



Big Truck
Day photos
— pg. 16



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

JULY 15, 2026

Six nominated to run for Tribal Council

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Six Tribal members were nominated during the 2026 Tribal Council nominations held in the Tribal Governance Center Sunday, June 28.

Running are Tribal Council incumbents Matthew Haller and Lisa Leno, along with Tribal members Valeria Atanacio, Chris Bailey and Tribal Elders Pamala Warren-Chase and Denise Harvey, each seeking one of three seats up for election in September.

Current Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, whose term is up this year, is not seeking reelection. Mercier has served on council for nearly seven terms, from 2004 to 2013, and then 2014 to the present.

"It's not a decision I took lightly," Mercier said of not running for an eighth term. "But for people who were paying attention the last time I was up for reelection, I'd offered hints about that I'd like to step away and I don't think any council member is irreplaceable. There's always a good crop of Tribal members who step up and lead. So, if I leave the Tribe will be fine and I will be back. I don't know when and it's up to the membership to decide...I've got some burnout issues that I'm dealing with and now is a good time to step away for however long."

Atanacio, 36, was nominated by Mercier. She serves as chair of the Tribe's Education Committee and runs her own business, Native Mama Scholars, LLC. She ran for

See NOMINATIONS
continued on page 6

Dreams fulfilled



Photo by Kamiah Koch

A delegation of Grand Ronde Tribal members arrived at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City Thursday, June 25, to visit Tomanowos, known in the museum as Willamette Meteorite. The day began with a breakfast with museum staff and a tour of the museum's archives. A private ceremony was held with Tomanowos later in the evening. The meteorite holds cultural and spiritual significance to the Grand Ronde Tribe and a historic agreement was signed in 2000 to allow Tribal members access to Tomanowos for a ceremony every year.

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

NEW YORK CITY — A trip to New York City to visit with Tomanowos was an emotional experience for Tribal Elders Pearl Boswell and Josephine Ingraham.

The two had originally won the drawing for the Tribe's annual trip to the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan for 2025. However, that visit was delayed for a year after the ceremony was abruptly canceled due to security concerns after the U.S. bombed nuclear sites in Iran, resulting in increased security in New York City and at airports nationwide.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit YouTube

@SmokeSignalsCTGR



This year's trip took place from Tuesday, June 23 to Friday, June 26.

"I've been entering the drawing every year since becoming an Elder," Boswell said. "I never, ever imagined I'd be called, but I kept entering anyway. I've wanted to see Tomanowos forever. I'm just so thankful. I'm just so grateful we were able to go and have that experience. It's just sad that not all of our people will be able to do that."

Ingraham said she was also excited to go on the trip.

See TOMANOWOS
continued on pages 10-11

Graduates credit community, Native resilience for success



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

The Tribal Education Department's Graduation Celebration, held at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 26, saw Tribal graduates thank loved ones and various communities for their support during the long road to graduation.

The annual event celebrated graduates from high school through doctorate degree level this year.

Tribal Education Committee Chair Valeria

Atanacio commended the graduates for their hard work and hoped that each one would continue to find success wherever life took them next.

"I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to each and every one of you," she said. "As you continue your journey, know that your Tribe celebrates you and believes in what you will contribute to our nation."

Atanacio also praised the Education Department

See GRADUATION
continued on page 9

Tribal member and Willamina High School graduate Aiden Campbell, left, collects a Pendleton blanket from Tribal K-5 Academic Coach Emily Showers during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Education Department Graduation Celebration at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 26.

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings
DATE **TIME**
Wednesday, July 15.....4 p.m.
Wednesday, July 29.....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,
This is to let our people know what’s happening in Elk Lodge. I’ve been here since 2012 and our home is lovely. The care has been great, that is, until May when a new resident moved in.
This resident is not Native but is married to a Native. Our officials voted to bring this person (in). This resident bellows “help” all day, up to 500 times, and all night. When our workers go in to help, no help is needed. The resident bellows (profanities when requesting help) and our girls don’t need that kind of treatment.
A week ago, this resident grabbed one of our girls and hurt her. This resident is rude to our drummer...and yells at him to go home and shut up. We don’t know how much more we can live through. The stress is unbelievable. Our officials need to help us! They say they love and respect us!
Beverly McKnight Cooney
Roll #505

Financial awareness



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Nya Galloway, 17, raises her hand to ask a question during the youth Financial Foundations class, held for Tribal summer youth interns in the Tribe’s Adult Education Building Tuesday, June 30. The two-day class was a partnership with the Tribe’s Social Services Department’s Community Programs and DevNW. The partnership with DevNW started in 2023 to bring Financial Foundations classes to adult Tribal members and this is the first year the class was held for youth. Topics discussed were budget and cash flow planning, avoiding and tackling debt, goals and savings, thinking big for the future and credit. The youth were incentivized with an individual savings account for completing the eight hours of education. If the youth save \$60, they are matched with \$300. Approximately 45 youth attended the class.

Letters welcome

smok signalz, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.
Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper and current events happening within the Tribe. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested. **Letters must be 400 words or less.**
smok signalz reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on any individual, as well as individual Tribal staff members, individual Tribal administration members or individual Tribal Council members. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer.
Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **smok signalz**.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Thursday, July 23	Aug. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Thursday, Aug. 6	Aug. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Thursday, Aug. 20	Sept. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Sept. 3	Sept. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

sinemakwst-mun (July)

- 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.

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. “When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time.”

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

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

Smoke Signals:
facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:
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Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:
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Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:
facebook.com/CTGRCFS

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Grand Ronde Education Programs:
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Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

Grand Ronde Social Services Department:
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Grand Ronde Food Bank:
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Spirit Mountain Community Fund:
facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund

Grand Ronde Cultural Education:
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Grand Ronde Community Garden:
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

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

Grand Ronde Employment Services
Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribal election office opens July 29

The Tribal Election Board office will open Wednesday, July 29 through Saturday, Sept. 12. Office hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Thursday. The office is located in the Tribal Community Center at 9615 Grand Ronde Road. The phone number is 503-879-2271.

Blank signature verification forms have been placed in a hanging basket outside the Election Board’s office. Complete signature verification forms, with a notarized signature or legible copy of identification that includes your signature, such as a driver’s license, Tribal ID, passport, etc. need to be mailed to the Election Board for processing. The form will not be processed unless it has been notarized or includes a legible copy of your ID to match signatures.

To request a signature verification form by phone or email, contact the Election Board at 503-879-2271 or election.board@grandronde.org.

Ballots will be mailed to voters with verified signatures Wednesday, July 29. Tribal members can submit a verified signature form at any time up to and including election day, which is Saturday, September 12.

There will be a ballot box in the Governance Center during election season and one in the Community Center on election day to drop ballots off.

Ballots will be available, as they have been in the past, for Tribal members who prefer to vote in person. It is the voter’s responsibility to ensure their ballot is received by the Election Board on or before election day.

Remember, if you use the post office, all mail must go through Portland to be sorted before returning to Grand Ronde, so make sure your ballot is in the mail a few days early. ■

Back-to-school clothing swap set Aug. 11

There will be a back-to-school free clothing swap that will be held at the Tribe’s Back-to-School Health Fair and the Family Fun Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 11, to help local students and families prepare for the upcoming school year.

As part of this effort, the Tribe is seeking donations of gently used clothing items that are clean, in good condition, and appropriate for school aged children and teens.

