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Nov. 1, 2026

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SMOKE SIGNALS

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

Tribal Council proposes amendments to Enrollment Ordinance

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Council is introducing proposed amendments to the Tribe’s Enrollment Ordinance, to ensure that if applicants meet with administrative delays, they do not have to wait years to apply for membership again. The council approved the first reading at its Wednesday, Sept. 30, meeting. A community input meeting for Tribal members to review the proposed changes was held Wednesday, Oct. 7, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, with Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George, Secretary Tonya Gleason-Shepek and council members Valeria Atanacio, Lisa Leno and Toby McClary attending. The number of questions and comments about the proposal were so many that Tribal Council

finally ended the meeting at 7:40 p.m. However, they noted that comments can be submitted to legal@grandronde.org until 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16. Comments can also be mailed to the Tribal Attorney’s Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347. Tribal members can request a redlined copy of the proposed changes by contacting legal@grandronde.org. Details have also been sent out on the Tribe’s Alta app. On Tuesday, October 27, the Tribe will hold scheduled staff hours from noon to 2 p.m. in Tribal Council Chambers to answer questions. There will also be a hybrid option for those hours, with a zoom link available on the Tribe’s Facebook page. The new process does not replace existing deadlines or give people longer to start regis-

tering their infants, nor is it an appeals process, council members stressed. Rather, it is an internal process for the Tribe to make sure that applicants don’t lose their opportunity to enroll because of administrative delays by the Tribe. Applicants who are denied enrollment will still be able to appeal their denial. It is a separate process that goes through the Tribal Court. Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said the amendment is being proposed because there have been administrative delays in a handful of cases and the Tribe needs a way to address those. The practice of simply moving any delayed infants to the next quarterly meeting of the Enrollment Committee is no longer allowed under

See **ENROLLMENT**
continued on page 8

Celebrating food

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

Attendees visited booths and sampled traditional foods during the Fall First Foods Celebration Friday, Oct. 2, at the Tribal gym, marking the first time the event has been held since 2019, following the COVID-19 pandemic. Tribal Cultural Education Coordinator Jordan Mercier welcomed guests and explained that the celebration was an opportunity to connect with traditional foods and one another. “This is about visiting, connecting, having a good time and trying some good food,” Mercier said. Presented by the Grand Ronde Culture Committee, stations throughout the gym offered samples of crab apple and crab apple fruit leather, brodiaea, camas, wapato, biscuitroot, soaproot, yampah, smoked salmon and sturgeon. Teas made from rosehip, stinging nettle, fireweed and yerba buena were also available. Guests were given pamphlets they could fill with stickers from each station they visited, encouraging them to learn more about the foods and plants being presented. At the U.S. Fish and Wildlife



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Sinamox-Tenas Ulestad, 2, takes a bite of a salmon eyeball as he and his father, Tribal member Joe Ulestad, sample offerings during the Fall First Foods Celebration in the Tribal gym Friday, Oct. 2.

Service booth, Tribal Land Steward Breanna Sisneros discussed a Native gathering garden being developed at Wapato Lake near Gaston. The garden is in its early stages, with volunteers planting camas, tarweed, biscuitroot and wapato. Guests at Sisneros’ booth could also try barestem biscuitroot seeds, which she described tasting similar

to celery with a peppery flavor, followed by sweet rosehip syrup made from rosehips gathered at Wapato Lake.

See **FOOD**
continued on page 7

Tribal members publish children’s vocabulary book

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

A new children’s book by Tribal Elder Dr. David Lewis and his son, Tribal member and graphic artist Saghaley Lewis, provides a selection of names for various plants and animals, in both Kalapuya and chinuk wawa, as well as English. “Kalapuya — Chinuk wawa Ika-num” is a rare instance of a vocabulary book that provides words in three languages. Although there is no story line to accompany the vocabulary words, the charming, funny illustrations make it easy for readers to imagine their own stories, as a fawn smells the fresh air, salmon nervously watch a fishing bear and a duck comes face to face with a sturgeon. “I like when drawings have a little implied story, rather than characters just standing there,” Saghaley Lewis said. The project took nearly two years from conception to completion. “There was a lot of planning, a lot of thinking about what animals and plants to include,” David Lewis said. “I had to go and do projects to collect all of those names in different languages. I sent lists of things to Henry Zenk (an expert in Chinuk languages) and Greg Archuleta (Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst) for review, and they sent back comments on what they should look like, spelling-wise. ... I think this may be the first volume that has Kalapuya and Chinuk in

See **BOOK**
continued on page 8



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO





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General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 1

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. 28.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4.....	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.

Grand Ronde Pharmacy refrigerated orders reduced delivery to Monday only

Due to the recently announced nationwide reduction of delivery services by FedEx and UPS, the days that Grand Ronde pharmacy is able to send refrigerated orders has been reduced to Monday only. This change is effective immediately. We are working with UPS to increase service to include at least Wednesday as well. The pharmacy staff will be reaching out to local patients to discuss the use of the lockers or arranging for the orders to be picked up at the pharmacy counter. Nonrefrigerated items will be less affected by this change and will continue to be shipped out three to five days each week. Please contact the pharmacy staff at 503-879-2342 with any concerns and to explore locker delivery options. ■

‘Bad Press’



Courtesy photo by Michael Langley

From left, Mvskoke Media Director and “Bad Press” central figure Angel Ellis, Indigenous Journalists Association Executive Director Rebecca Landsberry-Baker and former Grand Ronde Tribal Council Vice Chair and past Smoke Signals staff writer Chris Mercier participate in a panel discussion after a screening of the film at the Madras Performing Arts Center Wednesday, Sept. 30. This event is part of a three-stop Oregon tour bringing the film to the Warm Springs, Klamath and Umatilla reservations. The film will broadcast nationally on PBS in November for Native American Heritage Month.

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. ■

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DEADLINE DATE

ISSUE DATE

MEMBERS OF:

Tuesday, Oct. 20.....Nov. 1
Wednesday, Nov. 4.....Nov. 15
Monday, Nov. 16.....Dec. 1
Friday, Dec. 4.....Dec. 15

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa ałqi)

tałlam-mun (October)

- 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.

tałlam-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 at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center, 27100 Salmon River Highway. Brunch will be served at 10 a.m. Grand entries are at 1 and 7 p.m. For more information, contact publicaffairs@grandronde.org.
- 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.

New exhibit



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Esther Foster walks through the Ghost Dance in the Machine/Terra Nullius exhibit during the opening reception at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Thursday, Oct. 1. According to the wall text, the work of the exhibit’s artist, Tribal member Matthew Williams, draws on the Ghost Dance as both a historical movement and a living framework for imagining Indigenous futures, as it carried visions of renewal, resistance and continuance at a moment of profound disruption. In the digital era, those visions resonate again as Indigenous people navigate virtual worlds, algorithms and complex identities, he said. Through print and digital media, Williams explores how Indigenous knowledge systems adapt, persist and reassert sovereignty within the contemporary world. “The exhibit invites viewers to consider how ancestral visions, ceremonial rhythms and Indigenous worldviews can shape the digital and real spaces as sites of survivance, transformation and collective becoming.” It runs through Friday, Dec. 4.

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 Elders survey

Deadline: Friday, Oct. 30

1. We have voting back to Elders. This means that the Elders can vote for who they want on the Elder Board. Tribal Council asked if we want to:

- Keep it local: Yes No
- Send it out statewide: Yes No

2. What size do you think an Elder Care Center should be?

- 30 - 40 bed facility: Yes No
- What would you like to see at Adult Foster Care?
- Keep as assisted living: Yes No
- Some other type of care center: Yes No

3. What are some issues/concerns you would like presented at meetings so we can be prepared?

Mail responses:
Elders Activity Center, c/o Elder Board,
48940 Blacktail Drive, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Email responses to:
Pamala Warren-Chase at Warren31@yahoo.com
or Darlene Aaron at Grammyaaron48@gmail.com.



