



Hiking among
history: Obsidian
Cliffs — pg. 9

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SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

MMIP walk brings attention to loved ones



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Samantha Hedrick, 15, applies a red handprint to her face during Ampkwa Advocacy's 2026 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Walk at Riverfront Park in Salem Sunday, Aug. 30. The red handprint is a symbol in the MMIP movement that represents the silenced voices and violence against Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people. See page 10 for story and photos.

Chip fire likely caused by spontaneous combustion

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Crews from Grand Ronde Emergency Services and other agencies responded to a fire in a wood chip pile at Hampton Lumber in Willamina, Wednesday, Aug. 26, rapidly suppressing it.

Tribal Administrative Services Lieutenant Mariah Walters said the same pile had caught fire Sunday, Aug. 23, just before midnight.

"The fire was most likely caused by moisture in the chips causing heat generation that eventually ignited the material," Walters said in an email. "This is very similar to what happens with hay if the moisture content is too high. The fire on Aug. 23 was contained to Hampton Lumber's property and was quickly suppressed by fire crews. Hampton put the pile on a fire watch and has been working to get it removed from the property. Due to the size of the wood chip pile, however, it will take some time to remove."

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, crews were called back.

"We believe the second fire was either a rekindle from the previous fire or an additional start from the moisture in the pile, despite Hampton's continued fire watch and mitigation efforts," Walters said. "Since the pile was already on fire watch, the fire was reported quickly and Hampton staff began

See FIRE
continued on page 3

Spirit Mountain Community Fund distributes quarterly grants

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Money from Spirit Mountain Community Fund's third-quarter grants will help provide parents with clothing and supplies for foster children, care for children who have suffered trauma and abuse, a healing equestrian program for young men incarcerated at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility, help restore wildlife habitat along the Tualatin River and much more.

Grant recipients gathered in the Tribal Governance Center Wednesday, Sept. 2,

to receive their awards and celebrate the occasion. Tribal Council member Kathleen George gave the invocation. Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George drummed and sang an honor song. Tribal Council member Matthew Haller also attended.

Haller also serves as a Community Fund Board of Trustees member and Kathleen George is the vice chair.

The fund distributed \$483,830 through 21 grants; eight large grants, eight small

See COMMUNITY FUND
continued on page 11

The Bridge Learning Community board member Arianna Allen, left, shakes hands with Spirit Mountain Community Fund Administrative Assistant Pamala Warren-Chase as Allen accepts a check for the nonprofit during the third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Sept. 2.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4

Tribal Council Chambers

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

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, Sept. 16.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 30.....	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 welcome

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Friday, Sept. 25, in observance of National Native American Day.

yutqat-haws t'tap-san lu?lu

ACHAF
HAMMI
CELEBRATES

17

Join us

Achaf-hammi's 17th birthday celebration

-
October 17th

-
4pm - Doors open
5:30pm - Meal

-
Information

Bobby Mercier • 503.879.2076
bobby.mercier@grandronde.org

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE

ISSUE DATE

MEMBERS OF:

Tuesday, Sept. 22.....Oct. 1
Wednesday, Oct. 7.....Oct. 15
Tuesday, Oct. 20.....Nov. 1
Wednesday, Nov. 4.....Nov. 15

Indigenous Journalists Association
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
2022 IJA General Excellence
2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

kwayts-mun (September)

- Wednesday, Sept. 16 – Tribal Council swearing in-ceremony, 11 a.m., Tribal Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Sept. 16 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Friday, Sept. 25 – Tribal offices closed in observance of National Native American Day.
- Wednesday, Sept. 30 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

taʔlam-mun (October)

- Friday, Oct. 2 – First Foods Celebration, 4 to 7:30 p.m., Tribal gym, 9615 Grand Ronde Road.
- Sunday, Oct. 4 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, Oct. 12 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.
- Wednesday, Oct. 14 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Oct. 28 – 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.

Governor visit



Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek visited Grand Ronde Tuesday, Sept. 1, and met with Tribal Council, where topics of discussion included the Tribe’s land transfer bill, consent decree and what the Tribe would like to see in the future. The Grand Ronde Tribe has been working on a land transfer bill that would transfer approximately 18,628 acres of federal land, located close to the Grand Ronde Reservation, from the U.S. Forest Service to the Grand Ronde Tribe. Also, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is the only federally recognized Tribe in the United States that is still bound by a consent decree, which limits where, when and how much Tribal members are allowed to hunt and fish on their traditional lands. Legislation is currently underway in the House of Representatives to restore those rights. Those in attendance at the meeting included, front row from left, Tribal Council member Matthew Haller, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Kotek, Tribal Council members Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Lisa Leno and Vice Chair Chris Mercier. Second row from left are Tribal Council member Kathleen George, Secretary Jon A. George and Tribal Council member Toby McClary.

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. ■

Find us on



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Grand Ronde Station:
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Grand Ronde Food Bank:
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Spirit Mountain Community Fund:
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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





The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department responded to a wood chip pile fire at Hampton Lumber in Willamina, Wednesday, Aug. 26. Smoke was visible, but there was no threat to surrounding structures or properties.

Neighboring agencies sent help to contain fire

FIRE continued from front page

suppression efforts before CTGR crews arrived. The fire was, again, rapidly suppressed and contained to the Hampton property.”

She added that throughout the night, Hampton employees began spreading the pile to cool it and make it easier to access.

“Additionally, they are working to move the pile away from property lines and other piles of combustible material,” she said. “They continue to have the pile on fire watch with their own water truck on site. They anticipate being able to remove the pile in its entirety by

the end of next week. During both responses, CTGR crews were able to utilize the ladder truck using an elevated master stream to quickly cool the pile from above. Water tender shuttles were required to provide water supply, since the area does not have hydrants. There was no threat to any structures or neighboring properties during either fire.”

Neighboring agencies sent help from Sheridan Fire District, Amity Fire District, Southwest Polk Fire District and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

“As always, we appreciate our mutual aid partners’ assistance,” she said. ■

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 September food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

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

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets as needed at the Veterans House. Chair: Molly Leno.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly. The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. 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 Ainaam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainaam.
- **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 — Construction began on the Creekside Elder Housing project in the southwest corner of Grand Ronde and Hebo roads. Tribal Council approved a contract with Willamette Valley Excavating Inc. of Turner to construct the infrastructure and utilities. The project added 24 new homes for Elders in Grand Ronde.

2016 — Tribal Council established the Tribe’s first Youth Council, appointing Dominik Briant, Isabelle Grout, Raven Harmon, Jason Page, Payton Smith and Madalyn Volz as members, with one seat remaining vacant. Appointees received necklaces and a certificate from Tribal Council. The Youth Council was formed to provide “a collective voice and represent Tribal youth in all matters that concern them,” as well as to promote the development of future Tribal leaders, addressing issues facing Tribal youth, coordinating youth service projects and more.



2016 File photo

2011 — A fire started in a restroom next to a gift store at Spirit Mountain Lodge. The restroom and gift store were damaged, with the gift store primarily sustaining smoke damage. The bathroom wall was gutted to ensure the fire had been completely extinguished. Guests on the first and second floors were evacuated and those whose rooms had been affected by smoke had their lodging paid for. The cause of the fire remained under investigation and a monetary estimate of damages could not yet be determined.

2006 — An opening ceremony was held for The Peak at Spirit Mountain Casino. The Peak occupied the former bingo hall area and provided 15 to 20% more room for guests to move around. It also held 242 new slot machines and became the new location for all table games that were previously placed on the casino’s main floor. The Peak was projected to increase casino revenue by \$12 to \$15 million annually.