Donated items may include shirts, pants, jackets, sweaters, shoes, sports gear and hats, as well as any regalia or ribbon skirts/shirts.

There are two drop-off location on campus for donations:

- Health & Wellness Center – Administration wing, call ext.1407 for drop offs;
- Shawash-ili?i Skul – Front desk, call ext. 1856 for drop offs. ■



WATCH

SMOKE SIGNALS VIDEOS

Grand Ronde Tribe paddles Willamette River



The Grand Ronde Tribal community paddled a 12-mile section of the Willamette River Tuesday, July 7, in traditional canoes. Experience the start of their journey in the latest Smoke Signals video.

https://youtu.be/Ds_8zcuvdQU

For more information contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org



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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam məkʰmək-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.

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 Tribe dispatched two 400-gallon engines with six wildland firefighters to the Hualapai Reservation in northwestern Arizona to assist with wildfire suppression efforts. A 20-person crew also returned after 21 days of battling the 11,000-acre Jack Fire in the Umpqua National Forest outside of Glide, Oregon. Additionally, the Tribe’s Emergency Management Department sent two volunteer firefighters and department manager Steve Warden to assist with the 150,000-acre Bootleg Fire near Klamath Falls.

2016 — The Tribe hosted the annual Marcellus Northwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at the uyxat Powwow Grounds and honored veterans who served during the Vietnam War. Every veteran who attended received a commemorative eagle pin. The Tribe was also gifted a breastplate made out of spent shell casings from an M16 rifle by the Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association’s Eugene-area Kalapuya Chapter.



File photo

2011 — The Tribe was waiting for Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber to sign a bill that would make Tribal officers recognized as police officers under state law. The bill would allow Tribal officers to have police powers off reservation lands if they completed state-approved training. The bill faced opposition from non-Tribal police because they lacked the authority to unilaterally go on reservation lands.

2006 — Dedication ceremonies took place for three Tribal Elder housing facilities: Black Bear Lodge, Cougar Lodge and Elk Lodge. Each building was 5,200 square feet and operated by the Tribe as facilities for Elder foster care housing.

2001 — Smoke Signals profiled Tribal sisters Connie Lopez and Carmen Brown after they participated in the Rock and Roll Marathon in San Diego, California. The 26.2 mile-long marathon was completed by Lopez in 5 hours and 45 minutes and Brown in 6 hours and 11 minutes. Lopez was inspired by Billy Mills, a Native American from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and first American to win Olympic gold in the men’s 10,000 meter race during the 1964 Tokyo games.

1996 — Legends Steakhouse and Lounge, a SuperPlay area for kids and new banquet rooms opened at Spirit Mountain Casino during a four-day grand opening celebration. Special prizes were awarded each day to visitors, with cash prizes up to \$500 given out at a cash wheel every 20 minutes. One grand prize was also raffled off each day, which included season tickets to the Portland Trail Blazers, tickets to the 1997 Super Bowl in New Orleans, an all-expenses-paid trip to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta and a brand-new Chevrolet Blazer.

1991 — The Grand Ronde veteran’s group was hoping to join the Northwest Indian Veteran’s Association. Representatives from NIVA visited the group to discuss activities. The veteran’s group also planned to establish a Tribal Honor Guard for special events, veteran funerals and to ensure Native American veteran needs were being met.

1986 — The Tribe was looking to hire a full-time social worker. Duties included processing existing and new Indian Child Welfare Act caseloads, conducting individual and family counseling, assisting the Tribe in developing state-Tribal agreements and assisting in developing a statistical database of social service needs.

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



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.

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

Tribal Council approves grant application for suicide prevention

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a grant application for suicide prevention that, if approved, will be used to help Tribal members with a culturally grounded prevention system focused on Elders and veterans.

The \$1.6 million Adult Suicide Prevention grant application through the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration was approved at the Wednesday, July 1, council meeting.

“If awarded, this grant will be used by the Health & Wellness Department to establish a sustainable, culturally grounded, community-wide suicide prevention program that strengthens upstream prevention, enhances early identification of suicide risks, expands cross-sector capacity, promotes voluntary lethal means safety and improves transitions of care for adults and particularly Elders and veterans,” Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, June 30, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said she appreciated everyone doing the work to secure the grant.

“When I was first employed by the Tribe, doing the needs assessment...our area of effect of substance use and abuse, suicide was 40% of the Tribal population,” she said. “I don’t think those statistics have changed. We were a Tribe that was terminated, which affects the soul of every Tribal member because you were cast aside as a people, you were no longer recognized as being who you were, you’re no longer Indian. You don’t know what you’re going to do. All of those things cast doubt on your ability to move forward with your life and so any funds that we get in this area, it’s well-needed.”

Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek noted that while there is a growing acceptance regarding speaking openly about

struggles with addiction, mental health issues are still often considered taboo.

“There’s still a big stigma that goes with them and also the suicide ideology and even developmental delays, those kinds of things are still very isolating if you or someone you know is living with those,” she said. “I agree 100% that anything that we can do to reach out to our community members and just talk openly...is the first step toward healing.”

In other news, Tribal Council:

- Approved two applications to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant in the Tribal and national categories for a total of up to \$40 million, which would be used for communications systems, mobile logistics and resilience center construction for use during emergency events;
- Approved a credit card authorization for Natural Resources Department Construction Supervisor Logan Kneeland for up to \$2,000;
- Approved two credit card authorizations for the NRD wildland firefighter crews for up to \$5,000 each;
- Approved entering into an inter-governmental agreement with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board so that the Tribe can receive money from the Tribal Nations Natural Resources Program;
- Approved adopting the updated campus master plan, which “provides a framework for identifying and prioritizing current and future facility needs, evaluating potential solutions and locations for building use, expansion and modification, and assessing land readiness for development;”
- Approved four limited waivers of sovereign immunity for various software programs, including SolarWinds, RealityScan, Twin-Motion and Vector Solutions;

- Approved a professional services agreement with CIDA Architects & Engineers of Portland for design work to expand and renovate Tribal Housing Department offices;
- Approved an application to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs Unleashing Tribal Energy grant for up to \$750,000 to use toward Tribal energy sovereignty, affordability and future development to reduce future Tribal reliance on private and

- public utility power providers;
- And approved enrolling 21 infants, 11 non-infants and one non-infant reenrollment into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. Total enrollment counts in 2026 include 70 infants, nine non-infant emergency enrollments and 95 non-infants.

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



Contributed photo

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Sheridan emergency services crews were dispatched to a wildland fire in the area of Rock Creek Road and West Main Street between Sheridan and Willamina Saturday, July 11. The cause is under investigation and no injuries were reported.

CTGR Emergency Services, Sheridan Fire District battle three-alarm fire

SHERIDAN — Just before 6 p.m. Saturday, July 11, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Sheridan emergency services crews were dispatched to a possible wildland fire in the area of Rock Creek Road and West Main Street between Sheridan and Willamina.

“Initial information noted heavy smoke in the area, but it was unknown what was on fire,” a joint press release from CTGR Emergency Services and the Sheridan Fire District stated. “Due to the smoke column, the fire was upgraded to a second alarm wildland fire, adding resources from Amity and McMinnville.”

According to the press release, upon arrival, crews found a wind driven fire moving east through vegetation and debris. Due to the fuel loads, wind activity and proximity to structures, it was upgraded to a three-alarm fire.

