



Plankhouse
birthday photos
— pg. 10



NOVEMBER 1, 2026

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

Honoring those lost to suicide



Photo by Kamiah Koch

Tribal youth with the Grand Ronde Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program join the annual Out of the Darkness Walk for suicide prevention at Riverfront Park in Salem Saturday, Oct. 10.

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The grief of survivors is always a complex thing, all the more so for those grieving a life lost to suicide. Every year, Grand Ronde Tribal members turn out for the Out of the Darkness Walk for suicide prevention in Salem to remember those they have lost and bring hope to those who may be struggling. Attendees were reminded that speaking out to people who are struggling can be a lifeline.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY

Visit **YouTube**
@SmokeSignalsCTGR



This year's walk took place Saturday, Oct. 10, at Riverfront Park on a warm, sunny day. Tribal Council members Valeria Atanacio and Lisa Leno attended the walk.

Atanacio, who brought her three daughters to the walk, said her life was first touched by loss to suicide as a child.

See **WALK**
continued on page 7

Mercier reflects on his 21 years of service to the Tribe

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

While Tribal member Chris Mercier is proud of his accomplishments after serving on Tribal Council for more than two decades, he said it's time for a break and a change of focus.

Now 51, Mercier began serving on Tribal Council at the age of 29, in 2004. He served from 2004 to 2013 and then 2014 to 2026, after a one-year break to attend law school.



Chris Mercier

Mercier did not run for reelection last summer, instead nominating Tribal member Valeria Atanacio, who was then elected to her first term on council.

"It's not for everyone," he said. "But it's an ideal job, just in that it's not the same every day. The issues facing the Tribe, the challenges for you if you're a council member, they change every year. I like the challenge and the challenges we had to deal with while on Tribal Council. And I don't think any of my co-workers hated me when I was leaving. I feel like I had good relationships with my co-workers."

Mercier is not ruling out running again in the future. But for now, he wants some time to relax, to focus on less serious matters and work on personal projects instead.

Representing the Tribe means taking on weighty issues on behalf of a large, diverse Tribe that often

See **MERCIER**
continued on page 6

Tribe to celebrate 43 years of Restoration

By Alexander Bliven

Smoke Signals intern

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will observe 43 years of Restoration Sunday, Nov. 22, at Spirit Mountain Casino, bringing the community together for a day of celebration and a powwow.

The anniversary commemorates the signing of the Grand Ronde Restoration Act into law by President Ronald Reagan on Nov. 22, 1983, restoring the Tribe to federal

recognition 29 years after Termination in 1954.

More than four decades later, the Tribe has grown significantly, expanding not only its reservation lands but its leadership and the services it provides to its members.

The annual celebration continues to honor not just the anniversary but the people who shaped Grand Ronde into the unique community

See **RESTORATION**
continued on page 3



Smoke Signals file photo

Tribal Elder Deitz Peters dances during the Tribe's 42nd Restoration Celebration Powwow at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center last year. The Tribe will celebrate its 43rd year of being restored with a brunch and powwow Sunday, Nov. 22.

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, Nov. 4.....	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 18.....	4 p.m.

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

Letters welcome

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

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

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

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

Updated beneficiary information to ensure timely timber payment

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

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

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

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. ■

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 OFFICE CLOSURES

Tribal offices will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. Offices will also be closed Monday, Nov. 23 to Friday, Nov. 27 for the Restoration Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE

Wednesday, Nov. 4.....Nov. 15

Monday, Nov. 16.....Dec. 1

Friday, Dec. 4.....Dec. 15

Friday, Dec. 18.....Jan. 1

ISSUE DATE

Nov. 15

Dec. 1

Dec. 15

Jan. 1

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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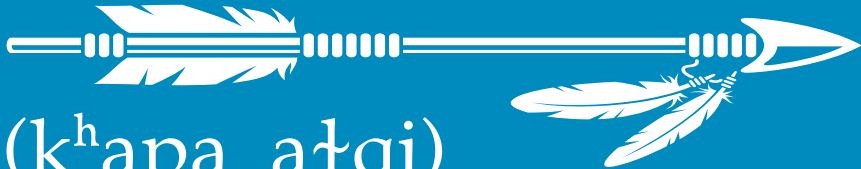
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IN THE FUTURE



(k^hapa ałqi)

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 the Restoration Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

tałlam-pi-wakwst-mun (December)

- Wednesday, Dec. 2 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Sunday, Dec. 6 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Thursday, Dec. 24 – Tribal offices closing at noon in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- Friday, Dec. 25 to Thursday, Dec. 31 – Tribal offices closed in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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

There will be two grand entries

RESTORATION continued from front page

that it is today.

Doors will open at 10 a.m. at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center, with brunch followed by the first grand entry at 1 p.m. A second grand entry will take place at 7 p.m., with the celebration concluding at 9 p.m.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Jon A. George will be the emcee and Tribal member Jordan Mercier will serve as arena director.

Tribal members Levi and Nichole Liebelt will serve as headman and headwoman, respectively.

Bad Soul is the host drum, with Turquoise Pride as the invited drum.