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- Grand Ronde Community Garden:**
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden
- Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**
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- Grand Ronde Employment Services**
Facebook.com/EmploymentServices

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. 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: Peter Grout.
- **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 — Workers began moving dirt at the 86.5-acre Rink 2 property off McPherson Road and east of Grand Meadows in Grand Ronde to prepare for a new Tribal home ownership project. Named tipsu-ili'i (grassland in Chinuk Wawa), the development planned to start with 20 residential



2021 File photo

lots on which Tribal members could build homes with 75-year leases.

2016 — Smoke Signals ran a story focusing on the Tribe's history of female leadership and recognized Tribal Council having a female majority for the first time following Restoration in 1983. The previous month saw Denise Harvey elected to her second term on council and Kathleen George elected to her first. George became the 16th woman to hold the position, joining Harvey, Cheryle A. Kennedy, Tonya Gleason-Shepek and Brenda Tuomi. “The face of leadership is changing,” Harvey said.

2011 — The Tribe was close to finishing a 3,000-square-foot addition to the rear of the Tribal Education Department. The addition was funded through a \$500,000 block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Tribe also received a \$170,000 grant to furnish and staff it. The space would provide additional learning environments for Tribal youth and included a cultural arts and activities room, culinary arts kitchen, dining room, a soundproof recording room with a staging area and three classrooms.

2006 — Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison was chosen to receive a Marylhurst University Women of Distinction Award. The awards honored five women who made significant contributions to a field of service, science, faith, business or arts in Oregon. Harrison was honored as a Woman of Faith for her “astounding role in influencing the socio-political and historical account of Oregon and Native Americans.” Harrison said that while there was religion and spirituality in her family, their heritage was always the most important. She also offered advice to the audience: “Have joy when you are young and have pride when you're mature.”

2001 — Spirit Mountain Casino hosted a bingo benefit fundraiser to support survivors, families and communities affected by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The event was attended by 841 people and raised \$12,658.50 for the Sept. 11 Fund. Additionally, more than \$690 in door prizes were given and one participant was awarded a jet ski valued at \$10,000. “We are moved to organize this fundraiser in response to the need our fellow Americans are experiencing after the devastation and terror of Sept. 11,” Casino Marketing Director Denise Barr said.

1996 — One year after opening, Spirit Mountain Casino was receiving more than 4,000 visitors a day. As part of its first anniversary celebrations, the casino hosted a poker tournament, special bingo program, live music, drawings for cash prizes and more. The casino also hosted an event called “Strange Days,” which explored “the weird and wonderful in all of us.” Guests could receive information about their planetary body and zodiac sign from astrologers, get their energy revealed by an aura photographer and have questions about their past, present and future answered by psychics.

1991 — The Tribe had an increase of students in higher education and adult vocational training programs for the 1991-92 school year. Due to rising costs of tuition and other fees from colleges and universities, the Tribe had to limit the size of its grant awards and considered setting a cap on the number of students who could be enrolled in the programs for the 1992-93 school year.

1986 — The Tribe acquired a social services program and was gathering information regarding social services available within the Tribe's six-county service area. The program planned to distribute a manual detailing social services available to Tribal members. The program also provided support to Tribal members wanting to become foster or adoptive parents and encouraged them to contact the program for more information.

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

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. ■



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 amendment to include more buildings

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved adding four more buildings to its multi-year funding agreement with the Department of Interior during its Wednesday, Sept. 30, meeting.

The buildings include Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center, the Natural Resources Department, Tribal Governance Center and Portland office.

The amendment includes what are known as Section 105(L) leases, which requires the Department of Interior to compensate Tribes for the operational costs of Tribal facilities used to deliver federal programs. Unlike a traditional lease, it acts as a cost-based reimbursement method, where Tribes can be compensated for expenses including rent, depreciation, principal and interest on loans, operations, maintenance and repairs, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs website.

The four leases in the amendment are for the 2025-34 agreement.

“That first multi-year agreement was very successful and allowed

us to spend more time seeking additional funding to ensure that we are maximizing our funding and spending less time on the bureaucratic process every year,” Tribal Economic and Lands Director Jan Looking Wolf Reibach said during a Tuesday, Sept. 29, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

Since the 105(L) leases extend into the time period covered by the funding agreement, an amendment that incorporates the leases is a requirement for those to be funded. Reibach said that total revenue for 2026 is \$5.6 million and that the amendment approval will bring in an additional \$5.6 million.

“It’s important to know that the money goes into the Tribe to help bring the many benefits, programs and services to our Tribal members,” he said. “It goes in to help our budget. In a lot of ways, it relieves our dependency on gaming funding.”

In other news, council:

- Approved a first reading of proposed amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance, which would establish an administrative re-

view process. For more information, see the related story.

- Approved Jan Looking Wolf Reibach to proceed with agriculture permit agreements with area farmers;
- Approved a five-year environmental services cleanup agreement for Portland Harbor;
- Approved the Tribal Housing Department’s submission to the 2027 Indian Housing Plan, which describes all eligible programs that will be operating during 2027;
- Approved an application to the Department of Justice for its Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation grant for up to \$700,000. If approved, it will be used for equipment for the Tribal Police Department and for the Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program’s work with at-risk Tribal

youth;

- Approved payment of \$30,000 in annual dues to the National Congress of American Indians and designated Tribal Council member Lisa Leno as the delegate and all remaining council members as alternates;
- And approved enrolling one infant and one non-infant into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

In other news, council set the agenda for its Sunday, Oct. 4, General Council meeting. It was held in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom and featured a financial report from Robert W. Baird & Co. in executive session.

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

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/BeneficiaryForMembership> ■



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 (2)
- Culture Committee (2) • Election Board (1)
- Fish & Wildlife Committee (1) • Housing Grievance Board* (1)
- Powwow Special Event Board* (2) • Timber Committee* (1)
- Veterans Special Event Board* (2) • Education Committee (1)

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

Indigenous Peoples Day celebration



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta, left, explains how a burden basket is worn as he is interviewed by The Oregonian Reporter Shane Dixon Kavanaugh during the fifth annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration held in Niemeyer Center at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City Saturday, Oct. 10. Archuleta had his weavings and carvings on display and spoke about traditions, culture and history as part of the event.



Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy gives a welcome during the fifth annual Indigenous Peoples Day celebration held in Niemeyer Center at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City Saturday, Oct. 10. Council Vice Chair Jon A. George drummed a blessing song and Tribal Elder Tracy Moreland read the college’s land acknowledgement recognizing the campuses reside on traditional homelands of the Grand Ronde people.

Orange Shirt Day



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Approximately 30 Grand Ronde community members gather in front of the Tribal Governance Center Wednesday, Sept. 30, wearing orange to remember the Indigenous people forced to endure residential schools. Orange Shirt Day started in 2013 and is recognized in Canada as the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. In Grand Ronde, the group held a moment of silence, sang a song and heard from Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy.

Proposed ordinance amendments open for comment

The Tribal Council has proposed amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. The first reading of the amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance was presented at the Tribal Council meeting on Sept. 30, 2026.

The purpose of the amendments is to establish an administrative review process for certain enrollment applications and to make related and technical amendments to the ordinance. These amendments establish a process to review enrollment applications that may have been negatively affected by Tribal government administrative action or inaction, while maintaining the existing enrollment requirements.

Tribal Council invites comments on the proposed amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org. Comments must be received by Nov. 16, 2026. ■

Casino hosting Tribal Member Pathways meeting

Spirit Mountain Casino is hosting a Tribal Member Pathways meeting to give the membership an opportunity to hear directly from casino leadership about the casino's direction and how it contributes to the Tribe's overall economic success.

The meeting will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at the Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway, followed by a question-and-answer session. Light refreshments will be served.

