

Community samples soups for diabetes awareness — pg. 9

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DECEMBER 1, 2026

SMOKE SIGNALS

UMPQUA · MOLALLA · ROGUE RIVER · KALAPUYA · CHASTA

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

Restoration Mini Powwow



From left, Sutton McKnight, 4, Tribal member Kynlee Boekhoff, 4, and Romie McKnight, 3, dance during the Shawash-iliʔi Skul Restoration Mini Powwow in the Tribal gym Friday, Nov. 13. The powwow was held for students and their families to celebrate Restoration, practice culture and be in community in honor of the ancestors who fought for Restoration.



Tribal member Hazel Krehbiel, 5, dances during the Shawash-iliʔi Skul Restoration Mini Powwow.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO
@SmokeSignalsCTGR @ctgrsmokesignals @SmokeSignalsCTGR

Atanacio honored for community impact

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's newest Tribal Council member, Valeria Atanacio, has been honored by the Oregon Conferences for Women with a Community Impact Award.



Valeria Atanacio

The award was presented at the Oregon Women of Impact Awards Gala Saturday, Nov. 7, in Keizer.

The organization says the award "honors a woman who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to strengthening and uplifting her community. Through service, advocacy, philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, volunteerism or grassroots efforts, she has turned compassion into action and created a measurable difference in the lives of others. This award recognizes a woman who understands that true impact is created by showing up, bringing people together and working toward a stronger community."

OCW said that Atanacio "is an Indigenous and Latina leader whose work has touched families, educators and communities throughout Oregon. As a mother, educator, entrepreneur and advocate, she has dedicated more than 15 years to strengthening education, supporting families, advancing culturally responsive practices and advocating for meaningful systems change."

In addition, it noted that Atanacio founded "Native Mama Scholars, a grassroots consulting business dedicated to strengthening Indigenous, family-centered and culturally

See ATANACIO
continued on page 7

Tribal contingent attends lands transfer hearing

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

WASHIGTON, D.C. — The Congressional Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing Thursday, Nov. 19, regarding the Grand Ronde Lands Transfer Act, a bill seeking to transfer 18,626 acres of federal lands in the Siuslaw National Forest to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

A Tribal delegation, including Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify.

"It's a good thing," Kennedy said during the council's Legislative Action Committee meeting Tuesday, Nov. 10. "I'm glad that we're at this point, when it seemed like it was an impossible task to get done."



Cheryle A. Kennedy

Smoke Signals noted in a previous article in the Oct. 1, 2026, edition of the paper that the transfer would more than double the Tribe's acreage. Currently, the land is being managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

In September, when it was first introduced in Congress before both the House and the Senate, Kennedy said in a press release that, "The transfer of these lands helps us rebuild the reservation, community and economy we lost as a result of termination. We will care for these forests with the knowledge our people have carried for generations, the same way we care for the nearly 16,000 acres we manage

See LANDS
continued on page 6

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, 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.

