and checked on a vehicle on the shoulder near milepost 21 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by taking a resisting individual into custody in Willamina.
- Trespassing occurred on Tribal lands near milepost 24 on Hebo Road.

## Monday, April 20

- Fraud occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers contacted a subject in Sheridan who was arrested for a probation violation.
- Officers assisted an outside agency by responding to a structure fire in Willamina.

## Tuesday, April 21

- Driving while suspended occurred near milepost 17 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with gathering information for an investigation.

## Wednesday, April 22

- A welfare check occurred in Tribal housing.
- Officers conducted a welfare check on a subject at a Tribal property in Sheridan.
- Officers reported a possibly intoxicated driver on the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Thursday, April 23

- An arrest for fourth-degree assault and kidnapping occurred near milepost 10 on Hebo Road.
- Officers located a runaway juvenile in Willamina.

## Friday, April 24

- A welfare check occurred at the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers contacted a subject at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway and transported them to a hospital.

## Saturday, April 25

- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Possible drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Sunday, April 26

- A hit-and-run was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers conducted a welfare check in Tribal housing.
- An aggressive dog was reported on McPherson Road.

## Monday, April 27

- Trespassing occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

## Tuesday, April 28

- No calls

## Wednesday, April 29

- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a sudden death that occurred at the 25000 block of Salmon River Highway near the Fort Hill exit.
- Animal neglect was reported at the 25000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

## Thursday, April 30

- Officers assisted an outside agency with responding to a medical call at the 50000 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with getting a wanted subject into custody in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency as cover for DUII traffic stop.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway on a report that possible drugs were found.

# 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



## 2026 CANOE JOURNEY GIFT MAKING WORKSHOPS

LOCATION: GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY CENTER

TUESDAY JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 11-1PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

THURSDAY JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 430-630PM (DINNER PROVIDED)

WEDNESDAY JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 11-1PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

All are welcome to join us in preparing for the 2026 canoe journey - Paddle to Nisqually. We would love your help in making beautiful, handmade gifts for each hosting Tribe. Materials and a meal will be provided at each session.



# 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. ■

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

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Audit Director	21	\$160,360.03/yr.	\$225,696.79/yr.	Until Filled
Behavioral Health Scheduler	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Applications Assistor – PRC Assistant	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Classroom Aide – Shawash il?i Skul	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	06/01/2026
College Intern/Aide – Early Childhood Education	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	06/01/2026
Dentist	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Dishwasher/Prep Cook – ECE	3	\$16.00/hr.	\$20.01/hr.	Until Filled
Elder Care Administrator	16	\$107,644.28/yr.	\$140,433.67/yr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	06/25/2026
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part Time	8	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	06/25/2026
Health Care Payment Specialist	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
High School Intern – Part Time – Youth Enrichment	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Infant/Toddler Teacher	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	06/01/2026
Lodge Caregiver – FT & PT All Shifts	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
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
Senior Dental Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Silviculture & Fire Grant Technician – FT Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Client Registration Specialist – Salem OTP - GCR	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Clinic Manager – Salem OTP- 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
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 – Sheridan -GCR	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Nursing Supervisor - Salem Detox - GCR	13	\$82,391.14/yr.	\$105,817.37/yr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem OTP - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem OTP - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

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

**2026 Canoe Journey Paddle to Nisqually**

**TIME TO TRAVEL**

**Sign Up Here**

**Key Info**

- ✓ Travel dates July 24 - August 5
- ✓ Final protocol starts August 1
- ✓ Youth 13-24
- ✓ Meals, gear & transportation provided

**Contact Us**

503-879-2034  
 YEP@grandronde.org  
 www.grandronde.org

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

**2026 ANNUAL POW WOW**

**TEMP WORKER RECRUITMENT**

Questions? Contact:  
 Employment Team  
 (503) 879-2109  
 employmentteam@grandronde.org

**JULY - VETERANS**  
 8TH – 12TH

**AUGUST - CONTEST**  
 12TH – 16TH

**TEMPORARY POSITION**  
 \$16.00/HR. TO \$18.00/HR.

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

\*CTGR Tribal Preference Applies

**POSTING TITLE**      **CLOSE DATE**      **WAGE/SALARY**

Bartender	5/28/2026	\$16.50/hr. DOE + Tips
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
Cleaning Attendant	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
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
Hospitality Attendant II WEX (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Bellstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Houseperson	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Hotel Laundry Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Landscape Technician I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Pastry Chef	Until Filled	DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Sous Chef	Until Filled	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      <https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>  
 Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.