"As the gaming industry continues to evolve, so must we," a press release from the casino stated. "Spirit Mountain Casino is continually adapting to meet the changing needs of our guests, strengthen our operations and position the casino for long-term success. The success of Spirit Mountain Casino helps support Tribal government operations, programs, services and long-term investments that benefit Tribal members. ... We will share information about our current operations, the progress of the casino refresh project and plans for the future."

The meeting is also an opportunity for Tribal members to meet the casino's officers and members of the executive and leadership teams, ask questions, share perspectives and learn more about the people and work.

"Our goal is to provide open and transparent communication about Spirit Mountain Casino's operations, challenges, opportunities and plans for the future," the press release stated. "Tribal member engagement is an important part of building a strong future. We want to share information, listen to your questions and provide a better understanding of the work happening at Spirit Mountain Casino and the role it plays in supporting our Tribe. Professional and respectful conduct is expected from all attendees."

The press release further explained that while questions and differing perspectives are welcome, disruptive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and individuals who engage in this behavior may be asked to leave the meeting. ■

Investment report presented at General Council meeting

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

A representative from Robert W. Baird & Co. Inc. briefed the general membership on the Grand Ronde Tribe's investment portfolio Sunday, Oct. 4, in a hybrid General Council meeting on Zoom and in Tribal Council Chambers.

Before the Baird presentation, the membership heard from Tribal Executive Director of Health Services Kelly Rowe, who gave a statement regarding how many doctors were employed by the clinic after some concerns were raised about the matter during a Wednesday, Sept. 30, Tribal Council meeting.

"There were a lot of statements made that weren't really accurate about what we have going on at the clinic," she said. "We don't just have one doctor at the clinic, we have three. Do we need more? Of course. For recruiting, we do use professional recruitment services for medical, dental, all of our hard-to-fill positions. Those professional positions are really difficult...in the United States during COVID, we had so many doctors that retired because it was such a hard time for our country during the pandemic. ... So, what we've done is fill those positions with temporary doctors as much as we can. We've had to use nurse practitioners mainly. ... We don't have a lot of gaps, but we're always recruiting because we want the best for our membership."

Rowe encouraged any Tribal

members with concerns to stop by her office at the Health & Wellness Center.

"If you're having trouble getting in to see a physician, please come to me because that is an issue I would like to help resolve," she said.

After Rowe finished speaking, the membership heard a 26-minute executive session briefing on the Tribe's investment portfolio, which limits how much Smoke Signals may report. The council entered executive session at 11:25 a.m. and resumed regular session at 11:51 a.m.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Door prize winners were Dorothy Leno and Christie Kimsey, \$100 each; and Chris Bailey, Denise Harvey, Kelly Nelson, Pamela Patrick White, Rosemary Jameson and Sandra Pichette Davis, \$50 each.

The next General Council meeting will take place Sunday, Nov. 1, in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, and feature the annual Tribal budget hearing in executive session.

The council broke for lunch a few minutes before noon, reconvening at approximately 12:25 p.m. for other business. When nothing was presented, the meeting adjourned.

To watch the non-executive session portion of the meeting, visit www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. To view the entire meeting, contact stacia.martin@grandronde.org. ■

yutqat-haws t'tap-san lu?lu

ACHAF HAMMI CELEBRATES 17

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- October 17th
- 4pm - Doors open
- 5:30pm - Meal
- Information

Bobby Mercier - 503.879.2076
bobby.mercier@grandronde.org



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Kalene Contreras gets a camas flower painted on her by Tribal member and Tribal Culture Committee Secretary Marianne Blanchard during the Fall First Foods Celebration in the Tribal gym Friday, Oct. 2.

Fall First Foods Celebration brings sense of heritage

FOOD continued from front page

Tribal Native Plant Nursery Supervisor Jeremy Ojua distributed seed packets, including biscuitroot, yampah and camas, as well as yampah roots that attendees could take home and plant.

Ojua also had samples of raw and cooked brodiaea, allowing for an easy comparison of the taste difference.

Other booths demonstrated the processing of foods such as black oak acorns into an acorn porridge and how camas changes in appearance throughout the seasons. The Ceremonial Hunting Board provided hunting and fishing guides and hunter applications.

The celebration also highlighted food sovereignty. At one both, attendees were asked to mark on a regional map how far they travel to obtain food, while other displays noted the Tribe’s efforts to increase access to and knowledge of traditional foods.

A larger meal was served later during the event, preceded by a blessing and drum song. Guests could enjoy bear sausage, elk stew, deer sliders and salmon, which Mercier said had been prepared

that day in the Tribal plankhouse achaf-hammi.

Culture Committee Secretary Marianne Blanchard said the celebration gives community members an opportunity to better understand foods that have been eaten by the Tribe for hundreds of years, as well as safe gathering practices and resources available to Tribal members.

Blanchard said organizers hope to make First Foods an annual celebration, with another event planned in spring following məkʰm-ək Mania and later again in fall.

“This is only a drop in the bucket,” Blanchard said, “The next one will have even more. There’s hundreds of traditional foods.”

Blanchard hoped guests had an educational experience during the celebration and that they realized learning something new about tradition could also be fun. She also said to always reach out for help if needed.

“Ask everything,” Blanchard said, “Whether it’s the Culture Committee, Cultural Resources (Department) or community health clinic, there’s always going to be somebody to help you and if they can’t, they’ll find somebody who will. That’s what community is.” ■

CTGR

Portland Area Office

4445 SW Barbur Blvd.

Monday-Friday

8am-5pm

Jam party



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Willow Squetimkin, 10, dances during the Every Child Matters Jam at the Tribal plankhouse, achaf-hammi, Saturday, Oct. 3. Every Child Matters honors the lives, dignity and memory of Indigenous children affected by the residential and boarding school systems in Canada and the United States. The Tribe’s Health & Wellness Department sponsored the event that included dinner, singing, dancing and a giveaway.



Tribal Senior Executive Administrative Assistant Alexis Alvarado hands out bags as a giveaway during the Every Child Matters Jam in achaf-hammi Saturday, Oct. 3. Water bottles, mini wireless speakers, footballs and homemade jam were also some of the giveaway items.

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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

Grand Ronde focuses on teaching Chinuk Wawa

BOOK continued
from front page

the modern era.”

The book also contains a short history of the languages and of the Kalapuya people, noting that the last speaker walked on in the 1960s. It notes that historically, Tribal members were multilingual and might speak as many as 10 different languages.

Today, however, Grand Ronde focuses on teaching Chinuk Wawa, while other Tribes have taken on preserving other Native languages.

Although he has been drawing for most of his life, Saghaley Lewis said he didn’t begin taking it seriously until after he graduated from college. This is his first children’s book, drawn in a manner that combines the popular manga style of Japanese comic books with cartoon imagery, that he said was inspired by the work of Spanish artist Carles Dalmau.

David Lewis said he was inspired by a set of books from the Cow Creek Tribe, which explored the Takelma words for various themes, such as colors and animals.

“So basically, I showed my dad illustrations and he gave me the idea; he gave me this book in another language that’s very similar and said, ‘Hey, do you want to do this, but with Kalapuyan words?’ I was like, ‘sure,’” Saghaley Lewis said.

David Lewis said he felt that his son’s style of drawing would appeal



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder David Lewis and his son, Tribal member Saghaley Lewis, wrote a children’s book, “Kalapuya - Chinuk wawa Ikanum.” The book features words in the Kalapuya, Chinuk Wawa and English languages. Saghaley created the illustrations.



It doesn’t necessarily tell a story, but it does offer Native words and people can start making up their own stories using the images. There’s clearly something going on, whether it’s an eagle chasing squirrels or whatever. The design I like the best is the underwater sturgeon; it’s pretty cool. That’s been really popular.”

David Lewis said he has ideas for several more stories if his son decides to commit himself to the illustrations. Those might include more vocabulary words or even Kalapuya stories.

