



Warrior camp
builds new bonds,
leadership skills
— pg. 10

JULY 1, 2026



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

Veterans Powwow begins Friday, July 10

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

The Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow will return to Grand Ronde's uyxat Powwow Grounds Friday, July 10, and include a Veterans Summit, Veterans Royalty pageant and coronation, food and lots of dancing.

Powwow weekend will begin with a Veterans Royalty pageant at 11 a.m. Friday, July 10, and conclude with a grand entry at 1 p.m. Sun-

day, July 12.

Veterans Special Event Board Chair Molly Leno is organizing the powwow, as she has done for the past few years.

"I feel like the Veterans Powwow is more family-oriented and it's very near and dear to my heart," Leno said. "Everyone is there to have fun and a lot of people are

first-time dancers. Organizing this is a huge honor and we have a great board that works well together."

Leno will also be the onsite contact for any vendors at the powwow. She can be reached at 971-612-2948.

See POWWOW
continued on page 3

2025-26 Veterans Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig shakes hands with a veteran during the 2025 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds last July. This year's powwow is Friday-Sunday, July 10-12.



Smoke Signals file photo



Conceptual design rendering

The exteriors of the Spirit Mountain Casino and Hotel, RV clubhouse and Grand Ronde Station are scheduled to receive a new color palette beginning in late August. The new palette will feature rich earth tones, warm neutrals and deep blue accents.

Spirit Mountain Casino set for major repaint

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

The exteriors of the Spirit Mountain Casino and Hotel, RV clubhouse and Tribal-owned Grand Ronde Station are scheduled to receive a new color palette beginning in late August.

The repainting project, part of ongoing efforts to update and modernize the more than 30-year-old casino property, will retire its long-held terracotta and teal color scheme.

The new palette will feature rich earth tones, warm neutrals and deep blue accents that Spirit Mountain Casino CEO Camille Mercier said were "inspired by the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest and the cultural heritage that makes our property unique."

In an email to casino staff, Mercier stated the updated colors were chosen to better align with the casino's current branding and create a more cohesive appearance across the property.

The project, initially brought forward by Mercier to the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors, received funding and unanimous support from the board.

See CASINO
continued on page 6

Crews honored for life-saving efforts



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Treve Earhart, left, shakes hands with Tribal Emergency Services Assistant Chief Torey Wakeland while being recognized during a code save ceremony at the Grand Ronde Fire Station Monday, June 22. Earhart was honored along with other EMT's, paramedics, police and dispatchers who provided life-saving efforts on a cardiac arrest patient in late April.

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Four more days to live and to say goodbye, were what rapid action by Grand Ronde and other emergency crews bought a local family in late April. Those four days meant everything.

On Monday, June 22, the Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department held a

code save ceremony to honor the paramedics, emergency medical technicians, police and dispatchers whose concerted action helped a Grand Ronde family that was already facing tragedy.

The woman had been diagnosed with a

See HONOR
continued on page 7

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Wednesday, July 1.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 15.....	4 p.m.

*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.
Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom. 503-879-2304.*

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

I would like to thank Tribal Council and all involved in seeing that Tribal members and their families have the opportunity to apply for home grants to help keep their homes up to a safe, comfortable living.

I, like many, know firsthand the struggles we face every day as our nation's economy has fallen to near all-time lows. Again, I personally want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart (who are on) Tribal Council for seeing that our home grants are available to our people, so grateful. Also, a special thank you to Don Coon and Nick Kimsey.

Victor Lomboy Jr.
Roll #1557

Dear Smoke Signals,

For more than two decades, my siblings and I have stood on the outside of our own heritage, trying since 1999 to enroll in the Grand Ronde Tribe.

We are one of many families deeply affected by the 1999 amendment, which changed eligibility and left countless descendants like us in a state of uncertainty. Since then, we have done our best to stay engaged — asking questions, seeking answers and hoping for a path that would allow us to reconnect with the community our family has always belonged to.

When the shift toward lineal descent was proposed, it gave us hope. I spoke with several Tribal Council members and believed that if it passed, a generational enrollment process would be considered — one that would respectfully prioritize Elders first, followed by their children and grandchildren. This approach seemed fair and manageable, allowing the Tribe to control enrollment numbers while honoring those who have waited the longest.

Even though I was not yet a Tribal member, I responded to every available opportunity for input and completed necessary forms for non-members. However, I did not see this option openly discussed, though I have heard it may have been considered behind closed doors.

Now, with enrollment determined by lottery, the outcome has brought both relief and deep concern. While I and a few family members were fortunate enough to be selected within the first two years, my oldest sibling, now in their late 60s, has been placed in a position where they may have to wait 12 to 15 years. Realistically, they may not live long enough to see their enrollment become a reality. At the same time, their children and possibly grandchildren will be enrolled before them. This has created a deeply painful divide within our family, a “split family situation,” now intensified even further.

As a new Tribal member, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to formally participate in my Grand Ronde heritage. That said, I also carry the weight of knowing that some of my siblings must continue to wait for years, uncertain if their time will come. My hope is that Tribal Council might consider increasing the number of enrollments per year — perhaps to 200 or more — and exploring ways to support those still waiting, such as allowing individuals with verified letters of descent access to certain Tribal services like medical care.

Respectfully,
Erik Duke
Roll#7358

Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closing noon Thursday, July 2, and closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Monday, July 6	July 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, July 23	Aug. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Aug. 6	Aug. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Aug. 20	Sept. 1	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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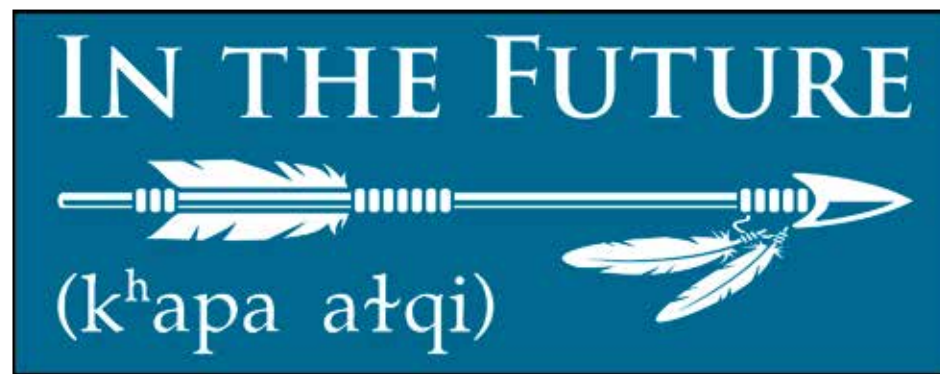
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sinemakwst-mun (July)

- 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 start at 6 p.m. Friday, 1 and 6 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, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway. 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.

stuxtkin-mun (August)

- Tuesday, Aug. 11 – Family Night Out, 4-8 p.m., Tribal gym/parking area.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Friday-Sunday, Aug. 14-16 – Grand Ronde Contest Powwow, uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 SW Hebo Road. Grand entries are typically at 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.
- Friday, Aug. 21 – Grand Ronde Education Summit, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Spirit Mountain Casino, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway.
- Wednesday, Aug. 26 – 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.

Student athletes from the Big 10 Conference attending powwow

POWWOW continued from front page

Additionally, Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier announced at a recent Tribal Council meeting that 100 student athletes from the Big 10 Conference will be attending the powwow this year.

“There will be students from all over the Big 10 footprint,” he said. “A lot will not have experienced Tribal culture, so I’m hoping people will join in and leave a good impression on them.”

The host drum is Northern Blackhorse with co-host Bad Soul.

There are also four day pay drum spots with \$250 per session. Drums must have five singers minimum.

Powwow vendor check-in is at noon Thursday, July 9, at the powwow grounds. Camping opens Wednesday, July 8, and Leno will be onsite directing campers with signs.

The emcee is Anthony Quenelle (Grand Ronde) and the arena director is Levi Liebelt (Grand Ronde).

There will be various dance specials including a tiny tots special as well as a spectator and street clothes special hosted by the Veterans Special Event Board for ages 25 to 54. Additionally, Tribal members Joe and Elizabeth Ulestad will be hosting various coming to the circle dance specials, including a parent and child special with prizes ranging from \$100 to \$500, and a girls junior dance special with prizes ranging from \$50 to \$300.