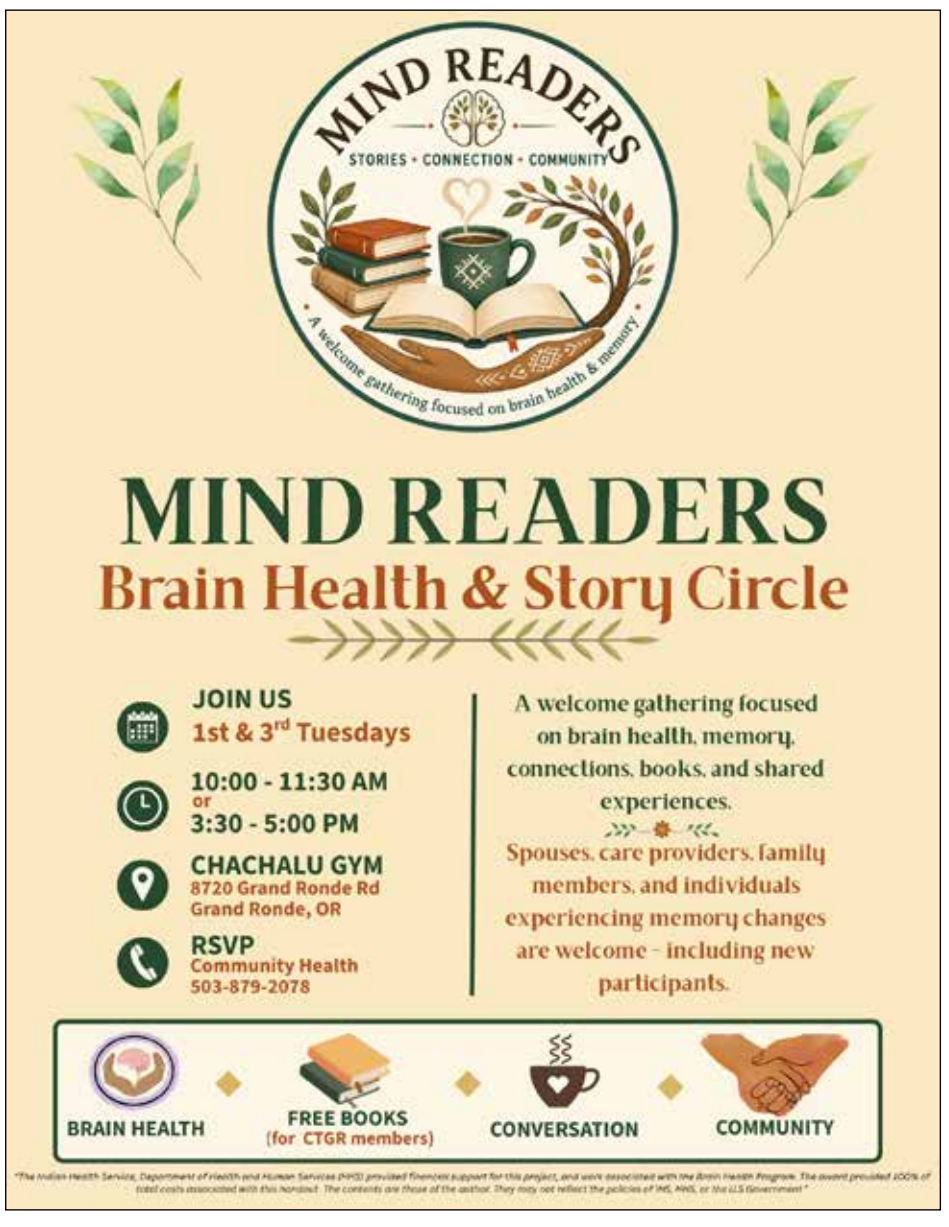
Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper and current events happening within the Tribe. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email address must 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 closing at noon Thursday, Dec. 24, and will remain closed through Friday, Jan. 1, 2027, in observance of the Christmas holiday and New Year's Day.



smok signəlz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Friday, Dec. 4	Dec. 15
Friday, Dec. 18	Jan. 1
Wednesday, Jan. 6	Jan. 15
Wednesday, Jan. 20	Feb. 1

MEMBERS OF:
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Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
2022 IJA General Excellence
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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In the Future
(kʰapa ałqi)

taɬlam-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.
- Saturday, Dec. 12 – Tribal Council Holiday Party, 10 a.m., Spirit Mountain Casino Event Center, 27100 SW Salmon River Highway.
- 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.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., via Zoom only due to office closure. 503-879-2304.

ixt-mun **(January)**

- Friday, Jan. 1 – Tribal offices closed in observance of New Year's Day.
- Sunday, Jan. 3 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, Jan. 13 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Monday, Jan. 18 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Wednesday, Jan. 27 – Tribal Council meeting, 4 p.m., Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

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

Grand Ronde pharmacy to temporarily relocate

A major remodel of the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center Pharmacy began the evening of Friday, Nov. 20, which resulted 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.

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 to a temporary location in the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Building across the parking lot from the main clinic. All prescription orders that were in the lockers prior to that date will need to be picked up at the pharmacy. 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." ■



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Ad by Samuel Briggs III



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 December 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 Christmas and New Year's 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.





2021 — Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison was one of nine Tribal leaders across Indian Country selected by TriMet to appear on bus wraps through August 2022. "Kathryn Jones Harrison of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is one of Oregon's important Tribal leaders," a TriMet website post stated. "She is known especially for her contributions during the Termination era, a time when the Eisenhower administration deprived Tribes of formal recognition."