“This brought resources from all over Polk and Yamhill Counties. Additionally, addresses between 1350 W. Main St. and Rock Creek Road were given evacuation notices on both sides of West Main Street,” it stated. “Due to the size of the fire and limited access, the fire was divided into several divisions, allowing more efficient containment and resource management. The majority of the fire was contained between Rock Creek Road

and Chip Yard Road. There was one small spot fire that crossed Chip Yard Road, however this was quickly extinguished.”

According to an earlier press release, evacuation notices were lifted shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday, July 11.

No structures were lost during the fire, which eventually spread to three acres but as of press time, was not expected to grow further. No injuries were reported during the incident. Crews will continue to monitor the fire throughout the coming days and the cause is under investigation.

Tribal Emergency Services Chief Steve Warden said he was grateful for the strong mutual aid partnerships in Yamhill and Polk counties.

“Incidents like this one are prime examples of how important it is to have good relationships with neighboring agencies and those beyond,” he said.

Partnering agencies that responded included the Tribal Natural Resources Department, Amity Fire District, McMinnville Fire District, Carlton Fire District, Dallas Fire Department, Dayton Fire District, Polk County Fire District No. 1, Southwest Polk Fire District, Oregon Department of Forestry, Yamhill County Sheriff’s Office, Newberg Police Department and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. ■



It’s never too late to heal from addiction.

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

Wakeland honored with lifetime achievement award

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council member Pete Wakeland was recently honored with the Outstanding Forester of the Year award from the Intertribal Timber Council.

Wakeland received the honor, which is part of the annual Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards, during the ITC's annual National Indian Timber Symposium in Keshena, Wisconsin, held June 8-11.

"Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of Indian forestry, fire or related natural resources programs," the ITC website stated. "These awards are given in honor of Mr. Earle R. Wilcox, who will always be remembered for his significant achievements on behalf of Indian people and their forests. Awards are given annually and presented at the symposium."

Wakeland said he was very surprised to receive the award.

"I never expected this but I am honored to be among those who have received it before me," he said. "This award is given only once in a lifetime to individuals who have made significant contributions to Indian forestry and fire over the duration of their career."

Wakeland, a retired Bureau of Indian Affairs chief forester, graduated from Oregon State University's College of Forestry in 1995 and began working for the Tribe's Natural Resources Department.

In 1998, he was chosen as the first Spirit Mountain Community Fund Hatfield Fellow, working in Sen. Ron Wyden's office in Washington, D.C.

According to his bio on the Tribe's website, he worked for the Tribe as a forester, Natural Resources Department manager and deputy director of operations under the General Manager's Office. He went on to become the first director of development and public safety for the Tribe.

During his time in the Natural Resources Department, Wakeland helped expand the wildland fire management and forestry programs.

"I don't pat myself on the back, but during my career at Grand Ronde we transformed our forestry program and incorporated a more rounded program, from timber production to a more balanced approach to timber management/forest resource production, while placing an increased emphasis on fisheries and upland game species habitat enhancement," he said. "We



Contributed photo

Tribal Council member Pete Wakeland was honored with the Earle R. Wilcox Memorial Award for National Outstanding Forester of the Year from the Intertribal Timber Council during the annual National Indian Timber Symposium in Keshena, Wis., held June 8-11.

proved that resource extraction and resource protection are not mutually exclusive. Grand Ronde's Natural Resources Department is held in very high regard in Indian Country."

He continued, "We also built an outstanding wildland fire program that has not only impacted the lives of many young Tribal and non-Tribal members but has become a model for Tribal wildland fire programs nationally. Our fire crews and wildland fire engines are dispatched to wildland fire incidents across the nation and recently assisted with fuels reductions projects in North Carlina on the Eastern Band of Cherokee Reservation. This didn't happen overnight. It took many years of hard work and dedication."

According to the ITC newsletter, Timber Notes, an awards committee meets earlier in the year to review and evaluate nomina-

tions. Scores were tallied by Awards Committee Chairperson Robin Harkins and each nomination was discussed by the group.

"The accomplishments of your peers in Indian forestry continue to be impressive," the newsletter stated.

Wakeland added that another accomplishment he is proud of is implementing the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, which was passed into law by Congress in 2016, while he was working for the BIA. The demonstration project authorized under the act was due to expire in June of this year.

"We worked with our elected officials in D.C. and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Assistant Secretary Billy Kirkland and his staff to get the demonstration project extended so that more Tribes have the opportunity to participate," Wakeland said. "Basically, what ITARA does is allow Tribes to exercise greater sovereignty over the management of their forest resources. Participation requires Tribes to develop their own Indian Trust Asset Management Plan and Tribal forest regulations, which allows Tribes to conduct forest land management activities without further review of the secretary of the Department of the Interior. ... It's been a honor to have managed our Tribal forestlands here at home, as well as supporting the broader management of Indian forests from Washington, D.C. I'm also honored to be serving my Tribe, now as a Tribal Council member." ■

Tribal Council Candidates Forum will be held Thursday, July 23

NOMINATIONS continued from front page

council in 2024 and 2025.

Leno, 57, was nominated by Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, and will be seeking her fourth three-year term on council. In 2020, she set a record for the most votes received in a Tribal Council election, with 1,047 votes.

Warren-Chase, 59, was nominated by Tribal Elder Kimberly Avery. She is employed as the administrative assistant for the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and was nominated for election the last two years, as well as in the early 2000s. She serves as secretary on the Tribe's Elder Board and also serves on the Culture Committee.

Bailey, 49, was nominated by Tribal member Joanna Brisbois. He works as a cultural protection specialist in the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department. He ran for Tribal Council for the first time in 2023.

Harvey, 64, was nominated by Tribal Elder Angie Blackwell. She served on Tribal Council for four consecutive terms, before losing her reelection bid last year. Harvey was first elected to Tribal Council in 2013 after five unsuccessful campaigns. She came in third in the 2022 election.

Haller, 42, was nominated by Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George. He was elected to Tribal Council in 2023, as a first-time candidate.

This year marks the 13th consecutive year of single-digit candidates

running for Tribal Council. The last time 10 or more candidates threw their proverbial hats in the ring was in 2013.

Tribal Council candidates have a 600-word statement published in the July Tilixam Wawa that will be mailed to voters this month, before ballots are mailed out.

In addition, Smoke Signals will continue its practice of interviewing all of the candidates and placing their podcast interviews on speakr.com.

The Tribal Council Candidates Forum will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23, in Tribal Council Chambers. All candidates must attend in person but Tribal members can join in person or via Zoom. Register for the Zoom session on the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Facebook page.

This year's election will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, with elected council members being sworn into office on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Ballots will be sent to the Tribal member's address on file with Member Services Wednesday, July 29. If you have recently moved or not updated your address in some time, contact Member Services at 503-879-2116 to confirm the address on file. The Election Board cannot change addresses.

The Election Board will have office hours in the Tribal Community Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Thursday. The office will open Wednesday, July 29. The board may be reached at 503-879-2271 or by emailing election.board@grandronde.org. ■

Let's Create Defensible Space

CHECKLIST:

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

For more information contact your local fire agency or reach out to our Defensible Space Program for more tips on how to protect yourself and your property this wildfire season.
Kaylene.barry@grandronde.org
 503-879-1701

Oregon Coast Aquarium brings the Amazon Basin to Grand Ronde

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

The Grand Ronde Tribal Library hosted the Oregon Coast Aquarium in the Tribal gym Wednesday, July 8, as part of the Tribe’s Summer Reading Program.