The Veterans Summit, open to all veterans and their families, will be held Friday, July 10, at the powwow grounds, with a focus on brain health. A continental breakfast begins at 9 a.m. and the opening

If you go

Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow

When: Grand entries at 6 p.m. Friday, July 10; 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, July 11; and 1 p.m. Sunday, July 12. Royalty pageant at 11 a.m. Friday with coronation at 5 p.m.

Where: uyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 SW Hebo Road.

Cost: Free

ceremony is at 10:30 a.m.

The event will include remarks by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and various partners who provide veterans services. Lunch and a guitar demonstration will begin at noon. Various activities and presenters will be available from 1 to 3:30 p.m. There will also be a veterans sweat from 7-10 a.m. The address for the sweat is 45000 SW Hebo Road.

Navy Veteran Ramona Quenelle (Pit River), who serves as the Tribe’s Veterans Service Officer, is organizing the event, which is co-sponsored by the Office of Tribal Government Relations and the Native Wellness Institute.

“The focus this year is on aging and brain health,” Quenelle said in an email. “Walk through our giant brain and participate in the brain health stations to win raffle prizes. Join us to listen to multiple speakers, visit the resource tables and listen to live guitar during lunch. Enjoy mini-Pilates classes, fly fishing demonstrations and necklace making. Also pledge to walk 2.2 miles during the summit for a T-shirt.” ■

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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Grand Ronde Royalty:

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Grand Ronde Education Programs:

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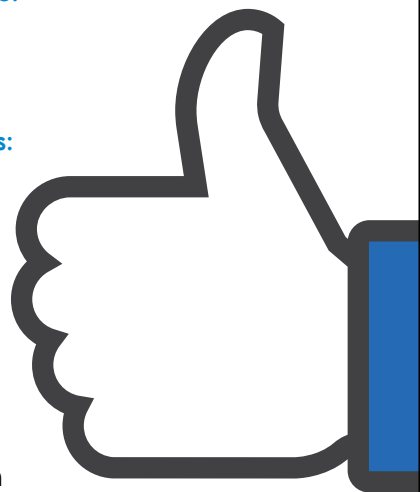
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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

**ALL VETERANS WELCOME
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
JULY 10-12, 2026**

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NORTHERN
BLACKHORSE**

**EMCEE
ANTHONY
QUENELLE**

**CO-HOST DRUM
BAD SOUL**

**ARENA
DIRECTOR
LEVI
LIEBELT**

**GRAND ENTRY:
FRIDAY 6PM, SATURDAY 1PM & 6PM, SUNDAY 1PM**

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CLOTHES SPECIAL BY
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AGES 25 - 54**

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MINIMUM (5) DRUMMERS
\$250 PER SESSION**

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MORE THROUGHOUT THE
WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY DINNER SPONSORED BY
COMMUNITY HEALTH
PROVIDED BY SOVEREIGNTY BITES**

VETS RAFFLE \$1 PER TICKET OR 6 FOR \$5, MUST BE PRESENT, NO HOLDS

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – *iskam mək^hmək-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 July 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.

There will not be a food distribution Friday, July 3, due to a closure for the July 4 holiday weekend. Instead, food distribution will be held Wednesday, July 1.

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 9 a.m. Friday, July 31. 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 Cedar Plank Buffet at Spirit Mountain Casino permanently closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a press release, the casino cited health concerns and a challenging labor market as the primary reasons for its closure. Tribal Council and Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board member Kathleen George said the buffet would have needed to charge \$60 per person to break even. All buffet staff were offered positions in the casino’s other restaurants.

2016 — More than 300 arrowheads and projectile points were donated by 84-year-old Norma Yeater to the Tribe’s Cultural Collections Program at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center. The artifacts, which came from her father, Kenneth Nelson Russell’s private collection, were almost entirely found on his 10-acre property in Turner. “All of these artifacts are from an area that was our ceded lands,” Cultural Collections Supervisor Veronica Montano said. “With this collection, this woman can tell us on a map where they came from.”



2016

File photo

2011 — The Spirit Mountain Stampede rodeo returned after a two-year hiatus due to the nationwide recession. Events included bull riding, barrel racing, saddle and bareback bronc riding, breakaway roping and steer wrestling. The casino also hosted “Gone Country,” a country music variety show featuring impersonators of Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw and Brooks & Dunn.

2006 — Tribal member David Harrelson was profiled in Smoke Signals as he discussed his adventures during a four-month study in Africa the previous year. His activities included capturing birds for banding, observing wildlife on safari, snorkeling, studying grasslands ecology and living with the Hadzabe and Massai people in Tanzania. Living with the Massai, he said, was “amazingly comfortable. I slept better there than anywhere else in Africa.”

2001 — Construction of an expansion was underway at Spirit Mountain Casino, adding 5,200 square feet to the non-smoking section and creating space for 200 additional slot machines.

1996 — The Tribe’s wellness program hosted a youth bicycle safety rodeo on the powwow grounds that consisted of lessons and interactive games to teach bicycle safety, maintenance and traffic awareness. Four bikes were also raffled as prizes.

1991 — The Tribe had 2,770 enrolled members. Enrollment requirements included documented descendency from a Grand Ronde Tribal member, at least 1/16 degree or more total Indian blood and completion of an application under the Grand Ronde Enrollment Ordinance.

1986 — Tribal Council met with Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin, who informed the council that he was unable to introduce the necessary legislation that year to establish a reservation in Grand Ronde. Tribal Council spent the remainder of the year making and giving presentations on the reservation plan to the local community and various organizations to help build support.

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

CTGR

Portland Area Office
4445 SW Barbur Blvd.

Monday-Friday

8am-5pm



GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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

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

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

Tribal Council approves grant application for salmon recovery efforts

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that, if awarded, will provide up to \$9.5 million to improve critical salmon habitat at the Tribe's tumwata village project in Oregon City.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant application was approved at the Wednesday, June 17, council meeting.

"This grant will be used by the Engineering & Community Development Department for habitat improvements at tumwata village to improve juvenile survival for salmon, steelhead and lamprey through restoration and expansion of habitat," Tribal Grants Pro-

gram Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, June 16, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George noted that the grant description fits in with a master plan for the water inlet at the tumwata project.

"I'm excited about that and it's wonderful to hear that we have the opportunity that it will be paid under federal grant dollars and not Tribal dollars for that," he said. "It's the healing part we look at for tumwata, the salmon recovery and for our eels."

In other news, Tribal Council:

- Approved an application to Indian Health Service for its Capital Infrastructure Funds grant for up to \$1.285 million to replace the nearly 30-year-old HVAC and

mechanical systems at the Tribal Health & Wellness Center;

- Approved an application to Indian Health Service for its FY26 Small Ambulatory Program grant for up to \$3.5 million to renovate the Tribal Health & Wellness Center and pharmacy;
- Approved an application to the Oregon Health Authority for its Rural Health Transformation Catalyst Program grant for up to \$990,000 to launch a comprehensive withdrawal management program;
- Approved an application to the Department of Education for its American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Plan grant for up to \$145,000 to provide personnel and fringe benefits for a lead cook, as well as supplies and food for the Shawash-ili?i Skul kitchen;
- Approved reappointing Jerri Schmidt to the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2029;
- Approved a contract with Scholten Construction of Willamina to begin work for phase 3.1 of the Wind River Apartments in Tribal housing. The job will include construction of two apartment buildings with eight low-income housing units;

- Approved an application to the Administration for Native Americans for its Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Grant for up to \$323,000 provide the Tribal Office of Ceded Lands funds to evaluate and update systems and standards in regard to environmental reviews of Tribal and non-Tribal projects affecting Tribal homeland resources;
- Approved an application to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund for its Tribal grants program for up to \$100,000 to help support the Shawash-ili?i Skul expansion project;
- Approved four limited waivers of sovereign immunity for various software programs, including Elegoo, Securus Technologies, RoadEng and Avenza Mapping Software;
- And approved enrolling two infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. Total enrollment counts in 2026 include 49 infants, nine non-infant emergency enrollments and 83 non-infants.

To watch the entire meeting, visit www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. ■

Open for comment

Fish and Wildlife Ordinance

Tribal Council adopted, on an emergency basis, amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Ordinance at the June 3, 2026, Tribal Council meeting.

