



Tribal Council
swearing-in
ceremony — pg. 9



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

OCTOBER 1, 2026

Tribe's lands bill introduced in Congress

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

Oregon congressional members Sen. Jeff Merkley and Rep. Andrea Salinas introduced legislation in Congress, Thursday, Sept. 17, marking the next step in an effort for the Tribe to reclaim ancestral lands and rebuild its reservation.

If approved, the Grand Ronde Land Transfer Act would transfer approximately 18,626 acres of federal land in the Siuslaw National Forest to the Tribe.

The lands, currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service and located near the Grand Ronde Reservation, would more than double the approximately 16,000 acres the Tribe currently manages for forestry, recreation and wildlife conservation.

The transfer would help the Tribe continue rebuilding its reservation, economy and community following Restoration in 1983.

"This bill rights a historic wrong for the Grand Ronde who have worked tirelessly to return a just fraction of its ancestral territory," Oregon Rep. Val Hoyle said in a press release. "The Grand Ronde Tribe are experts in sustainable forestry management and Indigenous ecology. They are the best stewards of these federal forest lands and will continue to do so for all Oregonians, as they have done since time immemorial."

The Tribe's Natural Resources Department manages Tribal lands and includes programs for forestry, fish and wildlife, recreation, silvi-

See LANDS
continued on page 6

Haller, Leno re-elected, Atanacio clinches third seat



Lisa Leno



Matthew Haller



Valeria Atanacio

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Incumbents Lisa Leno and Matthew Haller, as well as third-time Tribal Council candidate Valeria Atanacio, won victories in the Tribal Council election Saturday, Sept. 12.

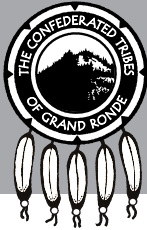
Leno garnered more than 21% of the vote, Atanacio received 20.26% and Haller received 20.23%.

The total number of votes were 752 for Leno, 721 for Atanacio and 720 for Haller.

The other candidates, former Tribal Council member Denise Harvey, Christopher Bailey and Pamala Warren-Chase, received 557 votes (15.65%), 498 votes (13.99%) and 311 votes (8.74%), respectively.

"I want to thank our membership for believing in and trusting me to continue representing our

See ELECTION
continued on page 8



Election results

Sept. 12, 2026

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL

Lisa Leno	752
Valeria Atanacio	721
Matthew Haller	720
Denise Harvey	557
Chris Bailey	498
Pamala Warren-Chase	311

Graphic by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe honors employees with service awards

Tribal Employment
Specialist Brandy
Hembree is
congratulated by
Tribal Council Vice
Chair Jon A. George as
she's recognized for
22 years of working
for the Tribe during
the third-quarter
service awards in the
Tribal gym Thursday,
Sept. 17.

Photo by Michelle Alaimo



By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe treated employees to breakfast Thursday, Sept. 17, to present the third-quarter years of service awards, honoring 35 employees for a collective 916 years of service.

A breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, fruit salad, bacon and sausage was provided at the Tribal gym, followed by games with cash prizes, before the schedule moved to honoring the employees.

"All of this is about our employees and the services you provide," Tribal

Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy told the assembled employees in her welcome speech. "I am grateful you took time out of your lives to come and work for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. ... My heart is overflowing today."

Kennedy made special note of several departments, starting with the Tribe's Emergency Services and Wildland firefighters, noting they "are not helping the Tribe but also others."

Kennedy also called out staff who

See AWARDS
continued on page 10

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, Oct. 14.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 28.....	4 p.m.

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

LETTERS

Dear Smoke Signals,

Congratulations to those who were elected to Tribal Council. I sincerely wish each of you success as you take on the responsibility of representing our Tribe. I hope you will always remember that the people who vote for you, and the people who vote against you, are all part of the same Tribal family. Although I did not win a seat, I do not consider my campaign a failure.

I had the opportunity to listen to our Tribal members. I heard their hopes, their concerns, their frustrations and their ideas for the future. Those conversations meant more to me than any campaign sign, vote count or title ever could.

I believe service is not something that begins when you take an oath of office and it does not end when an election is over. There are many ways to serve our people and I intend to continue looking for those opportunities.

To everyone who supported me, encouraged me, shared my campaign information, talked with me, challenged my ideas or simply took the time to vote, thank you. You gave me something that no election result can take away: the privilege of being heard and the opportunity to stand up for what I believe is important to our community.

I hope that regardless of who you supported, we can continue to talk to one another, listen to one another and work together.

Three campaigns have taught me something important. You can lose an election without losing your purpose. My love for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is not dependent upon holding a seat at the council table. My commitment to our people is not dependent upon winning a vote.

I am still here.
I am still listening.
And I am still willing to serve.

Our Tribe has a proud history, a strong presence and a future that belongs to all of us. I hope we can put elections behind us, come together as one Tribal family, and concentrate on building that future for our children, our grandchildren and the generations who will follow.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you in the way I have. Thank you for allowing me to try. And most of all, thank you for reminding me that being part of this Tribe is about much more than any one election.

With respect and gratitude,
Pamala Warren-Chase
Roll No. 1081

TRIBAL OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 12, in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day.

Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, Oct. 7.....	Oct. 15	Indigenous Journalists Association
Tuesday, Oct. 20.....	Nov. 1	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Wednesday, Nov. 4.....	Nov. 15	2022 IJA General Excellence
Monday, Nov. 16.....	Dec. 1	2023 IJA General Excellence

EDITORIAL POLICY

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa atqi)

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.
- Saturday, Oct. 17 – Tribal plankhouse achaf-hammi’s 17th birthday celebration. Doors open at 4 p.m. and a meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Contact bobby.mercier@grandronde.org or 503-879-2076.
- Wednesday, Oct. 28 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

taʔlam-pi-ixt-mun (**November**)

- Sunday, Nov. 1 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Nov. 11 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.
- Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, Nov. 22 – 43rd Restoration Day celebration. More information will be shared when it is available.
- Monday, Nov. 23 to Friday, Nov. 27, Tribal offices closed for Restoration Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

To stay informed of future Tribal events, visit www.smokesignals.org/calendar.

Tribal Council approves new vice chair, secretary

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

With just a week passing between meetings, Tribal Council had a fairly light agenda on Wednesday, Sept. 16, with only a few action items.

The shorter one-week period between meetings occurred because Tribal Council traditionally holds a meeting after new members are sworn into office.

Earlier in the day, incumbents Lisa Leno and Matthew Haller, and third-time challenger Valeria Atanacio were sworn in for new three-year terms after taking the top three spots in the Saturday, Sept. 12, election.

During the meeting, council approved new officers. Jon A. George will be the vice chair and Tonya Gleason-Shepek will serve as secretary. Cheryle A. Kennedy will remain in her role as chairwoman.

“Now that we have our officers in place, I’m glad to move forward,” Kennedy said.

In other news, council:

- Approved a memorandum of understanding with Yamhill County. Under the agreement, the Tribe agrees to provide crisis intervention through the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center during regular business hours, while Yamhill County will provide these services during evenings, weekends and holidays. The MOU also outlines coordination procedures, including further steps when individuals are stable and follow up communication required within one business day when Yamhill County responds to a Tribal member in crisis;
- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for a downloaded, culturally adapted American Diabetes Association education program;
- And approved reappointing Victoria Ernst, Tobias Read and Martha Schrader to the Spirit Mountain Community Fund Board of Trustees with terms ending Sept. 30, 2028.