Six day pay drum spots will be available for \$250 per session.

The Tribe will also offer 20 vendor spots available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For vendor applications and additional information about the celebration, contact publicaffairs@grandronde.org. ■

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 Wednesday, 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, OR, 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org.

Comments must be received by Monday, Nov. 16, 2026. ■

Request for proposals

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Fire Department Solar & Microgrid Project
Project proposal due by 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Fire Department Solar & Microgrid Project. Through this request for proposals, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde seeks competitive proposals from qualified and experienced individuals or firms (hereafter, “proposer”) for the construction of the Fire Department Solar & Microgrid Project.

The project generally includes furnishings and installing a roof-mounted solar photovoltaic system, with battery energy storage, microgrid integration, associated electrical infrastructure and related site work, as further described in the bid booklet.

Sealed bids must be received by Project Manager Andrew Freeman, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347, by or before 2 p.m. prevailing local time, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026.

Questions or requests for clarification shall be directed in writing to Project Manager Andrew Freeman at Andrew.Freeman@grandronde.org by 2 p.m. prevailing local time, Monday Nov. 9, 2026.

An electronic copy of the bid booklet is available by emailing Andrew.Freeman@grandronde.org or calling 503-879-1922. Bidders shall provide a written bid by 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026, to Project Manager Andrew Freeman at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. Specific information regarding bid submittal procedures and due dates will be found in the bid booklet. ■

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OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

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Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

Grand Ronde Social Services Department:
facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices

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

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

Grand Ronde Community Garden:
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

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

Grand Ronde Employment Services
Facebook.com/EmploymentServices



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

CTGR

Portland Area Office

4445 SW Barbur Blvd.

Monday-Friday

8am-5pm

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 November 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.

Due to the Thanksgiving and Veterans Day holidays, distribution dates will fluctuate. Please contact the Food Bank for specific information.

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 at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 13, 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 — The Tribe decided to hold its 38th Restoration Celebration online via Zoom for the second year in a row amid rising COVID-19 cases and supply chain issues. The event was only the second time since 1984 that it was not held in-person. A virtual raffle was also planned in which every Tribal member would automatically be entered for a chance to win prizes. Tribal members were encouraged to join the Zoom meeting to discuss the celebration, tell stories and share family photos.

2016 — The Tribe continued exploring Tribal history and culture by hosting the annual two-day History and Culture Summit. The theme that year was “Cultural Continuity” and discussion topics included how to more thoroughly research the Tribe’s history, climate change and new Native media. Approximately 140 people attended.

2011 — The Tribe celebrated the first anniversary of the achaf-hammi Tribal plankhouse’s opening. Celebrations included singing, drumming and dancing from the Grand Ronde Canoe Family, as well as a traditionally cooked dinner featuring lamprey, salmon and elk stew.



2011 File photo

2006 — The Tribe launched a redesign of its website that was described as “contemporary yet cultural.” Tribal Web Designer William “Willie” Mercier played an active role in creating the updated site. “We wanted something that would best represent the casino and all of the Tribal departments,” Mercier said. Tribal Council Chairman Chris Mercier also helped with the redesign by writing breakdowns of all the Tribal departments and a summary of Tribal Council. Chris Mercier hoped the site would eventually include a chatroom for Tribal members to have discussions and an archive of Tribal Council meeting videos.

2001 — The Tribe held a fundraising auction to raise money for the construction of the West Valley Veterans Memorial. Items for auction included a treadmill, a coconut cream pie, tickets to a Portland Trail Blazers game, carved antler keychains, Grand Ronde logo gear and Pendleton blankets. The auction raised roughly \$5,500, with Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison also donating \$1,000. The project had raised about \$70,000 toward its \$300,000 goal.

1996 — Spirit Mountain Casino donated two LTI 20/20 Marksman speed laser guns to police who were responsible for monitoring traffic on Highway 18 and 22. The equipment was also made available to the Polk and Yamhill County sheriff’s offices. The guns were capable of measuring a vehicle’s speed up to three-quarters of a mile away and were donated as a result of measures to increase safety on busy highways.

1991 — Tribal member Michael J. Larsen was selected as the “Community Encourager” for the planning of the Tribe’s health and human services clinic. Larsen’s main duty would be serving as liaison between the Tribal community and Tribal departments to determine which health services the clinic would offer. Larsen was also working on a report that would detail the community decision making process being used for the project.

1986 — The Tribe met with timber representatives, county commissioners and other concerned citizens in the area to discuss the Tribe’s reservation plan. Tribal representatives met with John Hampton of Willamina Lumber Company and Bruce Summers of Taylor Lumber Company to discuss their concerns over the plan. Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier noted that the meeting felt successful and brought the parties closer to reaching an agreement with Grand Ronde.

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

Tribal Library merges with Regional Library Service

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

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

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

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



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.

Awareness event



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Shelter Advocates Maggie Villegas, left, and Teresa Henry paint Halloween-themed pictures during the Domestic Violence Awareness event at the Tribal Community Center Wednesday, Oct. 21. In addition to the painting activity, there were resource tables from the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, Grand Ronde Public Health and the Marion County District Attorney’s Victim Assistance Division. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month to honor survivors, remember victims and unite communities against intimate partner violence. The event was hosted by the Tribe’s Warriors of Hope Domestic & Sexual Violence Program.

