

TERO holds annual appreciation lunch
— pg. 6

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SALEM, OR
PERMIT NO. 178

NOVEMBER 15, 2026

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

General Council briefed on 2027 draft budget

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal members were briefed on the draft budget for calendar year 2027 by Tribal Finance Officer Chris Leno during the Sunday, Nov. 1, General Council meeting held at the Governance Center and on Zoom.



Chris Leno

The draft budget portion of the meeting was held in executive session, which limits how much Smoke Signals can report on the details.

The draft budget presentation ran approximately one hour and 40 minutes, which included Tribal members' questions and comments on the proposed spending plan, as well as a break for lunch. General Council ended the executive session at 12:46 p.m.

Tribal members interested in obtaining the slides of Leno's presentation should contact Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez at stacia.martin@grandronde.org or call 503-879-2304.

The November Tilixam Wawa also features a detailed look at the 2027 draft budget and adult Tribal members have until 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, to submit written comments. The final 2027 budget will be adopted on or before Thursday, Dec. 31. Written

See MEETING continued on page 3

Spooky season



Tribal member Zanphir Thompson, 7, collects candy from Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department Paramedic/Firefighter McKenna Hoy as youth trick-or-treat through the nature playground during the Tribe's hayu-munk skukum Youth Enrichment Program's annual trick-or-treating around the Tribal campus Friday, Oct. 30. The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center, Community Center, Employment Service Center, Governance Center, Tribal Library, Adult Education and Adult Foster Care were other stops for trick-or-treaters.



Tribal member Chancely Hostler, 7, dances during the Halloween Jam in the Tribal gym Thursday, Oct. 29. ***More photos on page 9.***

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Native artists share their work at Chachalu art summit



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

Artists from the Grand Ronde community and across Indian Country gathered at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Friday, Oct. 23, for the 2026 Placekeeping Art Summit open house.

Hosted by the Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department, the event gave Native artists the opportunity to display their work, demonstrate their creative processes and connect with visitors. Artwork on display included paintings, glasswork, wood carvings, print blocks, baskets, metal sculptures and more.

The pieces ranged from imagery of Native people and plants to culturally significant animals, environmental awareness, folklore and traditional stories.

Tribal Cultural Resources Department Manager David Harrelson was in attendance and explained the event was organized to provide a space for Tribal artists to discuss and

See ART SUMMIT continued on page 8

Portland Office of Arts & Culture Assistant Director Darion Jones, left, and Tribal member Nick LaBonte talk about items LaBonte made and had on display at the 2026 Grand Ronde Cultural Resources Department Placekeeping Art Summit open house at Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center Friday, Oct. 23.

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

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. 18	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 2	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.

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. ■

Letters welcome

smok signəlz, 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 signəlz 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 signəlz.

Tribal Office Closures

Tribal offices will be closed Monday, Nov. 23 to Friday, Nov. 27 for the Restoration Day and Thanksgiving holidays.

(CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Your Voice. Your Community. Your Future.



Are you Tribal youth age 24 or younger?
Bring your ideas, perspective, and leadership to the table.

APPLY BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026
www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-council/youth-council/

Scan for more information and to apply:

smok signəlz

PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347
1-800-422-0232 • FAX: 503-879-2173

Website: www.smokesignals.org
Email: news@grandronde.org
Email: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org

www.facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR/
www.youtube.com/c/SmokeSignalsChannel

DANIELLE HARRISON
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER / EDITOR
503-879-4663
danielle.harrison@grandronde.org

MICHELLE ALAIMO
PHOTOJOURNALIST / ASSISTANT EDITOR
503-879-1961
michelle.alaimo@grandronde.org

JUSTIN PHILLIPS
PRODUCTION SPECIALIST
503-879-2190
justin.phillips@grandronde.org

SAMUEL F. BRIGGS III
GRAPHIC DESIGN SPECIALIST
503-879-1416
samuel.briggs@grandronde.org

KAMIAH KOCH
SOCIAL MEDIA / DIGITAL JOURNALIST
503-879-1461
kamiah.koch@grandronde.org

NICOLE MONTESANO
STAFF WRITER
503-879-1463
nicole.montesano@grandronde.org

KATHERINE WARREN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / ADVERTISING
503-879-1466 • katherine.warren-steffensmier@grandronde.org

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Monday, Nov. 16	Dec. 1
Friday, Dec. 4	Dec. 15
Friday, Dec. 18	Jan. 1
Wednesday, Jan. 6	Jan. 15

MEMBERS OF:
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.

2026-27 Tribal Council

tribalcouncil@grandronde.org

Cheryle A. Kennedy
Tribal Council Chairwoman
— ext. 2352
cheryle.kennedy@grandronde.org

Jon A. George
Tribal Council Vice Chair
— ext. 2355
jon.george@grandronde.org

Tonya Gleason-Shepek
Tribal Council Secretary
— ext. 4555
tonya.gleason-shepek@grandronde.org

Valeria Atanacio
— ext. 1444
valeria.atanacio@grandronde.org

Kathleen George
— ext. 2305
kathleen.george@grandronde.org

Pete Wakeland
— ext. 2300
pete.wakeland@grandronde.org

Matthew Haller
— ext. 1777
matthew.haller@grandronde.org

Lisa Leno
— ext. 1770
lisaleno@grandronde.org

Toby McClary
— ext. 2353
tobymcclary@grandronde.org

In the Future
(kʰapa ałqi)

tałam-pi-ixt-mun **(November)**
- 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.

tałam-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.

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 ■

Find us on

OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

Smoke Signals:
facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR
The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:
facebook.com/CTGRgov
Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:
facebook.com/GRHWC
Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:
facebook.com/CTGRCFS
Grand Ronde Royalty:
facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty
Grand Ronde Education Programs:
facebook.com/CTGREducation
Grand Ronde Youth Council:
facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil
Grand Ronde Station:
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation
Grand Ronde Social Services Department:
facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices
Grand Ronde Food Bank:
facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank
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

Grand Ronde pharmacy to temporarily relocate

A major remodel of the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy will begin the evening of Friday, Nov. 20, which will result in the pharmacy being moved to a temporary location in the Behavioral Health wing of the clinic until the conclusion of the remodel, currently scheduled for May 2027.

The pharmacy was moved into its temporary location Friday, Nov. 13.

During the remodel, the pharmacy will operate in a closed-door fashion similar to what was done during COVID. This means that the pickup option will be changed to a curbside option. Patients without transportation can wait out of the weather in the clinic lobby for a staff member to bring their order. For those with transportation, there will be three dedicated parking stalls near the temporary location. These stalls will have signs that instruct the patients to call the main pharmacy number to let staff know they are here for a pick up and what spot they are in. Pharmacy staff will then run the order out to the patient.

The pharmacy lockers will remain operational during the remodel but were moved Monday, Nov. 9, to a temporary location in the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building across the parking lot from the main clinic. Mail service of prescriptions will remain unchanged due to the remodel.

"There will be plenty of signs to help direct patients to the new pharmacy and locker locations," Tribal Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright said. "If you have any questions about these changes, please call the pharmacy at 503-879-2342. … While these changes may be inconvenient, my assurance is that the remodel will help to ensure quality pharmacy care far into the future."

Wright shared that in 2017, the pharmacy averaged less than 250 prescriptions per day but is now seeing upward of 500 and even 800 after a holiday.

"Due to the increase in prescription orders the pharmacy staff has been expanded over time, but now there is no more room in the current space to add another workstation," he said. "The pharmacy staff at the Great Circle Recovery Pharmacy in Salem help the Grand Ronde workload by performing prechecks and processing the insurance billing for about 30% of the prescriptions filled at Grand Ronde. After the pharmacy remodel, there will be five new workstations and an expanded mailroom, which will allow the department to grow as needed over time." ■

Next General Council meeting will be Dec. 6

MEETING continued from front page

comments can be submitted to 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347; or emailed to chris.leno@grandronde.org.

Door prize winners were Flicka Lucero and Jack Giffen Jr., $100 each; and Debi Anderson, Shawn Haggerty, Mike Portwood, Denise Harvey, Kelly Nelson and Dan Stroebel, $50 each.

Stroebel donated his winnings to the Veterans Special Event Board.

In other action, the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Tribal Council chambers and on Zoom, and include a report from the Tribal Economic and Lands Department.