As part of the event, the presentation “Amazon Basin: An Adventure for the Senses,” introduced Tribal youth to animals native to the Amazon Basin in South America.

Oregon Coast Aquarium Community Engagement Specialist Kathleen Hackett led the presentation and engaged the audience with questions about animals including sloths, vampire bats, matamata turtles and nine-banded armadillos.

A display table allowed participants to pick up free stickers, browse a pamphlet of Amazon Basin animals, touch ocelot pelts and examine skulls from animals such as a caiman and a toucan.

Following the presentation, participants were invited to create their own Amazon animals by selecting paper cutouts of heads, bodies, legs, wings and tails belonging to several species including butterflies, macaws, ocelots, piranhas, hoatzins, bats, iguanas and anteaters. They then used crayons and glue to color and assemble their creations.

Hackett encouraged youth to think about how their animals might live in their environments by considering whether they would be predators or prey and how they’ve adapted to thrive in those environments.

Every year, the Tribal Library invites guest presenters to participate in the Summer Reading Program based on a central theme. This year’s theme, “Plant a Seed, Read,” focuses on the environment.



Tribal member Vincent Mercier, 6, right, checks out a fake jaguar skull as Tribal member Bennett Schlappie-Guerrera, 6, looks at a fake caiman skull during the Oregon Coast Aquarium’s presentation “Amazon Basin: An Adventure for the Senses” in the Tribal gym Wednesday, July 8. The Grand Ronde Tribal Library hosted the event as part of the Summer Reading Program.

Participants in the Summer Reading Program based on a central theme. This year’s theme, “Plant a Seed, Read,” focuses on the environment.

Tribal Library Aide Crystal Bigelow said she enjoys bringing the aquarium to Grand Ronde because the presentations always “educate youth in a fun way.”

“This is, I believe, their third visit out here,” she said. “They always do a really good job; the kids always enjoy it and it’s really educational material and the kids always get to do a craft or activity after the presentation.”

Bigelow said she hopes that participants will leave the event with a greater awareness of different parts of the world and “how we can help preserve those areas.”

The Tribe plans to host the Summer Reading Program again next year and encourages people of all ages to participate.

Located in Newport, the Oregon Coast Aquarium has welcomed more than 16 million visitors since opening in May 1992. The aquarium is home to more than 15,000 animals across 300 species, including sea otters, sharks and puffins.



Tribal member Marcelene Runningbird, 7, assembles the Amazon animal she created during the Oregon Coast Aquarium’s presentation “Amazon Basin: An Adventure for the Senses.”

Coast Aquarium has welcomed more than 16 million visitors since opening in May 1992. The aquarium is home to more than 15,000 animals across 300 species, including sea otters, sharks and puffins.

The aquarium partners with scientific organizations to provide public education, conduct scientific research and support conservation efforts for marine life. According to its website, it is “one of three facilities in the Pacific Northwest and the only in the state of Oregon authorized to provide critical care to endangered marine animals like sea turtles, Guadalupe fur seals and snowy plovers.” ■

research and support conservation efforts for marine life. According to its website, it is “one of three facilities in the Pacific Northwest and the only in the state of Oregon authorized to provide critical care to endangered marine animals like sea turtles, Guadalupe fur seals and snowy plovers.” ■

Family fishing



Tribal youth John Harrelson, 5, left, and his sister Jory Harrelson, 7, get a photo taken with Smokey Bear during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Family Fishing Day at Hebo Lake in Hebo Thursday, June 18. Concerning the event, their father, Tribal member David Harrelson said, “We have caught multiple trout each year we have gone to fishing day at Hebo Lake. This is a great way to introduce kids to fishing and eating smoked trout afterward has been a real treat.” The Hebo Ranger District hosted the day and provided fishing poles, reels and bait. A fishing contest for children ages 4-15 was held and free fishing lessons were available.

Grand Ronde Culture Committee

Craft Class Days

2026 10AM-4PM – CTGR Community Center

Sunday – January 25th

Sunday – February 22nd

Sunday – March 22nd

Sunday – April 26th

Sunday – May 31st

Sunday – June 28th

Sunday – July 26th

Sunday – August 23rd

Sunday – September 27th

Sunday – October 25th

Sunday – November 11th

Sunday – December 20th

Bring your creativity, supplies, and your family.

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

A welcoming space for all Tribal households and all ages.

Reach out to the culture committee with questions-

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

Marianne Blanchard
indigenoustattoo@gmail.com

Stephanie Craig
kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com

Molly Leno
molly.leno@grandronde.org

Smoke Signals wins three Indigenous Journalists Association awards

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Smoke Signals has won three awards for journalism excellence in the 2026 Indigenous Media Awards given out by the Indigenous Journalists Association.

This year, IJA received 760 entries from media organizations across the globe.

Smoke Signals is in the category of small outlets, which includes newsrooms with fewer than 10 staff members.

Award winners will be recognized at the IJA Indigenous Media Awards Banquet Friday, July 24, as part of the 2026 Indigenous Media Conference at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront.

“As a longtime Editorial Board member, I continue to be impressed with the quality journalism that Smoke Signals produces, not only in a print and online format, but also by reaching new Tribal audiences with news via social media, livestreams, videos and podcasts,” Grand Ronde Editorial Board Chair

Mia Prickett said. “I couldn’t be prouder of our independent free press and the work they’re doing to bring timely information to our people.”

Tribal member and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch won two awards in the professional division category for radio/podcast.

This included a third-place award for Excellence in Beat Reporting for her video, “Tribe holds first Toxics Take Back event” and a second-place award for Best Spot News for her video, “Nature playground opens on Grand Ronde Reservation.”

Tribal member and Smoke Signals Production Specialist Justin Phillips won a second-place award in the professional division category for Best Layout for print/online publications.

The awards, for work published in 2025, were announced Thursday, July 9.

Smoke Signals has now won 142 state and national journalism awards since 2007. ■

Retirement time



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, left, and Tribal Council member Toby McClary, right, gift Tribal Construction Supervisor Bart Bryant a Pendleton blanket during Bryant’s retirement party at the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department Tuesday, June 30. Bryant worked for the Tribe for 22 years. He was initially hired as a temporary employee with Grand Ronde’s Round Valley Construction and later transitioned to NRD. Over the years he was instrumental in building and maintaining Reservation roads to ensure timber sales reach the market, made sure the smolt trap was in Agency Creek each spring and supported a wide range of other heavy equipment needs throughout the Tribe. June 30 was his last day.

Summerween



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Enrichment Coordinator Virginia Kimsey-Roof puts sunglasses in Tribal member Bonnie’Lee Mathews, 9, backpack as she trick-or-treats at the Elders Activity Center during Summerween Monday, July 6. Youth Enrichment’s hayu-munk skukum organized the annual event that is a blend of summer and Halloween. Students trick-or-treated to several buildings around the Tribal campus collecting treats.



Tribal member Palmer Heidt, 6, gets an Italian soda that the Tribe’s Public Health Program staff were making for trick-or-treaters.

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. ■

ACUPUNCTURE in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and
Wellness Center

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



Mallory Harman, LAc



Alison Healy, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc

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Graduates received a commemorative blanket

GRADUATION continued
from front page

ment for its commitment to helping Tribal members achieve their goals and thanked Tribal Council for making possible the programs and services required to meet educational needs.

Graduates expressed how difficult the path to the finish line had been at times but were grateful for all the love and support from family, friends and the Tribe itself.