2001 — The Tribe was gathering as many of its Sabre-Tool units as possible to send to New York City and Washington, D.C., to aid rescue efforts following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Developed by the Tribe’s Spirit Mountain Development Corp., the Sabre-Tool was a handheld device used to cut through vehicles involved in accidents and could also separate twisted and compressed metal. “We are prepared to get them there any way we can,” SMDC Executive Officer Gene Hill said.

1996 — The first annual Spirit Mountain Stampede and Rodeo was held, marking the culmination of a weeklong festival — Western Days — which included two Waylon Jennings concerts, a dance at the casino and a barbeque.

1991 — Ray McKnight, Candy Robertson and Merle Holmes were elected to three-year terms on Tribal Council, receiving 118, 105 and 72 votes, respectively. Holmes, a write-in candidate, defeated 12 other candidates.

1986 — The Tribe had 32 students participating in adult vocational training, higher education and adult education programs at colleges and universities across Oregon, Washington and California. The Tribe’s education office also distributed more than 126 application packets to Tribal members who inquired about education services and opportunities.

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

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

GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT
28450 Tyee Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

ATTENTION ALL HOUSING TENANTS AND GUEST
PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN ELDER HOUSING
Also, please make sure and maintain low levels of music in the Elder community.

Tribal Council approves community fire assistance grant application

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council had a much shorter agenda than it has had lately at its Wednesday, Aug. 26, meeting, with only five action items. One of those was approving the Tribe’s application to the Bureau of Land Management Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance grant for up to \$1.2 million.

If awarded, the funds would be used to purchase equipment for developing the Tribal Natural Resources Department’s hazardous fuels reduction branch within its fire management program.

“The equipment will be used to complete the fuel reduction and wildlife safety projects on Tribal lands,” Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, Aug. 25, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “We’re pivoting this application to the fuels management and fire assistance program because it’s a much better fit and I believe we have a really strong chance of getting this funded. There’s no FTEs (full time employees), no match and we can’t take indirect (costs) because we’re just buying tons of equipment.”

Currently, staff within NRD are working to develop this

branch, which will focus on fuel reduction and projects that lessen wildfire risks on Tribal lands, with an emphasis on the reservation’s forest, and it will use both mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.

In other news, Tribal Council:

- Approved an amendment to the Oregon Department of Energy Community Renewable Energy Program to use the \$1 million in awarded funds for the Grand Ronde Fire Station community emergency center instead of toward construction costs for solar and microgrid components for the resident resilience center project, as it has been put on hold after federal funding was rescinded last year;
- Approved reappointing Pat Davis, Robert Miller and Pat Paul to two-year terms on the Tribal Court of Appeals and appointing Karen Costello as an associate judge on the Tribal Court for a two-year term, all with effective dates of Sept. 10;
- And approved enrolling three infants and seven non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Tribal Council approves cost sharing agreement with Natural Resources Conservation Service

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a cost-sharing contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, which will support forest health initiatives and fuel reduction activities at multiple reservation and trust properties, at its Wednesday, Sept. 9, meeting.

The agreement would utilize a cost-share agreement of up to \$300,000 rather than a traditional grant. Under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS typically reimburses a percentage of costs depending on the activity and eligibility, according to a program description.

There is a total of 542 acres that include the Grand Ronde Reservation forest, Lower Burton, Gopher Valley, Rogue Block, Evey, South Yamhill, Nicole, Jeld Wen and Rowell Creek properties, where the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department plans to implement pre-commercial thinning, hand piling for burning and invasive weed management.

In other news, Tribal Council:

- Approved renewing the Tribe’s membership to the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and annual membership dues of \$7,500, as well as appointing Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George as the Tribe’s delegate and all other council members as alternates;
- Approved amendments to the General Welfare Assistance and Supplemental General Welfare Assistance Program Ordinance to provide a death benefit to beneficiaries of Tribal members who were alive during the assistance payment period;
- Approved a Tribal credit card with a limit of \$5,000 for Re-

source Advisor Jeremy Johnson to use in his duties with the Tribal wildland fire crew;

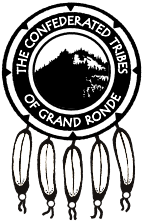
- Approved an application to the Indian Health Service Small Ambulatory Program Grant for up to \$4.98 million. If awarded, funds would be used for a planned expansion project at the Health & Wellness Clinic;
- And approved enrolling six infants and one emergency non-infant into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Additionally, Tribal Council set the agenda for the Sunday, Sept. 13, General Council meeting. It will be held at 11 a.m. in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom and include information on the Tribal Council election results, as well as a report from the Emergency Management program.

Before the meeting began, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy read a statement regarding a recent post on Tribal social media accounts about the General Welfare payment set for Friday, Sept. 11.

“After a decision on the (payment) amount was made, a member of the Tribal Council asked for a modified draft statement,” she said. “That draft statement was then inadvertently shared on the Tribe’s app and social media accounts. Tribal Council and staff would like to apologize for this. The statement did not accurately reflect the feelings of the Tribe or the Tribal Council. We apologize for any harm this may have caused our families. We are a loving, caring people, and we value every one of our members. We apologize that the statement did not reflect this.”

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



TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

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

Current vacancies:

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

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

For questions email:
shannon.ham-texeira@grandronde.org

Applications available online at:
www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/committees/

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

Prepared by JBS International, Inc. under Grant No. 2-HF9-T-026900-01S1 for the U.S. DHHS, SAMHSA.



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



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Casino board, staff tour design facility for sports bar remodel

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, Spirit Mountain Casino CEO Camille Mercier, casino executive staff and Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. board member Kathleen George toured an I-5 Design Build warehouse in Lacey, Washington, to view construction and assembly of components for the casino's new sports bar, The Zone.

The visit provided the group with an up-close look at the manufacturing and design process behind The Zone, which is part of ongoing renovations at the casino.

The casino's current sports bar, Mountain View Sports Bar, closed Monday, July 27, and then temporarily relocated Thursday, July 30, to the former Happy Dragon restaurant space near SIPS Coffee Bar and the casino gift shop.

Mercier said the tour gave executive staff an opportunity to observe I-5 Design Build's process and review components and materials that will be used in the sports bar.

"Rather than completing everything at the casino, many of the components are being constructed and assembled off site," she said. "The warehouse visit allowed us to see those concepts become tangible, including elements such as the center bar, tables and other



Courtesy photo

Construction and assembly of components for Spirit Mountain Casino's new sports bar, The Zone, including this hostess station, is in progress at I-5 Design Build in Lacey, Wash. The Zone is expected to open in December.

components that will ultimately be installed in the new sports bar."

Mercier continued, "It also allows for greater quality control because components can be fabricated in a controlled environment, while design, fabrication and construction teams can work concurrently. This coordinated process should help minimize the impact on our guests and employees while allowing us

to move more efficiently toward opening the new spaces."

I-5 Design Build is a firm that works in the retail, gaming and entertainment industries. According to the company's website, it has worked on more than 100 gaming locations and redesigned or remodeled more than 220 individual venues throughout the United States and Canada.

George said the visit provided an opportunity to see how the casino's executive team communicates its business needs and works to maximize the value of the project.

"A project of this scale is a major investment for our Tribe," she said. "It's our role (as board members) to work with the executive team to help maximize the productivity of our business and support the work of our leadership."

George also said the visit offered a chance to better understand the processes and logistics involved during a large remodeling project.