During a Tuesday, Nov. 3, Legislative Action Committee meeting, Tribal Council member Matthew Haller encouraged Tribal members to continue to submit their input on the proposed spending plan.

"There were some hard questions that were asked and I encourage those questions to continue to be asked by our Tribal members," he said. "It's how you ask them and I felt like everybody that had those concerns did it in a really respectful way. … That's what helps us think on whether we're doing the right thing or maybe we should be looking through a different lens. So please get those comments into us. Although the budget is posted, it is not finalized. The comments are valuable and we do read those."

The non-executive session portion of the meeting can be viewed by visiting the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and clicking on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Police Department has nonemergency text line

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. ■

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 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the Employment Service Center. 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 Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Molly Leno.

To update information on this list, contact Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or danielle.harrison@grandronde.org.

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.

YESTERYEARS | A LOOK BACK...

2021 — The Tribe was seeking a grant from the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to help convert the Procurement Department building into a new Veterans Service Office. Tribal Council approved applying for a $51,888 grant to renovate the building and provide a handicapped-accessible ramp, new computers, tables, chairs, window blinds and carpeting. The building's garage would also serve as a gathering area and conference room.



2016 File photo

2016 — The Tribe's Natural Resources Department held its first camas and yampah harvest through the Tribal Plant Materials Program. About 15 Tribal members and staff dug up 200 camas bulbs and 200 yampah bulbs to be replanted at Herbert Farm and Natural Area near Corvallis. The goal was to reintroduce culturally significant plants to historically important Tribal grounds for future harvesting by members.

2011 — The Tribe pledged $4 million to help fund the first phase of construction of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass. The pledge accounted for 20% of the required local match that Newberg, Dundee, McMinnville and Yamhill County also needed to contribute. "Whether we are working with governments at the local, state or federal level, we are consistently looking for ways to collaborate as partners to find solutions that benefit our shared communities and all citizens of Oregon," Tribal Council member Chris Mercier said.

2006 — April Campbell became the Tribe's new Education Department manager after previously serving as an education specialist from 2000 to 2005. Campbell wanted to focus on reincorporating technology into all education programs while remaining mindful that not all Tribal members had access to computers or possessed computer skills. "We're not just here for academics," Campbell said, "We're here for total wellness, for the social, emotional, academic and physical growth of the students."

2001 — Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison received the Tom McCall Award for her leadership within the Tribe. Harrison was an instrumental figure in the Tribe's Restoration in 1983 and served on Tribal Council for almost 20 years, becoming its first chairwoman. Named after former Oregon Gov. Tom McCall, the award was created to "recognize outstanding contributions from individuals who, by their actions, mirror the spirit and service to Oregon shown by Gov. McCall."

1996 — The Tribe was seeking artwork from its membership to adorn the walls at its new Health & Wellness Center, which was scheduled for completion in July. The Health and Human Services Committee asked interested artists to submit a portfolio containing photos of their work, along with a brief description of each piece. Acceptable mediums included textiles, leather, metals, wood carvings, paintings, sculptures and more. Artists were also encouraged to incorporate themes depicting the Pacific Northwest, coastal culture and heritage into their pieces.

1991 — The Tribal Economic Development Department advertised its collection of business magazines and encouraged members interested in starting a business to take advantage of the available resources. Members seeking more information about their industry, business structure options or other aspects of business planning were encouraged to call or stop by the department to learn about its services.

1986 — With 1,983 people enrolled in the Tribe, Enrollment Clerk Margo George was preparing to issue photo ID cards to members over the following months. George was also involved in conducting a survey to help determine the Tribe's greatest needs.

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. ■

Tribal Council approves grant application to ODOT

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved an application to the Oregon Department of Transportation for a grant of up to $500,000 during its Wednesday, Oct. 28, meeting.

If approved, the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund two-year grant would be used by the Tribal Public Works Department to support operating assistance for its transit program, which provides bus service to neighboring cities and Spirit Mountain Casino, as well as Lincoln City via the Coastal Connector, for both Tribal and community members.

The Tribe has received these funds for more than 10 years, Tribal Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, Oct. 27, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

"Thanks to these funds, the Tribe has been able to provide transportation to an average of 1,000 riders per month," she said.

The Public Works Department keeps a list of ridership numbers and Sparks said she looked through the last several months. The lowest number was 842 and the highest was 1,400 riders in a month.

In other news, council:

- Approved agreements with the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Washington Department of Transportation for cultural resources work in Grand Ronde's homelands with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office;
- Approved amendments to the Tribal retirement plan to comply with the federal CARES Act, SECURE Act and SECURE Act 2.0 dealing with retirement savings regulations;
- Approved a memorandum of understanding between the Tribal Police Department and the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office to set standards and procedures for each department when jointly responding to emergencies;
- Approved a purchase and sale agreement for the Butte Creek property acquisition through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The 76.75-acre property is located northeast of Salem;
- Approved an amendment incorporating a 2027 funding agreement of $3.733 million into the Department of Interior self-governance multi-year funding agreement with the Tribe;
- Approved the sale of the 75-acre liskwis ston logging unit to Round Valley LLC, which will net the Tribe approximately $1.7 million after various fees have been deducted;
- Appointed Tribal member Jake McKnight and Tribal Elder Jack Giffen Jr. to the Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. Board of Directors with terms ending Sept. 30, 2029;
- And approved enrolling five infants and four noninfants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Council also set the agenda for the General Council meeting. It was held Sunday, Nov. 1, and featured the 2027 draft budget hearing in executive session.

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

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. ■



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

Council approves contract amendment for Health & Wellness Center project

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

With just one week between meetings due to the Veterans Day holiday Wednesday, Nov. 11, Tribal Council only had two action items on the agenda during its Wednesday, Nov. 4, meeting.

The first was approving the Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department to work with the Tribal Attorney's Office to finalize a guaranteed maximum price amendment of no more than $4.386 million for a contract between the Tribe and Triplett Wellman Inc. for the Tribal Health & Wellness Center modernization project.

Tribal Council member Toby McClary noted that $1.25 million of that funding comes from an Indian Health Service grant.

Construction on the now 30-year-old building includes elevator modernization, pharmacy expansion, temporary accommodations to maintain pharmacy operations during construction and an upgrade to building systems such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning, as well as improving interior areas for better functionality.

Triplett Wellman was also the contractor during the original construction. More recently, the company was the general contractor for the Tribe's Early Care and Education building.

Construction of the Health & Wellness Center started in October 1996. Design began in August 1995 and the construction budget for the 29,000-square-foot, two-story structure was approximately $4 million. Future expansion of the building would be easy, architect Frank Whalen said at the time, because of the design in the shape of a medicine wheel with four separate wings.

In other news, council:

- Approved enrolling six 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. ■

Personnel Management Ordinance open for comment

The Tribal Council adopted, on an emergency basis, amendments to the Personnel Management Ordinance at the Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed emergency amendments will: Update the Tribe's observed holidays, provide that the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission may share background investigation information related to Tribal employees required to have a license with the Gaming Commission in specific sensitive circumstances on a confidential basis and only for employment purposes and make other technical changes to the ordinance.

Tribal Council invites comment on the amendments to the Personnel Management Ordinance. For a copy of the 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 Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026. ■



TERO holds annual appreciation lunch

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

The annual Tribal Employment Rights Office Appreciation Lunch was held Saturday, Oct. 24, at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center to honor and highlight employees and projects in 2026, and to honor the worker of the year.

TERO Director Harris Reibach served as master of ceremonies, introducing speakers, presenting awards and announcing raffle winners while approximately 200 attendees enjoyed lunch and desserts.

Reibach took a moment to acknowledge all who had come out for the event, and noted it was the third time they had invited primary contractors for various Oregon Department of Transportation projects that employ TERO workers. He also acknowledged WorkSource Oregon, which brings a mobile center to the Tribal campus twice a month.

"This is a great place to meet people" Reibach said. "There might be some opportunities where someone may have wanted to engage with the program, but never really kind of got the chance to, and they might see you and say, 'Hey, this is the time where I could just go up and talk to the person that's in that program,' so I appreciate all of you for coming. It's awesome and it really means a lot."

Reibach acknowledged the Klamath Tribes TERO, who first visited the Grand Ronde TERO program in 2025 after launching their program, and who have now attended the luncheon for the second year in a row. He also acknowledged that everyone in the room was connected in some way.