“And I’m not sure if we would try to write that story in three languages, that may be somewhat difficult, but it could happen,” he

said. “There’s some pretty interesting ones out there, these stories have already been analyzed quite a bit by scholars and such, and they have really interesting figures in them. Some have monsters in them and giant elk or giant creatures with polka dots and horns and stuff. ... We could go through the whole Kalapuya text and pull out a few good stories and do books on each one. It would be ambitious, but it could happen.”

David Lewis said he believes many of the ancient stories are actually history that has been passed down for hundreds of generations.

“Part of the problem has been that Native stories have been ignored over a long time,” he said. “They were collected 100 years ago or so and kind of studied for their linguistic character, but nobody really interpreted them as actual history. Now, we’re in this sort of new age, of people saying, ‘Well, wait a minute, maybe those stories are actual history.’ They’re events that happened in the time of the Tribes. We have pretty amazing stories that talked about flooding, volcanic action and tsunamis. And if that’s the case, ... then it could be the case that the monsters they’re seeing are megafauna (large prehistoric animals weighing more than 100 pounds).”

To order a book, visit the Quartux Journal at <https://ndnhistoryresearch.com/shop/>.

Additionally, the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department and Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center purchased 300 copies of the book that it provided to the Tribe’s language program for distribution to students and families at the annual literacy night, Cultural Resources Manager David Harrelson said. ■

Denials are rare and usually caused by DNA results

ENROLLMENT continued
from front page

the Tribe’s enrollment process.

A new panel will review all application denials, to make sure they were not caused by administrative delays and will send any recommendations to Tribal Council for approval. The panel will consist of Hernandez, the Member Services Department manager, a representative from the Tribal Attorney’s Office and a rotating member of the Enrollment Committee. Several people however, suggested there should be two members from the Enrollment Committee.

Hernandez noted that denials are rare and usually caused by DNA results. The Tribe pays for the required DNA tests in enrollment applications.

Leno urged new parents not to delay applications for their infants.

“It is very, very important that you enroll your child in that (first) six months,” she said. “We are not going to be looking at applications where people just haven’t gotten their applications in on time.”

Hernandez said it’s important to

begin early. “The second you get out of the hospital, I would work on ordering Social Security and identification for that child,” she said.

Tribal Council member Kathleen George explained during the Legislative Action Committee meeting Tuesday, Sept. 29, that after the Tribe approved its constitutional amendment changing enrollment to lineal descent in Sept. 2024, the list of applicants for membership became so long that it will take years to get through. Under the current system, that means infant enrollment applications that get hung up in the administrative process and miss the six-month window go to the end of that line, creating a wait of more than a decade. The proposed changes would eliminate that penalty.

Under the proposed changes, infants who are not enrolled by six months due to delays by the Tribe would be included in an additional 50 enrollment slots per year instead of going to the end of the enrollment waiting line. The council would have the ability to add fewer than 50 additional enrollments if it chooses to do so, Hernandez said.

“We just want the membership to know that we’re learning as we live with our new amendments and as we implement them,” George said. “This is a big safety check or a failsafe. In case there could be a mistake, we don’t want the burden of a human mistake that could be possible, even if rare, to negatively impact that infant.”

Tribal Council will hold a meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, to review comments and suggestions, Hernandez said. On Tuesday, Nov. 17, it will hold a combined work session and LAC meeting to review any additional comments received between Nov. 12-Nov. 16. Absent any major changes, Hernandez said, the council hopes to vote on the amendment at its Wednesday, Nov. 18, regular meeting. ■



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Tribal member branches out into winemaking

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member David Harrelson has branched off in a new direction this year, following his passion for history and his interest in food to a side business in winemaking.

Harrelson didn't start out with an interest in wine; it grew slowly over several years. There was a college professor's stories about his son's new vineyard, a neighbor's request for help with the harvest and a trip to the Caucasus Mountains, located at the border of Europe and Asia.

When he and his family moved to Dundee, Harrelson said, he wasn't particularly interested in wine, much less in wine-making. But as "the heart of Oregon wine country," Dundee is a town that takes wine seriously.

"It's kind of everywhere," he said. "I met neighbors and my neighbors worked in the wine industry. We moved to Dundee in 2013 and I knew little or nothing about wine, moving into town, but slowly and surely it increased your friend's like, 'Hey, I need help on the sorting line.' I found myself working aspects of harvest or picking grapes or doing this, just being neighborly."

Then there was the historic aspect of this most ancient beverage.

"In 2019, I went to the Republic of Georgia, sort of along my pursuit of loving food and realizing that they had a whole food culture there that I didn't know anything about and so I got really interested to learn more," Harrelson said. "And so that was part one of one of my pull toward that place. Part two was that I asked the question where the oldest signs of winemaking are in the world, and that's the Caucasus Mountains."

People there still routinely make their own wine at home in traditional clay vessels. Rather than the familiar white or red wine of Western culture, Harrelson said, Georgians make amber wine.

“You take white grapes and let them sit on the skins, like you do with red wine,” he said. “It pulls the color out and makes this beautiful



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member David Harrelson loads Albariño grapes into a wine press. His wine label, amaa, was founded in 2025. amma means home in the Kalapuya language.

amaa offers several types of wines including red, white, amber, sparkling and non-alcoholic.

golden-hued wine.”

Harrelson said he was hooked.

"I wanted to find a way for me to make amber wine in clay vessels," he said.

And he knew where to find the vessels, thanks to that college professor's stories about his son's venture into growing grapes.

“There’s one manufacturer of clay vessels in the United States,” Harrelson said. “Otherwise, you have to buy them from Italy or Portugal. And the one manufacturer of those is a man named Andrew Beckham, who as chance would have it, is the son of Stephen Dow Beckham, the historian who’s worked with our Tribe for over 50 years and was my college advisor. And Andrew and I, about 10 years ago, started to become friends through being introduced through his dad. And Andrew (is) one of a handful of people who sort of made awareness of wine a little bit more familiar to me and then encouraged me in different ways and so that relationship was very helpful.”



In 2020, Harrelson tried his own hand at making wine in the traditional Georgian manner, using clay pots.

"I made wine in my garage as a hobby winemaker, from 2020 through the 2023 harvest," he said. "I had my first commercial production started in the 2024 vintage. And I released those 24 wines in February of 2026. ... It's going well enough that I'm going to keep making it."

Harrelson makes several types of wine; amber, red, white, a sparkling white and a non-alcoholic wine.

"I have six current offerings, six different bottlings and this January I'll be bottling another four wines," he said. "One is a repeat but a different vintage of Coyote's eyes. The others will all be unique wines."

He's not giving up his day job, he said, as he still enjoys working as the Tribe's Cultural Resources Department manager. But he also enjoys spending some of his free time in a very different venue, where the work is hands-on.

"It's a creative outlet for me," he said.

Cultural relevance is quietly threaded throughout Harrelson's endeavor. amaa Wine is named for the Kalapuya word for home.

"I named it that because to me, the best type of wine that I enjoyed was in Georgia, where wine was approachable, it was a part of everyday living and it was in the home," Harrelson said. "Everyone there made wine in their garage. Everyone had home wine and I was like, 'Oh, I want to live in place like that, where wine is approachable and it's accessible and it's to be enjoyed.'"

He has named one of his wines, Wine Alley, in a nod to a road on the reservation where Tribal winemakers plied their skills throughout

Prohibition. Another is named Coyote's Eyes, not for the rich golden color, but for the flavor.

“When I first tasted the wine that I made, it tasted really strongly of rose and immediately what came to my mind was the Chinuk Wawa word for rose hips, which is *t’alapas siyaxus*,” he said. “And *t’alapas siyaxus* means Coyote’s Eyes. And it’s because in the *ikanum*, or the creation stories, Coyote loses his eyes, and then he reaches out and he grabs rose hips and puts rose hips in his eyes. And so, it’s like this cultural frame of reference for me. ... it has this, like, layered understanding, and that’s a really important thing for me in building a brand and sharing it, is that I want it to reflect place. I

want it to reflect me and my culture but I'm not trying to do that loudly. It needs to be able to stand alone by itself. It's a great value-added, but it's not the story in and of itself."