"It was also a good opportunity to see the manufacturing and design process up close, which gave me a better understanding of the timeline and the details that go into a remodel of this size," she said.

During the tour, the group also met with Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel General Manager Michael Lucas, who shared his perspective on the current gaming market and the conditions and challenges facing a casino operated by another Tribe.

Mercier said work on The Zone is progressing well and remains on track.

The Zone is expected to open in December after the components being constructed offsite are transported to the casino and installed. ■

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. ■

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

Acupuncture can help
with...

- pain
- headaches/migraines
- digestive issues
- women's health issues
- emotional pain & trauma
- diabetic neuropathy
- pregnancy/postpartum
- and so much more!



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Retirement time



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Spirit Mountain Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie, left, hugs SMCF Grants Coordinator Jesse Knight after he is gifted a Tribal Pendleton blanket during his retirement lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Mountain View Sports Bar Friday, Aug. 28. Between Spirit Mountain Casino and SMCF, Knight has worked for the Tribe for almost 25 years. August 28 was Knight’s last day.

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. ■

BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHES

Kick Off The School Year With New Fits!

Applications are now available for school clothes!

- This is a first come, first serve program
- Child must be enrolled in CTGR
- Child must be of school age and registered in school
- Must meet income requirements

APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON GRANDRONDE.ORG OR BY CALLING SOCIAL SERVICES AT (503) 879-2034

Completed applications can be emailed to ssdinfo@grandronde.org or dropped off in the Social Services Department at the Community Center Building

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition. It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■

UPDATED

NEW MEETING For

COMMUNITY DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

TRAINING AND UPDATE MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 23 6PM - 7 PM
AT THE WILLAMINA STATION

THURSDAY, SEPT 24 12PM -1PM
AT THE GRAND RONDE STATION

Join us for training to prepare our community for the upcoming threats we will face during the end of wildfire season, and moving into winter.

If you havent had the opportunity to join us for an informational meeting yet, you can still join us! As a reminder this is open to all community members, Tribal and Non-Tribal.

HELP STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY!!

For more information:
kaylene.barry@grandronde.org

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- Qualified teachers
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- Enrollment opportunities for all income levels

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

WAYS TO APPLY:

ONLINE at: <https://www.grandronde.org/services/education/early-childhood-education/>

Email amber.wright@grandronde.org for an application

Or Scan QR Code:

Enrolling Prenatal to 4 years old

To Learn More: amber.wright@grandronde.org
503-879-1434

OSU researchers and CTGR Emergency Services seek volunteers

Oregon State University researchers are working with Grand Ronde Emergency Services to conduct a study of the needs, values and experiences of community members with extreme weather events and other disruptions.

The research team is interested in speaking with various Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan community members to share their experiences and ideas related to emergency preparedness, not just those who are very prepared or have planned for disasters, to make sure that emergency preparedness is inclusive of everyone’s needs. Tribal members and non-Tribal members are welcome to participate.

Those interested will be given an approximately one hour interview. The information gathered during the research will help inform emergency operations to help prepare the community for future natural hazards.

To participate, call or text Josh Blockstein at 301-906-4954, email blockstj@oregonstate.edu or visit www.tinyurl.com/OSUDesSignUp and fill out the form. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card for their time. ■

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10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Of the month.

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✓ Update your Tribal ID (& photo!)

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QUESTIONS?

PLEASE REACH SHAYLA MURPHY, MS ADMINISTRATOR

(503) 879-1364

SHAYLA.MURPHY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Grand Ronde Vocational Rehabilitation Program



NAYA Youth Center

5135 NE Columbia Blvd

Portland, OR 97218

Annex Room

Open House

September 22nd

10am-3pm

Join us for a day of Cultural sharing, Activities, Program information, Food and Fun. Come share in the activities or just hang out and visit.



To RSVP

Contact Flicka Lucero

503-879-2165

Flicka.lucero@grandronde.org

Beading

Crafting

Activities

Food

Amazing drawings



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Elaine Medley adds feathers to a blue jay during a pastel drawing class at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Clinic Wednesday, Sept. 2. September is World Alzheimer’s Month and the Tribe’s Community Health Brain Health Program is hosting a four week series focused on creativity, movement, knowledge and connection called “Your Amazing Brain.” Other scheduled activities included a Jeopardy! game, a brain boosting rhythm challenge using Boomwhackers percussion tubes, Tai Chi and an awareness walk.

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Hiking among history: Obsidian Cliffs

By Kamiah Koch
Social media/digital journalist

A cloud of dust from the passing mule-train was still floating in the air when I hiked into a glittering meadow, pausing to look around because nature doesn't often sparkle this much.

McKenzie River Ranger District Archaeologist Tim Fox explained, "This pavement is all tool making."

According to Fox, the thick layer of obsidian flakes covering this site is due to early Native Americans coming here to create their tools.

To many, this may seem unremarkable. However, it gave me goosebumps because I was imagining the people who left behind these obsidian flakes. It's not often you come across the "footprint" of your ancestors.

Beginning in the early 2000s, the Grand Ronde Tribe's Historic Preservation Office has been organizing trips to get Tribal members and staff out into culturally significant locations in Oregon as an ongoing effort to share the importance of protecting these places. One of these historic places is the Obsidian Cliffs, located 150 miles southeast of the Grand Ronde reservation and tucked below the west side of the North Sister mountain.

"Since we've started doing the trip again in the 2020s, we've tried to include different staff, community and partners over the last five years so we can broaden the number of people who can visit the Obsidian Cliffs," Tribal Cultural Protection Coordinator Cheryl Pouley said in an email.

As a Grand Ronde Tribal member and Smoke Signals staff member, I joined this year's 11.5-mile roundtrip hike to the Obsidian Cliffs for a three-day adventure.

Before we began hiking, Pouley and Tribal Cultural Protection Specialist Chris Bailey asked me what I was looking to get out of this trip as Tribal member. I told them I had basic knowledge of the Obsidian Cliffs but I was looking to deepen my "connection to place," a phrase I hear often in the Tribal community.

Our group of 10 departed from the Obsidian Trailhead Tuesday, Aug. 11. The trail has a challenging 2,100 feet of elevation gain but offers dense conifer forests draped in lime-green lichen, rugged ancient lava flows and orange California tortoiseshell butterflies fluttering around stream crossings to distract you from the pain.

Within the first hour of hiking, we came across a small piece of obsidian sitting in the middle of the trail. By the second hour we crossed the first field of obsidian flakes. Fox and Pouley used the pieces of obsidian we observed along the trail to teach me how to identify if a biface has been worked on by a human. I began looking for the



The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's 2026 Obsidian Cliffs group photo was taken at the Obsidian Trail trailhead Tuesday, Aug. 11, and included Tribal members, Tribal staff and U.S. Forest Service staff.



McKenzie River Ranger District Archaeologist Tim Fox stands at the Arrowhead Lake vista Wednesday, Aug. 12, and uses a map to trace the travel routes early Indigenous people used to reach the Obsidian Cliffs below.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit YouTube

@SmokeSignalsCTGR

bulb of percussion (a small mound formed when obsidian fragment is struck off a larger piece) and small, uniform edge chipping (for sharpening).

When we reached the site where we would be camping, adjacent from the obsidian quarry, it was hard to avoid the signs that for thousands of years people have spent time here.

Besides the designated tent spots, the quarry area was dominated by sharp palm-sized chunks of obsidian. Now knowing what to look for, I searched for knapped pieces and spent a lot of my relaxation time imagining the people who left behind these razor-sharp fragments. I unwisely wore open-toed shoes to walk around my camp but only sustained one minor cut.