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

Nonemergency text

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

“If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line,” said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. “When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time.”

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

Find us on



OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

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

Grand Ronde Royalty:
facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty

Grand Ronde Education Programs:
facebook.com/CTGREducation

Grand Ronde Youth Council:
facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil

Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

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

Grand Ronde Cultural Education:
facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education

Grand Ronde Community Garden:
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Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:
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Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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

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 October 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 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14. 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 — The Tribe celebrated the beginning of onsite work at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill in Oregon City with a private demolition event. Attendees watched as an excavator removed insulation and aluminum siding from an onsite building. “This (property purchase) opened up the door for us to partner



2021 File photo

with other local governments and tell the story of our people in this area,” Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier said. “This is a crown jewel of one of the goals, to reflect the values and mission of this Tribe.”

2016 — The Tribal Education Department teamed up with the SMART (Start Making Readers Today) reading program and sought volunteer readers to work with students in Grand Ronde and Willamina schools. Tribal Early Education Manager Angie Blackwell said participating students would receive two free books a month, allowing them to build their own libraries. Program Manager Michael Finlay said the program planned to serve all 70 students at Tribal Head Start and 20 students in Willamina.

2011 — Smoke Signals ran a feature celebrating the life of the Tribe’s eldest Tribal Elder, Nora Kimsey, who walked on Sept. 7, 2011, at the age of 102. At the time of her passing, she had 103 direct descendants and was an aunt to 200 to 300 people. Kimsey was the youngest of Cecille Leno Warren and John M. Warren’s 14 children. She married Loren Kimsey in 1929 and they were married for more than 70 years until Loren walked on in 2000. “She led by example,” grand-niece Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “She left footprints for those around her to follow.”

2006 — The Spirit Mountain Community Fund created advertisements including billboards, flyers and a television commercial to promote its new direction of providing greater support to surrounding communities. “The money is now being invested throughout 11 counties rather than just the Portland/Metro area,” Community Fund Director Shelley Hanson said. The commercial featured Tribal Elders Leon “Chips” Tom and Ed Pearsall and Tribal members Jackie Provost, Reina Nelson and Leland “Brother” Butler.

2001 — The Tribe received a \$193,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans to implement Tribal youth Chinuk Wawa lessons. The Grand Ronde Preschool Language Curriculum and Training Project began that fall, with a planned daily four-hour morning immersion session. Other activities, including picnics, potlucks and weekend excursions, would give parents opportunities to learn alongside their children.

1996 — The Tribe hosted a community health fair at Grand Ronde Elementary School that provided 60 immunizations to children in the community, 400 fingerprint identifications, information on substance abuse and disability and safety awareness. Law enforcement officers also shared information about community safety with students. Portland Trail Blazers radio announcer and Oregon Life Flight Network spokesman Bill Schonely attended by helicopter, signing autographs and allowing students to tour the aircraft.

1991 — Construction of the Community Center was underway and on track for completion in February 1992. All sewer, water and electric utilities were installed in the underground portion of the project, with walls, the roof and some parking spaces set to begin construction in the following weeks.

1986 — Tribal Council members Merle Leno, Kathryn Harrison and Council Chairman Mark Mercier met with the Yamhill County Sportsman’s Association to provide an update on the Tribe’s reservation plan and hunting and fishing agreement. The Tribe was also awarded a contract extension for its reservation plan.

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

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. ■



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.

General Council briefed on emergency services and preparedness

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Emergency Services Assistant Fire Chief Torey Wakeland and Tribal Emergency Services Preparedness Coordinator Brandy Bishop gave the first presentation of the 2026-27 General Council meeting cycle Sunday, Sept. 13.

Wakeland started the presentation by giving a brief history of how emergency management evolved into emergency services.

“Prior to 2020, emergency management was the main focus and emergency services were provided by the West Valley Fire District,” he said. “They started experiencing some essential issues and in 2020, a five-year plan was developed for Grand Ronde to take over services from West Valley and start providing our own service to the area. That plan was incredibly expedited and switched to a 10-month implementation plan. So, there was a lot of stuff that had to be fast tracked to get things going and we were successful in doing so. That was taking place in 2021.”

By September 2021, the Tribe was providing both fire and emergency services throughout the West Valley Fire District area and in 2023, administrative services were added to that contract when the Tribe took over services at the fire station in Willamina. It provides complete emergency services in Grand Ronde and to Willamina through a contract.

Some highlights of Wakeland’s presentation included:

- Emergency Services external programs include emergency management, emergency medical services, fire suppression, technical rescue, wildfire deployments, community resiliency and a volunteer program. Internal programs include a training division, recruitment and retention, college student program (pilot phase), high school program (under development), CPR training, and health and wellness;
- Emergency Services has deployed to 15 fires this year, with the state reimbursing wages and equipment rental costs, and a total reimbursement of \$340,000 that will go to the general fund and \$260,000 that will go the enterprise fund.
- Emergency Services has responded to 1,300 calls, 85% of which were medical, and brought in \$600,000 in firefighting revenue and \$700,000 in annual ambulance revenue.

Bishop gave an update about emergency preparedness and resiliency 2026 accomplishments and priorities for 2027 and 2028.

“The overall direction is simple,” she said. “We are building CTGR’s ability to take care of our people, communicate when our normal systems are disrupted and recover effectively after an emergency.”

She added that most of the work this past year has focused on strengthening the foundation and the next step is turning that foundation into sustainable operational capability.

“Our goal is a prepared, connected and resilient Tribal community,” Bishop said.

Some highlights of her presentation include:

- In 2026, there was a major emergency operations plan updated, and the Tribe’s Early Childhood Education program and Youth Education strengthened their emergency planning. Emergency Services has also continued pursuing grant funding for emergency communications, community resilience, preparedness activities and other capacity building projects.
- In 2027 and 2028, the focus will be on building operational capacity capability by continuing to strengthen the Emergency Services station as a resilience center with better communications technology. Another major priority is increasing radio, HAM, satellite, Starlink, portable repeaters and interoperable systems, which will provide multiple communication methods if commercial systems fail. Training and preparedness exercises will continue to be critical.

After the approximate 20-minute presentation, Wakeland and Bishop answered seven questions from the membership.

“Thank you for your report, it was excellent,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “I appreciate all of the work that you do you and I really appreciated the youth that went through your program this summer, that was great.”

In other action, Tribal Election Board Chair Shannon Simi delivered the Tribal Council election results from Saturday, Sept. 12, that saw two incumbents – Matthew Haller and Lisa Leno – re-elected to three-year terms. Challenger Valeria Atanacio was elected to the third seat.

For more information on the results, see the Tribal Council

election story on the front page of this edition.

Kennedy thanked the Election Board members.

“I want to thank the Election Board for all of the hard work and the long day they had yesterday,” she said. “We also have our legal team who attend that and I’m glad that everyone was there. It’s a good team.”

Kennedy also expressed her appreciation for Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, who chose not to run for reelection after serving 21 years on council, from 2004 to 2013, and then 2014 to 2026.

“He has put in many years of service not only as the vice chair, but in different capacities,” she said. “He served as chair before and as secretary. Good job and I really appreciate your time, your attention and your ability to help us navigate through some very difficult times. I really appreciate you.”

Mercier said that he would be back at some point but was unsure when.