Harrelson acknowledged that many people want to know how his endeavor fits in with

the troubling issue of high alcoholism rates among Indigenous people.

"They're like 'Well, how does this work, David?' and part of it for me is this isn't new," he said. "Tribal people have continued to make wine. I have family members who have throughout their life and continue to be really active in AA. I was brought up around that, I had my own, like, check-in, with my family. It was one of the commitments and processes about my own consumption of alcohol, when I became a young person."

But as he grew up, Harrelson said, “I was exposed to the possibility of having an actual healthy relationship with alcohol. I do think that’s possible. I don’t think that’s possible for everyone. It is one of the influences for me of why I make a non-alcoholic wine, is because I love the community part of what wine offers, in convening and gathering, but I also don’t want people to feel excluded.”

Alcohol abuse can mask deeper issues, he said.

“In a lot of instances, alcohol and the abuse of alcohol is about people self-medicating, and it’s oftentimes the symptom of the other things that are going on,” he said. “It can become the scapegoat or the target, but one thing that I’ve seen throughout my life, in people that I’m very close with who went through programs, is that even when they get rid of the alcohol, they still have the ‘ism’ and they have to work on the ‘ism.’ And so I would say that my hope is that we can create and we can model healthy relationships with alcohol, that there’s a possibility of that existing, with the full understanding that it’s not one that exists for everyone and that we need to support our community members in the ways that are meaningful to them.” ■



Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam focuses on healing

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

The 2026 Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam began Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center and continued Thursday, Oct. 8. The event was last held in 2024.

Hosted by the Native Wellness Institute, the Gathering of Native Americans curriculum aims to help Native people find a sense of belonging and community while healing from any trauma they may carry with them.

The mission of the Native Wellness Institute is to promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of North America’s Indigenous peoples, according to its website.

Native Wellness Institute Executive Director Jillene Joseph welcomed guests and congratulated them for stepping outside their comfort zones, saying it was an honor that they were willing to participate in the event through healthy risk-taking.

The event began with a drum song, while attendees gathered in a large circle facing each other.

Joseph asked for volunteers from the audience to contribute an opening prayer, encouraging words, poem or any other form of expression to begin the event in a good way. Some attendees were participating in GONA for the first time, while others had attended several times before.

Audience members then split into groups of two and shared responses to questions Joseph asked, including positive traits about themselves, what recovery looks like to them and how Native culture plays a role in community-based healing.

The theme of this year’s event was grief and loss. Several activities were planned for the two-day event, including large and small group discussions, traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, gift making for other participants, activities designed to help with letting go of trauma and learning ways to live a balanced life.

One event involved guests creating traditional Native tobacco ties for themselves and others. While making them, guests were encouraged to imbue them with their



Tribal Elder Rhonda Leno participates in an ice breaker activity with Tribal member Chris Bailey during the Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Wednesday, Oct. 7.



Tribal member Flicka Lucero beads an earring during the Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Wednesday, Oct. 7.

wishes, prayers and other positive feelings.

Throughout the gathering, attendees could share as much or as little about themselves as they wanted. Discussions touched on community, hobbies, spirituality, learning experiences, compassion, excitement, fears, personal struggles and family, with many participants noting that family does not have to be defined by blood.

Joseph hoped guests would leave the event feeling better than when they arrived by being around one another, their culture and historical photos of Grand Ronde people displayed during the event.

“I hope that they take away the tools that are shared that will be used in their lives to help them sustain that good feeling they’re going to get from being here,” Joseph said.

For Joseph, holding GONA in Grand Ronde represented an opportunity for collective healing and for members of the community to come together, learn, grow and talk about things that normally aren’t discussed, such as grief and loss. It also represented an opportunity to be Native and strengthen the community.

“This event is also a time to celebrate who we are as Native people,” Joseph said. “For us to celebrate our culture and life together.”

Joseph continued, “The reason GONA is so important is because we’re trying to change community norms from hurt to healing. That has been happening in this community for decades. You can feel it and see it because healing isn’t a destination, it’s a journey. Healing is the norm in this community.”

Native Wellness Institute guest and representative Dwight Francisco, a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation from southern Arizona, said it was an honor to visit Grand Ronde. He also discussed his recovery and sobriety, which he has maintained for almost 12 years after nearly a decade of alcohol addiction.

The gathering was attended by nearly 40 participants, including Tribal Council member Valeria Atanacio, who helped facilitate the event. Atanacio shared how proud she was of those who came to participate, even if only for as much time as they could spare.

“I think one of the most important parts of being in a Tribal community is we have these opportunities to come together and talk, share stories and learn from one another,” Atanacio said. “As we enter a new season, it’s extremely important because these are some of the harder months we’re entering into for mental health and wellness and this is a great start to that.”

Joseph encouraged those who have never heard of or might be unaware of the Gathering of Grand Ronde Tilixam to give it a try.

“What I want people to know is it’s a safe space to be together with other Tribal members where you get to be solution oriented and forward thinking,” Joseph said. “It’s a part of our culture to always strive to be better than we were the day before and GONA is an opportunity to do that. An opportunity to acknowledge our ancestors, give thanks and contribute good things to the community going forward because it’s about giving back.” ■

Grand Ronde Elder Board

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ACUPUNCTURE • NATURAL REMEDIES

Thinning planned for Memorial Landing site

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Natural Resources and Cultural Resources departments are seeking comments on a plan to thin a cherished site on the reservation, called Memorial Landing, to reduce fire risk and create a healthier, more diverse forest. Toward that end, they held meetings Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 5-6, to explain their plans, though few Tribal members attended.

Tribal Council member Toby McClary attended the presentation Monday and council member Pete Wakeland was at the Memorial Landing site Tuesday.

Tribal Timber Resource Program Manager Travis Trammell, Tribal Historic Preservation Office Manager Briece Edwards, Tribal Archeologist Jeremy Johnson and Tribal Fire Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini explained that the much-loved site is the result of a Douglas fir plantation, in which trees are closely planted together, with little regard for either long-term spacing or biodiversity.

Now, the Tribe plans to move the site out of commercial timber production and “into a safe space for all the activities that go on up there,” Johnson said. At the same time, Tribal Natural Resources Department employees need to thin the site.

Without thinning, Trammell explained, there will be a higher risk for wildfire, disease and trees being



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribal Council member Pete Wakeland, left, examines the growth pattern of a tree during a cutting demonstration at the Memorial Landing site on the Grand Ronde Reservation Tuesday, Oct. 6. The Tribe is planning a non-commercial thinning of Memorial Landing to encourage forest health and safety. Community input meetings regarding this project are planned throughout the rest of the year.

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blown over by high winds. Once the work is completed, it won’t need to be done again for a significant amount of time.

The group is working together, they said, to ensure that the thinning is done with care not to disturb existing memorials or remove trees that are being used for cultural practices. Trees will be carefully

selected, with much of the work done by hand with chainsaws, rather than the large machines typically used for commercial timber falling. Crews will focus primarily on removing crowded Douglas fir, Trammell said. That work is also expected to open up more of the site for future use for memorials.

“We want this to be available for a long time, for families to use for memorial sites,” Trammell said.

He noted that the removed trees could be chipped onsite and the resulting mulch used for paths or made available to Tribal members

to use at their memorial sites.

Puerini said the group plans to schedule a demonstration thinning of one small section away from the memorials, tentatively next fall, to allow Tribal members to see what the project would look like.

“The trees will respond quickly,” he said, “And the limbs will be touching in five or 10 years.”

The work is expected to more than double the area available for memorial sites, Edwards said.

Natural Resources has work scheduled during the next year to thin some of the stands near the Memorial Landing site, Trammell said.

McClary told the group that he initially had concerns about the project, but after hearing more about it, now feels confident that it will go well.

The group discussed the possibility of bringing in youth crews or others to help keep the site clean and of possibly eventually building a restroom and a gate to keep non-Tribal people out of the site. Edwards noted, however, that requests need to come from the community.