The primary purpose of the amendments is to allow a Tribal Elder or a Tribal member who is physically unable to hunt to transfer their hunting tag issued pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement for Off-Reservation and Non-Trust Land Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering between the Tribe and the state of Oregon. The adoption of these amendments will allow the Natural Resources Department to implement this change for the 2026 hunting season.

Tribal Council invites comment on the amendments to the Fish and Wildlife Ordinance. For a copy of the amendments, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Send written comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347, or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by July 15, 2026. ■

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. ■



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 (2) • 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

Applications available online at:
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.



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

'It needs a freshen up'

CASINO continued from front page

During a Wednesday, June 3, Tribal Council meeting, Tribal Council and SMGI Board member Matthew Haller said one of the primary reasons for repainting was due to the condition of the property's exterior.

"When you look at it, the lodge is faded and it just looks old," Haller said. "It needs a freshen up."

Haller stated he did not know when the casino had last been painted but that some portions of it appeared more faded and weathered due to sun exposure. He added that past contracted touch-ups to the building — some internal and others outsourced — have also resulted in an appearance that lacks consistency.

Mercier stated the repainting is intended to give the casino and other facilities a more contemporary appearance, build a stronger visual

identity for the resort and create a better first impression for guests.

"As Oregon's premier gaming and entertainment destination, we want our facilities to reflect the same level of excellence, quality and pride that our team delivers every day," Mercier said.

The exterior repainting is one of several improvement projects for the property to take place later this summer. Other projects include converting the casino's Mountain View Sports Bar into a new entryway gaming area and the transformation of The Peak into a new sports bar and restaurant.

Mercier said the exterior refresh reflects broader efforts to invest in the property while ensuring it remains successful in the future.

"We remain committed to ensuring Spirit Mountain Casino continues to evolve while honoring the values and traditions that have guided us for over 30 years," she said. ■

Grill & chill



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Jesse Norton adds a Post-it note to a display where thoughts or feelings about healing or struggles could be shared at the Tribe's Behavioral Health Program's resource table during the Men's Health Grill & Chill at the Day Use Park on the Tribal campus Thursday, June 18. The health fair included resource tables from Public Health, Community Health, Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program, the Dental Clinic and Oregon Health & Science University Knight Cancer Institute. Information on prostate, heart and testicular health was available. There was also a barbecue lunch, yard games and a raffle for a Blackstone grill for those who visited all the tables and completed a men's health passport. June is National Men's Health Month.

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- ~~Sunday - May 31st~~
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- Sunday - July 26th
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Stephanie Craig
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Tribe completes Housing Needs Assessment

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Engineering & Community Development Department has completed a Housing Study and Needs Assessment, with assistance from more than 500 Tribal community members, who participated in a survey.

Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich said the participation provided “critical feedback that helped shape the assessment’s findings and recommendations.”

The information from the survey allowed the Tribe to gather “valuable input on existing housing conditions, barriers to obtaining housing and preferences for future housing options,” Svicarovich said in an email. “Community engagement was a central component of the assessment process,” including community meetings as well as a survey.

She added that preferences for future housing types include the following: Low-income Elder housing and low-income apartments such as duplexes, triplexes, townhouse and low-rise

apartments; as well as market rate, single-family homeownership opportunities for both freestanding homes and choices such as duplexes or townhouses.

The study advanced actions identified in the Tribe’s 2019 Strategic Plan and Grand Ronde 2033 Community Development Plan, Svicarovich said, and concluded with a housing implementation plan.

“(It) integrates housing demand forecasts with land availability and development constraints to establish a 20-year housing strategy organized into three implementation tiers,” she said. “The study serves as a foundational planning document that informed several related initiatives, including the 2025 Campus Master Plan Update, 2026 Climate Adaptation Plan and the ongoing development of the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Utility Master Plans.”

Tribal Council adopted the assessment at its Wednesday, June 3 meeting.

Tribal members may contact Kristen.Svicarovich@grandronde.org for more information. ■

Fire crews out of the station in 42 seconds

HONOR continued from front page

fast-moving terminal illness the previous day, when her daughter realized she was experiencing a heart attack and called 911.

Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department Battalion Chief RC Mock told the assembled audience in June that “at that moment, the years of fine-tuning procedures and muscle memory from countless hours of collective training were on display.”

The national standard for getting such a call dispatched, Mock said, is two minutes. Yamhill Communications Agency dispatchers managed it in 47 seconds, obtaining the address, notifying Grand Ronde Emergency Services, the Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office and Grand Ronde Tribal Police, while gathering information and coaching the caller through CPR.

The fire crews were out of the station in 42 seconds, he said, and on site in four-and-a-half minutes.

With a heart attack, Mock said, seconds and minutes count. Those rapid actions enabled the woman to leave the hospital after treatment with no resulting cognitive damage. In the following days, he said, the family was able to gather and say their goodbyes.

“That’s why we’re here,” despite the long, arduous hours of training, he said.

The ceremony honored Emergency Services members Operations Chief Jason Crowe; Lt. Bobby Hatch; Firefighter/Paramedic Paige Traywick; Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Daniel Loop; Paramedic Hunter Christensen; Firefighter/EMT Daniel Koffler, Firefighter/EMT Treve Earhart and Firefighter/EMT Chesnie Lovelady.

It honored Grand Ronde Tribal Police Officer Bradley Summers; YCOM dispatchers Angie Eichler and Daisha Crickmer and Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office deputies Brenden McKoy, Brett Adamski and Kalim Mercier, who is also a Tribal member. ■

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ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES

Community Fund presents second quarter grant awards

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Spirit Mountain Community Fund has awarded \$104,023,484 since its inception in 1997, spread among 3,512 grant recipients. On Wednesday, June 17, the fund celebrated its second quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium.

Tribal Council members Matthew Haller and Tonya Gleason-Shepek attended the event. Tribal members Anthony Quenelle and Jordan Mercier opened the ceremony with a drum song. Haller, who also serves on the Community Fund Board of Trustees, gave the invocation.

Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie noted that, with the cuts many organizations have faced under the current administration, the Community Fund was able to fund only about 8% of the large grant applications, and 9% of the small grant applications.

The check presentation featured speakers from two of the organizations: Rose Haven, a day shelter in Portland for women, children and marginalized genders, and Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, a community coalition offering rapid response, training and other services for immigrants.

Other grants included diabetes education, teaching children about estuary stewardship, providing food for those in need through the Grand Sheramina Food Bank, providing hazardous situations equipment and training for the Southwest Polk County Fire District, providing essential items for families with new babies, and a program that gives terminally or chronically ill children a chance to play with puppies.

Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties founder and Executive Director Salvador Pantoja told the audience that, "As an immigrant myself, I have personally experienced many of the barriers, fears and uncertainties that families face when navigating systems that were not designed for their needs in mind. I also know the power of opportunity, community support and people who



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Rose Haven Grants Manager Bailey Bushart, left, accepts a check from Spirit Mountain Community Fund Grants Coordinator Jesse Knight during the fund's second quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, June 17. The nonprofit, which provides day shelter, resources, emotional support and community connections to women, children and marginalized genders experiencing homelessness and poverty in Multnomah County, was awarded \$7,500.



Tribal Council and Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees member Matthew Haller, left, shakes hands with Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties Executive Director Salvador Pantoja as he and Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie gift a Tri-logged blanket Pantoja won in a raffle drawing during the fund's second quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, June 17.

believe that every person deserves to live with dignity, safety and hope."

Pantoja came to the United States as a teenager with his family.

"Today, many immigrant families across Oregon and in our nation are experiencing tremendous fear and uncertainty due to the increased immigration enforcement," Pantoja said. "Parents worry about what will happen to their children. Families worry about losing their homes, their income and their sense of security. Too often, they lack access to accurate information and trusted resources. The funding we are receiving today will support our rapid response for immigrant relation justice project ... a community centered initiative that provides 'know your rights' training, fami-

ly emergency planning and asset protection through our durable power of attorney assistance and authorization and coordinator rapid response support."

Pantoja said that "families leave not only informed but prepared. They leave with a plan to protect their children, their finances and their future. This funding will allow us to expand our educational workshops, strengthen our volunteer network and reach more families across Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas and other counties that request our support. Most importantly, it will help us ensure that families have the tools, information and support they need during some of the most challenging moments of their lives."

Rose Haven Grants Manager Bailey Bushart said the day shelter is serving about 120 people a day.