"It's just a time for us to come together," he said. "We're all related in some way or another through employment, through TERO or through the state. We all have some kind of engagement with the ultimate goal of seeing our Native people be successful, so if you're sitting at a table now, you definitely play a part in that success."

Then, Reibach gave the invocation to begin the event and he and Tribal member and past TERO participant Fabien Quenelle performed a drum song.

Reibach introduced employees in the TERO program, which includes Senior Compliance Officer Duke Kimsey, Compliance Officer Matt Lux, Training and Development Coordinator Jacob Boekhoff, Senior Executive Assistant Caden Leno, Administrative Assistant Kristy Summers and Khofi Haws Lead Barista Ariel Hunt. Past TERO staff member Lori Sterling was also in attendance.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

The Tribal Employment Rights Office Worker of the Year award was presented to Kayonda Flores during the annual TERO Appreciation Lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Saturday, Oct. 24. Flores received a Tribal Pendleton blanket, plaque, Visa, Amazon and Shell gift cards and a SMC package including a one-night stay at the hotel, $50 meal comp and two tickets to comedian Chris Tucker.

Then, Reibach mentioned TERO Commission members in attendance, which included Sterling and fellow Grand Ronde Tribal Elders Perri McDaniel and Steve Bobb.

Reibach thanked Tribal Council member Valeria Atanacio and the Tribal 477 Employment and Training Program for attending the lunch.

After a meal song, a lunch of prime rib, turkey, potato salad, fruit salad, mashed potatoes, green salad, rolls and dessert was served.

Lunch and dessert were followed by raffle prize drawings, an explanation of the various services TERO provides and different project statistics.

"The level of engagement that Grand Ronde TERO has with the individuals and the contactors that we work with, I think that's what makes us stand out," Reibach said. "For those that don't know and this always feels like a humble brag, but we are one of the most successful TEROs in the United States. There's over 300 and Grand Ronde is one of the most successful. It's like a culmination of things, but a couple things that I have down is the engagement and communication…If you call us, if you email us, we will always answer those or get back to you as quickly as possible. And of course, the dedicated staff goes right into what makes this possible."

Reibach also highlighted a few areas in the program that he said helps with its success, such as the TERO Skills Bank, where prospective workers fill out a simple application and send it in with a copy of their Tribal ID or ID from any federally recognized Tribe. Then, they can begin calling in daily to be matched with employers looking for employees.

"The skills bank is full of all different kinds of construction trades workers so we have carpenters, laborers, flaggers, equipment operators, painters, you name it," Reibach said. "We also do apprenticeships through there, not only with unions but non-union as well."

The other aspect Reibach highlighted is the Indian Owed Business program.

"There's an application you can get at grandronde.org/government/tero/ and there's a wide variety of companies on there, anything from smaller, mom-and-pop companies to bigger consulting companies and everything in between. We also have non-construction related individual businesses, too."

Lastly, he noted the individual funding opportunities, which are only available to Grand Ronde Tribal members and descendants.

"We fund a lot of things through that program and really, it is a catch-all for non-accredited programs…It has really come in and stepped up to help with those," Reibach said.

He added that 2026 had been a great year for the program and noted a few of the highlights, which include the Interstate 205 Abernathy Bridge project, which is the biggest project for TERO and is now in its third year.

"We constantly have a lot of people out on that project," he said. "And that's been a really good project for engagement and we're working with some good contractors on there and have referred 70 people this year. Sixty individuals have been hired on over the duration of that project, so it's been really good for us."

He mentioned that TERO had received its first ever federal grant, EAGLE, which stands for Economic Advancement Grants for Local Empowerment, a funding initiative launched by the Administration for Native Americans.

"There were around 200 people and entities that applied, and we were one of 30 that received it, so that should be rolling out at the beginning of next year," Reibach said. "It will help specifically fund those OJTs where we can get people working on projects and pay their wages."

Another upcoming project is the interstate bridge replacement, which will involve replacing the I-5 bridge from Jantzen Beach in Portland to Vancouver, Washington. Grand Ronde is one of four Tribes engaged on the project, along with the Yakama, Warm Springs and Cowlitz Tribes.

"That will be the first project ever that is a multiple Tribe by state federal funded project," Reibach said.

Altogether, TERO workers were dispatched to 27 projects this year between 10 ODOT projects and 17 Tribal projects. The total hours worked were 34,747, which resulted in $1.348 million in wages.

Some of the bigger Tribal projects include the Wind River Apartments, with 10 buildings and 45 units being added to Tribal housing, along with phase two foundation for the Tribal homeownership development, Tipsu-ili'i and the exterior painting project at Spirit Mountain Casino.

After Harris finished with program highlights, he then provided the opportunity for the TERO staff to speak about their jobs and what those meant to them.

Toward the end of the event, the TERO Worker of the Year award was presented to Kayonda Flores, who was also a TERO Worker of the Month in March 2026.

In a Worker of the Month article in Smoke Signals, Flores discussed how her apprenticeship as an iron worker had changed the trajectory of her life.

"Prior to utilizing TERO, Kayonda was living in a homeless shelter with her two young sons," the article stated. "A staff member at the shelter provided her with a pamphlet and told Kayonda about Grand Ronde TERO and the career opportunities it may afford someone in her position. Kayonda's goal was to establish a career that would support her and her children, while also allowing her time to spend with them. Kayonda shows sincere gratitude for getting this opportunity through Grand Ronde TERO. She works hard each day to capitalize on the learning opportunity that the day brings."

Flores was presented with a Tribal Pendleton blanket, plaque, one-night stay at Spirit Mountain Casino with a $50 meal comp, two comedy tickets to Chris Tucker, as well as Visa, Amazon and Shell Gas gift cards.

The event concluded with a final raffle and photos. ■

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. ■

Disaster Response Committee focuses on building a strong community

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Making a difference after a disaster often consists of surprisingly small steps to tackle what otherwise look like overwhelming problems. The Grand Ronde Community Disaster Response Committee is busy laying the groundwork for those steps, focusing on how the people of Grand Ronde, Sheridan and Willamina can come together to build a stronger, more resilient community.

A winter storm can knock out power for days or weeks, leaving families struggling to meet basic needs, or a wildfire could roar through a community, leaving devastation in its wake. Then, there's the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake expected to hit the Pacific Northwest at some unknown time.

A prepared community is a resilient community. Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Brandy Bishop and Resilience Officer Kaylene Barry are working on improving the resilience of Grand Ronde, Sheridan and Willamina. They are seeking more participants for the CDRC, which meets at the Willamina Fire Station on the last Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m., and the Grand Ronde Fire Station on the last Thursday of every month at noon. However, because of the holiday season, for the next two months, those meetings will take place Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 18-19, and December 9-10.


Brandy Bishop

"Community is the one of the most powerful protections," Bishop said.

She said she hopes the teams the committee is building will also help build compassion, as people who might not otherwise know each other learn to work together, "building it small, and then letting it spread. We've got to have a strong foundation."

It isn't necessary for people to dedicate large amounts of time to participate in the committee.

"Even the smallest bit is good," Bishop said. "Five minutes a month, where you do some research and you give us that information. Or you get CPR training."

The CPR piece is crucial, she noted, as every trained person is another emergency first aid resource for the community.

One issue the meetings will address is what type of trainings people are interested in, Bishop said. People may want to focus on adding fire extinguishers to their homes and learning how to use them, learning how to preserve food or improving their household preparedness by stocking up on items like shelf-stable food, water and first aid supplies.

"Everyone has something to offer," Bishop said. "We need to build resource lists and identify gaps. It's a lot and it's going to take time to get there."

She hopes to offer activities over the next year or two for helping people learn to build emergency kits, stock emergency supplies, purify water, learn ham radio operation and other skills.

Communication is key during an emergency and so is advance planning. When roads are out of commission due to weather, fallen trees or earthquakes, people are likely to be stuck in their own immediate area for some time. The committee has mapped out 13 "islands" in Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan.

"We're trying to build out smaller committees in those zones of people who live or work there," Bishop said. "Those teams figure out what resources are there and what aren't, what's needed."

Since communication with people outside each zone will be a major issue, Bishop said, the committee is encouraging people to learn ham radio skills and may sponsor a class for those wishing to earn their license, to give the zones a way to communicate with each other, and with the emergency command center. That way it can determine where the most need is at during a disaster.