Puerini said the Tribal community will be notified about the demonstration project ahead of time, so they can temporarily remove any memorial items they are concerned about, observe the work or express concerns.

Questions or comments about the project may be directed to Jeremy. Johnson@grandronde.org or Travis.Trammell@grandronde.org. ■

TRIBAL MEMBER

PATHWAYS

MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 5:30-7:30PM

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO EVENT CENTER

THE PATH AHEAD: OUR PROGRESS, OUR DIRECTION

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SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO

Study provides safe consumption levels for wapato

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

A three-year study of wapato harvested at Wapato Lake and at two locations on the Tualatin River has revealed that the tuber doesn't appear to store concerning amounts of pesticides but does contain copper at some sites. Researchers have also now calculated safe daily consumption rates over a lifetime, working with the Oregon Health Authority.

They announced their findings Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Tribe's Ancestral Homelands: Land Stewardship, Land Tending & Cultural Gathering held at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym. The evening included a meal of chili and salad, information tables about cultural gathering and Tribal stewardship, and a presentation by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on the testing results from the Tualatin and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

Tribal Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta worked on the study and gave a brief overview of the stewardship work the Tribe is doing with various local government partners around the state, including the Metro regional government office, to cultivate and preserve First Foods.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Archuleta said, “is one of our biggest partners,” and oversees the area of Wapato Lake, once the home of a large Kalapuyan village. For eons, Wapato Lake, filled by the Tualatin River, was a prime source for the nutritious tubers. But after settlement, farmers pumped the water out every summer for irrigation and planted onions and potatoes in the rich soil of the area. Not until 2024 was the lake allowed to remain filled.

"We've been transplanting wapato there," Archuleta said, noting



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Native Plant Nursery Assistant Joseph Ham speaks during the Ancestral Homelands: Land Stewardship, Land Tending & Cultural Gathering at the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center gym Tuesday, Sept. 22. The evening focused on connections to ancestral homelands and opportunities for Tribal members to participate in land stewardship, land tending and cultural gathering throughout western Oregon.

that there were also remnant populations still hanging on. “Over two years, we planted over 20,000 tubers there.

However, given the herbicides and other substances used on farmland, "The big question is, are they safe for consumption?" he said.

Three years ago, the Tribe partnered with Dr. Robin Van Meter, an environmental contaminants specialist and Jeremy Buck, both of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to design a study to answer those questions. Each year, Fish & Wildlife staff and dozens of Tribal volunteers waded into the muck to locate and harvest the tubers for laboratory examination and to take soil samples. The samples

were tested for heavy metals, glyphosate, certain types of herbicides, DDT and other legacy pesticides, meaning those that persist in the environment for years and sometimes decades.

The work was sometimes arduous.

“At some sites, there was so much ground cover that it required a lot of labor just to clear down to the soil, so we’d go out there with rakes and other tools,” Van Meter said. “Once I literally got sucked in up to my hips and it took several people to pull me out.”

DDT, an insecticide that was banned in 1972, and several other insecticides were detected in the soil, particularly in Wapato Lake,

but the study determined that wapato does not appear to take up and store pesticides. The tubers at some sites, however, did contain copper and zinc, although not at high levels. With that information in hand, Van Meter said, she reached out to the Oregon Health Authority to help her calculate safe consumption rates.

The rates change slightly for each sampled site, depending on the amounts of copper and zinc found, however, the daily serving limits are generous, at least for those not depending on wapato as a winter staple.

Van Meter said that an adult woman, according to the guidelines drawn up, could consume nearly a pound to a pound and a half a day, depending on her size – from Wapato Lake, for life, without incurring issues, they said. For an adult man, the amount would be slightly more than a pound to slightly more than a pound and a half. A pound is 16 ounces.

For the Oleson Area of the Tualatin River, the amount is slightly lower; 10 to 17.98 ounces daily for women. The limits for adult men at the Oleson Area are 12 to 20 ounces daily.

At Chicken Creek, the limits are 19 ounces to two pounds for women, and 24 ounces to 2.44 pounds for men.

For children ages 9 to 13, the limits are roughly 9 to 14 ounces at Wapato Lake; 6.7 to 10.5 ounces at the Olson Area, and 12.6 to 20 ounces for wapato from Chicken Creek.

To obtain the full list, email Archuleta at greg.archuleta@grandronde.org. ■

**Bake Sale
for:**

***Christmas
Truck***

Dec 3rd & 4th
10:00am to 2:00pm
ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER
GRAND RONDE



Proceeds will go to help the purchase of fuel to run the truck
through the holiday season.
Elder David Sears has been doing the truck for 25 years.



regon

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- TEACHINGS AROUND HAIR
- YOUTH ADVOCACY
- PREVENTION
- GENERATIONAL HEALING



DATE
NOVEMBER 7TH 2026



TIME
START AT 08:00AM

Grand Ronde, OR 97347
9615 Grand Ronde Road, Building "I"

CONTACT US
YEP@GRANDRONDE.ORG
503-879-2034



SCAN TO REGISTER



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

VOTE EARLY
Voting is Vital

Voter registration deadline: Oct.13
Counties begin mailing ballots to active voters: Oct. 14
Last recommended day to return ballots by mail: Oct. 27
Last day to return ballots using a drop box: Nov. 3 at 8 p.m.

Voters can place their ballot in ANY drop box in Oregon,
but it will arrive sooner if put in your own county’s box.

More information is available from the Secretary of State:
oregonvotes.gov or county clerk’s office:
Yamhill 503-434-7518. Polk 503-623-9217.

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Prepared by JBS International, Inc., under Grant No. 3-F73-T02690-01-S1 for the U.S. DHHS, SAMHSA, CSAT



It’s never too late to heal from addiction.

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

Drop box at Tribal Police Station

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. ■



**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



IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING...

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

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GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



Tuesday, Sept. 1

- Officers responded to a report of an individual sleeping behind the wheel of a vehicle near a fuel pump at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a probation violation in the Willamina area.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a CPR call at the 25000 block of Southwest Blue Jay Court.
- Officers responded to the 9000 block of Hebo Road for a single-vehicle, non-injury crash.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with reuniting an elderly individual with their caretaker near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, Sept. 3

- Officers responded to Hebo Road and Highway 18 for a single-vehicle, non-injury crash.
- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a reportedly intoxicated individual preparing to leave.
- Citizen contact occurred at Hebo Road.

Friday, Sept. 4

- Officers responded to the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway for a single-vehicle crash involving a vehicle that struck a light pole.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 25000 block of Southwest Blue Jay Court.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash that occurred at milepost 17 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a hit-and-run investigation at the 24000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, Sept. 5

- A single-vehicle crash was reported near milepost 12 on Highway 18.
- A welfare check was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 1 on Highway 18B.

Sunday, Sept. 6

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a single-vehicle crash near milepost 23 on Hebo Road.
- A report of a lost person was resolved with an arrest near milepost 15.5 on Highway 18.
- A follow-up contact occurred at the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Sept. 7

- Follow-up contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to Highway 18 near Exit 25 on a report of large garbage bags in the roadway.
- A driving complaint was reported near Hebo and Grand Ronde roads.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 21 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred on Grand Ronde Road.
- A DUII arrest occurred near milepost 29 on Highway 18.

Tuesday, Sept. 8

- Citizen contact occurred over the phone about a fishing regulation violation.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with investigation in Grand Ronde.
- A DUII arrest occurred on Highway 18.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a single vehicle crash near milepost 15 on Highway 18.
- A welfare check occurred on Hebo Road and Highway 18.
- An alarm call occurred at the 8000 block of Fort Hill Road.