“To be so frank, I never really thought I’d have the drive to want to go to college,” high school graduate Trey Danforth told those in attendance. “But then I think back to my sophomore year and I got a bunch of tutors and a bunch of support from the Tribe — people who wanted to see me succeed. Those people who really just tried to drill into my head that I need to go further, that I should want to go further and that I have a whole, very bright life ahead of me and to just keep going.”

Danforth also gave admiration for a teacher who filled an important role for him.

“Through my entire time of high school, I think, like a lot of people, I did have a favorite teacher,” he said. “And this favorite teacher really drove me to be where I am now and what I want to do in my future. Because I never grew up with a father figure in my life, for those years of my high school career, he was very much like a father figure to me and that was wonderful. He watched me cry, he watched me play, he watched me bleed, he watched me learn about everything I could learn. I really just want to thank him for that. He was a really big role model in my life.”

College graduate Cheyeanne



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member and Willamina High School graduate Trey Danforth speaks during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Education Department Graduation Celebration at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center Friday, June 26.

Zimmer said her personal experiences were the primary reason for earning her degree.

“My own path to standing here today is deeply rooted in my personal journey. I chose to pursue my Associate of Applied Science in Behavioral Health, majoring in addiction studies, because this work is very close to my heart, as I’ve been in recovery since 2018,” she said to audience applause.

Zimmer continued, “Within Tribal communities, we all know how generational trauma is a massive risk factor for addiction. But just as trauma can be passed down, so can healing. I chose this field because I wanted to turn my lived experience into a tool for our people to help break those cycles and walk alongside others as we find our way back to wellness.”

Zimmer added that perseverance and support from Native communities were instrumental in helping not only her but other graduates succeed.

“As Tribal people, resilience is woven into who we are,” she said. “When we face challenges, we don’t just carry our own strength, we carry the strength of our ancestors, the prayers of our Elders and loved ones and the unwavering support of our community. Every time you pushed through the doubt, you proved that our goals matter not just for ourselves but for the generations watching us. We are here because of the village that held us up. I want to say a deep thank you to our families, our parents, our partners and our children who showed us immense patience and love when our noses were buried

in textbooks and laptops.”

“I also want to express my deepest gratitude to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde,” Zimmer said. “To be a member of a Tribal community who invests in our potential, believes in our visions and celebrates our victories is a gift I do not want to take for granted. The Tribe provides more than just resources, they provide a foundation to stand on.”

The audience enjoyed a meal of chicken, shrimp, pasta, lasagna, salad, bread sticks and dessert.

During the ceremony, graduates shook hands with members of the Education Committee and received a commemorative blanket.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Secretary Jon A. George were in attendance. George gave the invocation and led a drum song.

George said the Tribe is proud to recognize and honor those who pursue an education.

“You’ve made great achievements in your life,” he said, “No one can ever take that away from you. You’ve earned it.”

Mercier hoped that those who had the ability to pursue education beyond high school would take the opportunity despite the challenge.

“I don’t care what anyone says, education after high school is not easy,” he said. “I know when I finished high school, the idea of continuing to go to the classroom didn’t hold that much appeal, but I’m glad that I continued to do it and I’m glad to see that all of you have continued it as well. We need more and more educated Native professionals in this country in all sorts of professions, so all of you who are here tonight, you’re fighting the good fight. On behalf of Tribal Council, I want to thank you all for doing that and for making us all proud.” ■

2026 graduates

High school graduates

Makya Alsup, Cottage Grove High School; Lily Bigelow, Willamina High School; Forever Butler, Sheridan AllPrep Academy; Aiden Campbell, Willamina High School; Teldon Coffman, Klamath Union High School; Trey Danforth, Willamina High School; Mahiashlok Eaglepipe, Willamina High School; Liam Graham, McMinnville High School; Kyla Grant, Imbler High School; Callie Gregg, Cheney High School; Cheyenne Haller, Willamina High School; Onaliyah Hostler, Willamina High School; Tey-met-tret Hostler, Del Norte High School; Emma Kent, North Medford High School; Shaiyla Krebs, Clackamas Academy of Industrial Arts; Bryson Leno, Willamina High School; Nacoma Liebelt, Willamina High School; John Marrufo III, Willamina High School; Christopher Matau Jr., Roosevelt High School; Tryance Matt, Ronan High School; Braiden McCoy, Southridge High School; Hunter Mendenhall, Willamina High School; Michaeli Mercier, Willamina High School; Tyler Mercier, West Salem High School; Andraya Morales, Central High School; Sophia Ortiz, Willamina High School; Sophia Parsinen, Port Angeles High School; Juliana Peters, Lebanon High School; Alex Pittman, West Salem High School; Lily Runningbird, Crook County High School; Adriana Sanchez, Century High School; Dominic Shaw, Willamina High School; Clara West, Willamina High School; Jerome Williams, Oregon City High School.

GED/adult high school completion

Aaron Anderson, adult high school completion; Angel Freeman-Farris, adult high school completion; Aliya Johnson, GED; Seth Rhodes, GED.

Associate degree

Madison Aaron, Chemeketa Community College; Kaylene Barry,

Chemeketa Community College; Laney DeLoe, Chemeketa Community College; Mariah Ostrander, Portland Community College; Donovan Smith, Marion Military Institute; Cody Wilson, Chemeketa Community College; Cheyeanne Zimmer, Chemeketa Community College.

Bachelor’s degree

Joshua Biery, Eastern Oregon University; Jade Colton, George Fox University; Jaden Haller, Oregon State University; Dylan Knight, Oregon State University; Inatye Lewis, Oregon State University; Ruby Mendez-Anderson, Chemeketa Community College; Audrey Mercier, University of Oregon; Jacob Olson, Oregon State University; James Pena, Emory University; Paige Rife, Oregon State University; Angella Schultz, Eastern Oregon University; Miranda Selander, Western Oregon University; Alicialeigh Selwyn, George Fox University; Kiana Slack, George Fox University; John Stryker, Oregon State University; Zachary Tasa, Oregon State University; David Wright, Oregon State University.

Master’s degree

Trevor Aaron, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Amanda Apodaca, Georgetown University; Devin Boekhoff, George Fox University; Shawn Haggerty, Southern New Hampshire University; Dane Herrin, Willamette University; Genevieve Hughes, Corban University; Trinity Leno, Portland State University; Brittany Maffin, Emporia State University; Olivia Schultz, Oregon State University.

Professional degrees

Kayla Kneeland, George Fox University.

Annual Tribal ceremony with T

**TOMANOWOW continued
from front page**

"I wanted to be in the presence of Tomanowos' power," she said, standing near the meteorite after the Tribe's annual breakfast Thursday, June 25, with museum staff. This year, it was held in the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Hall of the Universe, in the Rose Center for Earth & Space, with Tomanowos.

"It's a melding," Ingraham said. "I feel like I'm melding with it. I wanted to touch it, because I wanted to feel its power."

Boswell said she suffers from severe social anxiety and agoraphobia, making the trip difficult for her. Her daughter, Tribal member Christina Morgan, accompanied her to make the journey easier.

"Being around so many people; it was kind of hard, but it was kind of a once-in-a-lifetime thing," Boswell said. "It was actually one of the best experiences I've had...I did more walking in the few days that we were there than I have literally in the last three or four months."

The annual Tribal ceremony with Tomanowos was led by Tribal Cultural Education Specialist Cristina Lara. She requested the details remain private.