"Last year, we served 4,442 guests, including 1052 children and 1,660 brand new individuals. And that represents a 20% and 10% increase over the previous year. So, we see so many more people every single year, especially after moving into our new, much bigger shelter," she said. "We're meeting a ton of different needs, from the basics of restrooms, showers and other hygiene supplies to food."

She continued, "We served over 72,000 meals last year, including snack bags as well. We're giving food away, supplies for guests, so

tents, tarps, sleeping bags, diapers, formula, and pet food."

Medical assistance is also available through an onsite clinic and a mobile van run by Multnomah County, along with assistance in enrolling in the Oregon Health Plan and SNAP, finding resources for housing and employment, and other issues.

Community Fund Interns Cheyenne Haller and Billie DeLoe drew names to give beaded necklaces to grant recipients, presenting them to representatives for Pile of Puppies, Parenting with Intent and Friends of Netarts Bay Watershed Estuary Beach and Sea.

They drew names to present a Tribal blanket to Pantoja, on behalf of Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. The blanket was designed for the Community Fund by Tribal member and Tribal Digital Communications Manager Matthew Williams in 2024, to commemorate reaching \$100 million in grants awarded.

Seven large grants were awarded, for a total of \$302,950, to the following organizations:

- ANDARES, for building a resilient Latine community in Benton County, \$31,950;
- Bambinos, for taking baby essentials to remote communities in Polk County to improve health access, \$25,000;
- Clackamas Service Center Inc., for saving CSC's food operations and warehouse in Clackamas County, \$50,000;
- Growing Ancestral Roots, for food, culture and belonging for immigrant family wellbeing in Benton County, \$46,000;
- Health Equity Coalition of Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties, for rapid response for immigrant justice, \$50,000;
- Oregon Health & Science University Foundation, for community cooking education and food access for diabetes care in Polk County, \$50,000;
- Parenting with Intent, for continued services for foster youth in Clackamas County, \$50,000.

Six small grants were awarded, for a total of \$45,000, to the following organizations:

- First Unitarian Portland, for hygiene for homeless neighbors at 13 Salmon Shower Project locations in Multnomah County, \$7,500;
- Friends of Netarts Bay Watershed Estuary Beach and Sea, for teaching stewardship in its youth programs in Tillamook County, \$7,500;
- Grand Sheramina Food Pantry, for hunger relief in Yamhill County, \$7,500;
- Pile of Puppies, for its program of giving chronically and terminally ill children an experience of being surrounded by puppies, in Multnomah County, \$7,500;
- Rose Haven, for intake and crisis stabilization program, in Multnomah County, \$7,500;
- Southwest Polk Fire District, for hazardous situations training and equipment, in Polk County, \$7,500. ■



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Bike safety



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member ChyAnne Schlappie picks out bike helmets for her kids during the Bike Safety Event at the Tribal Community Center Tuesday, June 23. In addition to free helmets, there were raffle prizes, including bikes, and bike safety information available. The Tribe's Children & Family Services Program, in collaboration with the Tribe's Public Health Program and the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, hosted the event.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

iskam mək^hmək-haws volunteer Ray Tucker, left, hands James Laizure meat during food distribution at the Grand Ronde food bank Wednesday, June 17.

Food sovereignty pilot faces uncertain future

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

The Native Farm Bill Coalition, an alliance of Tribal governments and Native agriculture advocates, is urging the U.S. Senate to restore a food sovereignty pilot program left out of the House version of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 bill, according to Tribal Business News.

The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, a self-determination pilot program, allows participating Tribes to avoid relying solely on the U.S. Department of Agriculture for food shipments and instead directly purchase local and traditional foods for federal food distribution programs.

Advocates believe the pilot's removal from the bill is the result of a disputed 2024 Congressional Budget Office estimate which projected that permanently authorizing and expanding the program for additional Tribal participation would cost more than \$380 million over 10 years.

Currently, only 16 Tribes and Tribal organizations participate in the pilot. Though it is not a participant in the food program, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is one of more than 170 members of

the NFBC.

Participating Tribes say the FDPIR pilot has improved their access to culturally relevant foods, strengthened their food sovereignty and helped them secure food during supply-chain disruptions. If included within the Senate version of the bill, House Agriculture Committee staff have stated they would not be opposed to the provision.

On the Tribal campus, the Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam mək^hmək-haws, a partnership between the Tribe and Marion Polk Food Share, distributes foods to Tribal members and collaborates with the Tribe's Native Plant Nursery to provide Native plants, including camas, yampah and brodiaea.

Grand Ronde Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose said the collaboration has been positive.

"We provide free buckets, soil and seeds and plant starts to our participants so they can grow these foods at home," she said. "It's been a great opportunity for us to educate Tribal members in our local community about these plants, the importance of them, the role they play and how they can learn to care for them ... and then provide them to their families." ■

Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

The Tribal Library has merged with the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.

Tribal members can now get books from libraries in Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, as well as access to many free programs.

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

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

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TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Warrior camp builds new bonds, leadership skills

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

Laughter and excitement filled the air at the uyxat Powwow Grounds as Native youth from across Indian country gathered among tents, tipis and achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse, for the annual Native Youth Wellness Warrior Camp. The four-day event held Monday-Thursday, June 22-25, focused on leadership development, cultural connections and promoting physical and mental well-being in Tribal youth.

Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and facilitated by the Native Wellness Institute in partnership with Native American Therapeutic Horsemanship, the camp serves youth across Indian Country ages 12-18 through hands-on activities, workshops and traditional teachings designed to be both educational and fun.

Founded in 2000, NWI promotes Native-centered approaches to healing and leadership development and describes the camp as an opportunity for youth to develop skills needed to support their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. The organization also emphasizes the “Warrior’s Spirit” philosophy of being positive, productive and proactive while encouraging participants to consider



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members Ila Mercier, 12, second from left, and Ulali Quenelle, 10, second from right, hold an energy stick as it lights up during the Native Youth Wellness Warrior Camp at uyxat Powwow Grounds Tuesday, June 23. The youth held hands in a circle to test their conductivity. If one person let go, the circuit would break and the lights turned off. The annual camp took place Monday-Thursday, June 22-25.

the impact of their choices on future generations.

Topics discussed at the camp included Native wellness, youth leadership, establishing healthy relationships, culture and spirituality, healing from grief, forgiveness and letting go, and traditional fitness.

During one gathering, youth stood hand-in-hand in a circle

around the central fire pit inside the plankhouse as staff emphasized the importance of connection and community.

Youth were also encouraged to bring items of cultural significance to share with their peers. Objects, songs, dances and stories were all welcomed during the camp’s cultural sharing activities.

Tribal Youth Prevention Manager Amber Zimbrick has seen the positive influence the camp leaves on Tribal youth.

“It’s been a really great experience to witness all of the youth not just in our community, but all the other communities come together,” she said. “Everyone comes and they’re maybe a little timid or scared or shy and then you see people start making relationships, building their confidence and taking healthy risks.”

Tribal Native Connections Coordinator Keri Kimsey said she is proud to see youth not just from Grand Ronde but other communities show kindness and understanding to one another. She added that placing participants in an unfamiliar environment has encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones and engage with each other. The experience, she said, is one of the most rewarding aspects of the camp.

Angel Matthews, a participant and Grand Ronde youth, said her time at the camp had been “new and interesting” and that she got to build a tent for the first time. When

asked about her favorite part of the camp, she didn’t hesitate.

“The ponies! The ponies!” Matthews said.

Another participant and Grand Ronde youth, Ila Mercier, said her experience had been “really good,” and that she also enjoyed meeting the camp’s horses, as well as making tea and singing songs.

Tribal youth Gabe Langley said that meeting new people in a different environment had been “a little awkward,” but that he met some new friends there; one had come from Washington state and another from North Dakota.

When asked if they would recommend the camp to other Tribal youth, all three said yes because it had been a great opportunity to receive support from the Native community and to meet new people. The youth said that if there was one thing that they would take away from the camp, it would be the new bonds and friendships they made.

The camp concluded with a closing giveaway ceremony, where participants shared items from their home territories with their fellow campers as a sign of goodwill and to honor the new connections forged during the week. The gifts could be anything from traditional craft items to mugs, T-shirts or even something as simple as a rock.

Zimbrick said witnessing youth engage in camp activities has given her lessons to reflect on as well.

“The amount of youth who haven’t been afraid to take a healthy risk or to speak up or share something [has] been really encouraging,” she said. “It’s even been a learning growth opportunity for me ... to watch how easy it is for youth to become vulnerable. That’s been something I’ve really enjoyed watching and a reminder for me to continue to do that even for myself as an adult.”