Thursday, Sept. 10

- Officers responded to Tribal housing for a reported sick or injured deer. The deer was euthanized and turned over to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife for further testing.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an intoxicated individual in the 300 block of Pacific Hills Drive.
- Officers received reports of a non-injury vehicle crash in the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a driving complaint near the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, Sept. 11

- Citizen contact occurred at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency at Willamina High School with a

- medical emergency.
- Officers responded to a report of an individual lying in the roadway at the 25700 block of Yamhill River Road.
- A DUII arrest occurred near milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- An alarm call was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 55000 block of Hebo Road.

Saturday, Sept. 12

- A theft call was reported at the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- A driving complaint was reported at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, Sept. 13

- A follow-up on a theft call occurred at the 27100 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to the 9500 block of Raven Loop to assist with a medical incident.
- Trespassing occurred at the 28400 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with disturbance in the 54000 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near milepost 24 on Highway 18.

Monday, Sept. 14

- Officers received a report of a possible break-in at Raven Loop.
- Theft occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Sept. 15

- A suspicious vehicle was reported at Kissing Rock.
- Officers contacted a vehicle that stopped in the turn lane near the 9600 block of Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an active burglary at the 21800 block of Rock Creek Road.
- Fraud occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A missing person was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A stolen vehicle was reported at the 26800 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted with locating a person who had been reported missing near the 28800 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A vehicle accident was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A follow-up on a missing person report occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Thursday, Sept. 17

- A follow up on a previous case occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported break-in near Rock Creek Drive.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers responded to Hebo and Grand Ronde roads for a reported downed tree blocking a lane of travel.
- A vehicle versus pedestrian crash occurred at the 8000 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a cover request in the Sheridan area.

Friday, Sept. 18

- A possible assault occurred at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near Highway 18 and Sheridan Road.

Saturday, Sept. 19

- A suspicious interaction occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted a caller reporting a disturbance involving a person yelling at an individual in a wheelchair in Sheridan.
- Officers assisted pedestrians walking along near milepost 21 on Highway 18 in the dark by providing transportation to a safer location.
- Officers responded to reported crash near milepost 17 on Highway 18.
- A domestic disturbance was reported in the Fire Hall Road area.

Sunday, Sept. 20

- Drugs were found in restroom at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a trespassing complaint near Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an investigation at a park in

See POLICE LOG
continued on page 15



GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG



POLICE LOG
continued from page 14

Sheridan.

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported disturbance near the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an intoxicated subject attempting to enter RVs and vehicles near the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a burglary-related vehicle stop on Highway 18.

Monday, Sept. 21

- Drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Lost property was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported near milepost 32 on Highway 18.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a rollover crash near Hebo Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported disturbance in Sheridan.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported near Fire Hall Road and Andy Riggs Road.

Thursday, Sept. 24

- No calls

Friday, Sept. 25

- A potential missing person was reported in the Grand Ronde area.
- A DUII arrest occurred near Highway 18 and Rowell Creek Road.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A potentially intoxicated driver was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in Willamina.
- Officers checked a previously identified unlawful encampment near Andy Riggs and Fire Hall roads and found it cleared.

Saturday, Sept. 26

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a cover request in the Willamina area.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Sunday, Sept. 27

- Drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers investigated a hit-and-run crash that occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Sept. 28

- Officers assisted an outside agency with a crash at Hebo and Grand Ronde roads.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

- Trespassing was reported in the Raven Loop area.
- Officers responded to the Raven Loop area after a cougar was reportedly seen behind a residence.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a juvenile-related call in Willamina.
- Theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near Highway 18 and Harmony Road.
- A driving complaint was reported on Highway 18.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

- A possible fight was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A DUII arrest occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

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

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*Five total T-shirts will be given away.

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Walking On...

Jacquelin Ethel ManyHides

Oct. 25, 1951 – Oct. 1, 2026
Tribal Elder Jacquelin Ethel ManyHides passed away Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026, at the age of 74.
A viewing was held Monday, Oct. 5, at Macy & Son Funeral Home and Cremation Services in McMinnville.
Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Tribal gym, followed by a gravesite service at the Tribal Cemetery and a meal at the Elders Activity Center.

Tammie Lorraine Davis

June 4, 1963 – Aug. 28, 2026
Tribal Elder Tammie Lorraine Davis passed away on Aug. 28, 2026, at the age of 63.
Coleman Mortuary in Hoquiam, Washington, assisted the family.

Levi Daniel Lynch

July 22, 1987 – Sept. 28, 2026
Tribal Member Levi Daniel Lynch passed away Sept. 28, 2026, at the age of 39.
Andreason’s Cremation & Burial Services in Springfield, Oregon, is assisting the family.
Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

smok signalz email subscription

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



Watchlist: ‘More than the summit: An Indigenous journey up Tahoma (aka Mount Rainier)’

By Kamiah Koch
Social media/digital journalist
Muckleshoot Tribal member Rachel Heaton is an outdoor educator and trainer with the goal of getting Native people back on Mount Tahoma (Mount Rainier) in Washington.
Oregon Public Broadcasting’s recent Oregon Field Guide video, published in late September, follows a group of six Indigenous people training to climb to Camp Muir, reaching more than 4,600 feet of elevation gain.
“I attempted once to summit with Rachel and it was tough,” Muckleshoot Tribal member Tayla LaClair said. “I watched her train and I was like, ‘That looks horrible... let me in.’”
Heaton hopes this journey will allow Tribal people, specifically Tribal youth, to experience the mountain in a way that they can learn more about the mountain’s connection with Native people and feel its spirituality.
According to Heaton, there were historically six Tribes near the base of the mountain, and they all gave the mountain a different name. The snowmelt from the mountain supplies water to rivers the Tribes depend on, so all the names roughly translate to “mother of the water.”
“My journey is not to summit, my journey is introducing people to the mountain in a sacred way,” Heaton said.
After a summer of training, the all-Native group set off on their ascent, only to reach Camp Muir to find 50 mph winds at the top. They persevered throughout the night and were rewarded with glissading back down the mountain. Glissading is a mountaineering technique where a climber slides down a steep snow or ice slope to speed their descent.
“When we are on our mountain, that means our stories are there, our language is there, our songs are there,” Heaton said.
You can watch the Native hiking expedition on the OPB YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QBGyfQEVk4. ■

Grand Ronde Culture Committee

Craft Class Days

2026 10AM-4PM – CTGR Community Center



- Sunday – January 25th
- Sunday – February 22nd
- Sunday – March 22nd
- Sunday – April 26th
- Sunday – May 31st
- Sunday – June 28th
- Sunday – July 26th
- Sunday – August 23rd
- Sunday – September 27th
- Sunday – October 25th
- Sunday – November 11th
- Sunday – December 20th

Bring your creativity, supplies, and your family.

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

A welcoming space for all Tribal households and all ages.

Reach out to the culture committee with questions-

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

Marianne Blanchard
indigenousartstattooco@gmail.com

Stephanie Craig
kalapuyaweaver@gmail.com

Molly Leno
molly.leno@grandronde.org

Don't fear your boo!



domestic violence awareness

21st Oct

Resources
Crafts
Food Vendor

10am-2pm
Grand Ronde Community Center

Hosted by Warriors Of Hope Program

TERO Worker of the Month

September 2026

Name: Jonathan Bastin
Employer: Kiewit
Position: Laborer

Jonathan was dispatched to the I-205 Abernethy Bridge project in Oregon City in June 2026 as a laborer on the demolition crew. Jonathan has utilized TERO training courses in the past, including the BTI Equipment Training and a Fall Protection class. Jonathan said he plans to use TERO in the future and that its program has been good for him. Jonathan said that the staff has been amazing to work with and extremely helpful. When asked if he’s learned any new skills, Jonathan said that he has, and it has been so amazing to see the hard work that it takes to build a bridge. When asked how TERO has helped him, Jonathan said that TERO has given him something to be proud of, the opportunity to support his family and to open other doors for his future.