2016 — Tribal Council awarded a $215,660 contract to Cearley Construction of Estacada to remodel the interiors of the Tribe's three Adult Foster Care lodges. Cearley submitted the lowest of two bids. Renovations included new flooring, paint, appliances and fixtures.

2011 —Tribal youth and sixth-grader Teegan Ritchey received the Courageous Heart Award from Desert Paws, a Palm Springs, California-based nonprofit promoting compassion and respect for all living creatures. Ritchey volunteered with Lend-A-Paw, an animal rescue nonprofit operating out of PetSmart, where she helped rescue and adopt out more than 40 dogs in 2010. She also volunteered at Epona Horse Rescue in Indio, California, caring for neglected, abused and unwanted horses.

2006 —Tribal Information Systems staff and the Cultural Resources Department partnered with Portland-based web design firm ISITE Design to host the department's first webinar, showcasing its virtual gallery. Individuals from across the country could access the department's webpage and call a toll-free number to listen and participate. Callers included people from an ISITE office in Boston and groups in California and New Mexico.

2001 — Smoke Signals ran a short story on Tribal member Chris Mercier, who had been freelancing as a feature writer for the paper. Mercier won first place in the Twice a Month Best Feature Writing category from the Native American Journalists Association. His story, "Gastric bypass surgery — even as a last resort it can change your life," chronicled a Tribal member's journey back to health following bariatric surgery.

1996 — The Tribe's Human Resources Department established a Tribal employment coordinator position to help Tribal members find work with the Tribe, casino or elsewhere in the community. The coordinator would assess members' skills, interests and employment needs, provide career counseling and work with local agencies to find employment opportunities.

1991 — Tribal member Matthew Kirkland reunited with his five siblings during the Restoration Powwow after 25 years apart. In 1966, when Kirkland was 2, his parents, Bob and Vivian Phillips, turned their children over to the state, with the siblings placed in separate homes. "It wasn't really excitement, it was just kind of a feeling of relief," Kirkland said, reflecting on their reunion. "It was amazing, given all the things that happened to us, that we had all made it back to our roots and gotten together."

1986 — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a consent decree submitted by the Tribe, which heavily restricted its hunting, fishing and trapping rights outside reservation boundaries. The decree had to be agreed upon and signed before the Tribe's reservation plan, which would return land to the Tribe, could be approved. "It took a lot of hard work for this to be a success and I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the negotiations for their time and effort," Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier said.

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

Clothes Closet open

The Clothes Closet is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 2 p.m. every Friday on the Tribal campus near the Elders Activity Center at the end of Blacktail Drive. The Clothes Closet accepts clothing, small appliances and pieces of furniture, electronics and household goods that are clean and in good condition.

It does not accept books, large TVs or furniture, but there is a community board where people can post those items. For more information or emergency clothes, contact Lori Walker-Hernandez at 559-847-7565. ■

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. ■



Tribal Council approves Enrollment Ordinance changes

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council adopted amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance during its Wednesday, Nov. 18, meeting, which will establish an administrative review panel to review certain application denials, to make sure they were not caused by administrative delays and will send any recommendations to Tribal Council for approval.

In an earlier Smoke Signals article, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said the review panel was proposed because there have been administrative delays in a handful of cases and the Tribe needs a way to address those. The practice of simply moving any delayed infants to the next quarterly meeting of the Enrollment Committee is no longer allowed under the Tribe's enrollment process.

The new process does not replace existing deadlines or give people longer to start registering their infants, nor is it an appeals process. Rather, it is an internal process for the Tribe to make sure that applicants don't lose their opportunity to enroll because of administrative delays by the Tribe.

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

Applicants who are denied enrollment will still be able to appeal their denial. It is a separate process that goes through the Tribal Court.