“I do love this job,” he said. “But there are some personal things I want to do that I’ve been putting on the back burner and stepping away 13 years ago did wonders for my mental health. ... I didn’t take the decision to not run lightly but I feel right about it and I’m happy to see new leadership come on board. I think the Tribe’s going to be OK.”

The next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, in Tribal Council chambers and on Zoom.

Leroy Good, Alicia Petite and Deborah Gilbert each won the \$100 door prizes. Stehpanie Shandy, Kim Contreras, Melissa Palanuk, Kyle Wilmot and Elvin Buter won the \$50 door prizes.

The meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribe’s website at www.grandronde.org and clicking 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.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



It's never too late to heal from addiction.

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



Opportunity for comment on 2027 Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Indian Housing Plan

Under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, NAHASDA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will provide grants to eligible Indian Tribes/Indian housing authorities for the development and operation of low-income housing in Indian areas. To be eligible for the grants, respondents must submit an Indian Housing Plan that meets the minimum requirements of the act and maintain records for HUD monitoring. The Tribe, through The Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department, has received multiple grants under this program, which were active during 2027.

Comments on the 2027 Indian Housing Plan may be obtained at the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department, 28450 Tyee Road, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, or by calling 503-879-2401 or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2401.

Comments must be submitted in writing to the Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Department no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. All comments will be incorporated into the final report submitted to HUD.

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. ■

Tribe plans for transfer

LANDS continued from front page

culture and wildland fire.

The Tribe plans to use its wildland fire program to strengthen fire protection and emergency response within and around the area of the proposed transfer, as well as maintain public and recreational access to the lands.

On Friday, Aug. 28, Tribal Council members Kathleen George and Toby McClary met with Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation member and Hoyle legislative assistant Kwani-Fawn Marcellay at the Tribe's Natural Resources offices.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Tribal officials to discuss the future of the bill with a member of Hoyle's staff and demonstrate the Tribe's forest-management practices.

During a Tuesday, Sept. 2, Legislative Action Committee meeting, George said Hoyle and her staff have been supportive of the bill and have helped the Tribe work toward its introduction and eventual passage.

George also said Marcellay provided the Tribe with insight into perspectives that congressional offices have heard from people who have opinions about the proposed land transfer.

"It's always helpful for us to get that perspective so we can better respond and answer any questions that people might have," George said. "We're very proud of our work. We know that we do amazing forest management."

George said the visit also gave the Tribe an opportunity to show Marcellay how its forest management practices differ from other approaches.

The Tribe has continued working with Oregon's congressional dele-

gation since several Tribal officials traveled to Washington, D.C., in late March to lobby for the land transfer.

McClary said the language of the bill had not changed since the March update and that the Tribe had anticipated its introduction would take place in September.

According to McClary, all of Oregon's congressional delegation have been involved and supportive of the land transfer.

Following introduction, the bill will go through the congressional committee process before it can move forward toward becoming law. The Senate bill, introduced by Merkley, was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

McClary said the Tribe has not received any concerns raised regarding the bill.

"I believe Rep. Hoyle's office is ready to help propel our bill in this current session and Kwani (and staff) are just waiting for the green light," he said.

George expressed pride in seeing Marcellay bring an Indigenous perspective to her work as a congressional staffer.

"It made me very proud to see her speaking very rooted in her Indigenous identity and letting people know that you can trust Tribes to manage their lands," George said. "We know how to do this, we've been doing it for thousands of generations."

George continued, "It made me feel good that those investments that the Spirit Mountain Community Fund is making in Native leadership really do an amazing job when they have that opportunity to both educate Congress about what it's like to live as an Indigenous person in this world but also to do the work of their congressional staff as well." ■

Updated beneficiary information to ensure timely timber payment

Tribal members are asked to keep updated beneficiary information on file to help ensure timber funds are distributed accurately.

To make changes, complete or update the timber beneficiary form electronically using the link below:

<https://weblink.grandronde.org/Forms/BeneficiarForMembership> ■

Tribal youth named Tribal Health Scholars

Two Grand Ronde Tribal youth have been named Tribal Health Scholars in a program run by the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence at Oregon Health and Science University.

The program is intended to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native health care providers and employees in related fields. It offers several programs, one of which is the Tribal Health Scholars award, which provides paid externships to high school students enrolled or descended from federally-recognized Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

Tribal Health Scholars is a partnership between Tribal communities, NNACoE and the Northwest Indian Health Board.

This year, Tribal members Ben Moore, who attends Willamina High School, and Tatiana Rodriguez Provost, who attends Cascade High School in Turner, were selected, along with 48 other students from among roughly 150 applicants, Tribal Health Scholars Coordinator Isaac Butler said. Both are seniors in high school.

Scholars receive a \$700 stipend for completing a virtual program and a \$600 stipend for completing clinical shadowing.

The virtual program is a 10-week online workshop in which students learn about the different healthcare fields and hear from guest speakers. They also receive a booklet to keep and 10 hours of clinical shadowing at local Tribal health clinics or hospitals. They also receive one-on-one and group mentoring.

Applications for 2027 will open in October. ■



Ben Moore



Tatiana Rodriquez Provost

yuṭqat-haws t'ṭap-san lu?lu

ACHAF
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CELEBRATES

17

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October 17th

-

4pm - Doors open

5:30pm - Meal

-

Information

Bobby Mercier - 503.879.2076

bobby.mercier@grandronde.org

tumwata village project moving rapidly

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

PORTLAND — After several years spent removing more than 40 of the 55 buildings left onsite by previous mills and enormous amounts of work to locate and remove or remediate underground storage tanks, the Tribe’s dream for tumwata village is moving forward rapidly, with the first section expected to open next summer.

On Thursday, Sept. 10, Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb and Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich gave a presentation to the Portland Metro Council to provide a project update and to ask for \$20 million for the third phase of the project, blocks three and four of the river walk.

The Tribe broke ground this summer on block one of what it intends to be a “modern Tribal village,” Svicarovich and Webb told the Metro councilors and construction is expected to be completed by June 2027. It will include 55 housing units and the first section of the riverwalk. Block two, which includes 85 housing units and the second section of the riverwalk, is in design, with ground breaking expected in summer 2027. The Tribe hopes to put out a call for bids on the design work for blocks three and four next June, Webb said.

Metro councilors voiced enthu-



Contributed graphic

Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb and Tribal Community Development Manager Kristen Svicarovich gave a presentation on tumwata village to the Portland Metro Council Thursday, Sept. 10. Block one, which will have commercial and residential space and a multi-use path paralleling Willamette River, is expected to be completed by June 2027.

siastic support for the project and said they intend to award the requested \$20 million this fall.

The Tribe is working closely with Oregon City, through an intergovernmental agreement and a joint advisory committee. The intention is for the Tribe to retain ownership of the land, but for Oregon City to operate and maintain the site, through a permanent easement, Scott Archer, parks and recreation director for Oregon City, said during the presentation.

Svicarovich noted that partnership was beneficial for both parties.

“It works out tremendously well, because the city has the skills and expertise to maintain and operate it on a daily basis, because it’s up in Oregon City and the reservation is out in Grand Ronde,” she said.

“Grand Ronde has the ability to maintain the ownership of our ancestral homelands, which is tremendously important and it is a really wonderful partnership.”

Webb said it is “very much a collaboration between the Tribe and the city.”