The Obsidian Trail attracts lots of hikers and thru hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail, which overlaps the Obsidian Trail at Obsidian Falls. I saw roughly 100 hikers traversing this area during our trip, and of the handful I talked to, none of them knew the cultural significance of the cliffs. They all expressed interest in the history of this place, but for most it was just a resting spot and water resupply in their longer journey. I felt lucky that our trip allowed multiple days to explore this area as my ancestors may have.

On day two, we hiked the ridge above Obsidian Cliffs, unofficially known as Arrowhead Lake. Unfortunately, due to low snowfall levels this year, it was more puddle than lake.

However, beyond the lake were amazing vista views of the surrounding ridgelines. Fox pulled

along the Cascade Mountain range? Fox informed me they use X-ray fluorescence to find unique "elemental fingerprints" which allows them to locate the origins of the obsidian. From this and obsidian tools they find miles away, they can map the trade routes of early ancestors. From the vantage point we were standing at almost 7,000 feet, I could see it.

We continued to hike around the cliffs, entering another meadow where toolmaking was evident by the flakes strewn across the field. At the top of a tall rock feature someone named Eagle's Rest, we found more obsidian flakes. I again imagined the person who presumably carried their obsidian up here. Did this bluff have a ceremonial purpose or did they just like the view?

A lot of knowledge and history about this place was lost when white settlers arrived, Tribal people were forcefully removed to reservations and the Grand Ronde Tribe was terminated by the U.S. government. However, against all those odds, and with the aid of CH Packstring's mules, a handful of Tribal people are returning to the Obsidian Cliffs to learn and revitalize the practice of obsidian tool making.

On day three, we packed up and began our hike back down the trail. On the way out we passed the quarry, a large hunk of obsidian protruding from the ground. Chunks and flakes covered the ground, and a crunching glass sound was heard with every step I took. As we hiked away from the Obsidian Cliffs, the thick layer of flakes we were stepping on began to dissipate. Soon it was just a few flakes speckling the dusty path. We descended into the lava flows and dense forest, which were beautiful, but they lacked the sparkling obsidian my eyes had grown accustomed to.

I went on this Tribally sponsored trip looking for a better connection to the wilderness area and to learn about its cultural significance by experiencing it myself. I feel I discovered that and more. Although we'll never know who the people were knapping the obsidian in the meadows or on top of Eagle's Rest, to have Tribal people returning to this place to walk in their footsteps feels pretty special. I ended this trip with a deeper connection to place and to my people. ■

Hotel room rates increase

The Spirit Mountain Hotel at Spirit Mountain Casino has implemented a revised pricing structure for the Elders discount, which has remained unchanged since the hotel's opening in 1997. The new discounted rates are \$99 for mid-week stays, \$109 for weekends and \$129 for holidays.

This adjustment is necessary to better align room rates with the actual cost of room upkeep, while still offering competitive pricing, according to Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Executive Officer Camille Mercier.

The Tribal member discount will reflect a 10% discount on standard room rates. The RV park will offer Elders and Tribal members a \$10 discount off the standard rate at the RV lot.

"The changes ensure that we continue to provide valuable services while maintaining financial sustainability," Mercier said. ■

MMIP walk draws 150 to remember

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Red and black clothing, sometimes marked with red hands, dominated Salem's Riverfront Park Sunday, Aug. 30, with at least 150 people turned out for the third year of a walk organized by Ampkwa Advocacy to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

They walked in solemn procession behind the drummers and singers, four banners carried by young people that read "Missing, Murdered, Indigenous, Relatives," and a Tribal Elder carrying a torch. A man dressed in all black carried a sleeping baby; women in ribbon skirts pushed small children in strollers.

Some carried signs: "Justice 4 Emily Pike! 14 years old;" "No more stolen relatives;" "Justice for MMIR; Not One More."

Some were simpler: "Father;" "Brother;" "Wesley."

"Prevention starts with awareness," Ampkwa Advocacy Vice Chair and Tribal Elder Camille Mercier told the crowd.

She added that the key to the walk was "Not just grief but action. Not just remembrance, but responsibility. The most powerful thing we can do is not allow someone to become just another statistic."

Tribal member Harris Reibach gave the invocation and played a flute song, followed by drum group Johonnaaii, who played an honor song. Actor Chance Rush was the emcee and singer Isaac Tonasket gave a special guest performance.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and Tribal Council members Toby McClary, Matthew Haller



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members Leloo Quenelle, 14, left, and Elizabeth Ulestad, 10, carry the Ampkwa Advocacy banner as they lead the nonprofit's 2026 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Walk at Riverfront Park in Salem Sunday, Aug. 30. Approximately 150 people participated in the walk.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



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Ampkwa Advocacy Founder and Chair Amanda Freeman speaks during the nonprofit's 2026 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Awareness Walk at Riverfront Park in Salem Sunday, Aug. 30.

website notes that a 2016 study by the National Institute of Justice found that more than four in five Native American and Alaska Native women have experienced violence, and that in 2023, homicide was the fourth leading cause of death among AI/AN men between the ages of 1 and 44, and the sixth leading cause for women in the same age range. Abductions and human trafficking rates are also higher than in the general population.

"MMIP is not just one issue," Ampkwa Advocacy Founder and Chair Amanda Freeman told the crowd. "It's the result of a lot of things that have been allowed to continue for generations: Colonization, violence, exploitation, child trafficking, jurisdictional gaps and systems that do not respond the same for everyone."

The issue is deeply personal for Quenelle, as it is for so many Indigenous people.

"I've never gotten an answer to when my baby sister was found alongside I-405 in Portland," she said. "I don't know whether someone hit her and left her there, or she was placed there. That's why I'd like to support other families."

Quenelle, who wore a red and black ribbon skirt and later stood in line to have a red hand painted across her face – the symbol for MMIP – said she wants people to

come together as a community and support each other.

"If you have someone missing, report it, so they can begin looking for them," she said.

Chris Mercier said it's important to draw the attention of the larger public to the issue.

"I heard about this event last year and I missed it because I was off camping," he said. "It's something that I don't think registers in the general public because it's so specific to Indigenous communities and the only way you're gonna get the public to be more aware of it is by having events like this and inviting them to hear the stories."

Much of the work of responding to a missing friend or relative falls on families, Freeman said.

"Families end up organizing searches, following up with agencies, getting information out, trying to figure out the jurisdiction, time or resources, advocating for their loved one and pushing for answers, while they are already scared or grieving or going through hell," she said. "That should never be normalized, but it is."

Freeman said the walk is important, not just for raising awareness, but for building relationships among individuals, organizations and agencies.

"The walk itself is not going to solve anything," Freeman said. "But the relationships built here might make a difference later. A connection someone makes here today might become the person they call when a family needs something six months from now. A conversation that starts here might change the way something is handled later. Somebody may leave here understanding a part of this work that they didn't understand before." ■

STORY IDEAS?

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

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



WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Fund has given out \$104,507,314 in total

COMMUNITY FUND continued from front page

grants and five \$5,000 youth grant-making grants. The distribution brings the total amount given out by the program to \$104,507,314, spread among 3,533 grants.

Since grants have become more heavily sought after in the wake of federal cuts, Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie told the assembled program representatives, the Community Fund was only able to fund 9% of the small grant applicants and 5% of the large grant applicants.