In other news, council:

- Approved a credit card increase for Adult Foster Care from $5,000 to $10,000;
- Approved signing authority on the Tribe's line of credit with TriState Capital Bank for Tribal Council Secretary Tonya Gleason-Shepek, removed former Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier as an authorized signer and replaced him with current Vice Chair Jon A. George, and also removed Assistant Controller Julie Lindsey;
- Approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in favor of Portland General Electric only as it pertains to legal disputes brought under the resiliency HUB funding agreement. The agreement will provide $1.5 million for the design and placement of eight electric vehicle fast chargers at Grand Ronde Station;
- Approved appointing Adam Sierra and Amber Case to the Culture Committee, with terms ending March 31, 2027, and March 31, 2028, respectively;
- Approved a timber payment of $401 to be made on or before Friday, Dec. 11;
- And approved enrolling 10 infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

TRIBAL COMMITTEE / BOARD & COMMISSION

Now accepting new applications

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

Current vacancies:

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

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

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

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

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Tribal 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. ■



Please help us collect toys for our community kids & teens by bringing unwrapped toys to:

ELDER ACTIVITY CENTER

YOU CAN DONATE UNTIL DECEMBER 18TH.

Turkey bowling



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Cultural Education Specialist Anthony Quenelle bowls his way to a first-place finish during the 22nd annual Turkey Bowling event at the Youth Education Building covered area Thursday, Nov. 19. The competition has men's and women's divisions with Amazon gift card prizes of $100 for first place, $50 for second place and $25 for third. For the men's division Tribal Maintenance Technician Jr Carrillo won second place and Tribal Senior Help Desk Technician Johny Saucedo won third. In the women's division, Tribal Health Information Technician Kim Barnes won first place, Spirit Mountain Community Fund Director Angie Sears won second and Tribal K-5 Academic Coach Emily Showers won third. Twenty employees participated in the event.

Bill was introduced by Oregon Rep. Andrea Salinas

LANDS continued from front page

today. Under our care, this land will stay healthy for generations to come."

The House bill was introduced by Oregon Rep. Andrea Salinas.

"For too long, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has faced historic injustices that stripped them of their ancestral lands," she said. "This legislation is a meaningful step towards righting those wrongs. I look forward to speaking with my colleagues about my bill and working to honor the Tribe's deep connection to this land, as well as their leadership in strengthening forest health, wildfire resilience and community safety for all Oregonians." ■

ACUPUNCTURE in GRAND RONDE

@ Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS





Mallory Harman, LAc



Alison Healy, LAc



Grace Rodriguez, LAc

Questions or to schedule:

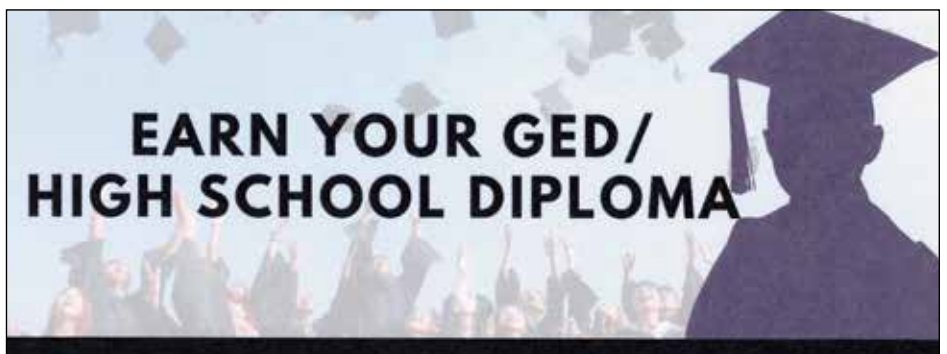
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ACUPUNCTURE + NATURAL REMEDIES



GET STARTED TODAY
WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS

GED

- This program can be done online/on your own or you can take classes at the local Community College.
- You must be at least 16 years old for this program
- To earn your GED you will need to pass four tests: Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science.
- The Grand Ronde Higher Education Department will provide you with study materials and tutoring as needed

ADULT HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

- In the Adult High School Completion program you will earn an Oregon State High School Diploma.
- Any High School credits you earned in High School (no matter how long ago) can/will be applied towards the 24 required credits needed.
- This program is online and is self-paced.

GRAND RONDE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

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

Attention All Artisans

Now accepting bids for our Senior Miss crown.

Submit full design that includes:

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde logo including feathers.
- Court Year 2027–28.
- Title: Senior Miss Grand Ronde.
- Crowns must be completed and delivered by July 30, 2027.

Must submit photos of progress when requested.

Bid deadline is Friday, Dec. 11, 2026. (deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 p.m.)