“We’ve done a lot of work to date, not just related to this project but to the whole site in general and it’s been an exciting partnership and we’re really excited about what we can do as it relates to the public riverwalk project as well,” he said.

Part of the work for the third and fourth blocks will include removing 130,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil that was used to fill channels of the river. The restored channel will provide “critical slow-water refuge” for threatened salmon and steelhead, as well as habitat for Pacific lamprey, Svicarovich said.

“I think that is a tremendous amount of focus of that healing and restoration onsite, and it’s ensuring that we’re caring not only for the people that walk on the site but also our relatives that are in the waters and throughout our region,” she said.

In addition, the restored channels will include approximately 32.55 acre feet of flood storage and improve the watershed function, she said. An acre foot refers to the volume of water it takes to cover an acre of land a foot deep in water. Thirty-two acre feet would total more than 10.6 million gallons of water.

A raised walkway will enable people to look down at the restored channels below, as well as see Willamette Falls.

The Tribe purchased the 23-acre tumwata village property in 2019, but plans for the riverwalk have existed since 2013, when the Willamette Falls Legacy Project first put it in a transportation system plan, Svicarovich said. Last year, the Tribe updated what is now the tumwata village Master Plan, significantly reducing the total square footage of buildings on site, explaining the plan to restore filled-in river channels and connect to other nearby trails.

The \$20 million Metro allocation will be from the 2019 Parks and

Nature bond that Metro voters approved, which specifically named the riverwalk as a possible beneficiary.

Metro Councilor Kristen Lewis said the Tribe’s presentation “went above and beyond our wildest dreams.” Several other councilors also expressed enthusiastic support for the project, with Councilor Gerritt Rosenthal saying the falls are “the crown jewel, part of a whole effort to reimagine the whole river as a living system.”

The Tribe is also continuing its demolition work of the remaining buildings.

“The 25% we have left is the more complicated and complex ones left as

they are located either close to the river or they have a lot of hazardous materials (such as) asbestos and lead paint,” Webb said. “But we have plans to continue demolition activities through this year and next year and hope to have the majority of those structures down by then.”

In addition to the funding from Metro, the Tribe has a “soft commitment” for \$500,000 from Business Oregon and is seeking a \$15 million grant from the National Parks Service, Webb said.

In addition to telling the story of the Tribe’s history at the falls, Svicarovich said, the Tribe is also working with other people of color to enable them to tell their stories.

“Of particular importance for the Tribe is the connections that we’ve been building with ... communities with historic connections to tumwata village, so Oregon Black Pioneers, Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project and the Hawaiian Civil Club,” she said. “We know there were many communities that have historic connections to places that now live in a diaspora throughout the region and so we want to ensure that those communities have a place and ensure that their stories are also told and incorporated onsite.”

In addition, Svicarovich said, “this is part of a larger regional trail system and transportation is a huge part of this project. This project will provide an ADA accessible route along the falls, an extension of downtown taking people closer to the falls. The intent was always that you would have this progressive experience as you got closer to the falls and we’re able to do that as we extend the trail closer to the falls, the riverwalk.”

The riverwalk will also connect to the potential Oregon City-West Linn bicycle bridge across the river, the McLoughlin Boulevard enhancement project in Oregon City, the Trail to Canemah and the existing promenade, which will include a new elevator.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George and Tribal Council member Kathleen George attended the meeting, where they presented beaded necklaces to Metro councilors who were present in person. ■



2026 SALEM

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK

This event unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the way in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.



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If you would like your youth to attend with YEP, please fill out the attached google form or email YEP at yep@grandronde.org



Turnout was 27.18% with 1,298 ballots cast

ELECTION continued
from front page

Tribe,” Haller said. “I will do my very best to represent our Tribe and all of our membership in a good way. I will continue to make the best decisions I can, even when those decisions are difficult. I will never let politics get in the way of doing what I believe is right for our Tribe and our people. My door is always open. I truly believe that I answer to you, the membership. I also want to thank and recognize all of the candidates who stepped forward and ran great campaigns. Putting yourself out there and being willing to serve our people takes courage and commitment. Let’s stay positive and remember we are one big family...What matters most is that we continue to respect one another, care for one another and remember that at the end of the day, we are all the Tribe.”

Atanacio reflected on the close of election season and what it meant to her personally.

“As this election season comes to a close, I am simply gratefulgrateful,” she said. “Masi for allowing me the opportunity to show up, listen, learn, share my vision and have meaningful conversations about where we are and where we can go together as a Tribe. One of the greatest gifts of this campaign has been the connections I have made and strengthened with so many Tribal members. I have heard your stories, your concerns, your hopes and your ideas for our future. Your voices will continue to be a priority

for me in every space I have the opportunity to serve our people. I am proud of the campaign I ran because it reflected how I want to show up in leadership: rooted in relationships, willing to have real conversations about policy and change, committed to listening and always thinking about the generations who will come after us. It has been an honor to run for Grand Ronde Tribal Council. We are the future ancestors.”

Leno said her heart was “full of gratitude.”

“I want to sincerely thank all of the candidates and the Tribal membership who participated in this important process,” she said. “Your involvement reflects the strength and commitment of our community. I am deeply grateful for the love, kindness, encouragement and support I received. It means more to me than words can express. I am humbled and thankful for the opportunity to continue serving our people.”

Harvey said she was disappointed in the results but OK.

“I decided to run this year at the request of people and employees,” she said. “I believe my experience and knowledge could have been beneficial to the Tribe and our people. Hayu masi to all my constituents.”

Bailey said that although the results were not what he had hoped for, he will continue his advocacy work.

“I’d like to thank everyone who supported me,” he said. “Don’t be discouraged and keep using your

voice to help guide our leadership. Congratulations to our new council members. I wish you strength and wisdom as you begin this next term. hayu masi.”

Warren-Chase thanked both Tribal members who had voted for her as well as those who had not.

“To everyone who supported me, encouraged me, shared my campaign information, talked with me, challenged my ideas or simply took the time to vote, thank you,” she said. “You gave me something that no election result can take away: the privilege of being heard and the opportunity to stand up for what I believe is important to our community. To those who did not support me, thank you as well. Democracy only works when we respect that our fellow Tribal members can see things differently. I hope that regardless of who we supported, we can continue to talk to one another, listen to one another and work together.”

Leno, 57, will serve her fourth term on Tribal Council.

Atanacio, 36, will serve her first term on Tribal Council.

Haller, 43, will serve his second term on Tribal Council.

This year marked the 13th consecutive year of single-digit candidates running for Tribal Council. The last time 10 or more candidates

threw their proverbial hats in the ring was in 2013.

Turnout was 27.18% with 1,298 ballots cast out of 4,775 eligible adult Tribal members.

Winners were sworn into office Wednesday, Sept. 16, in the Governance Center Atrium.

Also on the ballot there were two advisory votes. The results were:

- What should be the Tribe’s top housing priority moving forward? A) Housing for Elders, low-income members and others with the greatest needs, 344 votes. B) Building a mix of income based and market rate housing, 127 votes. C) Expanding home ownership opportunities, for example, down payment assistance and rent-to-own opportunities, 301 votes. D) All the priorities are equally important, 340 votes.
- What should be the Tribe’s second highest priority housing option? A) Housing for Elders, low-income members and others with the greatest needs, 298 votes. B) Building a mix of income based and market rate housing, 243 votes. C) Expanding home ownership opportunities, for example, down payment assistance and rent-to-own opportunities, 342 votes. D. None or no second priority, 234 votes. ■

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. ■

Visitors to EAC asked to utilize parking lots, not streets

Tribal administration is requesting that non-Elder visitors to the Tribe’s Elders Activity Center utilize the parking lot across the street from the Adult Foster Care homes, as Blacktail Drive was not built to accommodate street parking.