In addition to Lara, the Tribal member and employee part of the delegation included Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Family Support Specialist Santiago Atanacio, Communications Director Sara Thompson, Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Ham-Teixeira, Member Services Manager/Veterans and CTGR Royalty Coordinator Shannon Simi and Social Media/Digital Journalist Kamiah Koch.

Tribal Elders Simone Auger and Jennifer Weiss also attended. Current and past Tribal royalty members in attendance were Senior Miss Grand Ronde Queen Marie Quenelle, Veterans Senior Miss Queen of 2024-25 Sophia Grout and Community Fund Intern Cheyenne Haller, who served as a museum intern in 2025.

Museum interns for 2026 were Merritt Langley, Ekias Sabin and Tidus Sabin, with Lara, Atanacio and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator Matt Bucknell serving as chaperones.

Smoke Signals staff in attendance were Koch and Staff Writer Nicole Montesano.

The delegation flew to New York on Tuesday and spent Wednesday exploring the city. On Thursday, the Grand Ronde delegation had breakfast with museum staff.

Museum President Sean M. Decatur welcomed the group, telling them that in March, he visited Grand Ronde to attend the annual Round Dance.

The experience, he said, "was an important reminder of the power of ritual, not just to bring people together, not just to strengthen bonds and generate new ones, but also to nourish the mind and spirit. This is the 22nd delegation from the Grand Rondes and museums, spanning



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tomanowos, also known as the Willamette Meteorite, sits on display in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. A delegation of Grand Ronde Tribal members traveled to visit the meteorite and held a private ceremony with Tomanowos Thursday, June 25.

our partnership of 26 years. This convening, indeed, this breakfast itself, has become a type of ritual of coming together that we repeat each year, that reinforces the bonds between our communities, that nourishes our relationship. It grounds us in remembrance of the harms of the past and of our commitment to build a different type of future together while moving forward, while also recommitting ourselves to continue the hard work to deepen and strengthen our relationship."

Decatur noted that this year, the museum welcomed second-generation interns Ekias and Tidus Sabin, whose parents, Hope Lafferty and Eric Sabin, also served as museum interns.

"The museum has a painful legacy of both complicity and active participation in actions and decisions that have damaged Native communities," Decatur said. "We not only acknowledge but work to learn from this past, continually improving and repairing, at times stumbling but always trying to become a true partner and friend to communities harmed in the past, by partnering to tell stories and to tell stories of the past while creating new stories for the future. And for 26 years, we've been honored to move together along this journey with the Grand Ronde."

In their presentations to museum staff and the Tribal delegation during the breakfast, the three interns explored conflicting feelings

about Tomanowos' habitation with the museum, echoing mixed feelings among many Tribal members. The Sabin brothers took opposing sides, while Langley talked about how his feelings on the subject changed more than once over the course of his stay. All three said they had treasured their time in New York, the experience of spending time with Tomanowos and each other.

"I was told Tomanowos was taken away, all the way to New York, by just a man and a donkey," Ekias Sabin said. "I was told I should be upset about it. But when I was accepted into this internship, I got to spend time with Tomanowos and time with this museum. I started to accept Tomanowos being here."

However, he was disappointed by his observations of visitors to the meteorite.

"People were walking by all standing in big groups," he said. "All standing there and talking to each other, but not a single person was looking at Tomanowos or reading any of the plaques. This made us wonder, how could we change it? How could we make people want to learn about Tomanowos? My answer to this question is, keep working with the museum to change things. People don't interact with Tomanowos because they don't know how to. They don't know that they can touch him, they don't know where he comes from. If people knew how much Tomanowos meant to others, we could share it. ... I

know in the future we will make Tomanowos so that everyone can be happy about it."

Tidus Sabin addressed the opposite view, after a humorous account of his childhood view of New York.

"The Clackamas Tribe is not mentioned once in the entire archives. Not once," he said. "It's only about, 'Is the meteorite going to make us a bunch of money' or 'We need the meteorite first before anyone else does.' They don't care about Tomanowos. They just care about the value. The money. Not why it's important. If I could bring one thing home from this experience, it would be Tomanowos."

Langley said his feelings remain conflicted. Initially, he said, "I wanted to get it back myself. I wanted others to see how important it was, not just to me, but the people around me."

During his stay, he said, "I've learned a lot about Tomanowos that I hadn't known before. I also learned how sympathetic the people are here and how they understand how we feel about getting Tomanowos back. I respect how they asked us questions about what we want and what we want to do with Tomanowos. I started to think that having Tomanowos stay here and having people learn about our culture, having them learn about our history, isn't so bad."

He continued, "But after I spent some time observing people and visit the museum, my opinion started to shift a little bit. People weren't paying attention. I noticed people were on their phones, texting. I didn't feel seen or heard. I didn't feel Tomanowos was seen or heard. I want people to see Tomanowos and acknowledge our culture. It's been incredibly conflicting to me these past few days. ... As much as I love the idea of bringing Tomanowos back, I feel that not as many people will see or ever even hear about Tomanowos if it's back at Chachalu, if we do bring it back. ... And while I do think that we need to get Tomanowos home, until then Grand Ronde and AMNH's collaboration is vital, and (so is) changing how people learn about Tomanowos. If we continue to work together, I believe that we could have Tomanowos noticed and acknowledged. Therefore, our Tribe and our people can be acknowledged, so that one day, everybody will want Tomanowos to come home."

Haller said she experienced many of the same feelings during her own internship in 2025, with fellow intern Paisley DeLoe. Sitting with Tomanowos and DeLoe every morning during their stay, she said, sparked a feeling of connection with Tomanowos and concern for its ongoing care. She was able to feel some of that same connection this year. She said that she and DeLoe were able to make some changes to the museum's website, replacing several instances where Tomanowos was referred to as "The Willamette Meteorite" with its name, as well as restoring the

Tomanowos led by Cristina Lara

traditional chinuk spelling.

“Seeing it spelled correctly, I think is a good thing for our people,” Haller said. “It’s like reclaiming the identity of the meteorite.”

Today, Haller said, she believes the meteorite needs to come home and be with the Grand Ronde people, who she said can care for it in a way that the museum can’t.

“I’m in favor of keeping relations strong with the museum while it’s there,” she said. “However, I’m 100% that it needs to be here, with our people.”

She said she feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit it in New York.

“I think if you’re a Tribal youth or a Tribal Elder or a Tribal member, who has the opportunity to go see Tomanowos, you should take advantage to the best of your ability,” she said.

Tribal Council member Tonya Gleason-Shepek told the group that she hadn’t originally intended to join the trip.

“This is my first time to New York and it’s been a great experience,” she said. “I went out to lunch yesterday, met with the interns and went on a walk with the Royalty girls. Experiencing the city; it’s been great,” she said.

However, she added, “I was not going to come to Tomanowos, because my mom always wanted to come here and she wasn’t able to. She would tell me stories and tell stories about when all the lawyers and people from the museum would show up, showing up in Grand Ronde in their suits and how it felt like they were being invaded, and through all the negotiations that went on. She always wanted to come and she passed away a couple years ago and did not get to make it here.”

Visiting with Tomanowos earlier in the day, she said, “I was surprised, you know, how conflicted I felt.”

Gleason-Shepek said she felt happy “to see all the different people and different cultures” visiting with Tomanowos, but “also very sad, you know, that so many in our community will never get to see or touch Tomanowos. That physical connection makes the entire relationship that we have with him complete. And so, a lot of people will not have the connection, so it was sad too, but ... I’m very thankful for everything you all have done.”