Congratulations Jonathan, 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



Jonathan Bastin

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

Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Coach K-5	10	\$26.76/hr.	\$30.39/hr.	10/12/2026
Assistant Teacher	8	\$24.00/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	10/12/2026
Clinic Manager – Salem Detox – GCR	14	\$90,630.26/yr.	\$116,255.21/yr.	Until Filled
College Intern/Aide – Early Childhood Education	2	\$16.00/hr.	\$18.26/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Elder Care	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Weekends Only – Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	10/19/2026
Driver – Mid-Shift - Sheridan – GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Help Desk Technician	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	10/15/2026
Licensed Practical Nurse – Elder Care Program	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse – Salem Primary Care	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
Licensed Practical Nurse - Salem Detox - GCR	12	\$36.01/hr.	\$46.31/hr.	Until Filled
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
Medication Aide – Elder Care Program	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	10/19/2026
Millieu Safety Technician - Salem OTP - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Millieu Safety Technician – Mid-Shift - Sheridan – GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Millieu Safety Technician – Variable Shifts - Sheridan GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Millieu Safety Technician – Salem - Withdrawal Management - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Nurse Practitioner	22	\$176,396.03/yr.	\$248,130.43/yr.	Until Filled
Paraoptometric	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Physician – Health & Wellness	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Physician – Salem Primary Care	25	\$226,851.26/yr.	\$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Radiologic Technologist	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Registered Nurse – Elder Care Program	15	\$97,858.44/yr.	\$127,796.59/yr.	Until Filled
Senior Dental Assistant	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
Silviculture & Fire Grant Technician – Limited Duration	8	\$24.60/hr.	\$31.84/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide After Care – Entry Level – Part Time	4	\$17.15/hr.	\$21.85/hr.	10/12/2026
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Security Officer – Grave Shift Only	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	10/12/2026

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.



THANKSGIVING MEAL!

Open to all community members!

1pm-5pm

November 25th

28480 McPherson,

Grand Ronde OR,97347



Please join Grand Ronde Emergency Services and the Community Disaster Response Team for a

Volunteers welcome - If you are interested in helping cook or distribute food please contact kaylene.barry@grandronde.org



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
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
Call Center Representative	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Cook	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
Food & Beverage Bar Porter	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
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
The Zone Bar Porter (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
The Zone Bartender (Full-Time & *Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$16.50/hr. + Tips
The Zone Bussperson (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
The Zone Food Runner/Expo (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
The Zone Host/Hostess (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr. DOE
The Zone Waitstaff (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$15.55/hr. DOE + Tips

*DOE = Depending on Experience

SMC on-site Job Fair 10/15/26 1:00- 3:00 PM- Interview for new positions at The Zone!

\$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.

Students of the month

The Tribe’s Youth Enrichment Program hayu-munk skukum implemented student of the month awards for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-12. Students of the month for September are:



Tribal member Calvin Stauffer was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 because he consistently shows what it means to be dependable, accountable and committed to doing his best every day. Whether he is completing tasks on time, managing his materials or stepping up to help his peers, he sets an excellent example of leadership for our community.



Juniper Flynn was recognized as student of the month for grades K-2 for demonstrating outstanding responsibility. Throughout the month of September, Juniper consistently showed a high level of accountability, arriving prepared to follow tasks, always keeping her space and the classroom clean. Juniper helps maintain a positive attitude in the classroom.



Tribal member Ila Mercier was chosen as student of the month for grades 6-12 because she takes the initiative to make new students feel welcome. She notices when someone may be feeling unsure or left out and tries to introduce herself, includes them in activities and helps them feel comfortable. Her leadership and willingness to reach out to others help create a positive and welcoming environment for everyone.

Tribal member Andrew Hanna was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 because he consistently demonstrates kindness, respect, responsibility and a positive attitude. He is a wonderful role model for his peers and a valued student in the program.



Tribal member Jacob Soderberg was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5. Jacob is always helpful and he has shown much growth and improvement. He is good at holding himself accountable when it comes to his actions and his teacher has always admired and appreciated him for that. Since this school year began, he has shown nothing but positivity, even when it seems hard to control his emotions and be calm. He always takes a few minutes to himself and regathers himself before reengaging with current activities we may be doing. Overall, his teacher is proud of him and the way he is learning to control himself. His parents are always proud to hear when he does good, so it makes Jacob feel even better when he gets reassurance from his family and friends.

Contributed photos

2026 / 2027 LIHEAP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Income criteria apply.
- Does not require Shut-off Notice.
- Is a "first, come first served" program.
- Assists Tribal members in the 7 county service area (Polk, Yamhill, Marion, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas).
- Adult Tribal Members name (adult CTGR tribal member who lives at home) MUST be on the billing statement or Authorized User on the utility account.
- If no adult Tribal Member is in the home, family can still apply if there is a CTGR Tribal Member youth in the home. Must provide documentation of child living in the home.
- LIHEAP assists with electric, natural gas, propane, pellet, oil, or wood
- Typically, LIHEAP is open from October 1st (or when funded) and ends September 30th or when funds have been depleted (whichever comes first).
- If client has received LIHEAP or LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) as of October 1st, 2025, from another agency, they are not eligible to apply through the CTGR Social Services for regular LIHEAP assistance.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM ARE LIMITED.
STRONGLY ADVISE ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO CONTINUE PAYING YOUR UTILITY BILL UNTIL THE LIHEAP APPLICATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES AND A CREDIT FROM LIHEAP HAS BEEN APPLIED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

For an application contact:

Confederated Tribes of Grand
Ronde Social Service Department
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde OR 97347
1-800-242-8196 or (503) 879-
2034 Fax: (503) 879-2127 Email:
SSDInfo@grandronde.org

COMMUNITY
DONATION EVENT

Help Keep Our Community Warm,
Safe and Supported!

Neighbors
Helping
Neighbors

DONATIONS NEEDED:

Blankets

Coats

Hats

Toiletries

Hand Warmers

Rain Ponchos

Pet Foods

Socks & Gloves

(Used in good clean condition will be accepted)

COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
7

10 AM – 4 PM

Biscuits and Gravy and Hot Dogs
served during the event.

Donations or questions, please contact
a member of the Elder Board:
Darlene Aaron, Annabelle Layman,
Pamala Warren-Chase, Claudia Leno,
Kim Contreras or Melody Wright

TEACH

our children
our stories

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

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.

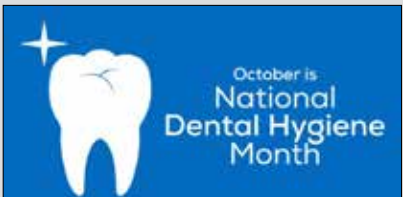
- You are not alone. If you are nervous or unsure about getting a mammogram, talk to:
- Your doctor or nurse
 - A trusted family member or friend
 - Community health workers or local health clinics

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

JOIN GRAND RONDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER FOR THE 2026

HOT FLASH BASH & WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

FOOD • PIÑATA • HEALTH • CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 22ND | ALL ARE WELCOME | 11:30 AM - 1 PM

CHERYLE A. KENNEDY PUBLIC HEALTH BUILDING

Join us to honor and celebrate our women and Two-Spirit relatives—here in Grand Ronde, across Turtle Island and throughout the world—and the journey they take through menopause. Come learn, gather health resources, and be in community. Light lunch provided. We hope to see you there!

Contact chad.mann@grandronde.org for questions.





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.

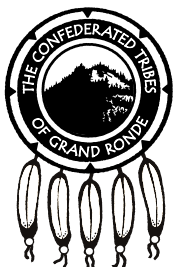
Whether you visited us recently or received ongoing support, your experience matters. By taking just a few minutes to complete the survey, you help us improve services, celebrate what's working and better support the health of our community.

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.





SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

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FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



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FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



BLACK PULL-OVER:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



NAVY T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC



TEAL T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



GRAY T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT GRAPHIC



BLACK T-SHIRT:
FRONT & BACK GRAPHIC

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Include shipping fee and please mail to: Smoke Signals Publications Dept., 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347

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