Mail bids and designs to:
CTGR Royalty c/o Shannon Simi
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Shannon at 503-879-1358 or email shannon.simi@grandronde.org

***Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.**

Grand Ronde Royalty

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Veterans Day Luncheon



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder and U.S. Army veteran Mike Cook places a ticket in a bag for a raffle item he's interested in winning during the Veterans Day Luncheon at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Tuesday, Nov. 10. Veterans received tickets for four different tables of raffle prizes and chose which items they wanted a chance at winning. Almost 50 people, 26 of whom were veterans, attended the event. It included a sit-down lunch and the raffle prizes. The lunch is organized by the Tribal Veterans Service Office.



Tribal Elder and U.S. Army veteran Lewis Riggs gets a raffle prize that he won delivered to him by Tribal Navigator APD Chris Martin during the Veterans Day Luncheon at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Focus continues to be on children and families

ATANACIO continued from front page

grounded practices in early childhood education." She also served as the Tribal Affairs Director of the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care in 2022 and 2023.

Atanacio said her focus continues to be on children and families.

"One of the things I feel passionate about is centering our children and families in our policies and decisions," she said.

As part of that work, she said, she wants to "foster relationships with my colleagues" on the Tribal Council "in a way that erases the politics of it. … if we have that relationship, we're more likely to listen" to each other.

She said she's also passionate about expanding the Tribal school and ensuring parents have a strong role.

She said she was grateful for the "very affirming" experience of being celebrated by other professional women.

"It means I'm making a difference and it sets a trajectory," she said. "A win for one of us is a win for all of us." ■

STORY IDEAS?

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

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

WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Attention All Artisans

Now accepting bids for our Junior Miss crown.

Submit full design that includes:

- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde logo including feathers.
- Court Year 2027–28.
- Title: Junior Miss Grand Ronde.
- Crowns must be completed and delivered by July 30, 2027.

Must submit photos of progress when requested.

Bid deadline is Friday, Dec. 11, 2026. (deadline is firm and no bids will be accepted after 5 p.m.)

Mail bids and designs to:
CTGR Royalty c/o Shannon Simi
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Questions: Call Shannon at 503-879-1358 or email shannon.simi@grandronde.org

*Bids and designs can be sent to the above email address.

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN CASINO

THE ZONE IS COMING!
Eat • Drink • Game | The Game Has Changed

Get ready for a whole new way to experience Spirit Mountain Casino! **The Zone** is bringing together great food, cold drinks, exciting gaming and nonstop sports action in one dynamic entertainment destination.

Whether you're catching the big game, enjoying a meal with friends, placing a sports wager, or trying your luck on the gaming floor, The Zone puts more ways to play, connect and have fun all in one place.

Featuring a new restaurant and sports bar, Entry Gaming, our sportsbook, Keno and an expanded sports-viewing experience, The Zone is designed to give guests even more reasons to make Spirit Mountain Casino their entertainment destination. The Zone is an adults-only venue. All guests must be 21 years of age or older to enter.

Mark your calendar!
We're celebrating with a series of exclusive preview days before opening to the public. Come down and order off the menu for a free meal.

- **Monday, Dec. 14 – 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.: Tribal Elders, Tribal Council and Board of Directors ONLY. Each person may bring one guest.**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 15 – 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.: CTGR Tribal members and Tribal government and SMC employees ONLY. Each person may bring one guest.**
- **Thursday, Dec. 17 – 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.: Officially open to the general public.**

And the excitement doesn't stop there! Look for upcoming watch parties, food and drink specials, giveaways, sports promotions and special events throughout the year. From football to basketball, live entertainment to big wins, there's always something happening in The Zone.

An official Grand Opening celebration is planned for January, with the date and event details to be announced.

The Game Has Changed. Enter The Zone.
Stay tuned for more details about opening celebrations and upcoming events!

Elder quilts



Courtesy photo

Tribal Elder Brenda Tuomi displays a quilt that she recently finished during a star quilt class that was held at the Elders Activity Center. Tribal Elder spouse Sue Clark taught the quilt making classes that took place multiple days between Sept. 28 and Nov. 2.