“As a result, many outstanding projects could not be funded due to limited available revenue and increasing demand,” Schlappie said. “The board selected you all to be funded. Congratulations on your achievement. ... Your unwavering commitment makes a profound difference in the lives of many. We deeply appreciate your passion, resilience and the positive changes you foster each day.”

Schlappie also announced the name of the new grants coordinator, Miranda Rodriguez, hired to replace longtime former Grants Coordinator Jesse Knight, who retired at the end of August.

Amanda Garrison, program director for Forward Stride, an equestrian center that was one of the large grant recipients, told the audience that one of the several therapeutic programs the center offers is a six-week equine assisted learning program in partnership with Janus Youth Programs, held at MacLaren in Woodburn. It teaches the young men in the program horsemanship



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

With Love Oregon Executive Director Vennisa Gomez-Gerberg speaks about her nonprofit during Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s third-quarter check presentation in the Governance Center Atrium Wednesday, Sept. 2.

skills and eventually, how to ride the horses. The center offers a number of programs to the larger community, Garrison said, including physical and occupational therapy, speech therapy, mental health therapy, a vaulting team and a riding program, all assisted by numerous volunteers. Garrison said the center also partners with other organizations, including the Native American Rehabilitation Association, Shriners Children’s and others.

The grant from the Community Fund will specifically fund the MacLaren youth program started in 2019, Garrison said.

“We take horses to MacLaren and are able to provide services to those young men... we usually go for eight weeks,” she said.

“We take two horses and a few staff members, and we teach horsemanship skills, so they learn all the skills on the ground and then toward the end, they are also able to ride. They’re not only learning those horse skills, they’re also learning some social and life skills as well: Communication, teamwork, confidence and they’re able to build a relationship with their equine partners and the staff at Forward Stride.”

Garrison said she has participated in some of the MacLaren

groups.

“It’s really rewarding to see the difference; you know when we first get there, some of the youth are pretty apprehensive or unwilling to participate, maybe even afraid of the horses and by the end, they’ve really come a long way,” she said. “They’ve created a bond with that horse and you can tell it’s a really important thing to them.”

Vennisa Gomez-Gerberg, executive director of With Love Oregon, one of the small grant recipients, told the group that her agency provides necessities for families caring for foster children from newborns to 6 years old. The program serves residents throughout Oregon and southwest Washington, and provides clothing, car seats, toys, cribs, shoes, books and more. Foster children often arrive on short notice, at all hours, with few belongings.

Gomez-Gerberg said she was in foster care as a small child and later adopted. As an adult, she became a foster mother to her young nieces in 2008.

With Love Oregon had not yet opened its doors at the time, she said, and she vividly remembers the panic of scrambling to prepare.

“When I got the call, I had actually just gotten laid off from the mortgage industry and so we were kind of in a bit of chaotic season, where we didn’t know what our finances were going to look like,” she said. “We had three children already and now we just woke up to two more children and I’ve got three children under the age of 3. I have to get my house ready, I have to make sure they have the clothing, the bedrooms and all that situated, within two weeks, because I’m also going through getting certified (as a foster parent).”

Today, Gomez-Gerberg said, foster parents can apply for help online from With Love and a volunteer will gather the donated items for them to pick up.

“We try to make it as easy as possible,” she said. “When you’re coming into foster care, especially as a little one, you don’t have a lot of time to pack your favorite stuffie and to get the clothes that fit. ... We know that children are coming

into foster care at all hours of the night, all hours of the day, and we want to make sure that they have what they need to be successful, to thrive and to be safe.”

The Community Fund drew names for beaded necklaces and a Tribal blanket to be given to the assembled representatives. Beaded necklaces were given to representatives from The Bridge Learning Community, Forward Stride, Todos Juntos Inc. and ABC House Inc.

A Tri-logoed blanket was given to the representative for Playworks Education Energized.

The following grants were awarded:

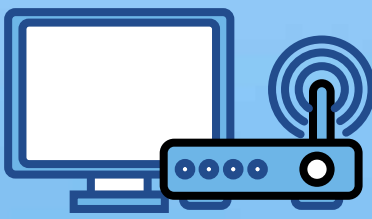
- Large grants**
- ABC House Inc. in Linn County, \$50,000, for vital care for children impacted by trauma and abuse;
 - Columbia Land Trust in Washington County, \$40,000, for restoring habitat along the Tualatin River at Rainbow Natural Area;
 - Forward Stride in Marion County, \$11,130, for Pathway to Resilience, growth and healing for incarcerated youth through its equestrian program;
 - Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency Inc. in Polk County, \$50,000, for building career pathways for rural youth at Carson Commons and beyond;
 - Oregon State University Foundation in Benton County, \$50,000, for New Beginnings for Tribal Students;
 - Sheridan AllPrep Academy in Yamhill County; \$50,000, for Rooted Together – building a sustainable early learning system;
 - Todos Juntos Inc. in Clackamas County, \$50,000, for academic supports for rural economically-disadvantaged youth;
 - Willamina School District in Yamhill County, \$100,000, for land to table; Bulldog culinary and hospitality lab.
- Small grants**
- Boxes of Love Project Inc. in Multnomah County, \$7,500, for Stability From The Start; support for Native and rural foster children;
 - Camp Starlight Commission in Clackamas County, \$7,000, for Camp Starlight 2026;
 - Kindred Partners in Washington County, \$7,500, for Safe Families for Children community-based stabilization program;
 - Lane Arts Council in Lane County, \$7,500, for Pathways in Design, launching youth into creative careers;
 - p:ear Programs Education, Art, Recreation in Multnomah County, \$7,500, for empowering homeless youth to lead healthier lives;
 - Playworks Education Energized in Yamhill County, \$7,200, for reducing conflict and increasing academic readiness at Willamina Elementary School;
 - The Bridge Learning Community in Yamhill County, \$6,000, for Makerspace and No School Day STEM classes;
 - With Love Oregon in Multnomah County, \$7,500, for strengthening community for children impacted by foster care. ■



WIFI HOTSPOTS



Now available for checkout at the Grand Ronde Tribal Library



For patrons without access to reliable internet, 5 Verizon hotspots have been made available for checkout.

Patrons must be 18 years or older, have a Grand Ronde Tribal Library card and have their library account in good standing.

FOR ADDITION INFORMATION CONTACT THE LIBRARY AT 503-879-1488

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. ■

CULTURAL EDUCATION

PLANT AND ANIMAL GATHERING DAYS

TUESDAYS

~~9/8~~

9/15

9/22

9/29

RSVP REQUIRED

BEGINS AT 9am

ENDS AROUND 4pm

We will be heading out into the land each day to gather cultural plant and animal materials and process them for traditional use.

To RSVP or for more infomration

contact: CULTURALEDCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG



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- Eagle Feather Permits
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10AM-2PM
During Food Box Distribution

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

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

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Walking On...

Cherie Lucille Butler

July 11, 1941 – Aug. 27, 2026

Tribal Elder Cherie Lucille Butler (Petite) took her journey home Aug. 27, 2026, at the age of 85 in Grand Ronde.

She was born on July 11, 1941, in McMinnville, to Rebecca (Brandon) and James Petite.

Cherie enjoyed a varied career in food service, working at Nanich Youth Treatment Center, the Boys & Girls Club Bingo (now B&G Bingo) and Chemawa Indian School, all in Salem. She was active within the Tribal community of Grand Ronde, volunteering at the food bank, serving on the Elder Committee and volunteering at Tribal elections. Cherie loved to help and volunteer wherever she could and the community lost a true steward when she left us.