For more information, contact Barry at 503-879-1701 or kaylene.barry@grandronde.org or Bishop at 503-879-1837 or brandy.bishop@grandronde.org. ■

Zombie Walk message? Movement helps your brain

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The zombies – or more accurately, cats, knights, Grinches, ghosts and other beings – participating in the Friday, Oct. 30, Zombie Walk organized by the Tribe's Community Health Department were more interested in collecting Halloween candy than brains. But by taking a walk and enjoying a social outing, Tribal Dementia Care Specialist Barbara Worthington said they were following two of the recommendations for improving their own brains and protecting them as they age.

"It was just an idea that I had that I've tooled around with for a while: How can we make more brain health events fun and community involved?" Worthington said. "I think that's the direction we're trying to go with Community Health, to find more creative and welcoming, fun events that can involve not just Elders or those living with dementia or caring for dementia, but the whole community: Families, youth, anything to get people talking about brain health."

Participants, most of them in costume, gathered at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Clinic on the Tribal campus, walked up through the campus to the Elder housing area then looped back along Grand Ronde Road, stopping periodically at stations to gather candy, "brain beanie" caps and other treats along the way.

Worthington said she's trying to create events that attract mixed ages and allow people to practice simple advice that can be so deceptively difficult: Exercise more, eat a nutritious diet, socialize with others and work on emotional health.

In 2025, a team of researchers released findings from a study showing that Americans have an estimated 42% risk of developing dementia, primarily after the age of 85. However, people can take action years earlier to protect the health of their brains.


Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Araya DeJulio, 10, picks out a mini rubber duck from Tribal Community Health Aide IV Ben Morris, wearing a Jack Box head, from Jack in the Box, during Community Health's Zombie Walk around the Tribal campus Friday, Oct. 30. The event was designed to promote brain health, movement and community connection. Walkers collected candy, toys and a brain beanie along the way.

"My goal is just to try to normalize people talking about brain health and what that looks like, and it doesn't always have to be scary," she said. "We can do things now and we can do fun things and it's OK to talk about. It's ok to look at everyday activities we can do to reduce risk, kind of like what we did for the walk. We did exercise and we did socialization and emotional health."

Even fairly small changes can make a significant difference, Worthington said, and are much more effective than getting overwhelmed by a list of things to do.

"People think of it like a chore and we're just trying to normalize it," she said. "These small little lifestyle interventions reduce our risk and actually can start dialing back cognitive decline, even in informal ways like this."

Worthington noted that lifestyle changes don't have to involve an entire overhaul.

"I want people to stop being scared of the how overwhelming it can look and just say, 'What's one thing I can do? I can get out for a walk. I can maybe make a healthier meal a part of my routine.' You know, just one small thing," she said.

Worthington said it's especially important for Elders who are showing cognitive decline and want to take charge of their brain health and overall wellness.

"So take one thing, make that part of your routine and then once that is, then you just take another thing and make that part of your routine," she said. "Getting out, like we just did, walking. Try to do it three to five times a week and you'd be impressed at how much improvement, if you would, with cognition, that can happen. It's not a cure-all of course. But still, it's taking charge of our health and our brain health." ■

National Family Caregivers Month

November is National Family Caregivers Month and Tribal Community Health is celebrating all those who provide that care, as well as reminding them they need to make time for their own well-being, too. Rest, 10-20 minutes of exercise a day, nourishing food and connecting with friends and family can all help to keep people from burning out from the physically, mentally and emotionally demanding work of caregiving. Community Health is inviting family caregivers to call or email the department at 503-879-2078 or Barbara.worthington@grandronde.org, by Monday, Nov. 30, to receive an appreciation gift. Gifts will be distributed the first week of December. Caregivers are also invited to share their stories and words of wisdom. ■

Community developing through collaboration

ART SUMMIT continued from front page

share their work with the Grand Ronde community and its partners.

Harrelson said he was pleased to see a sense of community developing through productive conversations and collaboration.

"We're able to preserve and perpetuate Tribal culture by being in community with each other," he said. "I'm actively seeing collaborations happen in the moment. People are learning from one another and developing new projects and I've seen people plan out new ideas as they get mutually inspired by each other."

Harrelson said he hoped visitors would leave the summit feeling encouraged to create their own arts and crafts.

Among the artists was Kanani Miyamoto, a printmaker of Hawaiian-Japanese heritage, who creates murals and large-scale art installations. Her booth featured large wooden print blocks depicting Hawaiian flowers.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Miyamoto draws inspiration from her background and upbringing. She said much of her work incorporates Hawaiian imagery, stories and philosophy. She shared photos of a mural she made for the Multnomah County Library in Portland and said she enjoys creating art for public spaces where it can be seen and appreciated by a wide audience.

"I do a lot of public-facing artwork," Miyamoto said. "Artwork that's really big and not necessarily in gallery spaces. I feel that kind of representation is very important to have."

Miyamoto has collaborated with the Tribe on previous art projects and said she was honored to have opportunities to work with the Grand Ronde community.

Grand Ronde Tribal member Douglas Burgess II, a glass artist, also displayed several of his creations, including cups, bird figures and totems.

Also of Haida and Dakota heritage, Burgess said his work often explores reflection and storytelling.

"I feel like all forms of art that you work with is a reflection," he said. "You are telling a story whether you are aware of it or not. With some of these totems, I'm telling a story of transformation. My thought process while making and refining them brought me to the realization that I'm talking about my own story. I figure that's what artists do, tell their own story and oftentimes our stories reflect those around us too."

Another of his creations was a piece he described as "playful," depicting bright green slugs crawling through grass. Burgess said he hopes his work helps demonstrate the possibilities of glass as an artistic medium and inspires other Native artists to explore glasswork.

"Part of what I try to do is make glass art more accessible to underserved communities," he said. "Lots of folks don't even realize or recognize that glass can be another form of expression."

Also sharing her work was Arusha Dittmer of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Dittmer's mixed-media creations incorporate acrylic paint, watercolor and ink to depict Native people, folklore, traditional medicines and ways of life. Her work also addresses environmental issues, endangered species and Missing and Murdered Indigenous People.

"We need to protect and be stewards of the land because as Native people, we've always took care of the land," she said.

One painting Dittmer was particularly proud of depicted the Deer Woman, a figure from Indigenous oral traditions sometimes associated with protecting women, children and the community. She incorporated depictions of bitterroot, California poppies, camas and sunflowers into the piece to represent women from different Tribal nations.

Dittmer uses bright, bold colors throughout her work as a way of bringing more beauty into the world and transforming trauma into healing.