Reading volunteers needed

Children's literacy nonprofit SMART Reading is seeking volunteers to read with students weekly at Grand Ronde Head Start. Reading is an essential skill for kids, helping them start and stay on a path to success in school and beyond, according to a press release from the organization.

The time commitment is one hour per week. To learn more, contact 971-634-1628 or visit www.SMARTReading.org. ■



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Community Fund selects Jade Fong as 2026-27 Hatfield Fellow



Jade Fong

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Community Fund have selected Jade Fong as the 2026-27 Hatfield Fellow. Fong is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. She is a recent graduate of University of California - Berkley, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Society and Environment.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde established the Mark O. Hatfield Fellowship in 1998 as a living tribute to Senator Hatfield to honor his accomplishments as the Governor of Oregon and a U.S. Senator. Each year, Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a highly motivated Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in an Oregon congressional office, enhancing the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

According to a press release from the Community Fund, Fong is driven by a deep sense of cultural responsibility and her path to advocacy began by questioning the erasure of Native culture around her and actively reclaiming her ancestral identity.

"As a McNair Scholar at Berkeley, she grounded her academic work in real-world Indigenous issues, researching Native ecological knowledge, endangered salmon, Tribal waterways and storytelling," the press release stated. "Fong has demonstrated proven leadership in cultural preservation, serving on her Tribe's Culture Committee and Election Board, as well as serving as the chair of the Language Committee. Recognizing the vital duty to pass heritage across generations, she also helped develop and pilot lessons for Oregon's SB-13 Tribal History/Shared History curriculum."

In California, she helped to expanded Native visibility through the American Indian Cultural District, building a comprehensive cultural inventory across San Francisco that helped secure the city's designation as one of 10 state-recognized cultural districts.

Fong is the 27th Native American to serve as a Hatfield Fellow. She began her fellowship in November with orientation at the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C. Following orientation, she will assume her congressional placement at Rep. Maxine Dexter's office.

"I am so honored to host a Hatfield Fellow in my office this year," Dexter said. "The Hatfield Fellowship program provides an essential opportunity for Native Oregonians to bring their experiences and power straight to Washington. Fellows strengthen our work on behalf of Oregon's third district by bringing new expertise and their personal experiences to the issues that matter most to our community. My team and I are excited to host and work with Jade Fong."

As someone who did not grow up with visible Native representation, Fong understands the effect of absence.

"The recent election of San Francisco's first Native American district supervisor highlights both progress and how rare Native representation still is in positions of decision-making power at the city, state and federal level," she said. "The Hatfield Fellowship offers the opportunity and responsibility to continue that momentum in policy spaces and help shape the conditions that determine Native representation in the future. I want future generations to grow up surrounded by that presence, not searching for it." ■



Community samples soups for diabetes awareness

By Alexander Bliven
Smoke Signals intern

The scent of curry, smoked ham and spices filled the Tribal Community Center as community members sampled soups during the annual Diabetes Prevention Soup Share Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Hosted by the Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center's Diabetes Prevention and Education Program, the event brought together approximately 40 people to enjoy food, learn about type 2 diabetes prevention and management and explore available health resources.

The event featured 16 different soups for attendees to sample, with each person casting one vote for their favorite.

"We like to spread awareness about diabetes and give education if you're heading in that direction," said Jennifer Lott, Health & Wellness Center lead certified medical assistant and diabetes case manager. "We hold these events to bring the community together to learn about what the program is doing and educate yourself on living a more healthy lifestyle."

Lott said 38 million people in the United States are affected by diabetes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 90% to 95% of people with diabetes have type 2.



Photo by Alexander Bliven

Tribal member Chris Bailey pours soup into a paper tasting cup during the annual Diabetes Prevention Soup Share at the Tribal Community Center Tuesday, Nov. 17.

Jeanette Cavan, Health & Wellness Center lead nurse and diabetes case manager, said she believed the event was in its fifth year and continued to grow in popularity and participation.

"We really want people to know that we're available," Cavan said. "We do a lot of one-on-one education and we'd love to do more."

The program offers a yearlong type 2 diabetes prevention program. Other health resources available to the community include an exercise class at Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center every Tuesday at lunchtime, focusing on strength and balance, and cooking classes offered in collaboration with Oregon Health & Science University.

Attendees also could take home diabetes education materials, including pamphlets about healthy eating and diabetes prevention.