“We have allowed street parking knowing that at some point this was going to need to be addressed because of how narrow the street becomes when cars park on one side of the roadway, which only allows for one car to pass through at a time,” General Manager Bryan Langley said in an email. “With the increase in the numbers of residents and employees, the traffic in this area has also increased, making this area unsafe at times. Public Works will be reviewing this area to determine potential changes that will need to be made to allow cars to pass uninhibited and provide safe street parking, therefore we are asking that only Elders park on the south side of Blacktail Drive while visiting the Elders Activity Center.”

The Tribe is planning on doing some curb painting and placing additional signage to raise awareness regarding the changes. ■

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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribal Council swearing-in ceremony



Newly reelected Tribal Council member Lisa Leno takes the oath of office during the swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers Wednesday, Sept. 16.



Newly reelected Tribal Council member Matthew Haller takes the oath of office during the swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers Wednesday, Sept. 16.



Newly elected Tribal Council member Valeria Atanacio takes the oath of office during the swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers Wednesday, Sept. 16.



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Outgoing Tribal Council member Chris Mercier, middle, is gifted a Pendleton blanket by Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George and Tribal Council Secretary Tonya Gleason-Shepek after the Tribal Council swearing-in ceremony in Tribal Council Chambers Wednesday, Sept. 16. Mercier, whose term was up this year, chose to not run for reelection and was honored for his 21 years of service on council.

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. ■



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Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	

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CTGR Tribal VSO@GrandRonde.Org

35 employees honored for a collective 916 years of service

AWARDS continued
from front page

worked on the recently-introduced congressional lands bill and in health services.

“I know without health, we don’t have anything,” she said. She also mentioned the Education Department and the previous day’s singing by Tribal children during the swearing-in ceremony for the three newly-elected council members.

“Their voices rang so loud and my heart was just so full,” Kennedy said. “When we were working during Restoration, one of the things we wanted was for our culture to be restored.”

She said that all employees should feel that they are making a meaningful difference to the Tribe through their work, noting that, for example, housekeeping and groundskeeping services make things better for all employees and visitors and show the Tribe’s pride in its campus.

“You may feel that your job is menial,” Kennedy said. “It is not.”

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George gave the invocation, prompting a quip from emcee and Tribal Employment Rights Office Director Harris Reibach that, “Who else but Jon George can pray and be grateful for our clean toilets? I loved it.”

Grand Ronde singers sang a meal blessing song.

In addition to Kennedy and George, Tribal Council members Matthew Haller, Lisa Leno, Valeria Atanacio and Kathleen George attended.

After the service awards were distributed, Reibach and Organizational Development and Training Manager Scott Mode held a drawing to distribute several cash prizes



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Emergency Services Lt. Luke Nodine shakes hands with Tribal Council member Kathleen George as he’s recognized for five years of working for the Tribe during the third-quarter service awards in the Tribal gym Thursday, Sept. 17.

ranging \$250 to \$1,000, as well as eight hours of administrative leave.

The following employees were honored:

36 years: Staff Accountant Melanie Hubbard and Continuing Adult Education Coordinator Tracy Biery.

35 years: Language Nest Lead Teacher Jeff Mercier.

34 years: Finance Officer Chris Leno.

31 years: Organizational Development and Training Manager Scott Mode.

28 years: Housekeeping Supervisor Ben Bishop.

26 years: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coordinator Matthew Bucknell.

25 years: Chachalu Manager Travis Stewart, Tribal Security

Supervisor Roel Hernandez and Billing Coordinator Erica Mercier.

24 years: Lead Cook Kevin Campbell and Firefighter/EMT Jennifer Colton.

23 years: Nutrition Program Manager Kristy Lawson and Community Fund Program Coordinator Angela Schlappie.

22 years: Employment Specialist Brandy Hembree.

20 years: Housekeeper Nathan Mueller.

19 years: Bus Driver Jennifer Jerabek.

16 years: Chachalu Assistant Manager Veronica Montano, Native Connection Project Coordinator Keri Kimsey, Youth Prevention Manager Amber Zimbrick and Maintenance Technician Michael Lane.

15 years: Community Support Specialist Joanna Brisbois and Medical Technologist Staci Pemble.

14 years: Senior Telecommunications Administrator Mark Scheelar, Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez and Vocational Rehabilitation Case-worker Tara Summers.

13 years: Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier.

12 years: Administrative Assistant Deann Dickinson.

11 years: Employment Specialist Shylo Dizick, Help Desk Administrator Braden Ebensteiner, Housekeeper Jonathan Baker, Compliance Manager Corey Tharp and Infant-Toddler Teacher Miranda Ellis.

10 years: Senior Staff Attorney Brooks Wakeland and Academic Advisor Star Weatherall.

9 years: Lead Housekeeper Dorene Gillespie, Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright, Administrative Assistant Pamala Warren-Chase, Silviculture & Fire Protection Technician Nicholas Larsen, Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison, Senior Staff Pharmacist Timothy Wood and Senior Dental Assistant Samuel King.

8 years: Assistant Teacher Bret-tia Vale.

7 years: Family Partnerships Coach Tawnie Kimsey, Payment Processing Specialist Dorothy Anderson, Maintenance Technician Nicholas Colton, Maintenance Technician Dyami Eastman, Charge Nurse Charlene Brewer, Child-Family Services Caseworker Michelle Baker, Optometric Technician Sandra Galligher and Smoke Signals Graphic Design Specialist Samuel Briggs III.

6 years: Substance Use Disorder Therapist Heidi Hicinbothom and Community Programs Manager Caitlin Zimbrick.

5 years: Licensed Practical Nurse Aaron Buckendorf, Senior Network Security Specialist Lacey Ayers, Mental Health Therapist Maret Banks, Battalion Chief Sean Hoxie, Emergency Services Lt. Luke Nodine, Police Officer Austin Gomez, Certified Application Assistant II Stacy Bissonette, Licensing Specialist Shelley Gilbert-Lucio, Firefighter/EMT Micah Brown, Tribal Security Officer Robert Boen, Applications Specialist Evan Leno, Physician Danica Clark, Certified Medical Assistant Angie Haney, Wildlife Biologist Marie Vicksta, Social Emotional Learning Coach Joshua Sherwood, Battalion Chief Robert Mock and Operations Division Chief Jason Crow. ■



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

STORY IDEAS?

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

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



WWW.SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Statue revealing



Photo courtesy of mthoodterritory.com

Tribal member Bobby Mercier cuts a ribbon during the dedication ceremony for his “The Headman” sculpture at Riverside Park in Clackamas Wednesday, Aug. 12. Mercier recently had three of his sculptures installed along the Clackamas River in Barton Park in Boring, Milo McIver State Park in Estacada and Riverside Park. “Traditional artwork once lined the banks of the Clackamas River, but few pieces remain today,” Mercier said. “Bringing these sculptures back to Milo McIver State Park, Barton Park and Riverside Park reconnects the river to that history and keeps our traditions visible for the people who live here and visitors alike.” According to the Clackamas County Office of Tourism, the project supports the office’s guiding principles, including a focus on culture and heritage in the region, by creating welcoming, inclusive park experiences and recognizing the Indigenous communities who have stewarded the Clackamas watershed since time immemorial. The sculptures are expected to engage and attract Tribal communities, recreationists, local residents and visitors around traditional Indigenous art, as well as spark conversations about inclusive outdoor experiences and watershed protection from cultural and environmental perspectives. An interpretive panel accompanies each sculpture.