Health & Wellness entrance

Reminder: The drive-through entrance at the Health & Wellness. Center is for loading and unloading only. The entrance was built with our Elders and those with mobility issues and their ease of access in mind. If you are coming to the center to pick up prescriptions, please park in one of our regular parking spaces. ■



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

Tribal Council approves \$15 million grant application to National Park Service

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a grant application to the National Park Service for up to \$15 million during its Wednesday, Oct. 14, meeting.

If approved, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program three-year grant would be used for construction at the Tribe’s tumwata village property in Oregon City, specifically, for what is known as Riverwalk blocks three and four.

The project would include a 150-foot-long, 14-foot-wide, elevated, ADA-accessible pedestrian bridge spanning the river, as well as a vista point and public gathering plaza at the bridge’s end with views of Willamette Falls. There will also be accessible ramps, railings, signs and Tribal cultural interpretive elements. The project includes stabilization of the native basalt riverbank beneath the bridge to reestablish shallow-water refuge alcoves for migratory fish.

“Just a little bit of background, this grant funding was authorized by Congress in 2014 and it remains continuously funded,” Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, Oct. 13, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “It has provided \$488 million in funding over the past 11 years...of that amount, Tribes have received less than 1%. To address that disparity, the Tribe has been selected by the National Park Service to receive assistance to support development of our funding application.”

- In other news, council:
- Approved the terms of service with Apple to include a sovereign immunity waiver only in reference to legal action;
 - Approved appointing Serena Layman to the Housing Grievance

Board with a term ending March 31, 2029;

- Approved emergency amendments to the Tribal Personnel Management Ordinance to update the Tribe’s observed holidays and provide the sharing of background investigation information by the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission related to Tribal employees required to have a license with the commission in specific sensitive circumstances for employment purposes only;
 - Approved amendments to the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. articles of incorporation and bylaws to allow Tribal Council to increase its number of board seats on the SMGI Board of Directors in the event of “emergency or other circumstances,” where there is concern about the corporation’s ability to perform its functions or the board’s ability to function effectively;
 - Approved an application to the Oregon Health Authority Traditional Health Care Practices Grant for up to \$381,818. If approved, the grant would be used by the Tribal Health & Wellness Department to upgrade and enhance its electronic health record capabilities;
 - Approved removing former Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier and adding current council member Valeria Atanacio as an authorized signer for Tribal bank accounts and authorizing Atanacio’s use of a Tribal credit card.
 - And approved enrolling three infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.
- To watch the entire meeting, visit www.grandronde.org and click on the Videos tab. ■



regon

BOYS WITH BRAIDS

CONFERENCE

FOSTERING EQUITY, INCLUSION AND GENERATIONAL HEALING THROUGH CULTURE, HISTORY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- CULTURAL EDUCATION
- 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.

Mercier is proud of his accomplishments

MERCIER continued from front page

doesn't agree on how to address them. Some of those can be painful. But Mercier said he loved the job. "I'm proud that we banned disenrollment through a constitutional amendment, proud that we finally addressed the 1999 amendment, even though the solution has not been to everybody's liking," he said, regarding the current enrollment procedures under lineal descent. "I don't know that there was a solution that was going to be to everybody's liking."

During his time on Tribal Council, Mercier said he is proud of the relationships that were developed and that what he stood for when elected hadn't changed. "I think I'm just proud that I got to do this job for 21 years and hopefully, I'll get to do it again sometime in the future," he said. "I regret that I didn't step aside sooner. Burnout was probably the driving force behind my decision to step aside and I ... should have stepped aside three years ago. I don't know if my last three years were my best years as a Tribal Council member."

Mercier said he "would have liked to see more constitutional amendments with our Tribe, because I don't know that our constitution reflects a lot of the issues that our Tribal government has to deal with. I regret not finding a better way to get more issues out to a vote of our people. That's in our constitution; it's housed in language that is completely unrealistic to exercise. I regret not finding an easier way for our members to help guide major decisions."

Mercier said that it was one of the greatest challenges of the job. "Toward the end, we did have some successful constitutional amendments, but we had a lot of constitutional amendments that failed and that's always dispiriting and draining. ... Especially when it came to enrollment; that was always just frustrating because a lot of our constitutional amendments on enrollment, I feel like misinformation was weaponized."

Despite his frustrations, he said, "I still think we're a model Tribal government, in terms of transparency and communication to our members."

Mercier said there are several things he hopes Tribal Council will address. "I think we offered some things that we quit offering, like the lifestyle grants, the Tribal loans," he said. "I think no matter what, there are still more services that we can offer our Tribal members and I'm hoping that gets put back on the Tribal Council's radar, because especially the lifestyle grants and the loans, they're obviously really popular, because the funding for them dried up so quickly. So, finding a way that we can offer those services sustainably and consistently would be nice."