Cavan said community members had approached her during the event to ask questions about their health and seek advice.

"Remember, always eat your protein first and then your vegetables and then you can have your carbs," she said.

Gabriel Phillips won first place with chicken curry, receiving a 5-quart Dutch oven, kitchen scale and dough cutter.

Tribal member Alicia Phillips placed second with creamy roasted green chile chicken and sweet corn soup, winning a frying pan, oil spray dispenser and a 13-by-9-inch baking dish.

Trista Acevedo placed third with zuppa toscana, receiving an Owala water bottle, lunch tote and salad-to-go container.

All soup entrants received a teakwood soup ladle and spoon rest.

The Diabetes Prevention and Education Program also holds monthly meetings from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Cheryle A. Kennedy Public Health Clinic. Anyone interested in learning more about diabetes prevention is welcome to attend. ■

Grand Ronde Tribal member making students feel at home at PSU

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member and Portland State University graduate Gary Westley has a new goal in life to go with his new job: Making college easier and more connected to culture for Native American students at PSU.

As the new assistant director of the Native American Student and Community Center at PSU, it's Westley's job to make sure Native students are adequately supported "and feel connected to the Portland Native Community but to their home communities as well," he said.

He doesn't have his own experience to draw on, he said, because "When I was a student here, I graduated during COVID. … I was all online. I have a family with three young kids, so I definitely kind of missed out on a lot of the in-person college experience."

However, he said, "I did spend time here at the NASCC, so I know it plays a vital role in the students who come here."

It's especially important, he added, to students from out of state, who may not have fellow Tribal members living in Oregon.

Westley has several projects in the works.

"Our main goal is to make sure our Native students remain connected to culture through our programming and remain connected with Elders," he said.

Toward that end, he's inviting Tribal members from Portland and surrounding areas to campus, to either participate in powwow or host other cultural events.



Gary Westley

"Part of that is finding community partners, reaching out to local groups and organizations that can kind of come in and provide that lift, inviting Elders to come in and lead one of these events and programming that we have planned," he said.

In January, the NASCC will start hosting a powwow every Friday. He said students seem to feel "some excitement about being able to be around the drum again and the songs and also the dancing. We're really trying to make a wholesome space for the students to learn and to be very connected."

He's also applying for grants to build out a room to provide a space for Tribal students to work on projects, either for class or for home.

"We hope to create everlasting changing space," he said. "We're a little behind in that sense."

In addition, he said, "We're looking to add more visual representation of the nine Tribes in our state. … For instance, we don't have an accurate map of the nine Tribes and the languages spoken. … My goal over the next year is to add more visual representation, accurate maps to give people who visit this space an idea of who lived here."

He said the center also plans to host a wellness day and community garden tending days for the rooftop native plant garden.

Westley graduated from PSU in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Science and leadership and worked for the Beaverton School District and later for NARA Northwest. Eventually, he found himself back at PSU, where he was hired in August.

"There was this opportunity that arose and as I was in between jobs, so I applied and felt like was a great fit and could apply lot of my business acumen to the position in terms of the financial aspect, and then my background in developing and implementing cultural programming," he said. "Then, also my background in youth mental health support definitely gave me the tools to be successful in this position. It's been a journey to get to this position, and I'm very thankful for it." ■



Emergency Services looking for volunteer helpers

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Heroes walk among us. But there are also those mortals who would prefer to serve on the hero support staff, rather than on the running-in-to-burning-buildings end of things. The Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department is looking for them because sometimes adequate support is half the battle.

"I think that's where a lot of people's mind goes; I'm older or not in the greatest shape or I'm not cut out for going into flames and that's totally fine, but we have multiple ways we could use help from people," Tribal Emergency Services Department Assistant Chief Torey Wakeland said.

In addition to firefighters, volunteers willing to do the behind-the-scenes work of refilling air bottles, cleaning fire engines or providing food to firefighters on scene are invaluable, he noted.

For those who are interested, the department is also looking for volunteer firefighters. The Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department currently has 40 full-time employees and runs 11 per shift, with three people per engine on a call – slightly below the National Fire Protection Association standards that call for four staff per engine.