In particular, she thanked Lara and Atanacio for “your dedication and your love, bringing our people here and that connection.”

The group was graced with perfect weather during their stay. Elders and staff visited the 9/11 Memorial & Museum Wednesday, then walked together to the American Museum of Natural History for a breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage Thursday morning.

A guided tour of the Allison and Roberto Mignone Halls of Gems and Minerals followed after which the delegation was taken backstage to hold a visit with the belongings for the first time in several years. At Lara’s request, the details of that visit are being kept private.

The delegation was also given tickets to explore the museum on their own in the afternoon, before returning for the ceremony with Tomanowos in the evening. The delegation flew home Friday morning.

Tomanowos’ history

Tomanowos is the iron-nickel core of an early planetoid that was formed and orbited the Sun millions of years ago. It was shattered, possibly in a collision with another proto planet. The core fell at approximately 40,000 miles per hour to the Earth’s surface, landing in southwestern Canada.

From there, it was carried by the Missoula Floods that carved out the Columbia River Gorge, coming to rest in present-day West Linn, in the Willamette Valley. The Clackamas Chinooks named it Tomanowos and revered it as a spiritual being that healed and empowered the people since the beginning of time. The rainwater that collected in the meteorite’s crevices and pockmarks served as a powerful purifying, cleansing and healing source for the Clackamas and their neighbors.

Tribal ancestors also dipped their spearheads into the crevices and pockmarks of Tomanowos to obtain spiritual strength before a hunt.

But the Native connection was broken when the Clackamas and other Tribes were removed from the West Linn area and relocated to the Grand Ronde Reservation in the 1850s.

With the Native peoples gone, Tomanowos’ story grew more complex and convoluted. In 1902, it was kidnapped by part-time miner Ellis Hughes, who moved it off land owned by Oregon Iron and Steel Co., and he charged people 25 cents to view it.

Eventually, Oregon Iron and Steel won a lawsuit to regain ownership of the meteorite, which was then purchased in the early 20th century by a wealthy New York City philanthropist who moved it across the country and donated it to the American Museum of Natural History, where it sat, waiting patiently for almost 100 years for its Native peoples to find it.

In 1999, the Grand Ronde Tribe submitted a claim to the museum seeking return of Tomanowos under the provisions of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The museum countersued and eventually the two parties reached an agreement that Tomanowos would remain in New York City provided that Tribal members had annual access for religious ceremonies and the museum sponsored an internship program for Tribal youth to spend two to three weeks working at the museum every summer. In-person visits and the internships were suspended in 2020, 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2025, the internships were cut short and the ceremony canceled due to security concerns. ■

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. ■

let's get

active

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE GYM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Gym hours: Monday- Sunday 6am-9pm.

*hours of operations and recreational activities are subject to change without notice due to scheduled events. Contact security for entrance on non-working regular hours.

"Do something today that your future self will thank you for"

- Sean Patrick Flanery

NOTICE

THIS FACILITY IS UNDER 24 HOUR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

*Must be 18 years or older. Under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18+. Any person using the facilities do so at their own risk. All individuals must adhere to all rules and regulations.

FITNESS/WEIGHT ROOM

MONDAY-SUNDAY

6:00 AM- 9:00 PM

SPIN CLASSES

(GENERALLY OFFERED)

TUESDAY

12:15PM - 12:45PM

BASKETBALL

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

5:30PM - 9:00PM

DANCE (ZUMBA)

MONDAY

5:15PM - 6:30PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Recreation Coordinator

(503) 879-1369

Security

(971) 901-1031

Follow our Facebook page

@Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Recreation Program.

SPONSORED BY:

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BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

on the Rez

>>> AUG. 15, 2026

@ 8AM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - NO EXCEPTIONS

AUG. 9, 2026

Free Registration

YOUTH AND ADULT DIVISIONS

scan me

>>>

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

9615 GRAND RONDE RD. 97347

CONTACT INFO: 503-879-1369 RECREATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG

QR CODE



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.

Youth responders



Photos by Kamiah Koch

Graduates of the Tribe's first Youth Responders Academy gather together for a photo at their graduation ceremony held in the Grand Ronde Fire Station Wednesday, July 1. This week-long training program prepared the youth with disaster response and survival skills.



Graduates of the first Youth Responders Academy look on as Tribal Resilience Officer Kaylene Barry reads names to award them with a completion certificate and medallion during a graduation ceremony held in the Grand Ronde Fire Station Wednesday, July 1.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



Upcoming Chachalu Friday Marketplace vendors wanted

Request a vendor application now. Email chachalu.marketplace@grandronde.org or contact Kyoni Mercier for more information at 503-879-2226. ■

Chachalu Friday Marketplace

FOOD // ART // CRAFTS



UPCOMING MARKETS

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

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

VENDOR INFO / CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG

8720 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OREGON



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

August 13th, July 16th, August 13th
September 15th, October 14th, November 19th
& December 15th

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

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. ■

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. ■

Annual fish distribution

Natural Resources Department

Fish Lab

47010 SW HEBO ROAD
Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347
(503) 879-2424

When:
Thursday, August 13, 2026 9:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, August 14, 2026 9:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday, August 15, 2026 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

GRAND RONDE LIVING and ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS ONLY

Must show current photo I.D.

-

Fish will be handed out in a drive through system. Please follow the signage up the hill to the fish lab, receive your fish and then follow the exit loop road out.

-

*If picking up for others: A Signed release and **copy of Tribal ID or CIB is required!***

-

No Early or late Pickups and fish will not be mailed. Fish cannot be picked up in both Grand Ronde and Portland.

CTGR Portland Office

4445 SW Barbur Blvd #101
Portland, OR 97239

Fish will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

No Pre-Registration Required

Contact Crystal Smith
(503)879-1881

When:
Thursday, August 20, 2026 10:00am – 2:00pm

GRAND RONDE LIVING and ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS

Must show current photo I.D.

-

*If picking up for others: A Signed release and **copy of Tribal ID or CIB is required!***

-

Fish will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis.

-

No Early or late Pickups and fish will not be mailed. Fish cannot be picked up in both Grand Ronde and Portland.

2026 Fish Distribution Release Example

I, _____ Roll Number, _____

Give _____ Permission to pick up my fish.

Signature of Tribal Member: _____ Date: _____

CANOE JOURNEY WITH YED

Youth Education will be bringing youth for the first week of Canoe Journey 2026, leaving with Grand Ronde Canoe Family on July 24th and returning home on July 29th. If you'd like to join us, please sign-up with the link below or scan the QR code.

FOR YOUTH AGES 13-18

<https://forms.gle/Ri6iHk6LZLT2FTsA6>

JULY 24-29

youtheducation@grandronde.org



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!