She was loved by everyone who met her and cared for her in her final years. She had a passion for red lipstick and red nail polish. She also loved Elvis’ music, insisting on dancing her way through life. Cherie was known for her love of board and card games, especially bingo, canasta and dominoes. Cherie had a true love for baking pies and bread, and her favorite hobby of shopping.

Cherie was preceded in death by both parents and two siblings, Patricia Sears (Petite) and Lesley Reynolds. She is survived by her two daughters, LaDonna Stepp (Butler) and Jennifer Butler; one sister, Irma Hernandez; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held Wednesday, Sept. 2, in the Tribal gym, with a meal at the Elders Activity Center afterward.

A private graveside service was held Thursday, Sept. 3, for family. West Valley Funeral Home in Sheridan assisted the family.



Gary Bruce Hudson

April 5, 1964 – Aug. 24, 2026

Tribal Elder Gary Bruce Hudson passed away Aug. 24, 2026, at the age of 66.

St. John Funeral Home in Bedford, Ohio, is assisting the family. Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Eva P. Weaver

Jan. 6, 1949 – Aug. 22, 2026

Tribal Elder Eva P. Weaver passed away Aug. 22, 2026, at the age of 77. Hennessey Funeral Home in Spokane, Washington, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Sheila Jo Keene

March 19, 1970 – Aug. 5, 2026

Tribal Elder Sheila Jo Keene passed away Aug. 5, 2026, at the age of 56. A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at the Tribal Cemetery, with a meal to follow at the Tribal Community Center. Bollman’s Tribute Center is assisting the family.

Danny Lynn Jeffers

July 31, 1949 – Aug. 31, 2026

Tribal Elder Danny Lynn Jeffers passed away Aug. 31, 2026, at the age of 77.

Groulx Family Mortuary in Rainier, Oregon, is assisting the family. Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Shannon D. Parazoo

June 18, 1963 – Sept. 2, 2026

Tribal Elder Shannon D. Parazoo passed away Sept. 2, 2026, at the age of 63.

Cascade Cremation & Burial in Klamath Falls is assisting the family. Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Tina Jo Grout

Nov. 10, 1960 – Sept. 2, 2026

Tribal Elder Tina Jo Grout passed away Sept. 2, 2026, at the age of 65. Macy & Son Funeral Directors of McMinnville is assisting the family. Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

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 – 4 PM | 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

2026

gathering of

GRAND RONDE

tilixam

Belonging • Mastery • Interdependence • Generosity

A space for community connection, honoring culture, identity and wisdom while addressing trauma, healing & more

October 6th - 8th 8:30-4 pm
at the Chachalu Gymnasium

Scan to register!

For more information
Please call 503-879-1990



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Saturday, Aug. 1

- Officers responded to a report of underage drinking at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a warrant search in the Grand Ronde area.
- Officers responded to a two-vehicle crash near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, Aug. 2

- Officers responded to a single-vehicle crash near milepost 19 on Highway 18.
- A hit-and-run was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Aug. 3

- Possible drugs were found near the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Grand Ronde area for a possible domestic disturbance.
- Citizen contact occurred along Highway 18.

Tuesday, Aug. 4

- Officers responded to the Noble Oaks area regarding a possible wildland fire.
- A driving complaint was reported in the area of Grand Ronde and Hebo roads.
- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Willamina area with a reported disturbance.
- Possible intoxicated driving was reported near Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.

Wednesday, Aug. 5

- A violation of a no-contact order occurred near the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a single-vehicle crash on Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a welfare check near Highway 18 and Highway 22.
- Officers assisted with a death notification near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, Aug. 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency in the Willamina area with a domestic disturbance.
- Officers responded to a report of an injured elk on Yamhill River Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near Highway 22.

Friday, Aug. 7

- A welfare check occurred near Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road.
- A DUI arrest occurred near milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- Trespassing was reported near the 8800 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Saturday, Aug. 8

- A single-vehicle crash occurred near milepost 17 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash near Gooseneck Road.
- A possible disabled vehicle blocking the roadway was reported near milepost 22 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred near the 28000 block of McPherson Road.
- Burglary was reported at the 7000 block of Alvord Alley.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash near A Ackerson and Grand Ronde roads.
- Possible drugs were found near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, Aug. 9

- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with domestic disturbance in the Sheridan area.
- Officers responded to the Big Buck Campground area for a reported self-inflicted gunshot wound. Officers assisted medical personnel and escorted the ambulance to the Life Flight landing zone for transport.
- A domestic disturbance was reported near Agency Creek Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with possible fuel theft in the Willamina area.

Monday, Aug. 10

- Officers assisted an outside agency with warrant arrest in the Sheridan area.
- A follow-up occurred on a fraud investigation near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Possible theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A disabled vehicle was reported near milepost 18 on Highway 18.
- Trespassing was reported near milepost 24 on Hebo Road.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

- A domestic disturbance was reported near the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, Aug. 12

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a DUI in the Sheridan area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance near the 28000 block of McPherson Road.

Thursday, Aug. 13

- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in the Grand Ronde area.

Friday, Aug. 14

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported physical fight in the Grand Ronde area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near milepost 26 on Highway 18.

Saturday, Aug. 15

- A theft investigation was tied to a vehicle found near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred at the uyxat Powwow Grounds.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a report of threats near the 28000 block of A Ackerson Road.

Sunday, Aug. 16

- Domestic violence was reported near the 24000 block of Coyote Court.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An abandoned vehicle was found crashed near milepost 23 on Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with multiple individuals fighting in the Sheridan area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an arrest at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Aug. 17

- Officers assisted an outside agency with warrant service in the Willamina area.
- A vehicle versus bicyclist crash occurred near Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- A welfare check occurred in the Grand Ronde area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in the Hebo Road area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with another reported domestic disturbance in the Hebo Road area.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

- Found property was located at the uyxat Powwow Grounds.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 24 on Hebo Road.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

- No calls

Thursday, Aug. 20

- A warrant arrest occurred near Hebo Road.
- An intoxicated person was found in a ditch on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an assault investigation in the Willamina area.
- An unoccupied vehicle was reported near Yamhill River Road and Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred on a narrow portion of Highway 18 and transport to a safer location was provided.

Friday, Aug. 21

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic violence call in the Grand Ronde area.
- A broken-down vehicle was reported near Fort Hill Road. A courtesy ride was given.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a wanted individual in the Grand Ronde area.

Saturday, Aug. 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency with an arrest in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with reported domestic disturbance in the Sheridan area.
- Trespassing was reported near milepost 24 on Hebo Road.

Sunday, Aug. 23

- A vehicle with a damaged tire was reported near Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.

See POLICE LOG
continued on page 15



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



POLICE LOG
continued from page 14

Monday, Aug. 24

- A reckless driver was reported on Highway 22.
- Citizen contact occurred on Highway 18 for a broken-down vehicle. A courtesy ride was given.
- A driving complaint was reported near Hebo Road.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

- Officers assisted an outside agency with report of six individuals fighting in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with reported assault near the Ballston Road area.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance in the Grand Ronde area.

Wednesday, Aug. 26

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance near Agency Creek Road.
- Citizen contact occurred near Willamina Pond after two vehicles were observed in the area after hours.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an arrest in the Willamina area.
- Officers assisted with traffic control during a large fire in Willamina.

Thursday, Aug. 27

- Theft was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a welfare check in Willamina.
- A DUII arrest occurred near milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- An unconscious and unresponsive individual was found near the 7400 block of Alvord Alley.
- Officers provided transportation to an individual who was walking along Highway 18 after dark.

Friday, Aug. 28

- Reckless driving was reported near Yamhill River Road and Highway 18.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18.