With many youths facing increased anxiety about the future, Zimbrick believes programs like the NYWWC are important for Native youth today.

“It’s again a reminder of just who we are as Native people and who we’ve always been and an opportunity to come together and to just be and not feel scared or ashamed,” she said. “And to remember that Creator created you for a reason and a purpose and you’re here for a reason and a purpose.” ■

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Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

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

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

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

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

Tribe considers joining final year of Medicaid

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe's Health & Wellness department is considering joining a program that would enable it to bill Medicaid for traditional Indigenous medical practices.

Oregon, California, Arizona and New Mexico have obtained waivers enabling Tribes in those states to bill Medicaid for traditional practices, in a demonstration project that began in 2024 and will expire in 2027, unless extended.

The Tribal Health & Wellness Center held a joint meeting with Social Services Thursday, June 11, to give Tribal members a chance to discuss the program. Response to the idea was mixed, with concerns focused on sweat lodge.

Some participants said they were concerned that the government might find a way to interfere with people's ability to participate in attending sweat lodge by imposing external rules. They argued that such an important spiritual ceremony ought to be kept far away from government hands and government money.

"I think this really goes against who we are as Tribal people and the ceremonial ways that we have set in place," one woman said. "I want to hear more about spiritual aspects and where this is going."

Participants said they had fewer concerns about the several other programs proposed for inclusion.

Tribal Council members Lisa Leno and Toby McClary attended the meeting.

For the Tribe's wellness providers, the issue seems straightforward, Tribal Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe told the group: The federal government has a trust responsibility to pay for Tribes' health care and traditional practices are health care.

"There is statistical analysis out there that shows, especially around sweat, that there are some focused outcomes around it for mental health and for substance use. In as little as three interventions, three visits, three times that people go to sweat, that it will change your mental health outcome or your substance use outcome. ... it's not separate from any of our other health care, because it is health care," Rowe said.

Being able to bill Medicaid when applicable, she said, holds the government responsible for its trust obligations, upholds Tribal sovereignty and provides additional funds for the Tribe's health programs.

Tribal Social Services Manager Dana Ainam said in an email that she and Rowe would be hosting one additional community input.

"We will also decide if we want to do a podcast to capture the information so there is an ongoing reference for members," Ainam said.

Rowe said that, "The idea would be that we're not documenting specifically what's going on at the ceremony. We're not going to say, 'We went into this lodge, we did this, we poured' – nothing like that will be on this. A very short sentence: 'We did a sweat,' that's it. We're not giving away the tradition, we're not giving away the culture, we're not doing anything that's going to infringe on our rights or our traditions or that is stealing from us."

The Tribe would bill Medicaid in cases where Medicaid-eligible participants are using the services, Rowe said, but promised that "Nobody would be turned away. ... This is just for us to be able to recoup revenue" to help pay for the programs.

Some participants expressed fears that people would end up having to pay to participate in sweat ceremonies or that the medicine of the ceremony might be tainted.

One woman said she's concerned that, "Once you start bringing money in, Medicare and Medicaid, then there's all kinds of rules and stipulations and things that everybody wants to know. Do you have a fire truck that's going to be near the sweat lodge ... once you start doing that, people will stop going because there's too many rules and regulations."

She added that she is also concerned that sweat can cause harm if people don't take it seriously enough or approach it without breaking their dependence on drugs or alcohol.

"Not that it's a bad medicine, but it's just a part of the way the Spirit is," she said. "The Spirit takes things very, very serious. You can't play with it."

Tribal Peer Support Specialist

Ferrell DeGarmo, who offers sweat ceremonies for Tribal members, said the medicine takes care of itself.

DeGarmo said he agrees that people can cause themselves harm by approaching it in the wrong way but said that people need access, rather than gatekeeping.

"A lot of those protocols existed pre-colonization. Pre-contact," DeGarmo said. "Now we have intergenerational trauma. We have drugs and alcohol issues. We have mental health issues. All of these things that are affecting our people now, that didn't exist when we had all those protocols, when we were really strict. And does that mean that our people don't deserve the medicine, just because they're in a place with their own struggles now?"

DeGarmo said he's already spending hours of his time seeking federal grants to help cover the costs of providing sweat ceremonies; the Medicaid program would simply save that time.

"It took me six months to chase down \$20,000 – and that didn't come from the Tribe, it didn't come from a foundation, it came from the state," he said. "Again, government... For me, this is an opportunity for us to reclaim our sovereignty because for the longest time, they came in, took our identity, tried to eradicate us. And then after they caused all the damage, they tried to tell us how to get well. Take this pill, go to this program, do this therapy. All that, after the damage was done. Took our hair. Meanwhile, we've always

had the answer and a lot of us see that; culture is healing. Culture is medicine. This is the opportunity for us to reclaim that."

Some participants suggested removing sweat and certain other ceremonies from the list, but retaining the remainder of the items, which include not only ceremonies and rituals but many of the Tribe's activities and programs, including Canoe Journey, cradle boards, culture camp, horse therapy, Tribal youth conferences, powwows and more.

In April, Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services announced that it was the first Tribe in the U.S. to successfully bill Medicaid, administered by the Oregon Health Plan, for "culturally grounded and traditional healing services."

Klamath Tribal Health CEO Angie Wilson said in the press release that "This is more than a policy achievement – it's a restoration of cultural and spiritual balance. We are reclaiming our ways of healing and ensuring they are recognized as essential to the well-being of our people."

Oregon announced the program in October 2024.

"It is long overdue that we recognize and provide true support for traditional health care practices and providers in Oregon's Tribal communities," Emma Sandoe, Oregon's Medicaid director, said in the press release. "This will help improve the quality of care, healthy outcomes and access to culturally appropriate health for Tribal communities in the state." ■

smok signalz email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signalz?

Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail?

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

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

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

Attention Native Artists

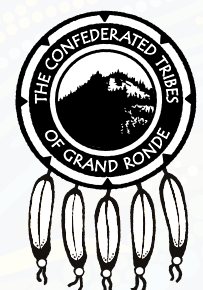


Youth Empowerment & Prevention
is seeking the following items for the
Canoe Journey host Tribe totes.

ribbon skirts • ribbon shirts • carved paddles
drumsticks • canvas photos • beaded medallions
woven items • wood carved rattles • carvings
bath & body items • hypoallergenic • blankets
other gift items

Seeking 1 - 5 items per artist
Proposals due: Friday, June 26
Delivery due: Friday, July 17

Send proposals and questions to:
yep@grandronde.org





Pictured in the photo are, left to right, Ben Jeffers, Russell Jeffers, Alice Rife, Bertha Jeffers and Ira Jeffers with Georgie Renfrow in the front.

Jeffers 75th family reunion set for Aug. 9

The Jeffers family is hosting its 75th family reunion Sunday, Aug. 9 at the Wildcat Covered Bridge located off Highway 126 and Siuslaw River Road, the old homestead of Ira Jeffers.

From Eugene: Take Highway 126 West towards Mapleton.

At approximately mile marker 27.5, turn left on Siuslaw River Road

From Mapleton: Take Highway 126 East from Mapleton toward Eugene.

At approximately mile marker 26.5, turn right on Siuslaw River Road.

Look for signs and balloons for the turn off. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs, a favorite dish to share and their own beverages.

Lunch will begin at approximately noon.

For more information, call Evelyn Seidel at 503-831-4955 or text/call Lori Warren at 541-510-1704.

Health & Wellness entrance

Reminder: The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind.

If you are coming to the center to pick up prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces. ■

Congratulations Trinity!

Tribal member Trinity Leno graduated from Portland State University June 13 with a master's degree in social work. Her family is very proud of her accomplishments!



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. ■

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. ■




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

September 15th, October 14th, November 19th & December 15th

Questions? Please contact **Shayla Murphy**, Member Services Administrator
shayla.murphy@grandronde.org 503-879-1364



Elderberry Wisdom Farm

2026 TEK Urban Forestry Internship Opportunity

Paid Fall and Winter 2026 Internships

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm, is recruiting Native American and other interns interested in pursuing conservation career pathways during the Fall and Winter of 2026. EWF's TEK Workforce Development Internship is in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry: Urban and Community Forestry Program, Salem schools and other partners.