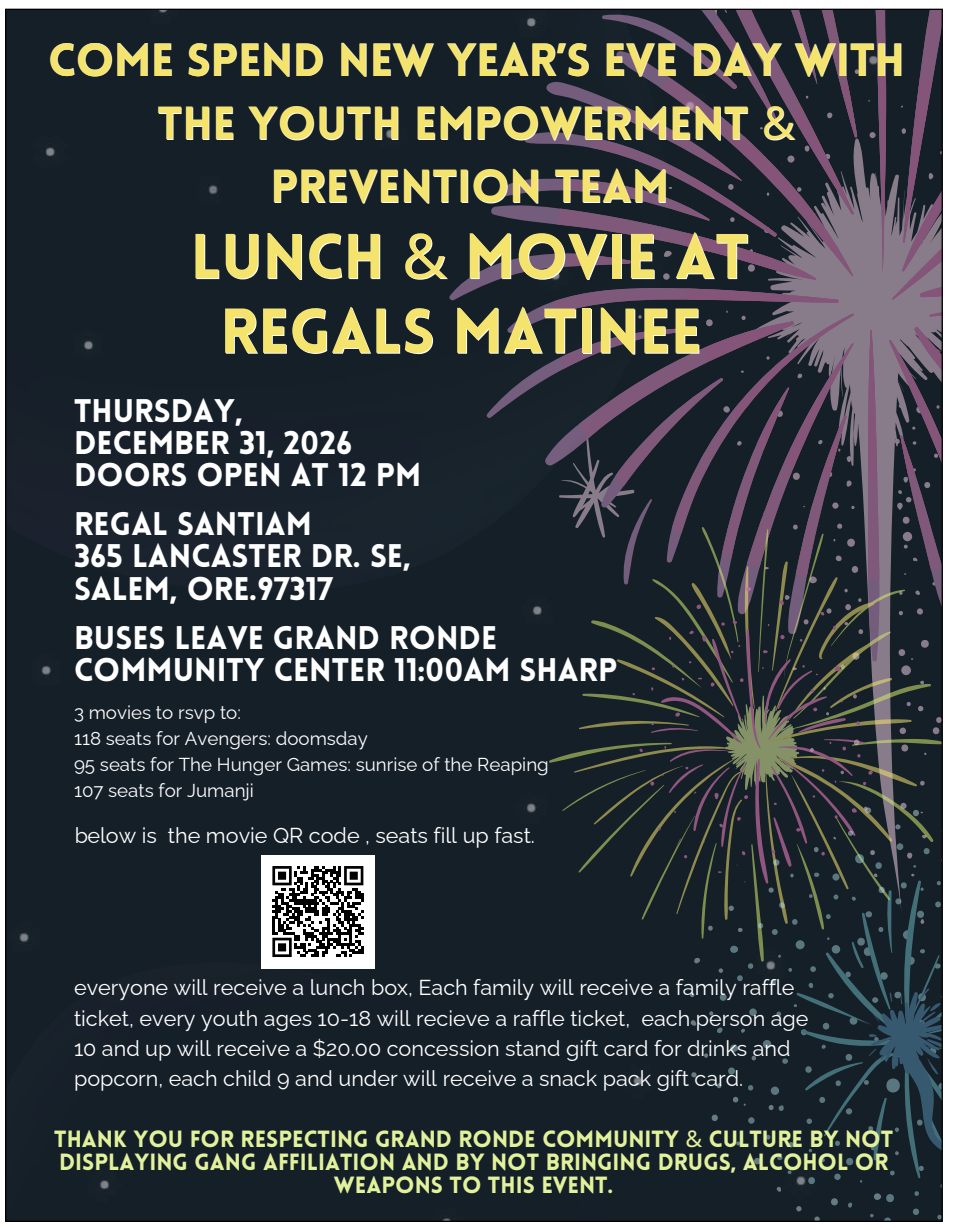
"I like to use bright colors because … life is hard enough as it is," she said. "We need brightness and beauty in our lives wherever we can get it. As Native artists, we are giving back to our people in a good way. We are taking our traumas and transforming them into something beautiful and bringing beauty out of our struggles." ■

Boys with Braids



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Children & Family Services Peer Support Specialist Ferrell DeGarmo, left, teaches Tribal member Wyatt Zimbrick, 7, middle, and Mason Decker, 9, (Modoc) a self-defense move during an empowerment and self-defense workshop that was part of Boys with Braids 2026 in the Tribal gym Saturday, Nov. 7. The conference featured additional workshops, a youth panel discussion of Grand Ronde boys focused on hair and its meaning to each panel member and keynote speaker Isaac Tonasket, a singer-songwriter and motivational speaker from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The Tribe's Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program hosted the annual event with the goal of providing a space to educate and empower Tribal people and families as well as those who support them. It is centered on empowerment through education and generational healing with a focus on native boys and men with braids as well as those without. The conference is designed for native boys, girls, men, women and non-native allies.







Tribal Elder Kelly Nelson, left, laughs as Tribal Elder Joannie West throws Cheetos Puffs at the shaving cream-covered shower cap on Nelson's head as they play a game during the Elders Halloween Party at the Elders Activity Center Friday, Oct. 30. The team that had the most Cheetos stuck to the shaving cream won. They tied for first place with 44 Cheetos.

Halloween time!



Mila Linton, left, collects a bag of goodies while trick-or-treating at the Tribal Library during Youth Enrichment's hayu-munk skukum's annual trick-or-treating around the Tribal campus Friday, Oct. 30.



Tribal member Aspen Crawley, 2, tries on the ladybug mask she colored during the Halloween jam in the Tribal gym Thursday, Oct. 29. In addition to crafts, there was drumming, singing, dancing, a treasure trot and pizza was served for dinner. The jam was hosted by the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Clinic and held in collaboration with the Tribe's Children & Family Services Program's annual trunk-or-treat event in the Education Complex parking lot.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Violet Gaines, 2, chooses a piece of candy with the help of her mother, Lana Gaines, during the Tribe's Children & Family Services Program's annual trunk-or-treat event in the Education Complex parking lot Thursday, Oct. 29.



Photo by Alexander Bliven

Tribal member Bentley Stauffer, 9, Youth Ed trick-or-treats in the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center during the Tribe's hayu-munk skukum Youth Enrichment Program annual trick-or-treating Friday, Oct. 30.

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO

@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrsmokesignals @SmokeSignalsCTGR

Wakeland graduates from exclusive program

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

After two grueling years, Tribal Assistant Fire Chief Torey Wakeland has graduated from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He is the first Tribal member fire chief to do so.

Wakeland said his parents planned to attend his graduation ceremony, in celebration of this accomplishment.

The two-year competitive program is a master level course that requires a bachelor's degree.

"They capped applications at 1,500 people nationwide," Wakeland said.

This meant that the application window would not be open long, with applications typically opening at midnight of the new year and closing the same day. Wakeland had been prepared, however, with his application already filled out.

"So I stayed up, watched the ball drop and the second it hit 12:01, I sent my application," he said.


Torey Wakeland

Of the 1,500 applicants, 140 students were selected to attend.

"This has been quite the grind," he said.

He added that it's been well worth the hours of hard work, not least because the course, which took place both on campus in Maryland and remotely, brought him into close contact with other chiefs and assistant chiefs from across the country.

"Just some amazing people," he said. "It doesn't matter how big or small your department is; everybody's dealing with the same issues. So, we've created a big network."

He now has some 30 or 40 colleagues he can call on for shop talk, advice or ideas.

"I get texts from a chief in Kansas at 10 o'clock at night; 'Can you send me your work on mental health?' Yeah, I can do that. Or I will call someone in Albuquerque; 'Can you send me your fitness program?' It's a great resource to have."

Wakeland said he's honored to have been able to complete the program and that it speaks well to Grand Ronde, noting that Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight, who is also a Tribal member, achieved a similar accomplishment when he went through the FBI National Academy.

"It's an honor; it's very cool," Wakeland said.

For the last six months, Wakeland has been working on his final applied research project, the equivalent of a master's thesis, but intended to be a program the graduate can actually implement at their home fire station. Wakeland chose adding a service dog to help improve firefighters' mental health. Ideally, he said he'd like to add two — one for the Willamina station and one for the Grand Ronde station. But, if need be, one dog could potentially travel back and forth.

There's plenty of work still to do, he said, including seeking permission from Tribal Council and figuring out how to fund the program, which can be costly but very beneficial for the Tribe's firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Wakeland has personal experience with the subject, as he has a service dog of his own, and the department's contracted mental health counselor periodically brings a service dog to the department when she visits.

"The body of research on the effect it has on the firefighters is really, really staggering," Wakeland said. "You can see people's moods completely change." ■

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. ■

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. ■

WANT TO PLACE AN AD?

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE IN SMOKE SIGNALS?

Tribal member?
Did you know Smoke Signals offers special discounted advertising rates for Tribal members.

Not a Tribal member?
We accept ads from non-Tribal members as well. Please contact us for a current list of advertising rates.

For more information contact:
Katherine Warren Steffensmier at 503-879-1466 or Katherine.Warren-Steffensmier@grandronde.org

Smoke Signals is always FREE online at smokesignals.org. Click current issue pdf or send an email to news@grandronde.org to subscribe.

WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



Tribe showcases oak habitat restoration during tour

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosted Clackamas County representatives Monday, Oct. 26, providing a tour of its Noble Oaks property, a 667-acre conservation site near Willamina where the Tribe is working to restore native oak and prairie habitats.

County staff requested the visit to learn more about the Tribe's conservation efforts and observe its land management practices firsthand. Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh organized the tour for personnel of the Clackamas County Government Affairs Office, Forestry Department and Transportation and Development Department.

Karnosh began by discussing the property's historical and cultural significance, explaining that it sits on the traditional homelands of Kalapuya people, who managed the Willamette Valley landscape through traditional fire practices for thousands of years.

The property changed hands several times before Richard and Nancy Noble purchased and developed it into a wildlife sanctuary featuring African animals, including giraffes, zebras and rhinoceroses.

Later, The Nature Conservancy, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting land and water, purchased the property using funds from the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. The program is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Nature Conservancy later worked with Grand Ronde and the program to transfer ownership and conservation duties to the Tribe in 2019.