In addition, he said, "I hope that we can continue to look at ways to improve communication with our Tribal members. Years ago, I think I had majority support for

a Tribal radio station, probably an online radio station and it just never happened. I felt like support was lukewarm on it and I think that's just the kind of thing that I hope Tribal Council will look at. ... I've seen other Tribes that have radio stations, they have their own YouTube channels, I've seen a Tribe in Canada that has a channel that's in their own language. I think there are tons of media options available and I think if we're serious about informing our members and controlling the messaging as it gets out to the outside world, we need to start looking at other media options. We need to look at expanded media."

Mercier said the Tribe also needs to continue exploring revenue options. "I think we can't rely on the casino forever and we have made multiple attempts at economic diversification and some have worked, some have worked quite well. ... and then we've had some ideas that went nowhere," he said. "Some ideas, some things we did went about as bad as they could go. Membership's continuing to grow, especially because of the constitutional amendment, so we are going to want to look at additional sources of revenue. And knowing where to put your money, that was the challenge when I first got elected onto council and it's still the challenge now."

While taking a break from those challenges, Mercier said he wants to take time to address things he's been putting off, from organizing to watching old movies, taking time to read and maybe doing some traveling. "I have a lot of life organizing, a lot in possessions and a lot of stuff I've been wanting to do that has been put on the back burner," he said. "Now is the time that I want to deal with a lot of it. I've had some deaths in my family lately and that's made me realize how much you leave people to deal with, actually having to sort through all your stuff, but you also have to think how much stuff do I have that I don't even look at or use or that I've completely forgotten about. So, I've already made a bunch of trips to Goodwill."

In everyone's lives, there are tasks or dreams that get filed under "someday" or "one of these days," Mercier said. "Now that I'm in my 50s and I haven't done some of this stuff, I realize that this is the time to do it," he said. "The window of opportunity might have closed on some things ... The longer you put some of this stuff off, the more your window to do it at all closes completely." ■

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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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

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Requirements:

- CTGR Tribal Member or Descendant.
- Must live in the CTGR service area



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Health & Wellness Center offers treatment programs

WALK continued from front page

At the age of 8, she said, “We had a cousin who attended Chemawa Indian School. I remember she was babysitting us and I woke up with some bad dreams. She had this necklace and she took off her necklace and gave it to me, saying, ‘This will protect you.’ I felt so loved and cared for. That was the last interaction I had with her; she took her life at the age of 16.”

At the time, Atanacio said, “I didn’t understand it. Later, I worked with youth and I learned how people can feel alone, even when they’re surrounded by community. ... It always seems to be the ones who are the most empathetic people who struggle with their emotions.”

She said she was attending the walk “to honor her and anybody who has lost somebody to suicide. And to remind myself and others in today’s environment, that humanity is important, our connection is very important and it’s not something that just happens. We have to work to make it happen, show up for each other and care.”

For those who lose a loved one, Atanacio said, “People feel residual grief and guilt ... that’s just what it leaves behind, but also, it leaves the lesson of why actions are so important.”

The Tribe’s Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program brought several young people to participate, as

they do every year.

“I like to come out here just to walk, especially because this topic is such a hard-hitting thing to me,” Tribal member Kiah Runningbird, 19, said. “It brings me comfort that we can all come together and not go alone in our grief and our struggles. I like that it brings out a bunch of people.”

Runningbird said that it’s hard for some youth because they don’t want to admit that they’re struggling and feeling grief. Participating in the walk, she added, can help give even those who don’t want to discuss their pain the opportunity to be in community with others.

Samara Perez, 15, said she was participating for the first time.

“I felt like it would mean a lot not just to me but to my family, because a couple of years ago, we lost my cousin,” she said. “It means a lot to see so much support from everyone.”

People struggling with suicidal thoughts can call the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline by dialing or texting 988, 24 hours a day. Yamhill County also has a crisis hotline at 1-844-842-8200. Both Yamhill and Polk counties have mobile crisis teams that can provide support when requested through 988 or by law enforcement.

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center offers culturally appropriate assessments, referrals and treatment programs, as well as therapy. For more information, call Behavioral Health at 503-879-2026.

Youth Empowerment & Prevention also offers Tribal youth and families information about suicide prevention, support, assessment and culturally informed activities. For more information, call 503-879-1476. ■

Visitors to EAC asked to utilize parking lots, not streets

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

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

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

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.



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Ad by Samuel Briggs III



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The Village

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(Together We Grow Stronger)

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

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

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

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



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



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Bob Haller, 14, displays one of the custom cornhole bags Stovations Cornhole makes for him. Haller recently signed a one-year sponsorship deal with the Salem company.

Tribal member secures a pro cornhole sponsorship

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal member Bob Haller continues to make his presence known on the cornhole circuit, adding a professional sponsorship to his list of credentials.

After Bob, 14, walked away with a junior championship in the Oregon State Cornhole Championships this past summer at Spirit Mountain Casino, he began attracting the attention of some professional cornhole bag companies, his dad, Tribal Council member Matthew Haller said.