Interns will participate in urban forestry planning work with EWF as we prepare to teach and mentor middle and high school students in Salem's socially vulnerable Title 1 neighborhoods through 2028. You will learn to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and climate adaptation practices into conservation partners' habitat restoration, urban forestry and native plant nursery work. You will help us refine culturally tailored lesson plans as we begin to co-teach in classrooms and engage in fun outdoor experiential service-learning activities in schoolyards, low-tree-canopy neighborhoods, nearby parks and natural areas. You, along with the next generation of younger students, will learn to strengthen workforce readiness while planting and maintaining native tree, shrub and pollinator species native to Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley.

Classes will be held three days a week Tuesdays - Thursdays. Candidates need to live near Salem or be willing to move nearby. You need to work outdoors: Standing, walking, climbing, lifting, carrying objects for periods of time in weather ranging from hot, dry, dusty, foggy, cold, and rainy. But it's fulfilling work that will immerse you in nature, teach you a lot about yourself and build your stamina and employment skills that prepare you for employment.

This internship provides a total of \$3,000 for each 9-week fall and winter internship. Applications accepted through August 28. To apply or if you have Qs, send your resume and letter of interest to rose@elderberrywisdom.org, plus you can review our website, newsletters and films at www.elderberrywisdom.org.

Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors position openings

Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. (SMGI), a Tribal corporation chartered by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Grand Ronde), operates Spirit Mountain Casino – the largest casino in Oregon. Spirit Mountain Casino offers Las Vegas style slots and provides superior entertainment and resort amenities. Spirit Mountain is one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier casinos. Grand Ronde invites applications to serve on the Spirit Mountain Gaming, Inc. Board of Directors. There are board seats available beginning Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026.

The SMGI Board of Directors is responsible to the Grand Ronde Tribal Council. The Board oversees strategic planning, overall fiscal accountability, budgets and operations of Spirit Mountain Casino.

The SMGI Board meets monthly. From time-to-time, additional special meetings may be held. Board members are expected to attend all meetings virtually or in person. In person attendance is strongly encouraged whenever possible. In person meetings are held at Spirit Mountain Casino – although virtual participation will occasionally be permitted with advance notice. Each board member receives a monthly stipend for attending meetings. Travel reimbursement is limited to travel within the six counties of Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Multnomah and Washington.

Board members must have a superior understanding of and experience with financial statements, strong communication and analytical skills, experience in a hospitality or customer service driven environment, 10 years of experience in a senior management position and a solid understanding of the Portland-metro and Salem area economies. Experience in the following areas is also preferred: gaming, tourism, corporate finance and accounting, marketing and promotions, human resources and management of senior executives. Experience with and knowledge of Native American organizations is also preferred. The board of directors may, at their discretion, advertise specialized skills depending on the board’s needs at the time of recruitment.

Ability to pass a thorough background check and obtain a gaming license from the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission is required.

Preference will be given to qualified Tribal members.

Submission Deadline: 5 p.m. PST Friday, Aug. 14, 2026.

These positions may remain open until filled.

Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest describing their qualifications, a résumé and three professional references to:

Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc.
Attn: Stacia Hernandez and Shannon Ham-Teixeira
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
Phone: 503-879-2301
Email: stacia.martin@grandronde.org
shannon.ham-teixeira@grandronde.org

Only candidates who submit complete information will be considered. ■

Awareness day



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Claudia Leno reacts as her putt just misses the target while playing a game during the Elder Abuse Awareness Carnival at the Elders Activity Center Monday, June 15. The event featured tables with resource information and games and prizes. Due to high temperatures, the annual walk did not take place. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY
Visit **YouTube** 
@SmokeSignalsCTGR

2026

Services Provided:

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

Wednesday July 15th 3-7 pm

Thursday July 16th 10am -2pm

Gym Building I
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR

There is an Oregon State police charge of \$33 for finger printing for all criminal expungements
Cash, Card or Money order

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**

Walking On...

Jeremy James Cullen

May 22, 1977 – June 7, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Jeremy James Cullen, who passed away June 7, 2026, at Salem Hospital surrounded by his family.

Jeremy was born May 22, 1977, in St. Helens, Oregon, to John Cullen and Catherine Petite.

Jeremy was preceded in death by his mother, Catherine Petite.

He is survived by his father, John Cullen and stepmom, Jamie Wills, of Longview, Washington; sister, Tiffany Miller (Morning Fawn Dancing Spirit) of Salem; brother, Jason Cullen and sister-in-law Lois Cullen of Salem; along with four nephews, three nieces, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Jeremy enjoyed hunting and fishing and was known for his kind heart and willingness to help others whenever he could.

He was a Grand Ronde Tribal member and cherished his family and friends deeply.

Jeremy will be remembered as a loving son, brother, uncle and friend whose kindness and generosity touched many lives. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

Forever loved, forever missed.



Jolene Alice Kamna

May 27, 1974 – June 12, 2026

Tribal member Jolene Alice Kamna passed away Friday, June 12, 2026, at the age of 52.

Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.

Funeral services were held Saturday, June 20, at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery, followed by a meal at the Tribal Community Center.

Kim Oren Rowland

April 20, 1949 – June 11, 2026

Tribal Elder Kim Oren Rowland passed away Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the age of 77.

Waud's Funeral Home in Tillamook is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Sean Daniel Hayslett

Nov. 8, 1969 – June 15, 2026

Tribal Elder Sean Daniel Hayslett passed away Monday, June 15, 2026, at the age of 56.

Going Home Cremation & Funeral Care in Woodbine, Maryland, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

SAVE THE DATE

FAMILY NIGHT OUT

Activities, Games, Entertainment, Food, Raffle and Good Times – Join Us for a Evening of Family, Community and Fun!

AUGUST 11, 2026 | AT 4 PM - 8 PM
TRIBAL GYM/PARKING AREA
MORE TO COME SOON!

shati pi ishish

— SPRING/SUMMER 2026 —

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

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

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE FOR OUR TRIBAL YOUTH ISN'T ALWAYS AN EASY CHOICE, BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE RIGHT CHOICE. BECOME A RESPITE OR FOSTER CARE PROVIDER TODAY!

SCAN, CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFO
PHONE: 503-879-2039
EMAIL: AUDRA.SHERWOOD@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Children & Family SERVICES

PADDLE PRACTICE

SCHEDULE FOR 2026

March 3/18 wake up the canoes	July 7/1 Elders Canoe Day @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm 7/15 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm
April 4/15 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm	August 8/19 Paddle practice @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm 8/29 Tentative river paddle
May 5/18 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 1-4pm	September 9/2 Sobriety Paddle @Willamina Pond 10am-1pm
June 6/17 Paddle practice @Devils Lake 10am-2pm	

Please remember that this schedule is tentative and may change throughout the year. Paddle practices in early 2026 are weather permitting. Be sure to follow GRHWC Facebook for the most up to date schedule as well as more information on upcoming events.

NRD offering youth Learn to Hunt Program

The Tribal Natural Resources Department is hosting a fall youth Learn to Hunt Program and is seeking applicants and adult mentors. This is for enrolled Grand Ronde youth who may otherwise not have the opportunity.

During the comprehensive multi-day event, youth will be paired one-on-one, with an experienced hunter-mentor in a controlled private property experience and will learn the following skills:

- Practice what was learned in hunter safety classes;
- Receive training on the safety and ethics of hunting;
- Learn what signs to watch for when tracking an animal, including how to identify scat to determine the animal and how to use various tools of the trade;
- With a successful hunt, learn to field dress, skin and butcher the harvest.

Youth ages 12 to 17 may apply; however, 17-year-olds may not turn 18 before hunt dates. Youth must have an interest in learning to hunt and not have family or friends to learn from.

To be considered, complete and submit an application and required essay by Thursday, July 2, to NRD. Additionally, youth must commit to attending all orientation and hunt dates, as well as obtain a hunter safety certificate by Saturday, Aug. 1.

Hunt dates are Saturday, Oct. 31, Saturday, Nov. 7, Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 21. A meal will follow.

If a hunt is successful, additional dates will be agreed on to meet and process the animal.

To volunteer to assist youth or for a youth application, contact Michele Volz at 503-879-2376. ■

Early Care and Education Center receives award

The Tribe's new Early Care and Education Center has been awarded 2025 Project of the Year in the structural category by American Public Works Association Oregon Chapter, for projects valued between \$5 and \$25 million. The award recognizes excellence in the management, administration and implementation of public works projects through the collaboration of owners, consultants and contractors.