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Ceded Lands Manager Michael Karnosh, fourth from left, talks to representatives from Clackamas County during a tour of Noble Oaks, one of the Tribe's conservation properties near Willamina, Monday, Oct. 26. County staff reached out to learn more about the Tribe's land management and restoration practices.

During the tour, Karnosh, Tribal Historic Preservation Office Manager Briece Edwards and Tribal Wildlife Biologist Marie Vicksta discussed the importance of controlled burning and the Tribe's ongoing efforts to restore the property's Oregon white oak savanna and woodland habitats.

"Fire is an ingredient, whether it's controlled and deliberate or catastrophic and undesired," Edwards said.

At the first stop, overlooking a burned section of the property, county staff asked several questions about what the process of restoring its lands is like for the Tribe. Vicksta explained that although controlled burning is the Tribe's preferred restoration method, certain conditions can make it difficult or unsafe. Wind direction, nearby residences, Highway 18 and a natural gas pipeline can affect when and where burns take place. In areas where burning isn't an option, mowing is used as an alternative.

SEE MORE OF THIS STORY
Visit YouTube
@SmokeSignalsCTGR

Planning for controlled burns often begins during winter, Vicksta said, when the Tribe develops a list of properties to prioritize. Tribal staff coordinate closely with regulatory agencies and notify nearby residents and others who could be affected by smoke.

"It's in our best interests to be a good neighbor, particularly since the Tribe isn't physically present on a lot of the properties that they manage," Vicksta said.

The tour continued along an approximately 1-mile walking route, occasionally passing piles of cleared vegetation covered with plastic tarps. The coverings help keep the material dry so it can be burned during wetter weather.

Roughly halfway along the route, the group stopped to take a short break and discuss how European-American settlement contributed to the decline of oak habitats throughout the Willamette Valley.

Karnosh explained that oak habitats were often viewed as unproductive land and cleared to make room for agriculture and other uses.

"They saw it as scrubland, wasteland and not good for anything," he said. "They would cut down oaks and plant crops, wine grapes or other plants that were considered more productive."

Oak savanna, oak woodland and oak-adjacent prairie habitats once covered much of the Willamette Valley but have since been significantly reduced through urban development, agriculture and changes in land management.

According to The Nature Conservancy, less than 2% of original Oregon white oak habitats remain within the Willamette Valley, making those some of the most endangered ecosystems in the region.

The Tribe continues working with conservation partners including the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, U.S. Forest Service, ODFW, The Nature Conservancy and Yamhill Conservation Trust to restore and maintain these landscapes.

Karnosh also discussed how the Tribe's approach to forest management has evolved over the years.

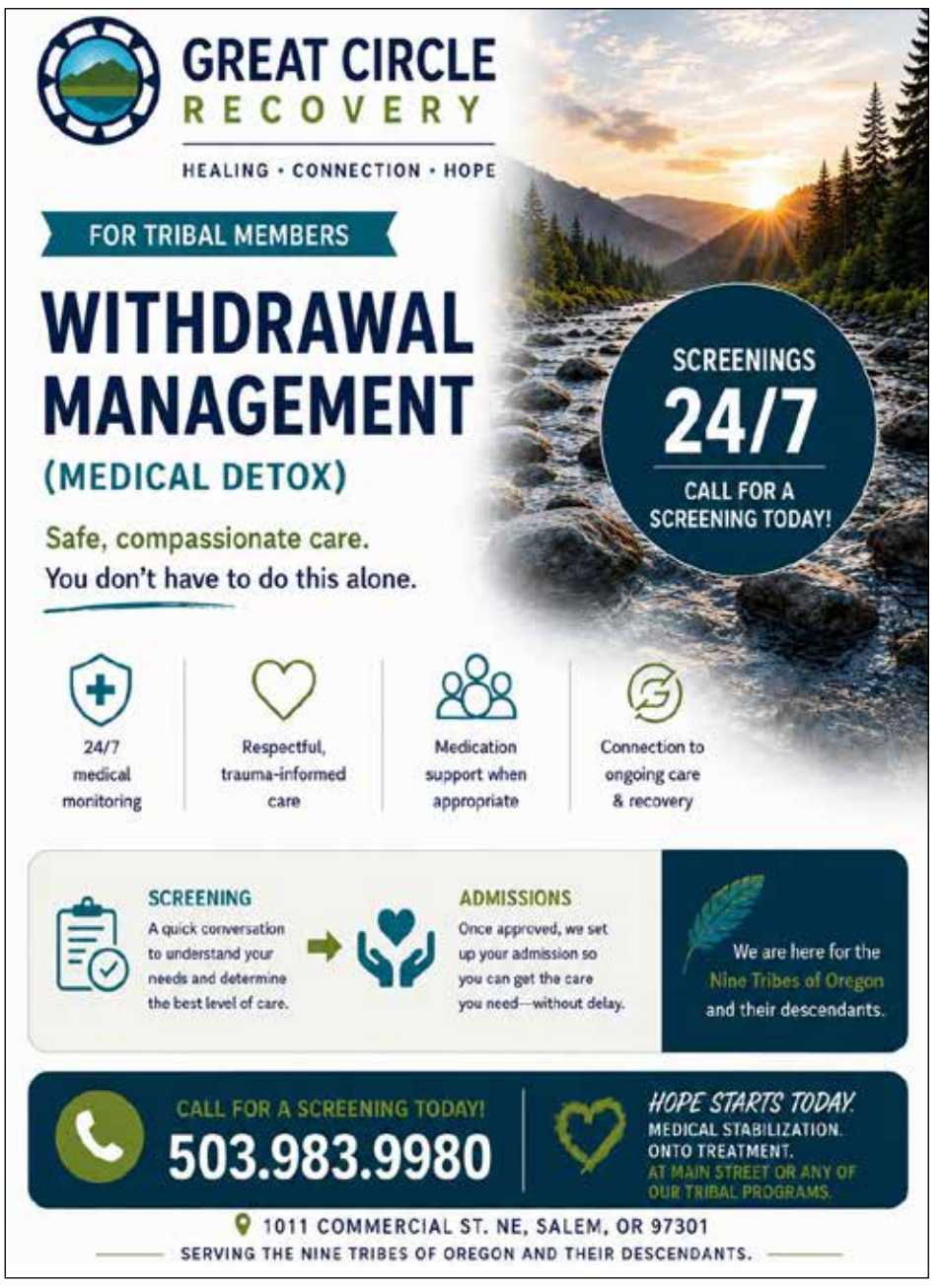
Following the reclamation of additional lands in 1988, the Tribe initially managed its forests much like an industrial forest owner. However, its approach has since evolved to incorporate more holistic restoration practices, such as prescribed underburning beneath the forest canopy to manage vegetation and maintain healthier oak habitats.

He said the practice would have been considered a "major no-no" even five years ago.

Karnosh said money earned from the Noble Oaks property is reinvested directly into its continued upkeep.

"Every penny that's made off of this property, every log that's sold and any other money that comes in goes into a special account that is specifically for the maintenance and restoration of this property," he said.

The tour concluded with county staff thanking the Tribe for their time and providing detailed responses to their questions. ■



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. ■

TERO Worker of the Month

October 2026
Name: Jeremy Meyer
Employer: Wildish Standard Paving
Position: Equipment foreman


Jeremy Meyer

Jeremy first became involved with the TERO program in 2024 after seeing a flyer highlighting construction employment opportunities for Tribal members. He recognized it as an opportunity to advance his career while proudly representing his Tribe and community. As a union heavy equipment operator with experience through Operating Engineers Local 701 and 302 in Oregon and Washington, he valued this opportunity to bring his skills to the program.

Jeremy's first employment opportunity with TERO was with Wildish in Burns. Jeremy arrived with a vast number of skills in heavy equipment operation including running loaders, track hoes, rollers, skid steers, backhoes, rock drillers and paddlewheel scrapers.

We asked Jeremy how TERO has helped his career and if he has learned any new skills, and he said TERO connected him with valuable employment opportunities, offers competitive wages and helps him provide for his family of six. Beyond employment, the program has strengthened his connection to the Tribal community and reinforced the importance of supporting one another's success. He goes on to say that this position has provided valuable opportunities to expand his skills in new areas of civil construction. Working on bridge decks has been particularly rewarding and a valuable learning experience, allowing him to broaden his technical knowledge and continue to grow professionally.

Jeremy also said that he would like to express his sincere appreciation to the TERO staff for their dedication to their continued efforts to create meaningful employment opportunities for Tribal members, and that their work provides opportunities for professional growth while strengthening the community.