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.

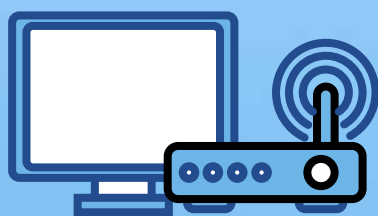
Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■



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.

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

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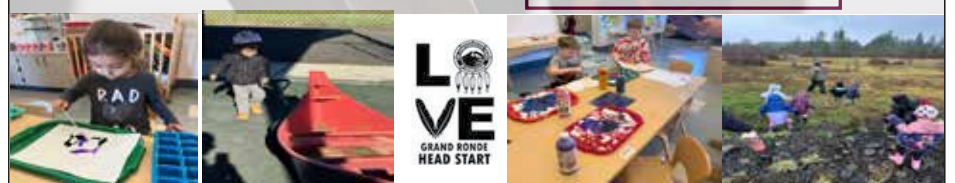
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Reading volunteers needed

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. ■

LUNCH TIME



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Community Center

OCTOBER 15, 2026
12:00 pm-1:00 pm

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PROFESSIONAL GROUP

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SATURDAY, OCT. 10
NOON-4 P.M.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Honor Indigenous contributions and culture
- Listen, share and strengthen community bonds
- Enjoy Indigenous artists, entertainers and food

NIEMEYER CENTER, OREGON CITY CAMPUS • 19600 MOLALLA AVE, 97045



REGISTER TODAY! Scan the QR code to register or visit www.clackamas.edu/ipd for latest event updates and more!

For accommodations, contact us at diversity@clackamas.edu or 503-594-3008. There will not be interpreters available at this event, but everyone is welcome.

Paid ad



IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING...

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. RECOVERY IS REAL.

THERE IS A WHOLE COMMUNITY READY TO WALK WITH YOU. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IS NOW OFFERING WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELING.

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

Paid ad

Walking On...

Leo C. Catabay Jr.

Dec. 19, 1953 – Sept. 15, 2026

Tribal Elder Leo C. Catabay Jr. passed away Sept. 15, 2026, at the age of 72.

Holman’s Funeral & Cremation Service in Portland is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

The Village

k^hanamakwst nsayka chaku-hayash
(Together We Grow Stronger)

If you are currently unhoused and a Grand Ronde Tribal Member - The Village could be a resource for you

The Village is intended to provide support services to unsheltered/houseless Grand Ronde tribal members.

The Village will provide case management and wrap services intended to move the population towards permanent housing and wellness.

Each applicant will go through an application process which will include a limited background check, prior to move in.



For more information please call :
Grand Ronde Behavioral Health
503-879-2026



GRAND RONDE ELDERS:
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We invite you to participate in a community conversation for Grand Ronde Elders to share your stories, experiences and ideas on emergency preparedness and learn from others. The goal of this research is to help the community prepare for hazards like wildfires, winter storms and earthquakes.
All Elders are welcome.

Tuesday October 20th
11am-1pm
Grand Ronde
Fire Station

Free Lunch provided
Please call in advance
to reserve your space
Josh Blockstein:
301-906-4954

This research is being conducted by Oregon State University and is an IRB-approved study (HE-2024-1309). Questions? Reach out to the lead investigator, Dr. Jenna Tilt: tiltj@oregonstate.edu

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. ■



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

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

EnergyTrust

of Oregon

MORE POWER TO YOU.

Chachalu Friday
Marketplace

FOOD // ART // CRAFTS



UPCOMING MARKETS

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

10 AM-4PM | RAIN OR SHINE

In case of rain, we'll be in the Chachalu Gym.

VENDOR INFO / CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG

8720 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OREGON

Tribal members, employees no longer need to pay bridge toll

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

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

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

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



TEACH

our children
our stories

BECOME A TEACHER.
APPLY TO AITP
www.pdx.edu/aitp



Dental Health Fair



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Senior Dental Assistant Sam King adds hot glue to felt teeth so Tribal Senior Dental Assistant Nina Umfrid can put them on the pine cone beaver she’s creating during the Dental Health Fair at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Clinic Thursday, Sept. 17. In addition to the craft project, the fair featured dental resources, a photo booth and healthy snacks.

Attention pharmacy locker users

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

Your Path To Homeownership Starts Here

- ****184 Native American Loans ****
- Veteran Loans
- FHA Loans
- USDA Loans
- Reverse Mortgages
- Cash Out Refinancing
- Home Equity Lines of Credit
- Low rates and closing cost
- Homebuying Education Classes

Find your path to a new home today with a free mortgage consultation. Call Willy at 503-887-2899 or email wrogers@nexalending.com



Willy Rogers - Mortgage Loan Officer

- 30+ years mortgage lending experience
- 3 years Grand Ronde Housing Board
- Free Consultations
- Local Service
- Weekends by appointment
- NMLS# 26085

PH# 503-887-2899
wrogers@nexalending.com

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NMLS#:1660690
NEXA Mortgage LLC is an Equal Housing Lender
www.nexalending.com



Secure Your Dream Home Today – Expert Guidance & Financing Tailored to You

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. ■

Oregon Tribal Best Practices

Oregon Tribes now have the opportunity to receive Medicaid reimbursement for indigenous practices that have longevity and success for improving health within Tribal Community. Join us to learn more.



October 15th at 12-2 PM
located in the Elder Activity Center

Adventure Based • B.A.A.D. • Canoe Journey • Ceremonies • Cultural Camp • Storytelling • Powwow • Talking Circle • Sweat Lodge • Tribal Crafts • Tribal Youth Conference (and more)

BE A READING HERO

Volunteer with SMART Reading!

Make a lasting impact in just 30 minutes a week!

SMART Reading is looking for caring adults to volunteer as reading mentors for PreK students.

 **30 Minutes a week – Tuesdays from 9:45–10:15 – looking to start in early November**

Located in the Early Care and Education building

- Books provided – no experience needed!
- Fun, easy, and rewarding!

Learn more & sign up:
ashlee.webb@grandronde.org

Learn more about SMART Reading:
[SMART Reading Children's Literacy Nonprofit](#)

Together, we can help kids thrive—one book at a time.