The 26,000-square-foot facility was completed in March 2025.

"This project reflects a commitment to future generations, cultural preservation and community wellness," a social media post from the Oregon Chapter APWA stated. "In response to growing demand for early childhood services, the Tribe developed a new facility that expands access to culturally rooted care and education for children and families within the Grand Ronde community. The center helps address a critical community need while supporting young families and creating space for future growth. The project was delivered through a strong partnership between the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Triplett Wellman Inc. as contractor and Anderson Shirley Architects as project consultant." ■

Tribal members, employees no longer need to pay bridge toll

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

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

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

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

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). ■

THE GRAND RONDE TRIBAL LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM PRESENTS




RED YARN

music and puppetry in a high-energy interactive show for family audiences





**TUESDAY
JULY 14TH
1:30PM
GYM**

THE GRAND RONDE TRIBAL LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM WELCOMES THE



**SHOWCASING:
AMAZON BASIN: AN ADVENTURE FOR THE SENSES**

The Oregon Coast Aquarium brings the sights, smells, and sounds of the Amazon Rainforest to you! Come learn about the rainforest and amazing animal adaptations. Guests will get to choose their own adaptations to design.

**JOIN US
WEDNESDAY
JULY 8TH
10 AM
GYM**

Any questions: 503-879-1499



Watchlist: ‘Frybread Face and Me’

(Editor’s note: It is estimated that there are approximately 149 billion videos on YouTube and the number continues to grow. Grand Ronde Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch sifts through those videos twice a month to recommend a worthwhile Indigenous video to watch. Follow her bimonthly recommendations and enjoy!)

By Kamiah Koch

Social media/digital journalist

During Grand Ronde’s celebration of Pride Week, Tribal departments collaborated to put on a Two-Spirit panel discussion, tie-dye workshop and on Thursday, June 11, a screening of “Frybread Face and Me.”

The movie’s main character is Benny – a Navajo Tribal youth raised without a strong connection to the Tribal culture or the language – who is sent to spend the summer on his grandmother’s sheep ranch in Arizona. There he meets various family members including his cousin, Dawn, (nicknamed “Frybread Face” by the family) who comes to stay the summer with their grandmother as well. This award-winning movie follows the cousins’ few months together as they discover the world, their culture and themselves.

When meeting his uncle Marvin, Benny is asked, “Are you a cowboy or a cowgirl?” With a shrug, he responds, “I’m just Benny.”

There were about 15 people who attended the screening in the Tribal gym and this scene received celebratory snaps as Benny remains unapologetically himself.

Tribal member Silas Hoffer attended the screening and said one of their favorite scenes was when Benny is pressured to act more masculine by men in his family who demonstrate “fragile masculinity” traits.

“Benny responds with, ‘If that’s what being a man is then I don’t want it,’” Hoffer said. “And that’s the story of queer life.”

This coming-of-age movie not only explores queerness. Benny also learns about traditional Indigenous culture by participating in ceremonies and by watching his grandmother weave and story tell.

In one scene, which can be seen in the movie trailer, the family gathers to honor a baby’s first laugh. This is an important milestone in their clan and Benny has the privilege of being the one who made the baby laugh. He participates in the ceremony as the sun sets, which also signifies the end of summer.

Benny leaves Arizona feeling more connection to his people and himself.

“There is always a family for you,” Hoffer said. “There is always a place where you will be normal. It’s scary now, but the joy and happiness you experience by being yourself is unmatched.”

You can watch the “Frybread Face and Me” trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUgwL9B8L_s or watch the entire movie available to stream on Netflix. ■

Additional gas discount in effect

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

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

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

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.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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



WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



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

We offer resources and cash incentives to reduce your energy costs and generate clean power. Learn more at energytrust.org.



MORE POWER TO YOU.

Paid ad

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.



We are looking for part time bus drivers during Summer Break 2026





If interested please apply at

When Applying please provide a copy of your CDL-B and CBR if you have one. Please indicate if you don't have a CBR (Central Background Registry) it may take 45 day to process.



Apply for the Temp pool. Driver pay is negotiable.

Tracy Howerton
Early Childhood Education Transportation and Facilities Coordinator
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
503-879-2285
Tracy.howerton@grandronde.org



Apply online at: 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
College Intern – Youth Enrichment	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
College Intern/Aide – Early Childhood Education	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	Until Filled
Community Transition Case Manager	14	\$43.57/hr.	\$55.89/hr.	Until Filled
Dentist	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Employment Coordinator – Spirit Mountain Casino	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Equipment Operator – Natural Resources	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Grants Coordinator – Spirit Mountain Community Fund	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/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.	Until Filled
Licensing Assistant/Receptionist – Gaming Commission	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
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
Police Records & Evidence Administrator	10	\$20.76/hr.	\$47.02/hr. DOE	06/29/2026
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
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Security Officer – Grave Only	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Vocational Rehabilitation/477 Trainee	0	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	06/29/2026
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Client Registration Specialist – Salem Detox - GCR	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Clinic Manager – Salem Detox - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Cook – Sheridan – GCR – Part Time (Weekends Only)	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Driver – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem – 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
Senior Help Desk Technician – Salem OTP - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	06/29/2026
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem OTP - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem Detox - 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 ANNUAL POW WOW

TEMP WORKER RECRUITMENT



JULY - VETERANS
8TH – 12TH

AUGUST - CONTEST
12TH – 16TH

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


Apply online at www.grandronde.org/employment





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

*CTGR Tribal Preference Applies



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Bar Porter	7/2/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cage Cashier	7/2/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Hotel Room Attendant	7/2/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Sportsbook Writer	7/2/2026	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Warehouse Clerk (*Part-Time)	7/2/2026	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Baker	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Banquet Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/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
Pastry 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.

Tribal member loan program

Applications for the Tribal member loan program opened Saturday, June 6.

Priority will go to applicants who have not previously received a loan. A loan may be requested for an amount up to \$1,000.

More information about the loan program and the link to the application can be found at www.grandronde.org.

For questions or information, contact the Tribal Finance Department at 503-879-5211. ■

Found Property

The following list is of items found in the local area(s). If you or someone you know has lost one of the following item(s) please contact the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Dept. at 503-879-1835.

Release requirements are a Photo ID and some sort of proof of ownership (most likely more details of the item in question)

You must be the rightful owner of the following to get them back. Please refer to the sticker color and number when you call

Cameras (Refer to Yellow Sticker H#)

- H #1 1- Primo Hunting brand Trail camera with a metal enclosure and lock
- H #2 1- Reconyx brand Trail camera with lock.

Cell Phones (Refer to Orange Stickers C#)

- C #1-1- TCL Cell Phone with Red markings on back
- C #2-1-Motorola Cell Phone
- C #3-1-BLU Cell Phone
- C #4-1-Samsung Cell phone
- C #5-1-Samsung Cell Phone
- C #6-1-Samsung Cell Phone
- C #7-1-LG Cell Phone with initials carved in the back
- C#8- 1 Unknown brand of cell phone smashed

Jewelry (Refer to Yellow Sticker J#)

- J #1-1-Leaf Ring
- J #2-1-Cross Necklace
- J #3-1-Silver Ring
- J #4-1-Necklace
- J #5-1-Large Gold Ring
- J #6-1- Single Jewel
- J #7- 1 Silver Ring

Electronics (Refer to Pink Sticker E #)

- E #1-1-Small Drone
- E #2-1- Watch
- E-#3-1-Watch

Backpacks/Clothing (Refer to Orange Sticker M#)

- M #1-1-Child's Backpack
- M #2-1-Men's pair of eyeglasses
- M #3-1-Women's pair of OTC readers
- M #4-1- Teal Buxton Coin purse

Keys (Refer to Yellow Sticker K #)

- K #1-A set of keys with a Ford Key, a Honda key, and other keys w/gray and black chevron lanyard
- K #2- BMW Key
- K #3-Ford Fob w/other keys w/small silver truck
- K #4- Misc keys with a leather key holder that says "Jimmy Toes."
- K #5-Toyota Key with broken buttons & Purple wrist holder
- K #6-Set of Misc. Keys with General tools screwdrivers
- K #7-Set of Misc. Keys with Washington County Library Service Card
- K #8- Single Key ring with five keys total
- K #9-1-Small square key
- K #10-1-Set of Keys with Schlage key and silver medallion with "300" on it.