Jeremy would also like to thank Wildish for recognizing his skills and experience and providing him with the opportunity to contribute to their team. He said he is grateful for their confidence in his abilities and the opportunity to continue to develop his career.

Great job Jeremy, our TERO staff and community thank you for representing our Tribe and the TERO program in a great way.

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

Employees using EV chargers need to sign policy first

Tribal employees who use the electric vehicle chargers must first read and sign the EV charging policy.

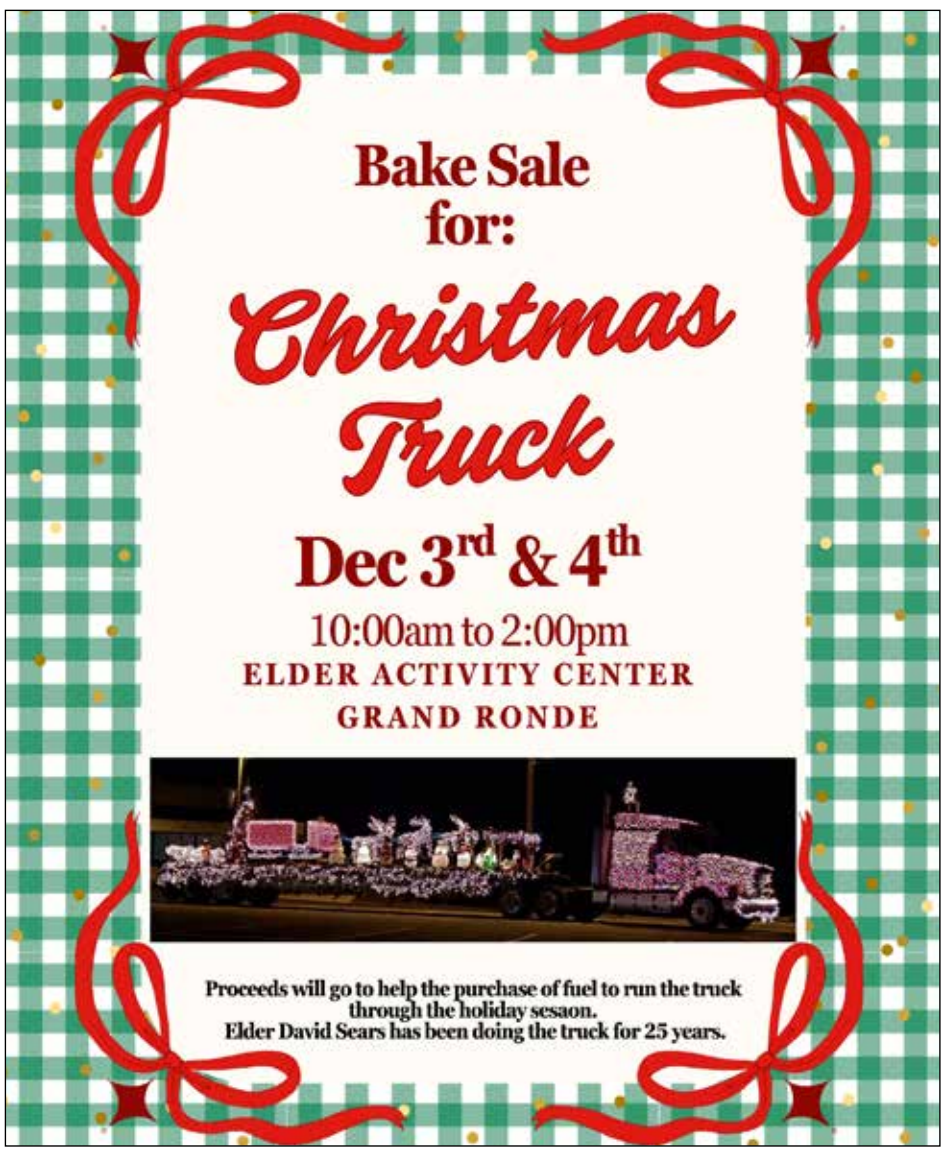
"Please ensure that you understand and follow all policy requirements whenever using the charging facilities," Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said.

EV parking spaces may only be used while a vehicle is actively charging. Once a vehicle is fully charged, or once four hours have passed, users are asked to move it promptly so the chargers remain available for others.

"Thank you for helping ensure fair and efficient access to the EV charging spaces," Webb said.

For more information, contact Webb at 503-879-2404. ■





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). ■





Walking On...

Helen Johanne Howe Dancing Cloud

July 31, 1936 – Oct. 25, 2026

Tribal Elder Helen Johanne Howe Dancing Cloud passed away October 25, 2026, at the age of 90.

Allen & Dahl Funeral Chapel in Redding, California, is assisting the family.

Funeral service information is unavailable at this time.



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
Academic Advisor K-5	11	$32.74/hr.	$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
Community Paramedic – Limited Duration	11	$32.74/hr.	$42.16/hr.	11/16/2026
Cook – Weekends Only – Sheridan - GCR	5	$18.86/hr.	$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
Financial Wellness Coordinator	10	$29.76/hr.	$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
Infant/Toddler Teacher Entry Level – Limited Duration	9	$27.05/hr.	$34.95/hr.	Until Filled
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
Milieu Safety Technician – Salem - Withdrawal Management - GCR	6	$20.75/hr.	$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
Milieu Safety Technician – Variable Shifts (3 Swing/2 Grave) - Sheridan - GCR	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Physician – Salem Primary Care	25	$226,851.26/yr.	$433,201.52/yr. DOE	Until Filled
Police Officer – Limited Duration	11	$32.74/hr.	$42.16/hr.	11/16/2026
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
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.	$51.58/hr. DOE	Until Filled

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) applies certain preference in all employment opportunities to applicants who meet the requirements of the job by utilizing the following preference tier system:

Tier 1: Enrolled Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde members
Tier 2: Spouses, Parents and/or Legal Guardians of CTGR members, current regular CTGR employees, enrolled members of other Indian Tribes, and Veterans
Tier 3: External candidates and current Spirit Mountain Casino employees not falling within tier 1 or tier 2

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

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



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Business Intelligence Analyst	Until Filled	$69,737.82/yr. DOE
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	Until Filled	$63,586.43/yr. DOE
Cleaning Attendant	Until Filled	$18.02/hr. DOE
Guest Safety Specialist I	Until Filled	$18.29/hr.
Guest Safety Specialist II	Until Filled	$18.55/hr.
Hospitality Attendant II WEX (*Part-Time) (Limited Duration)	Until Filled	$18.02/hr.
Host/Hostess Cashier (*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 Assistant Shift Supervisor	Until Filled	$52,937.25/yr.-$75,321.65/yr. 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 Busperson (*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.

Happy eighth birthday,
Aleenah Skye Little Bear
Love, Papa Greg, Nana Shantel, Dada Ethan,
Mommy Sasheen and Gigi Shirley.



Watchlist: 'The Indigenous punk band 1876 rocks Portland and beyond'

By Kamiah Koch
Social media/digital journalist

Sometimes when Gabe Colhoff (Northern Cheyenne and Blackfeet) gets stuck creating music for his band, he brings out photos of family members and Tribal chiefs to ask what they would like him to say.

Colhoff's band, called 1876, is an Indigenous punk band based in Portland with a message of unification.

"I want to help teach about my people, help teach about who came here before everybody else was here," Colhoff said in an Oregon Art Beat video on the Oregon Public Broadcasting's YouTube channel. "It's not in a way to wag a finger. It's more like, if you know the truth and I know the truth, let's move forward."

Like traditional punk bands, the video shows the six-person band rehearsing in a garage. Unlike other punk bands, they play with feathers hanging off the guitars, incorporate a powwow drum in their music and sing in their Native language.

"Everything that punk rock is supposed to be about, it's what we are," Colhoff said. "We tell the truth in our music when we speak, that's punk."

Colhoff explains the inspiration behind his band's name: 1876 was the Battle of Greasy Grass (Battle of Little Big Horn) fought in 1876, when Tribes combined forces to defeat the U.S. Army.

"It's a message to Indian Country, we have to stick together," Colhoff said.

For more about 1876, you can go to their website, 1876band.com.