“Since then, he has continued to practice daily and he has had a good deal of improvement in his game strategy and shot skills,” he said. “He has had a couple inquires since then, but he had been holding off accepting any offers because he was undecided on who he wanted to throw for, and with him being on the kidney transplant list, he also didn’t know if he was going to be able to compete this season.”

However, after father and son went to Stovations Cornhole in Salem to purchase new bags, the company asked Matthew to consider a sponsorship offer for his son.

“He loves this company and their offer was generous and compelling,” he said. “I explained to the company about his medical concerns and how that might affect his season.

They wanted to continue to sponsor him regardless. It includes things like multiple sets of custom bags, merch, etc. I went over the details with Bob and it didn’t take long for him to agree to the terms. He has signed on for one year to join Team Stovations...We couldn’t be more excited for Bob and his future in the sport of cornhole.”

What sweetened the deal is that some of Bob’s longtime cornhole idols are now on the same team as him.

“I (also) decided on this sponsorship because he (the owner) is nice and makes some of the best bags out there,” he said.

Bob’s hoping to be one of the youngest players to secure a professional spot in the American Cornhole League and his next tournament is Friday, Nov. 20, in Coquille.

In an earlier Smoke Signals article, Bob said that traveling around the state participating in cornhole tournaments is one of his joys in life, particularly since he has kidney disease, which often leaves him not feeling well. He is on the waiting list for a new kidney, with friends and family lined up to be evaluated, but that takes time. While he waits, he attends school online and participates in as many tournaments as he can.

He’s known as “Big Bob,” in cornhole circles. ■

Hot Flash Bash

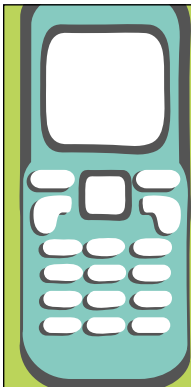


Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Angella Schultz adds a paper orca to a community art project regarding menopause during the second annual Hot Flash Bash and Women’s Health Fair at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building Thursday, Oct. 22. The event was held to honor and celebrate women and Two-Spirit relatives during their journey through menopause. There were resource tables with information about women’s health, a piñata and a light lunch. It was sponsored by the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center.



Women pick through contents of a piñata during the second annual Hot Flash Bash and Women’s Health Fair at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building Thursday, Oct. 22.



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

Text JOIN to
(971) 318-3459





Photo by Alexander Bliven

Various slot machines await guests during the grand opening of Spirit Mountain Casino’s new entryway gaming area Friday, Oct. 16. Located near the casino’s east entrance, the area is a part of ongoing renovations to update portions of the casino.

New gaming area opens at Spirit Mountain Casino

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

Colorful lights illuminated rows of slot machines as guests began arriving Friday, Oct. 16, during the grand opening of Spirit Mountain Casino’s new entryway gaming area, located near the east entrance.

Located in the former site of the Mountain View Sports Bar, the new area features 165 modern slot machines and is a part of a larger casino refresh project designed to renovate and update sections of the more than 30-year-old casino.

VIP guests got an early look at the new space and an opportunity to try out its machines from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, before the area opened to the public at 8 p.m.

The project was completed by the casino’s operations team in collaboration with I-5 Design, a firm working with the Tribe on casino renovations.

According to an announcement by Spirit Mountain Casino Chief Operating Officer Clint Johnson, the area opened ahead of the schedule previously presented to the casino board.

Spirit Mountain Casino CEO

Camille Mercier said in an email statement that the new space reflects the casino’s ongoing commitment to improving the guest experience and investing in its property.

“As one of the first spaces guests encounter when they arrive, the entry area presented an opportunity to create a more exciting and welcoming first impression while expanding our gaming offerings,” Mercier said.

The area features a mix of slot games with different themes, denominations and styles, including recently released titles from leading manufacturers, according to Mercier. The selection is intended to offer variety for longtime players and those looking to try something new.

Mercier said that guests can expect an open layout, enhanced lighting and comfortable seating while they game.

“We invite everyone to come experience the new entryway gaming area and see firsthand how it enhances the arrival experience at Spirit Mountain Casino,” Mercier said. “We’re thrilled to share it with the community.” ■

Excellence award

Courtesy photo

Tribal member Rich Colton, who serves as the marketing director at Three Rivers Casino Resort in Florence, recently accepted three national Theo Awards at the 2026 Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas on behalf of the marketing team. The awards recognize excellence in casino marketing, including creativity, strategy, guest engagement and measurable results. Three Rivers won awards for Best Promotion/Giveaway and Best Special Event/Invitational in the Medium Casinos division, while Colton was named Casino Marketer of the Year in the same division. “Winning three awards is really a reflection of the creativity and hard work of our entire team,” Colton said. “We are always looking for ways to create experiences that our guests will remember and have fun with. To see that work recognized nationally, alongside some of the best casino marketing teams in the industry, is incredibly meaningful.” Colton began his career at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Dealer School in the late 1990s.