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



Safety first



Photo by Alexander Bliven

Tribal Elder Trixie Lopez, right, prepares to launch a frog while playing “shwiq’iq Launch” as Tribal Public Health Educator Chad Mann looks on during the Tribal Community Health Department’s third annual Elder Safety Fair at the old powwow grounds Wednesday, Sept. 28. The game is designed to promote vehicle safety, with the goal being to launch three paper frogs from a catapult over Highway 18 into a basket above Spirit Mountain. Points were given depending on where the frogs landed and prizes included vehicle safety tools, such as flashlights, tire inflators, safety glowsticks and distress banners.

smok signəlz email subscription

Want to be one of the first Tribal members to receive smok signəlz? Want to receive the Tribal publication on your computer instead of waiting for it to arrive in the mail? Want to get up-to-date and in-the-know about the Grand Ronde Tribe before anyone else? In an effort to be more efficient and reduce printing and postage costs, smok signəlz electronic subscribers receive a PDF (portable document format) version sent to them instead of a newsprint version sent via the mail. All you need on your computer is Adobe Acrobat or another program that can read a PDF and you’re set. Why would you want to do that? The PDF version is available before the newspaper is sent to our printing contractor in Salem. You can read the paper on your computer or print out a copy of individual pages yourself. And you will receive Tribal news much faster than the current standard mailing utilized by the Tribe. If you would like to receive an emailed PDF version of smok signəlz and stop receiving a mailed newsprint version, send your email to esubscription@grandronde.org. Stopping mailed delivery of the newspaper will not affect other Tribal mail. ■

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. ■



STRONG People®

STRONG BODIES



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.



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.

WE'RE HIRING!

ON-SITE JOB FAIR

OCTOBER 15 • 1PM-3PM



SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO



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

ADULT FOSTER CARE

WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING:



CARE GIVERS
FULL TIME & PART TIME
WAGE RANGE: \$22.36-\$35.65



MEDICATION AIDE
FULL TIME
WAGE RANGE: \$22.36-\$35.65

Apply Today!

503.879.2109

EmploymentTeam@grandronde.org

For more information and to apply scan the QR Code





WE OFFER:

- Competitive Pay
- Paid Time Off
- Training Provided
- Supportive Team Environment

Come be a part of Our Family!



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

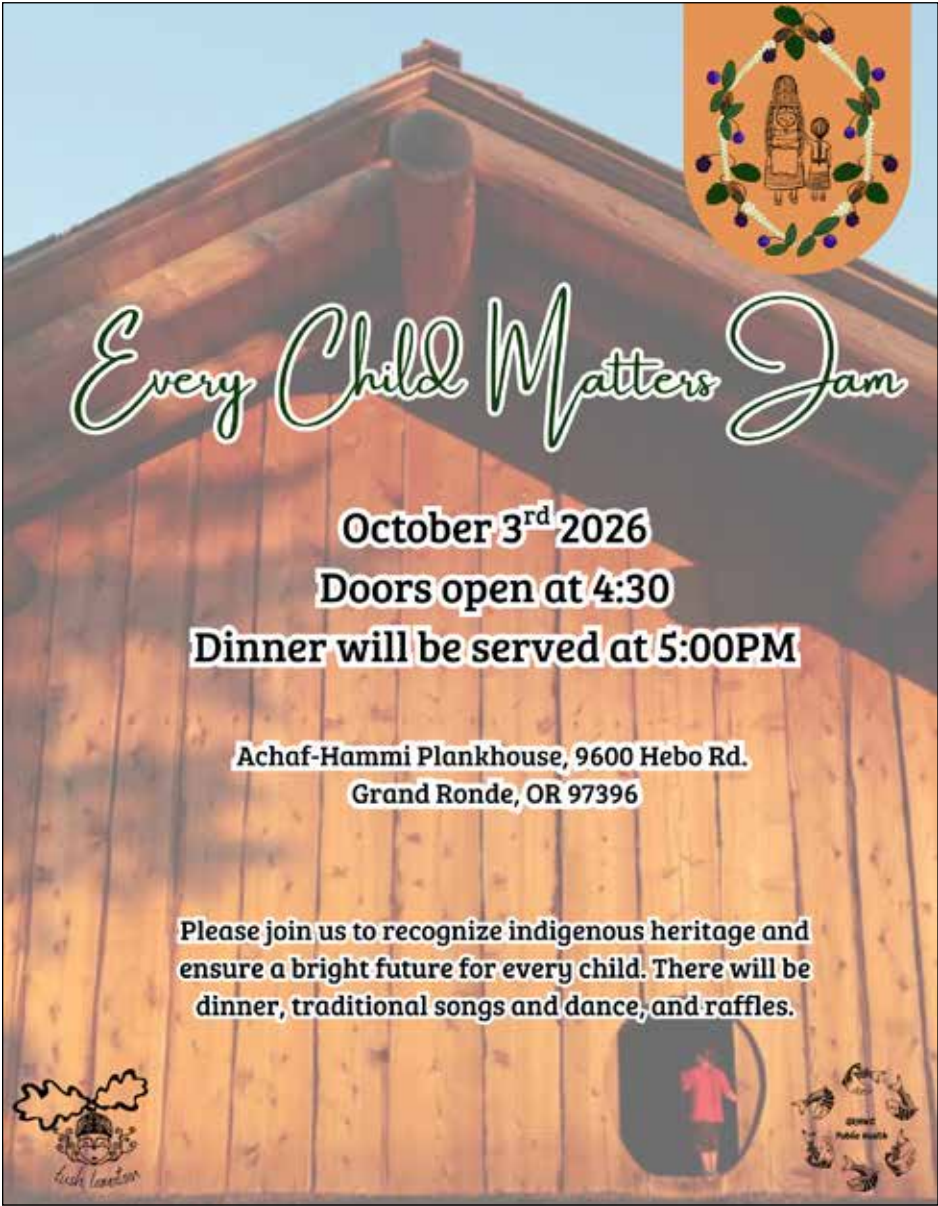
Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Aftercare Educator – Early Childhood Education	6	\$20.75/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	10/05/2026
Barista Trainee – Limited Duration	1	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	Until Filled
Certified Medical Assistant – Communicable Disease – Public Health – Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Clinic Manager – Salem Detox – GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
College Intern/Aide – Early Childhood Education	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Elder Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Driver – Mid-Shift - Sheridan – GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	10/05/2026
Family Partnership Specialist – Early Childhood Education	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	10/05/2026
Housekeeper	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Elder Care Program	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	10/05/2026
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem OTP - GCR	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
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem OTP - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Mid-Shift - Sheridan – GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	09/26/2026
Milieu Safety Technician – Variable Shifts - Sheridan GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	10/05/2026
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem - Withdrawal Management - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	09/26/2026
Nurse Practitioner	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	10/05/2026
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
Registered Nurse – Elder Care Program	13	\$97,856.44/yr.	\$127,796.59/yr.	09/26/2026
Senior Dental Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	10/05/2026
Silviculture & Fire Grant Technician – Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	10/05/2026
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Full Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Temporary Pool	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$16.00/hr.	

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.



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

Hospitality Attendant I WEX (Part-Time) (Chemawa Students ONLY)	10/8/26	\$18.02/hr.
Amore Buserperson (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$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
Barista (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Bar Porter	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Bartender	Until Filled	\$16.50/hr. + Tips
Casino Beverage Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. DOE + Tips
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Cleaning Attendant (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Food Runner (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/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
Kitchen Steward (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Pastry Chef	Until Filled	\$63,586.43- \$124,596.92/yr. DOE
Prep Cook (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Dealer – Multi-Game (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. + Tips

*DOE = Depending on Experience

SMC on-site Job Fair 10/15/26 1:00- 3:00 PM

\$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.



NATIVE AMERICAN WATCHLIST

Watchlist: ‘Walking Two Worlds’

(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

The outdoor clothing company The North Face collaborated with Indigenous model and activist Quannah Chasinghorse to share her experience as a traditional Native woman finding success in the modern world in a short film available on YouTube.

Profiling the people who use their gear, the company followed Chasinghorse to her home territory in the frozen Yukon.

“If you want to know who I am, you have to acknowledge where I come from,” Chasinghorse said.