- Theft was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, Aug. 29

- Citizen contact occurred near Grand Ronde Road and Salmon River Highway.
- An intoxicated person was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a possible stabbing near Sheridan City Park.
- A trespassing violation occurred at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An intoxicated person was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a warrant arrest at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Theft was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, Aug. 30

- Suspicious activity involving a vehicle and its occupants was reported near the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers investigated a vehicle at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported near milepost 5 on Highway 18.
- A driving complaint was reported near milepost 6 on Highway 18.
- A disabled vehicle was reported blocking the eastbound lane near milepost 1 on Highway 18B.
- Officers assisted regional law enforcement with a reported homicide in the West Salem area.

Monday, Aug. 31

- A welfare check occurred near the 28600 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency near milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- A 911 hang-up call occurred near the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

*Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police
Department Officer Prommisse Thornley*

Take our survey and be entered to win a Smoke Signals T-shirt

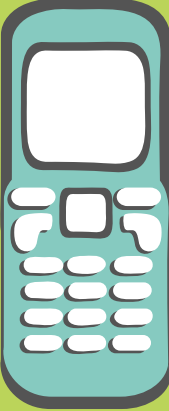
*Five total T-shirts will be given away.

Scan the QR code below to participate.



smokesignals.org





On Fridays you will receive a message about mental health, a social emotional tip or a simple quote or message of encouragement.

Text JOIN to
(971) 318-3459



TERO Worker of the Month August 2026

Name: Jesse Levi Peone
Employer: Wildish Standard Paving
Position: Superintendent

Jesse Levi Peone joined the Tribal Employment Rights Office program in June of 2017, when he attended the first ever TERO recruitment event at the Tribe’s Portland office. At that time, he was referred out to Wildish Standard Paving company on the I-5 Deck Rehab project in Portland as a general laborer with very few skills in the trade.

In 2018, he joined the laborer’s union, and from there he excelled in the trades. He has done all forms of bridge work, dirt work and also ADA replacement ramps. Jesse also obtained his traffic control supervisor certification and journeyed out as a laborer.

In 2022, Jesse was promoted to a foreman position and in 2025 was again promoted, but this time to a superintendent role. Jesse is still a very loyal employee to Wildish Standard Paving.

TERO is very proud to announce Jesse as our August 2026 TERO Worker of the Month. Jesse has been selected not only for his great work ethic and devotion to his employer, but also for representing the Grand Ronde TERO program in a good way.

Congratulations Jesse, keep up the good work.

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



Jesse Levi Peone



MIND READERS

Brain Health & Story Circle

JOIN US
1st & 3rd Tuesdays

10:00 - 11:30 AM
or
3:30 - 5:00 PM

CHACHALU GYM
8720 Grand Ronde Rd
Grand Ronde, OR

RSVP
Community Health
503-879-2078

A welcome gathering focused on brain health, memory, connections, books, and shared experiences.

Spouses, care providers, family members, and individuals experiencing memory changes are welcome - including new participants.



BRAIN HEALTH



FREE BOOKS
(for CTGR members)



CONVERSATION



COMMUNITY

*The Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided financial support for this project, and work associated with the Brain Health Program. The award provided 100% of total costs associated with this handbook. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of IHS, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2027

Name (as desired on memorial):		DOB:	
Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Phone:		Gender: Male/Female (Circle)	
Rank:	Branch:	Honorable: Yes/No (Circle)	
DOE:		Place of entry:	
DOS:		Place of seperation:	
Deceased: Yes/No (Circle)		Place of burial:	
CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle)		If Tribal, Roll#	

*All applicants must submit a copy of their DD214. If applicant is deceased, a family member or spouse can submit a copy of their DD214. If you are a CTGR Tribal member please attach a copy of your Tribal ID. If you are non-Tribal please attach a copy of a bill/record with your name and address showing you had lived or now reside in Grand Ronde, Willamina or Sheridan. Please send application and all documents to Grand Ronde Veterans SEB, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. If you have any questions, please contact Chelsea Clark at 503-879-1418 or e-mail: publicaffairs@grandronde.org

Any applications received after January 15, 2027, will be kept on file for inclusion to the Memorial in 2028.

Tribe offering support to incarcerated members

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

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

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

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



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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apply online at: www.grandronde.org/government/employment

CTGR EMPLOYMENT

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Accounting Clerk	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
After Care Educator – Early Childhood Education	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Barista Trainee – Limited Duration	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Medical Assistant – Communicable Disease – Public Health – Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	09/14/2026
College Intern/Aide – Early Childhood Education	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Elder Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	09/07/2026
Financial Wellness Coordinator	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Firefighter/EMT	10	\$61,901.69/yr.	\$79,848.88/yr.	09/07/2026
Groundskeeper	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	09/14/2026
Housekeeper	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	09/07/2026
Infant/Toddler Teacher Entry Level – Limited Duration	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	09/07/2026
Legal Assistant	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Lodge Caregiver – Full-Time, Part-Time and On-Call	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Maintenance Technician – Facilities	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Paraoptometric	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	09/14/2026
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
Radiologic Technologist	10	\$29.75/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Full-Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	09/07/2026
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

Clinic Manager – Salem Detox – GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
Cook - Weekends Only – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Driver – Sheridan – GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	24.07/hr.	09/07/2026
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem OTP - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Mental Health Counselor – Sheridan - GCR	12	\$74,901.04/yr.	\$96,316.53/yr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem OTP – GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	09/14/2026
Milieu Safety Technician – Portland - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Physician Assistant – Salem OTP - GCR	20	\$151,691.92/yr.	\$205,141.88/yr.	Until Filled

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) 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, current regular CTGR employees, enrolled members of other Indian Tribes, and Veterans
Tier 3: External candidates and current Spirit Mountain Casino employees not falling within tier 1 or tier 2

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde offers generous benefits and competitive pay.
Postings are open until filled and will be removed without notice.

For application assistance or questions, email Employmentteam@grandronde.org or call (503) 879-2109.

Every Child Matters Jam

October 3rd 2026
Doors open at 4:30
Dinner will be served at 5:00PM

Achaf-Hammi Plankhouse, 9600 Hebo Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97396

Please join us to recognize indigenous heritage and ensure a bright future for every child. There will be dinner, traditional songs and dance, and raffles.

STRONG People

STRONG BODIES

OSU Health Extension Service

Pleas join us for an introductory luncheon on October 6th, 2026 from 12:00-1:00pm at the Cheryle Kennedy Public Health Building. We will be talking about our upcoming strength trainig class and answering any questions you may have. We will be hosting a strength training exercise class at the Chachalu Museum starting the second week in October. Diabetes Prevention is partnering with OSU Health Extension to bring Strong People Strong Bodies to our community. Research shows that we loss more muscle mass as we age. It has been show that lifting even a small amount of weights can help prevent further loos and increase your muscle strength.

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO CAREERS

POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Bar Porter	9/18/26	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Hotel Front Desk Clerk/Night Auditor	9/18/26	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Sports Bar Buspersion (*Part-Time)	9/18/26	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Assistant Banquet Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Assistant Food and Beverage Manager	Until Filled	\$48,329.22/yr. DOE
Baker	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Bartender	Until Filled	\$16.50/hr. + Tips
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr.
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	\$18.55/hr.
Host/Hostess Cashier (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pastry Chef	Until Filled	DOE
Player Services Representative I	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Prep Cook (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer – Multi-Game (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. + Tips

\$1,000 Hire-On Bonus All Positions
\$500 Referral Bonus SMC 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.