Grand Ronde Elder Board

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2026

Helping Hands Distribution

CHACHALU GYM
10AM TO 4PM

Clothing Distribution
Breakfast (Biscuit and Gravy, Coffee, and Cocoa)
Hot Dogs
While Supplies Last

Helping our community prepare for the winter months

EARN YOUR GED/ HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

GET STARTED TODAY WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS

GED	ADULT HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION
✓ This program can be done online/on your own or you can take classes at the local Community College. ✓ You must be at least 16 years old for this program ✓ To earn your GED you will need to pass four tests: Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science. ✓ The Grand Ronde Higher Education Department will provide you with study materials and tutoring as needed	✓ In the Adult High School Completion program you will earn an Oregon State High School Diploma. ✓ Any High School credits you earned in High School (no matter how long ago) can/will be applied towards the 24 required credits needed. ✓ This program is online and is self-paced.

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GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION
Tracy Biery
503-879-4591
tracy.biery@grandronde.org



Jose Montano, left, and Tribal Elder Greg Archuleta help prepare salmon for the dinner that was served during Tribal plankhouse achaf-hammi’s 17th birthday celebration Saturday, Oct. 17. Dinner also included elk goulash, lamprey, rice, salad and dessert.

Plankhouse birthday



Drumming, singing and dancing, by Grand Ronde and relatives from different communities, filled achaf-hammi during the Tribal plankhouse’s 17th birthday celebration Saturday, Oct. 17. Tribal member Bobby Mercier said “It’s not just about a birthday celebrating this house, but it’s a way of letting our people know that we did not forget where and who we come from. Bringing our kids in here to sing and dance, to celebrate, have a meal together, share stories, share laughs.”

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



[@SmokeSignalsCTGR](#)[@ctgrsmokesignals](#)[@SmokeSignalsCTGR](#)



Plankhouse birthday attendees line up for dinner.



Chenoa Landry braids her mother-in-law Tribal Elder Renee Norcross’s hair during achaf-hammi’s 17th birthday celebration Saturday, Oct. 17.

Fall gathering



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Emilia Hoff, 3, looks at an animal skull as she tours the Tribal Early Care and Education building during the Education Department’s Fall Gathering at the Tribe’s Education Complex and Tribal gym Wednesday, Oct. 21. The event featured tours of the Education Department, Halloween and fall-themed activities, a pumpkin patch, dinner and a jam hosted by the Tribe’s Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program.



Tribal Elder Dorothy Leno picks a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch during the Education Department’s Fall Gathering Wednesday, Oct. 21.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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(503) 879-1364 SHAYLA.MURPHY@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

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For more info
contact: CULTURALEUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG

Walking On...

Allen Ray Scheese

Jan. 10, 1940 – Oct. 18, 2026

Tribal Elder Allen Ray Scheese passed away Oct. 18, 2026, at the age of 85.

Edwards Memorial Funeral Home in University Place, Washington, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Janet Sue Edwards

Aug. 26, 1947 – Oct. 13, 2026

Tribal Elder Janet Sue Edwards passed away Oct. 13, 2026, at the age of 79.

Wilson’s Chapel of the Roses in Roseburg is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

Matthew Marvin Warren

Sept. 8, 1956 – Oct. 21, 2026

Tribal Elder Matthew Marvin Warren passed away Oct. 21, 2026, at the age of 70.

Fisher Funeral Home in Albany, Oregon, is assisting the family.

Funeral service details were unavailable before presstime.

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Chachalu Friday Marketplace

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UPCOMING MARKETS

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June 12

July 31

August 28

September 11

October 9

November 6

December 11 // Holly Jolly

10 AM–4PM | RAIN OR SHINE

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

VENDOR INFO / CHACHALU.MARKETPLACE@GRANDRONDE.ORG

8720 GRAND RONDE ROAD, GRAND RONDE, OREGON

Grand Ronde Culture Committee

Craft Class Days

2026 10AM-4PM – CTGR Community Center



Sunday — January 25th

Sunday — February 22nd

Sunday — March 22nd

Sunday — April 20th

Sunday — May 31st

Sunday — June 20th

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



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EnergyTrust of Oregon

MORE POWER TO YOU.

Great Circle Recovery has updated hours, mobile dosing services

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

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

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

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



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To schedule an individual diabetes education appointment



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10AM-2PM During Food Box Distribution

November 19th & December 15th

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



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Advisor K-5	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr.	11/02/2026
Academic Coach K-5	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Cashier/Fueler - Part Time - Variable Shifts	3	\$16.04/hr.	\$16.04/hr.	10/26/2026
Cook - Weekends Only - Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Driver - Mid-Shift - Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Financial Wellness Coordinator	10	\$29.76/hr.	\$38.39/hr.	11/02/2026
Housekeeper - Sheridan - GCR	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	10/26/2026
Infant/Toddler Teacher Entry Level - Limited Duration	9	\$27.05/hr.	\$34.95/hr.	11/02/2026
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
Medication Aide - Elder Care Program	7	\$22.36/hr.	\$29.00/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician - Salem OTP - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician - Salem - Withdrawal Management - GCR	6	\$20.76/hr.	\$26.42/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
Teacher Aide After Care - Entry Level - Part Time	4	\$17.15/hr.	\$21.95/hr.	Until Filled
Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor - Part Time	5	\$18.86/hr.	\$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Tribal Court Law Clerk - Civil & Juvenile Division	11	\$32.74/hr.	\$42.16/hr. DOE	10/26/2026

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.