**EARN YOUR GED/  
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**

**GET STARTED TODAY  
WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS**

GED	ADULT HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This program can be done online/on your own or you can take classes at the local Community College.</li> <li>✓ You must be at least 16 years old for this program</li> <li>✓ To earn your GED you will need to pass four tests; Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science.</li> <li>✓ The Grand Ronde Higher Education Department will provide you with study materials and tutoring as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ In the Adult High School Completion program you will earn an Oregon State High School Diploma.</li> <li>✓ Any High School credits you earned in High School (no matter how long ago) can/will be applied towards the 24 required credits needed.</li> <li>✓ This program is online and is self-paced.</li> </ul>

**GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM  
WILL BE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU**

**GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION**  
Tracy Biery  
 503-879-4591      [tracy.biery@grandronde.org](mailto:tracy.biery@grandronde.org)

## Oregon Tribal Student Grants

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). ■

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

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

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

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

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



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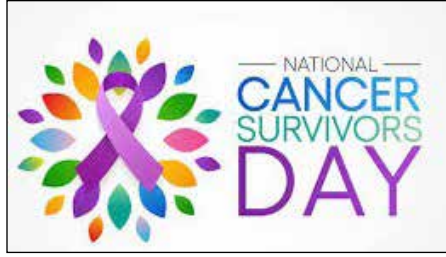


# HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

## National Cancer Survivors Day

National Cancer Survivors Day is celebrated each year on the first Sunday in June. It honors people who have been diagnosed with cancer and are still living.

According to the National Cancer Institute, a cancer survivor is anyone who has been diagnosed with cancer — from the time of diagnosis through the rest of their life.



Today, millions of people in the United States are cancer survivors. Many continue to receive medical care and support after treatment.

### Life after cancer

Cancer survivors may focus on improving their health and well-being. Healthy habits can help the body recover and stay strong.

It is recommended that survivors:

- Attend regular medical checkups
- Eat a balanced diet
- Stay physically active
- Seek emotional support when needed

Family members, friends and communities can play an important role by offering encouragement and understanding. ■

## Skookum Health announces coverage changes for 2026

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

The new/additional benefits are as follows:

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

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

## Attention pharmacy locker users

The pharmacy department has a policy regarding perishable items that are placed in the lockers. In an effort to ensure that these medications are stored properly, items left in a locker for more than 48 hours will be overnighted free of charge to the patient's address on file. Patients who leave perishable items in the lockers beyond 48 hours will also be restricted from having refrigerated items placed in the lockers for six months. Pick up or mail delivery options are available for these items during that time.

## June is Cataract Awareness Month

A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of the eye. The lens helps focus light so we can see clearly. When a cataract forms, vision may become blurry or dim.

According to the National Eye Institute, cataracts are a leading cause of vision loss in older adults. Many people develop cataracts as they age and treatment is available.



### Signs of cataracts

People with cataracts may notice:

- Blurry or cloudy vision
- Trouble seeing at night
- Colors looking faded
- Sensitivity to bright lights

An eye doctor can check for cataracts during a routine eye exam.

### Treatment and prevention

In early stages, stronger glasses or better lighting may help. If cataracts make it hard to see, doctors may recommend surgery to replace the cloudy lens with a clear one.

There are several ways to protect eye health:

- Wear sunglasses that block UV rays.
- Eat foods rich in fruits and vegetables.
- Manage conditions such as diabetes.
- Get regular eye exams.

Please scan the QR code to take the Pharmacy Survey TODAY



## Diabetes Prevention and Education

Diabetes is more common than you might think, it's estimated that about one in seven American men have diabetes. Yet many remain unaware of the risks and symptoms. Statistics reveal that men are not only more likely to develop type 2 diabetes and get diabetes with lower BMIs, but are also at a higher risk of experiencing severe complications.

30 minute daily walk can help with cardiovascular issues related to Type 2 diabetes

### MEN'S HEALTH MONTH

Men with diabetes have roughly twice the risk of low testosterone, which can reduce sexual desire.

Regular physical activity and weight management can reverse or manage type 2 diabetes, often reducing the need for medications.

Lack of physical activity contributes to weight gain and insulin resistance.

Keeping blood sugar levels within a target range (typically under 180 mg/dL) can prevent or delay long-term complications.

Set fitness goals—having clear goals can help you stay motivated

A family history of diabetes increases the likelihood of developing the condition.



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

# 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). ■

**VISIT OUR POP-UP MARKET**

*June 11th, 2026*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR PLEASE CALL:  
503-879-2233  
PREFERENCE TO TRIBAL ELDERS

**10AM - 2PM**  
ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER  
48940 BLACKTAIL DRIVE  
GRAND RONDE

**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS CARNIVAL**

**MONDAY JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**  
11AM TO 1PM  
ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER  
48940 BLACKTAIL DR  
GAMES, ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WALK, PRIZES, INFO, & MORE  
ELDERS COME JOIN THE FUN!

# Birthday celebration



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Laboratory Assistant Sonja Clark looks at a T-shirt that is available for the taking during a birthday celebration for the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building and chicha, the Tribe’s Health & Wellness Center canoe, held at the Public Health Building Friday, May 15. chicha, Chinuk Wawa for “grandma” is the Wellness canoe that was commissioned to be built in 2023 to bring culture into the clinic. A variety of desserts, popcorn and leftover T-shirts from previous events were part of the celebration.

# Hotelroom 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. ■

**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.

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