To watch the Oregon Art Beat video on the band, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJlB0atRNiw. ■

Elderberry Wisdom Farm

Urban Forestry Crew Leader Trainee
2027 TEK Internship Opportunity
January 5 - March 18, 2027

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm (EWF) is hiring Urban Forestry Crew Leader Trainees interested in environmental career pathways. Four temporary part-time internship positions are being offered to Native American and other individuals located near Salem in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley. The paid opportunity will provide training and mentoring three or four days a week for 11 weeks in Winter Quarter 2027. Partners include the Oregon Department of Forestry: Urban and Community Forestry Program, City of Salem, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, Friends of Trees and other organizations.

Those interested in urban forestry and other environmental career pathways will receive training in Traditional Ecological Knowledge principles and climate adaptation practices by Elderberry Wisdom Farm staff. Classroom education and experiential service-learning training will prepare interns to plant and maintain climate resilient trees native to local urban ecosystems. They will also learn to mentor high school students and other family members during group activities through the winter months in classrooms and schoolyard. In order to qualify, applicants need to live near Salem or be willing to move nearby.

Trainees will work three to four days a week Tuesdays through Thursdays 8 am to 4:30 pm plus Saturday mornings from January 4, 2027 through March 18, 2027. They will work outdoors, lifting and carrying objects for periods of time in weather ranging from foggy, cold, and rainy. However, it's fulfilling work that will immerse you in nature, teach you a lot about yourself and build your stamina and employment skills that prepare you for future conservation employment and career opportunities.

You can review EWF's website at www.elderberrywisdom.org and sign up for our newsletter at our website. To apply or if you have questions you can reach us at info@elderberrywisdom.org. Send a bio or resume and letter of interest to by December 15. Final decisions will be made in late December.



Paid ad



Paid ad



Paid ad

IN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
COMMUNITY OF OREGON
CIVIL COURT

In Re: Estate of: Steven Edward Rife, Sr. Decedent.) Case No. 26C0016) NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS

NOTICE

TO: THE PUBLIC AND CREDITORS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is being provided to the public and all Creditors, the above-named decedent who Walked On in Grand Ronde (CITY), Oregon (STATE), Yamhill (County), on July 6, 2026 (DATE WALKED ON).

NOTICE

ESTATE OF: Steven Edward Rife, Sr.
The Person named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim in the manner as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance Chapter 310, subsection (p) which is available online at www.grandronde.org by serving on or mailing the personal representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance. Chapter 310. Subsection (n)(2). Any claim against the Estate not presented within the 60 day time line shall be barred.

Date of First Publication: November 15, 2026

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS 1	THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE TRIBAL COURT 9615 GRAND RONDE RD GRAND RONDE, OR 97347 PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX 503-879-2269

Personal Representative: Virginia Rife
Attorney for Personal Representative (if applicable): Susan P. Cook
Address for Mailing or Service: Po Box 654, 790 State St. Salem OR 97308
Phone: _____

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF November 2026

Virginia Rife
Signature of Personal Representative
Virginia Rife.

IN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
COMMUNITY OF OREGON
CIVIL COURT

In Re: Estate of: Steven Edward Rife, Sr.) Case No. 26C0016) NOTICE TO HEIRS

NOTICE

TO: THE HEIRS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is given to you as an heir of the above-named decedent who Walked On in Grand Ronde (CITY), Oregon (STATE), 97347 (County), on July 6, 2026 (DATE WALKED ON).

NOTICE

Estate proceedings in the decedents estate, bearing the Tribal Court Case Number 26C0016, have been commenced and are now pending in the above-entitled court. The Court has determined that there is ☐ a valid Will ☐ **NOT** a valid Will ☑ that Decedent Walked on intestate leaving no known Will. On November 4, 2026, the undersigned was duly appointed and is now serving as Personal Representative of the estate. Your rights may be affected by this proceeding: additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the undersigned Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, if applicable. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the attorney for the Personal Representative is as follows:

NOTICE TO HEIRS 1	THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE TRIBAL COURT 9615 GRAND RONDE RD. GRAND RONDE, OR 97347 PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX 503-879-2269

PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE:	ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE:
Virginia Rife. 25335 Blue Jay Ct. Grand Ronde OR 97347	Susan P. Cook. PO Box 654 790 State St. Salem OR 97308

Tribal Probate Code, Chapter 310, section (s) provides that any interested person may file a petition to contest the validity of a Will or finding Decedent dies Intestate within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first, as provided in Subsection (n)(1), and all untimely filed petitions are forever barred.

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF November 202_.

Virginia Rife
Signature of Personal Representative
Virginia Rife

IN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
COMMUNITY OF OREGON
CIVIL COURT

In Re: Estate of: LOUISE LA VERNE COULSON) Case No. 26C0014) NOTICE TO HEIRS

NOTICE

TO: THE HEIRS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is given to you as an heir of the above-named decedent who Walked On in SALEM (CITY), OREGON (STATE), MARION COUNTY (County), on FEBRUARY 13, 2026 (DATE WALKED ON).

NOTICE

Estate proceedings in the decedents estate, bearing the Tribal Court Case Number 26C0014, have been commenced and are now pending in the above-entitled court. The Court has determined that there is ☑ a valid Will ☐ **NOT** a valid Will ☐ that Decedent Walked on intestate leaving no known Will. On OCTOBER 7, 2026, the undersigned was duly appointed and is now serving as Personal Representative of the estate. Your rights may be affected by this proceeding: additional information may be obtained from the records of the court, the undersigned Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative, if applicable. The name and address of the Personal Representative and the attorney for the Personal Representative is as follows:

NOTICE TO HEIRS 1	THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE TRIBAL COURT 9615 GRAND RONDE RD. GRAND RONDE, OR 97347 PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX 503-879-2269

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:	ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
LINDA L. HALE 63154 DAKOTA DR. BEND, OR 97701	SUSAN P. COOK P.O. BOX 654 790 STATE ST. SALEM, OR 97302

Tribal Probate Code, Chapter 310, section (s) provides that any interested person may file a petition to contest the validity of a Will or finding Decedent dies Intestate within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first, as provided in Subsection (n)(1), and all untimely filed petitions are forever barred.

DATED THIS 5 DAY OF November, 2026

Linda Lee Hale
Signature of Personal Representative

IN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
COMMUNITY OF OREGON
CIVIL COURT

In Re: Estate of: LOUISE LA VERNE COULSON Decedent.) Case No. 26C0014) NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS

NOTICE

TO: THE PUBLIC AND CREDITORS of the above named decedent:

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE
TRIBAL COURT
9615 GRAND RONDE RD.
GRAND RONDE, OR 97347

The following information is being provided to the public and all Creditors, the above-named decedent who Walked On in OREGON (STATE), MARION COUNTY (County), SALEM (CITY), on FEBRUARY 13, 2026 (DATE WALKED ON).

NOTICE

ESTATE OF: LOUISE LA VERNE COULSON
The Person named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim in the manner as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance Chapter 310. subsection (p) which is available online at www.grandronde.org by serving on or mailing the personal representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within 60 days of receipt of notice or date of first publication of notice, whichever occurs first as provided in the Tribe's Probate Ordinance. Chapter 310. Subsection (n)(2). Any claim against the Estate not presented within the 60 day time line shall be barred.

Date of First Publication: NOVEMBER 15, 2026

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND CREDITORS 1	THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAN RONDE TRIBAL COURT 9615 GRAND RONDE RD GRAND RONDE, OR 97347 PHONE: 503-879-2303 FAX: 503-879-2269

Personal Representative: LINDA L. HALE
Attorney for Personal Representative (if applicable): SUSAN P. COOK
Address for Mailing or Service: PO Box 654 790 State St., Salem, OR 97308
Phone: (503) 370-6140

DATED THIS 5 DAY OF November, 2026

Linda Lee Hale
Signature of Personal Representative

HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

This year, November 18-24, we observe U.S. 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. ■

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness

Salem Primary Care

Quality care. Close to home.

When you need it.

SICK TODAY? WE'RE HERE!

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

WE CAN HELP WITH:

- Cough, runny nose, body aches
- Minor Injuries
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- Earaches, Sore Throat, Rashes & More
- General Illness & Not Feeling Well

YOUR HEALTH. OUR COMMUNITY.

Together, we thrive.

SAME DAY CARE AVAILABLE

SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT• GET SEEN • FEEL BETTER

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

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Salem Primary Care Clinic

Located at: 1011 Commercial St. NE Salem, Oregon

(503) -983-9970

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