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

THANKSGIVING MEAL!

Open to all community members!

1pm-5pm

November 25th

28480 McPherson, Grand Ronde OR, 97347

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



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Guest Safety Specialist I	10/29/26	\$18.29/hr.
Guest Safety Specialist II	10/29/26	\$18.55/hr.
Hotel Front Desk Clerk	10/29/26	\$18.02/hr. DOE
Table Games Assistant Shift Supervisor	10/29/26	\$52,937.25/yr. - \$75,321.65/yr. DOE
Business Intelligence Analyst	Until Filled	\$69,737.82/yr. DOE
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	Until Filled	\$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Hospitality Attendant II WEX (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.02/hr.
Host/Hostess Cashier (Full-Time & *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 (*Part-Time)	Until Filled	\$18.29/hr. DOE
The Zone Buspersion (*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

\$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.

Grand Ronde Station offering gas discount

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

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

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



Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center

2026 patient satisfaction survey

We want to hear from you!

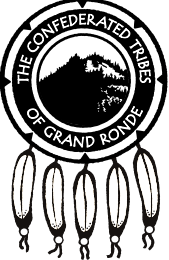
Your voice helps us deliver better care every day. Our 2026 patient satisfaction survey is now open and your feedback truly makes a difference.

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.



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

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

Tribal Health Scholars (THS) is a paid externship program that supports and inspires AIAN high school students to envision themselves as healthcare professionals.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

JAN 31

Application Closes

FEB

Applicants Notified

MAR 1

Online Program & Orientation Begin

MAY

Online Program Wrap up

SPRING & SUMMER*

Complete Clinical Shadowing

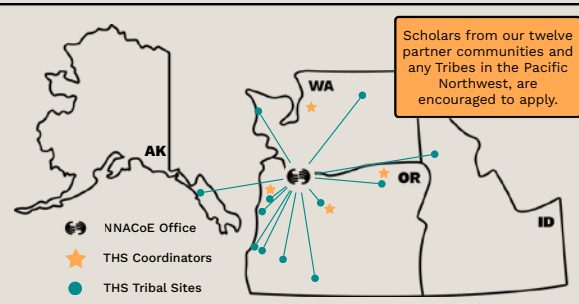
* Scholars complete 10 hours of clinical shadowing in-person on their schedule

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- 10-week virtual experience to learn in depth about healthcare fields. Learn from guest speakers and get a booklet to keep
- 10 hours of clinical shadowing at local tribal health clinics or hospitals (scrubs provided for scholars to keep)
- One-on-one and group mentoring for scholars career and educational interests

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Must be in high school
- Must be enrolled in or descended from a federally recognized tribe
- Attendance is required every week.
 - Join by computer or phone, and in-person for clinical shadowing
- Stipends:
 - \$700 for completing the virtual program
 - \$600 for completing clinical shadowing



Scholars from our twelve partner communities and any Tribes in the Pacific Northwest, are encouraged to apply.

● NNAcOe Office
★ THS Coordinators
● THS Tribal Sites



LEARN MORE & APPLY

tribalhealthscholars@ohsu.edu

nnacoe.org/tribal-health-scholars

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

lush lamatsin Event Calendar for 2027

January

1/13- Fresh Food Distribution 10am-2pm
1/21- Cervical Cancer Health Fair
1/28- Mobile Mammograms

February

2/11- Sweethearts Jam 5-7pm
2/18- Heart Health Event
2/24- Fresh Food Distribution 10am-2pm

March

Wake up the canoes date TBD
3/11- Colorectal Cancer Event
3/19- Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Day
3/24- Fresh Food Distribution

April

4/13- Paddle Practice 10am-2pm
4/15 STI Prevention & Sexual Health Workshop
4/16- First Nations Veterinary Clinic (Weekend)
4/21- Fresh Food Distribution
4/22- Earth Day Jam 5-7pm
4/27- Mobile Mammograms
4/29- Fentanyl Awareness Day
4/30- First Nations Veterinary Clinic (Weekend)

May

5/1 Mothers Day Paddle 10am-2pm (weekend)
5/7- Paddle with Willamina High School
5/11- Paddle Practice 10am-2pm
5/13- Mental Health Awareness Walk
5/17- Chichas Birthday
5/19- Fresh Food Distribution
5/25- Paddle Practice

June

6/3- Good Summer to Come Jam 5-7pm
6/7-6/11 Pride Week
6/8-Two Spirit Paddle 10am-2pm
6/12- Fathers Day Paddle 10am-2pm (weekend)
6/14- Youth Canoe Education Workshop
6/16- Fresh Food Distribution
6/22- Mens Health Fair Grill and Chill Paddle
6/29- Mobile Mammograms

July

Veterans Powwow
7/1- Elder Canoe Day 10am-1pm
7/8- Healthy Vision Event
7/13- Youth River Paddle
7/15- Fresh Food Distribution