Watchlist: ‘The Good Canadian’ trailer

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

By Kamiah Koch
Social media/ digital journalist

Earlier in the summer, the Indigenous Journalists Association held the first U.S. screening of the 2025 documentary, “The Good Canadian.” This film explores Canada’s history of injustices towards Indigenous communities and how those practices still exist today.

The documentary begins with real footage of a baby being forcefully removed from a First Nations mother who has just given birth and is recovering in the hospital. Based on the mother’s cries, there was a plan in place for the child’s safety, but Canadian Child and Family Services still intervened, going against the reunification law written in Canada’s Bill C-92.

“They always had solutions and they chose not to implement those solutions,” Canadian Activist Cindy Blackstock said in the documentary trailer. “It was a conscience choice.”

Firsthand-account interviews with Indigenous people, experts in law and police officials paint a stark reality of what continues to occur at the hands of the Canadian government.

“There are more Indigenous children in foster care now than at the height of residential schools and the Sixties Scoop (a period from the late 1950s to the 1980s when Canadian child welfare authorities removed thousands of Indigenous children from their families and communities) so something is broken and needs to be fixed,” another voice said in the trailer.

A different interview with the former police official describes the suspicious circumstances around a young Indigenous person’s death and others like it.

The documentary concludes with a message emphasizing the importance of national recognition of these injustices in order for change to occur.

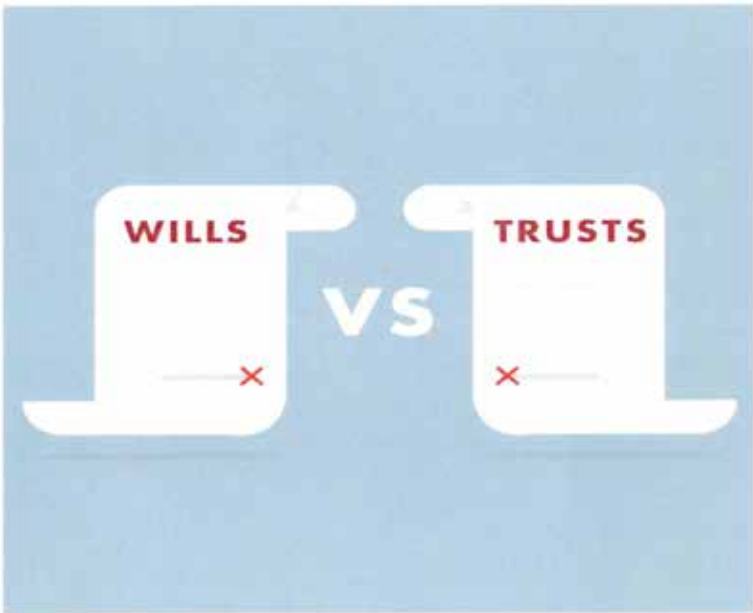
“The moment the headlines die, the children do too,” Blackstock said. “What Canadians need to do is not turn the page.”

One of the directors of the film, Leena Minifie, was present at the documentary screening held in Portland Thursday, July 23, and hosted a question-and-answer session afterward.

Minifie told Smoke Signals they are still working on sharing this film in the states, but it is currently available on the CBC network. You can watch the trailer for the documentary on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFiB4wNyQWg. ■



ATTENTION TRIBAL ELDERS!!



Willamette Law Presentation

When: September 18th, 2026

Where: Elders Activity Center

Time: 11:00

Start with your Durable Power of Attorney, Advanced Directive & HIPPA. Then be assigned a Law Student to create your own Will or Trust free of charge for Tribal Elders & Spouses only.

CALL 503-879-2145

For more information if voicemail is reached, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

2026--2027 BACK TO SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

YOUTH EDUCATION IS NOW OPENING THE “BACK TO SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM” FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR! THIS PROGRAM IS OFFERED TO ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBER STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE IN THE FALL OF 2026, AND SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH IN ACQUIRING NECESSARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WILL BE ISSUED A ONE-TIME \$150 WALMART GIFT CARD TO BE USED TOWARDS SCHOOL SUPPLIES OR SCHOOL CLOTHING. WHILE APPLICANTS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE RECEIPT(S), ALL APPLICANTS ARE SUBJECT TO AUDIT AND MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE RECEIPTS AT A LATER DATE.

REGISTRATION OPENS TODAY AND WILL BE A ROLLING APPLICATION THAT REMAINS OPEN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30TH. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO THREE WEEKS AFTER THE DATE OF SUBMISSION TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS AND DISTRIBUTE YOUR GIFT CARD. PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUTH EDUCATION AT 503-879-2101 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

SIGN UP HERE:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/RGY553QRD5P1BUNF9](https://forms.gle/RGY553QRD5P1BUNF9)



ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)

To *Add Your Name:

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

To Recieve:

- ✓ Benefits information & updates
- ✓ Event invitations
- ✓ Veteran recognitions

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

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

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

CTGRTribalTVSO@GrandRonde.Org



TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS



Grand Ronde Health and Wellness

Salem Primary Care

Quality care. Close to home.

When you need it.

SICK TODAY? WE'RE HERE!

Call **503-983-9970** to schedule a same day care appointment!

WE CAN HELP WITH:

Cough, runny nose, body aches

Minor Injuries

Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

Earaches, Sore Throat, Rashes & More

General Illness & Not Feeling Well

YOUR HEALTH.

OUR COMMUNITY.

Together, we thrive.

SAME DAY CARE AVAILABLE

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT • GET SEEN • FEEL BETTER

◆ ◆ ◆

Open Tuesday through Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness
Salem Primary Care Clinic

Located at: 1011 Commercial St. NE Salem, Oregon

(503) -983-9970

Great Circle Recovery has updated hours, mobile dosing services

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

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

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

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

Medical Transport Services

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

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



Service offered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building





Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Becky Johnson

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

Contact Details

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

YOUR AMAZING BRAIN

FOUR WEEKS. FOUR EXPERIENCES. ONE HEALTHIER BRAIN

PLUS: WALK WITH US ON SEPT. 27TH!

WEEK 1 * SEPT 2

CREATIVE CONNECTION

Learn to draw with pastels by M. P. Levels. Lunch 12:30-2:00PM • CHERYL A KENNEDY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

WEEK 2 * SEPT 9

BRAIN POWER JEOPARDY

Play brain b... without the... individually or as... prize!

12:30-1:30 PM • EAC

WEEK 3 * SEPT 16

BRAIN BEATS

Join us for a brain boosting rhythm challenge! Grab a boomwhacker tube, follow your color, and whack your way through familiar songs, laughing all the way. No musical experience required.

12:30-1:30 PM • EAC

WEEK 4 * SEPT 30

BRAIN & BODY IN BALANCE

Discover how gentle Tai Chi movements can support balance, coordination, and brain health. Participate standing or seated. No experience needed.

12:30-1:30 PM • EAC

BONUS

WALK WITH US TO END ALZHEIMER'S ON SEPT. 27TH

SCAN FOR WALK DETAILS

CONNECT • COLLECT • WIN

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING

ATTEND EACH WEEKLY EVENT TO EARN 1 TICKET TOWARD OUR GRAND PRIZE DRAWING. JOINING THE WALK EARN YOU 5!

CONTACT COMMUNITY HEALTH FOR MORE DETAILS 503-879-2078

*The Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services (IHS) provided financial support for this project, and work associated with the Brain Health Program. The award provided 100% of total costs associated with this booklet. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of IHS, HHS, or the U.S. Government.



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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