Jody Potts-Joseph, Chasinghorse’s mother, joined the video to describe their homelands and the environmental changes they are facing.

“Alaska is ground zero for the climate crisis,” Potts-Joseph said. “We are seeing so much animal die-off. We’re seeing melting permafrost and warming rivers.”

As part of the most northerly Indigenous people in North America, Potts-Joseph explained that the Yukon River and the animals who live around it are a vital resource for them.

The video demonstrates the rugged cold environment the Han Gwich’in people live in. Chasinghorse drives a dog sled through the snow with her mom aboard.

“My mom and grandma are the strongest women I know,” Chasinghorse said. “That drive to protect and preserve, you know, helped shape me into who I am.”

As a matriarchal community, Chasinghorse attributes the determination and toughness she uses in her career as an inherited trait from the women in her family.

When Chasinghorse was scouted for modeling, she reached success quickly by modeling for Calvin Klein, signed with IMG and was featured on the cover of Vogue Mexico.

Chasinghorse found herself in a world where people considered the most beautiful didn’t look like her. With traditional facial tattoos and a distinct bump on her nose that is common for her people, she battled low self-esteem.

“Now I am able to look in a mirror and see my ancestors stare right back at me,” Chasinghorse said. “I feel I am one of the first Native American models at this level.”

Chasinghorse uses her elevated platform to advocate for issues like climate protection for the arctic, animals and her people.

You can watch the entire profile on Chasinghorse at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxr0f7PRj0g&t=156s. ■

Help with estate planning



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Willamette University School of Law student Elizabeth VanGerpen, left, talks with Tribal Elder Nancy Renfrow during a presentation at the Elders Activity Center Friday, Sept. 18. The event is a continued partnership with the EAC and the school offering Tribal Elders free help from a third-year law student preparing estate planning documents. The next estate planning pop-up events at the EAC are scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16 and Friday, Nov. 6. Tribal Elders who want more information or to book an appointment for free help preparing documents are asked to call Janeth Dimas at 503-370-6140.

Grand Ronde Station offering gas discount

Grand Ronde Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

There are, however, a few rules. Tribal employees must go inside and show their employee identification card to receive the discount.

Tribal members are now eligible for a 60-cent per gallon discount. They must show a Tribal identification card to receive the discount. ■

ARE YOU A CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE TRIBAL VETERAN?

Contact the Tribal Veterans Service Office (TVSO)

To Add Your Name:

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

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

To Recieve:

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

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

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

✉ CTGtribalvso@GrandRonde.Org

TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



Services Provided:

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

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

Thursday
Oct. 15th
10am -2pm

Wednesday
Oct. 14th
3-7 pm

Chachalu Gymnasium
Confederated Tribes,
8720 Grand Ronde Rd,
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



National Mammography Day is Oct. 17. It's a special day during Breast Cancer Awareness Month to remind women to get a mammogram — a screening test that helps find breast cancer early.

A mammogram is a low-dose X-ray that takes a picture of the inside of the breast. It can show signs of cancer before you feel a lump. When breast cancer is found early, it is easier to treat and more likely to be cured.

Why is this important?

- Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers in women.
- Many women with breast cancer don't have symptoms at first.

- Mammograms can save lives by finding cancer early.
- Who should get a mammogram?**
- Most women should start getting mammograms around ages 40 to 50.
 - Talk to your doctor about when to start and how often you should go.
 - If breast cancer runs in your family, you may need to start earlier.
- What to expect during a mammogram**
- The test usually takes about 20 minutes.
 - Your breast will be gently pressed between two plates to take a clear image.
 - You may feel some pressure, but it should not be very painful.
 - A doctor will look at the images and tell you if more tests are needed.

How can you prepare?

- Don't wear deodorant, lotion, or powder on your chest the day of your test.
 - Wear a two-piece outfit so you only need to remove your top.
 - Tell the technician if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- You are not alone. If you are nervous or unsure about getting a mammogram, talk to:
- Your doctor or nurse
 - A trusted family member or friend
 - Community health workers or local health clinics

Take care of yourself

National Mammography Day is a good time to put your health first. If you are due for a mammogram, make an appointment. Early detection can save your life. ■

October is National Dental Hygiene Month

This month is a time to remind everyone how important it is to take care of their teeth and gums. A healthy mouth helps you eat, speak, and smile with confidence.

Why is dental hygiene important?

Good dental hygiene means keeping your mouth clean. This helps prevent problems like:

- Cavities (holes in your teeth)
- Gum disease (swollen or bleeding gums)
- Bad breath
- Tooth loss (losing your teeth)

It can also help protect your body. Poor dental health has been linked to heart disease, diabetes and other health problems.

Simple steps for a healthy mouth

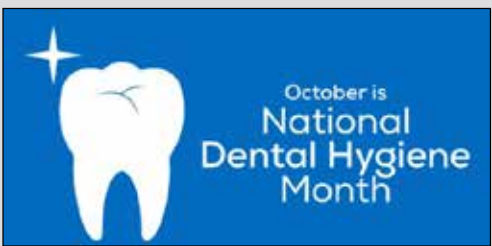
You don't need to do anything fancy. Just follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Brush your teeth twice a day:
 - o Use a soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste.
 - o Brush for 2 minutes—morning and night.
2. Floss every day:
 - o Floss helps clean between teeth where your brush can't reach.
 - o It keeps gums healthy and removes hidden food.
3. Visit the dentist twice a year:
 - o A dentist can check for problems early.
 - o Regular cleanings help remove hard plaque (tartar).
4. Eat healthy foods:
 - o Cut back on sugary snacks and drinks.
 - o Choose water, fruits and vegetables instead.

Tips for caregivers and families

- Help children brush and floss every day.
- Remind Elders or those with health problems to keep up with dental care.

Good dental hygiene keeps your mouth and your body healthy. National Dental Hygiene Month is a great time to start new habits or check in on old ones. A few minutes each day can lead to a lifetime of healthy smiles! ■





Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center

2026 patient satisfaction survey

We want to hear from you!

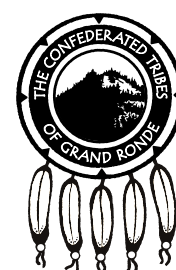
Your voice helps us deliver better care every day. Our 2026 patient satisfaction survey is now open and your feedback truly makes a difference.

Whether you visited us recently or received ongoing support, your experience matters. By taking just a few minutes to complete the survey, you help us improve services, celebrate what's working and better support the health of our community.

Survey link:
<https://arcg.is/Tqz9P>

It only takes a few minutes and your responses are anonymous and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping us to grow, improve and continue providing compassionate care.



Ad by Samuel Briggs III



 GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

SAME DAY CARE

SAME DAY CARE IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR ESTABLISHED PATIENTS

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

☒ SINUS INFECTION SYMPTOMS

☒ COLD OR FLU SYMPTOMS

☒ EARACHE, EAR WASH

☒ MINOR INJURIES

☒ HOSPITAL FOLLOW UPS

☒ MEDICATION CONCERNS

☒ SPRAINS/STRAINS

☒ SKIN RASH

☒ SORE THROAT

☒ URINARY TRACT INFECTION SYMPTOMS

☒ ALLERGY SYMPTOMS

☒ IMMUNIZATIONS

☒ SUDDEN WORSENING OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS

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



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BLACK PULL-OVER:
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