August

Contest Powwow
8/11- 3rd Annual Back to School Health Fair
8/19- Fresh Food Distribution
8/21- Fun Run/Walk (weekend)
8/26- Healing Paddle

September

4th Annual Elder Safety Fair date TBD
Walk to end Alzheimers TBD
9/11 & 9/12- Canoe Races
9/16- Dental Health Fair
9/18- Every Child Matters Jam
9/22- Fresh Food Distribution
9/30- Orange Shirt Day

October

Canoes to sleep date TBD
10/26- Hot Flash Bash/ Mobile Mammograms
10/20- Fresh Food Distribution
10/28- Halloween Jam
10/29- Brain Healthy Zombie Walk

November

Caregiver Appreciation Event date TBD
11/17- Fresh Food Distribution

December

12/3- Mens Health BBQ
12/22- Fresh Food Distribution



Please remember that this schedule is tentative and may change throughout the year. Paddle practices in early 2027 are weather permitting. Be sure to follow GRHWC Facebook for the most up to date schedule as well as more information on upcoming events.

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

US Antibiotic Awareness Week

This year, November 18-24, we observe US Antibiotic Awareness Week. This week helps people learn how to use antibiotics safely. Using antibiotics the right way helps you heal, protects your health and keeps antibiotics working for everyone in the future.



Here are three important things to know:

1. Finish all your antibiotics – Even if you feel better

If your doctor gives you antibiotics, take all of them, exactly how you were told.

- Don't skip doses.
- Don't stop early, even if you feel okay.

Why?

Antibiotics kill the bacteria that are making you sick. If you stop too soon, some bacteria might still be alive. These leftover bacteria can grow again and make you sick all over again. They might also become harder to kill next time.

2. Antibiotics do NOT work on viruses.

Not all infections need antibiotics. Many common illnesses—like colds, the flu, or COVID-19—are caused by viruses, not bacteria. Taking antibiotics when you don't need them:

- Won't help you feel better.
- Can cause side effects like upset stomach or diarrhea.
- Can make antibiotics less effective in the future (this is called antibiotic resistance).

Ask your doctor if your illness is caused by a virus or bacteria. Only take antibiotics when they are truly needed.

3. Protect your gut: Take a probiotic

Antibiotics kill the bad bacteria that make you sick—but they also kill some of the good bacteria in your gut causing problems such as:

- Diarrhea
- Upset stomach
- Yeast infections

What helps?

Taking a probiotic during and after antibiotic treatment. A probiotic is a healthy bacterium that can help keep your gut balanced.

- You can find probiotics in yogurt or supplements (ask your doctor or pharmacist).
- Take them at a different time of day than your antibiotic.

Remember:

- Only take antibiotics when your doctor says you need them.
- Always finish the full course, even if you feel better.
- Use probiotics to help your gut stay healthy.
- Don't use leftover antibiotics or share them with others. ■

November is National Family Caregivers Month

This November, we would like to take time to thank and support people who care for loved ones with health problems. These people are called family caregivers. They may care for a parent, spouse, child, or friend who is sick, disabled or elderly.

Family caregivers are not paid. They give their time, energy and love to help others with doing things such as:

- Giving medicine
- Driving to doctor visits
- Cooking meals
- Helping with bathing or dressing
- Talking to doctors and nurses

Why caregivers matter

Being a caregiver is hard work. Many caregivers help someone every day, while also working a job or raising children. It can be stressful and tiring. But without them, many people would not be able to stay in their homes or get the care they need.

Health risks for caregivers

Caregivers often forget to care for their own health. They may feel:

- Tired all the time
- Sad or depressed
- Stressed or anxious
- In pain from lifting or moving the person they care for

This can lead to health problems like high blood pressure, sleep problems or getting sick more often.

How caregivers can stay healthy

If you are a caregiver, your health matters too. Here are some simple tips:

1. Take breaks – Even a few minutes to relax can help.
2. Ask for help – You don't have to do everything alone.
3. Talk to someone – A friend, support group, or counselor can help.
4. Eat well and move your body – Simple meals and short walks can help you feel better.

This month, and every month, we say thank you to family caregivers. Your work is important. You are not alone.

Please reach out to Community Health if you or someone you know may need additional caregiver support. 503-879-2078. ■



GRHWC PUBLIC HEALTH SMART VENDING MACHINE

LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER. BUILDING B.

What is inside?

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

FAQ's

Do I need to make an account?

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

How much are items in the vending machine?

- They are FREE!

What else does the vending machine do?

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

When can I access the smart vending machine?

- 6am-9pm including weekends and holidays.





Grand Ronde Health & Wellness 2026 Patient Satisfaction Survey

Share your experience—help us improve your care

Scan the QR code to take the survey on your phone



Takes just a few minutes • Mobile friendly

Thank you for helping us improve care at Grand Ronde Health & Wellness



SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

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BEANIES • PATCHES • STICKERS • FREE IN-PERSON PICKUP AVAILABLE

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

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

TRUCKER CAP \$15

BEANIES \$15

PATCHES \$5

STICKERS \$1

SHIPPING \$10

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