Friday August 14

11 am Royalty Pageant (Governance Center)
5 pm Royalty Outgoing/ Crowning Ceremonies
7 pm Grand Entry (powwow grounds)

Saturday August 15

Grand Entries at 1 pm and 7 pm

Sunday August 16

11 am Indian Auction
1 pm Grand Entry (powwow grounds)

Host Drum
Mountain
Kree

**Invited
Drums Only**
Invited Drums

**Local Host
Drum**
Bad Soul

Bad Nation, Milepost 30, Bad War Cloud, Meskwaki Nation, Little Bear

MC’s

Howie Thompson
Marty Thurman

Head Dance Judge

Tavian Lasley

Head Drum Judge

Randall Paskemin

Arena Director

Anthony
Quenelle

Dance Categories

Elder (65+), Golden Age (55-64), Senior Adults (36-54), Jr. Adults (18-35)

1st (\$1,000), 2nd (\$700), 3rd (\$500), 4th (\$300), 5th (\$200)

Teens (13-17) -Prize Money - 1st (\$600), 2nd (\$400), 3rd (\$300), 4th (\$200), 5th (\$100)

Jr’s (6-12) -Prize Money - 1st (\$150), 2nd (\$125), 3rd (\$100), 4th (\$75), 5th (\$50)

Woman’s Fancy Special Men’s Fancy Special “Feathers vs. Hackles”

1st (\$1,000), 2nd (\$700), 3rd (\$500), 4th (\$300)



Uyxat Powwow Grounds
9600 Highway 22 (Hebo
Road) Grand Ronde,
Oregon 97347



Vendor Information
503-879-2037
Spirit Mountain Casino
800-760-7977



Camping available
\$5 (per vehicle) w/ parking
Opens Wednesday 1pm

Clean and sober event: Thank you for respecting the Grand Ronde community and our culture by not displaying gang affiliation or bringing alcohol/drugs or weapons to this event.

Drop box installed

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, has a medication drop box located in the front lobby.
Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag.
Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.
Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.
For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

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. ■

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. ■



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.



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

Apply for the Temp pool. Driver pay is negotiable.

Vote For CHANGE

2026 TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE





Community
Working together for strong and connected communities.



Listening
Every voice matters. Open dialogue builds better solutions.



Respect
Honoring our traditions, culture, and each other.



Future
Investing in opportunities for future generations to thrive.

“ Together we can create positive change for today and tomorrow. ”



Stay Informed
Check for updates and important information.



Get Involved
Your participation helps shape our community.



Our Community
Stronger together. Better together. For our future.

Paid political ad

Big truck day



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Shayim classroom student Maddilynn Phillips-Dill, 4, tours the inside of a Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department fire truck during the Tribe’s Early Care and Education Program’s first Big Truck Day Wednesday, July 1. The preschool hosted the event as part of their ABC Countdown to Graduation. In addition to Emergency Services, several big trucks from the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department and the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department drove around the old powwow grounds on the Tribal campus, then parked in front of the ECE building for the preschool students to explore.



Chak Chak classroom student Cannon Mankins, 4, tries on sunglasses that the Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department handed out to Early Care and Education students during Big Truck Day at the preschool Wednesday, July 1.

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.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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. ■

2026 ANNUAL POW WOW

TEMP WORKER RECRUITMENT



AUGUST - CONTEST 12TH – 16TH

TEMPORARY POSITION \$18.00/HR.

Apply online at www.grandronde.org/employment



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

*CTGR Tribal Preference Applies

VALERIA ATANACIO FOR GRAND RONDE TRIBAL COUNCIL



Your Voice. Our Future.

GROWING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH CULTURE & EDUCATION

BUILDING STRONG HOMES & HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

SUPPORTING WHOLE-PERSON WELLNESS

STRENGTHENING FOOD INDEPENDENCE

VOTE VALERIA ATANACIO

Mother. Educator. Community Leader.

www.VoteValeria.com

(971)-209-5406 | valeria.atanacio@gmail.com

WE ARE THE FUTURE ANCESTORS

Paid political ad



Are you frustrated with your diabetes control?

Do you have questions about diabetes?

Do you need help managing your diabetes?

If so...

Call the Medical Clinic today at 503-879-2002

To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment



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
AV Technician/Web Specialist	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	07/20/2026
Clinic Manager – Salem Detox - GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	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
Cook – Sheridan – GCR – Part Time (Weekends Only)	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Dentist	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Enrichment Coordinator Aide – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Firefighter/Paramedic	11	\$68,091.85/yr.	\$87,692.49/yr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Maintenance & Safety Technician Supervisor – Sheridan - GCR	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	07/13/2026
Medication Aide – Adult Foster Care	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Counselor – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	07/13/2026
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
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
Physician Assistant – Salem OTP - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled
Senior Dental Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Senior Help Desk Technician - Salem OTP - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Substance Use Disorder Therapist – Salem OTP - GCR	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Women's Transitional Living Center Case Aide	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	07/13/2026
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

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

INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING RANKING ORDER:

- Grand Ronde Tribal members.
- 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.
- External candidates including current Spirit Mountain Casino employees.



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	7/16/2026	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Baker	7/16/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Cage Cashier (*Part-Time)	7/16/2026	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Sous Chef	7/16/2026	DOE
Assistant Banquet Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Banquet Server (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. DOE + Tips
Cage Cashier	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. DOE + Tips
Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Food & Beverage Administrative Assistant II	Until Filled	\$18.82/hr. DOE
Host/Hostess Cashier (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pastry Chef	Until Filled	DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Sportsbook Writer	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Surveillance Agent I	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer – Multi-Game (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. + Tips
Warehouse Clerk (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr. DOE

\$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions

\$500 Referral Bonus SMC & CTGR Employees

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

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- ✓ SMGI applies certain preference in all employment opportunities to applicants who meet the requirements of the job by utilizing the following preference tier system:
Tier 1: Enrolled Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Members
Tier 2: Spouses, Parents and/or Legal Guardians of CTGR Members, enrolled members of other Indian Tribes, Veterans, and Current Employees
Tier 3: External Candidates – qualified applicants not falling within Tier 1 & 2

- ✓ Job postings are updated every Friday with remaining and new positions; applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following Thursday to be considered.
- ✓ All positions are eligible for an incremental Hire-on Bonus
- ✓ Please reference the Job Description for job duties, qualifications, and required knowledge/skills.

employmentteam@spiritmtn.com

<https://www.spiritmountain.com/careers>

Call (503) 879-3737 for application assistance.

A young girl with a braided headband, wearing a black t-shirt and a blue and black life vest, is reaching out towards a woman. The woman is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, a black hat with a brown band, and a yellow lanyard. They are standing on a grassy area with a paved path and trees in the background. Other people and a white car are visible in the distance.

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

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)
To Receive:

To *Add Your Name:

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

☒ To the mail out list
☒ To the t-shirt list
☒ Veteran recognitions

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

all year long about veterans benefits,

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

Why? Because the IVSO shares information about its members at national events, and periodically sends veteran recognitions.

If you have any questions or want more information, email:
conTribalIVSO@GrandRonde.Org



TRIBAL VETERANS
SERVICE OFFICE

Paid political ad



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

Same 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
- ✓ COLD OR FLU SYMPTOMS
- ✓ EARACHE, EAR WASH
- ✓ MINOR INJURIES

- ✓ HOSPITAL FOLLOW UPS
- ✓ MEDICATION CONCERNS
- ✓ SPRAINS/STRAINS
- ✓ SKIN RASH
- ✓ SORE THROAT

- ✓ URINARY TRACT INFECTION SYMPTOMS
- ✓ ALLERGY SYMPTOMS
- ✓ IMMUNIZATIONS
- ✓ SUDDEN WORSENING OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

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



DIABETES PREVENTION AND EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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
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

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BLACK PULL-OVER:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



NAVY T-SHIRT:
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TEAL T-SHIRT:
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BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC

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ZIP-UP HOODIE (NAVY) \$45							Not Available
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T-SHIRT (TEAL) FRONT GRAPHIC \$20							
T-SHIRT (NAVY) FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC \$20							Not Available

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