Items found refer to case number GRT 24-0351

- Item #002- Large Brown tarp
- Item #003- 2 folding chairs
- Item #004- 2 Unknown brand folding chairs
- Item #006- Unknown brand hatchet
- Item #007- Unknown brand hammer
- Item #008- Unknown hedge shears
- Item #009- 1 unknown brand gray colored bathroom mat
- Item #010- Santa gnome Christmas decoration
- Item #011- 1 Under Armour water bottle
- Item #012- 16 assorted length bungee cords
- Item #013- 1 Red colored wagon

Items found refer to case number GRT 23-0638

- Item #001- 6-person
- Item #002- Sleeping bag, blanket, and pillow

We will hold the lost property for 14 more days. If not claimed, it will be destroyed.

Tribal artists and creators invited to showcase goods at casino gift shop

Enrolled members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have an opportunity to showcase and sell authentic handmade goods at the gift shop inside Spirit Mountain Casino.

Spirit Mountain Casino is seeking Tribal artists and makers interested in participating in a consignment vendor program.

Accepted items may include artwork, jewelry, clothing, beadwork and other handcrafted goods.

Items will be reviewed by a Tribal committee and selected vendors will meet in person to learn program guidelines. All products will be sold on a consignment basis, meaning artists are paid as their items sell in the gift shop.

This program provides a great opportunity for Tribal members to share their work with thousands of casino guests while supporting authentic Tribal artistry.

For more information, contact Shauna Skinner at 503-879-3916 or email shauna.skinner@spiritmtn.com. ■

Please scan the QR code to take the
Pharmacy Survey
TODAY



Service offered at the Cheryle
A. Kennedy Public Health
Building



Registered Dietitian
Nutritionist

Becky Johnson

Becky Johnson is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist able to work one-on-one with any HWC-eligible patient at the Cheryle Kennedy Public Health Building. Becky has been licensed as a dietitian since 2019 after completing a Master of Science in Human Nutrition degree at Oregon Health & Science University and dietetic internship with the Veterans Administration Portland Health Care System. Becky has previously work as a dietitian and nutrition services manager at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City and dietitian and health education manager with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians in Canyonville. She enjoys working with individuals of all ages, using the power of food and nutrition to create personalized eating plans and set goals to improve or maintain health. This includes both managing chronic health conditions (such as chronic kidney disease, heart disease, food allergies/intolerances or digestive problems) or promoting optimum nutrition at different life stages (such as early childhood, youth athletes, pregnancy, or older adulthood).

Contact Details

For appointments contact the Public Health Department front desk at 503-879-6701
OR contact Becky directly at 503-879-6711 or Becky.Johnson@grandronde.org.



HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

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. ■

Whoop! (There It Is)

In 2024, Oregon recorded its highest number of cases of Whooping Cough (also known as Pertussis) since 1950. We can prevent this!



What is Whooping Cough?
It is an infection caused by a bacteria spread via airborne particles when someone coughs or sneezes. **Babies younger than 1 year of age have the greatest risk of severe illness.**

What are the symptoms?
Early on, symptoms are similar to a cold and include runny/stuffed up nose, mild cough and low grade fever (<100.4 F). After 1-2 weeks, severe coughing fits may start, marked by people making high-pitched "whooping" sounds when they try to inhale after coughing. Often, these coughing fits are described as the worst cough you've ever had. **A person with Whooping Cough can be infectious for at least two weeks after their symptoms begin.**

How can we protect our community from Whooping Cough?
Get vaccinated, practice good hygiene, and seek medical attention if you've been exposed to someone with Whooping Cough. **Call GRHWC at 503-879-2002 to schedule a vaccine!**

GRHWC PUBLIC HEALTH SMART VENDING MACHINE

LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER, BUILDING B.

What is inside?

- ✓ Narcan
- ✓ Feminine Hygiene kits
- ✓ Adult and Child Dental kits
- ✓ Firearm Safety Locks
- ✓ and more!

FAQ's

Do I need to make an account?

- We recommend and encourage you to create an account but it is not required.

How much are items in the vending machine?

- They are FREE!

What else does the vending machine do?

- The Smart Vending machine also has a resource navigation tool that will help to guide you to other resources in the area including all CTGR resources.

When can I access the smart vending machine?

- 6am-9pm including weekends and holidays.



Notice a problem with the smart vending machine?
☎ (503) 879-6701




GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

SAME DAY CARE

SAME DAY CARE IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR ESTABLISHED PATIENTS

Some day care appointments are available each day at the Health & Wellness medical clinic to address urgent but non-emergency health concerns when you can't wait for a routine visit. **Examples include:**

✓ SINUS INFECTION SYMPTOMS	✓ HOSPITAL FOLLOW UPS	✓ URINARY TRACT INFECTION SYMPTOMS
✓ COLD OR FLU SYMPTOMS	✓ MEDICATION CONCERNS	✓ ALLERGY SYMPTOMS
✓ EARACHE, EAR WASH	✓ SPRAINS/STRAINS	✓ IMMUNIZATIONS
✓ MINOR INJURIES	✓ SKIN RASH	✓ SUDDEN WORSENING OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS
	✓ SORE THROAT	

Appointments are required.
To schedule an appointment call (503)879-2002.

DIABETES PREVENTION AND EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

July 2026

SUMMER TIME TIPS

Medication and Equipment: Insulin loses effectiveness when exposed to temperatures exceeding 86°F (30°C). Never leave insulin, glucose meters, or test strips in a hot car, on the beach, or in direct sunlight. Use Insulin Cooling Cases when outdoors.

Monitor Blood Sugar: Hot weather and increased physical activity can cause rapid, unpredictable fluctuations. Check your blood sugar more frequently than usual, especially when engaging in outdoor summer activities.

Prevent Dehydration: Heat leads to excessive sweating and fluid loss. Drink plenty of water throughout the day, as dehydration can concentrate sugar in the blood and lead to higher readings.

Beware of Heat Exhaustion: Diabetes can impair the body's ability to sweat and regulate internal temperature. Because symptoms of heat exhaustion (dizziness, nausea) overlap with hypoglycemia, it is vital to test your levels if you feel unwell.

Prevent Sunburn: Sunburns trigger stress on the body, which can cause cortisol and blood sugar levels to rise. Protect your skin with high-SPF sunscreen and stay in the shade during peak hours.

Protect Your Feet: Never walk barefoot—even on the beach or by the pool—to avoid burns and cuts, as diabetes can cause neuropathy and slow down healing.

Device Care: Sweat can cause continuous glucose monitors (CGM) and insulin pump adhesives to loosen. Consider using Medical Adhesive Patches to keep devices secure during water activities or heavy sweating.

Upcoming Events

Friday July 10th — at 10:00 am
Powwow grounds
2026 Veterans Summit

Monday July 20th at 11:30 am
Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building
Monthly Diabetes Prevention and Education meeting

Contact Info

Charlene Brewer, LPN
Jeannette Cavan, LPN
503-879-2002



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

ALL ITEMS NOW RESTOCKED • \$10 STANDARD SHIPPING



NAVY ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



GRAY ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK ZIP-UP:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK PULL-OVER:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



NAVY T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



GRAY T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC

**T-SHIRTS • ZIP-UP HOODIES • PULL-OVER HOODIES • TRUCKER CAPS
BEANIES • PATCHES • STICKERS • FREE IN-PERSON PICKUP AVAILABLE**

Checks, cash or money orders only please: Make payable to Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Memo: Editorial Board
Include shipping fee and please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

\$10 SHIPPING	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	X-LARGE	2X-LARGE	3X-LARGE	4X-LARGE
PULL OVER HOODIE (BLACK) \$45							
ZIP-UP HOODIE (BLACK) \$45							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (GRAY) \$45							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (TEAL) \$45							Not Available
ZIP-UP HOODIE (NAVY) \$45							Not Available
T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC \$20							
T-SHIRT (BLACK) FRONT GRAPHIC \$20							
T-SHIRT (GRAY) FRONT GRAPHIC \$20							
T-SHIRT (TEAL) FRONT GRAPHIC \$20							
T-SHIRT (NAVY) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC \$20							Not Available

TRUCKER CAP \$15	BEANIES \$15	PATCHES \$5	STICKERS \$1	SHIPPING \$10
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Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____