"Ideally, it would be nice if we could get to those NFPA minimum standards," Wakeland said. "But we also always need support staff. … We definitely could use people willing to come down and grab a water tender and meet us on site so we could have additional water there. Or grab air bottles and run to the station and refill them or set up the tent for food and water, if we're on-site for an extended time. If we could get a couple firefighters and maybe a handful of other folks willing to respond, that would be super, super helpful."

Wakeland said there's always less visible work in need of doing. For example, he said, on returning to the station after a fire, the firefighters are not immediately available for another call while they restore the engines that were used.

"It takes awhile; you've gotta strip all the hose off the rigs and wash them, so there's no debris or glass, then reload everything, then redock any equipment that might have been used on scene," he said. "A single engine might take an hour-and-a-half, two hours, sometimes. We have to take ourselves out of service, we're not available for response, so any assistance we could get would be super helpful. … so we could get back into service quicker."

Wakeland said firefighters run through air bottles quickly and that means someone is needed to run to the station, refill those and bring them back out. Currently, firefighters do that work, leaving fewer on scene to fight the fire.

Forty or 50 years ago, many fire stations operated entirely or primarily with volunteers, but times have changed, Wakeland said, and now stations nationwide struggle to attract volunteers.

"I think people are just kind of more appreciative of their personal time and the economy might be part of it; are you going to spend eight hours doing something for free or are you going to try to find a side gig for eight hours and make some money; I totally get that," he said.

Still, he said, he hopes some members of the community will feel moved to find a way they can help out.

For more information, contact Tribal Training Chief Scott Carmony at Scott.Carmony@grandronde.org or Wakeland at Torey.Wakeland@grandronde.org. ■





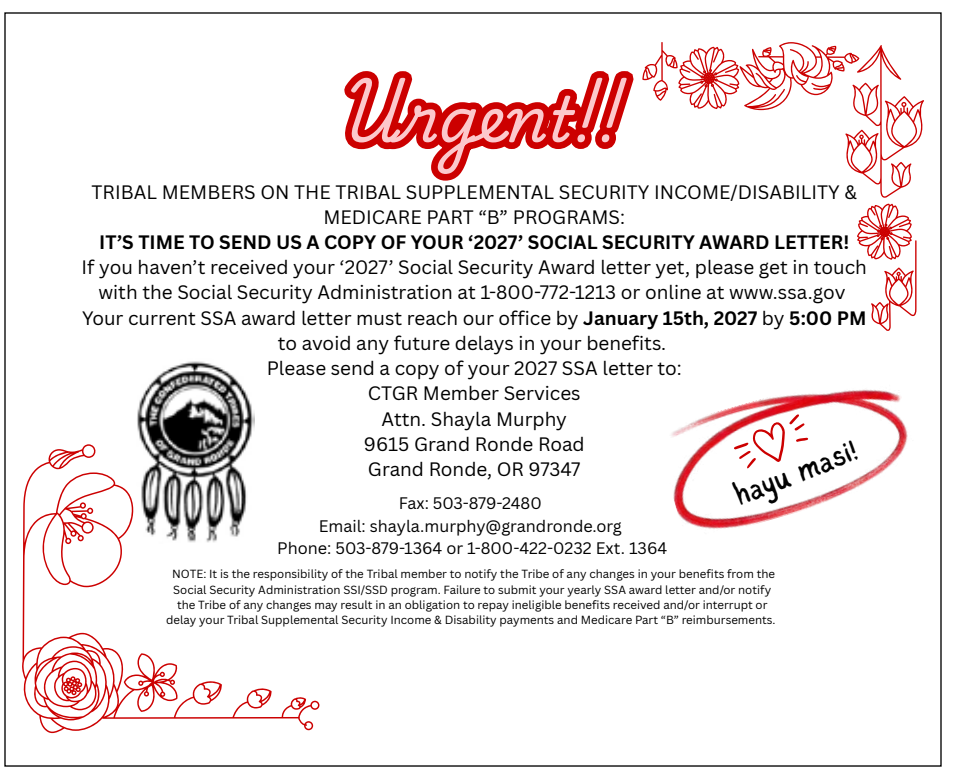
Tribal members, employees no longer need to pay bridge toll

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

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

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

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



Tribal basket weaver receives Culture Keeper award

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Grand Ronde Tribal member Stephanie Craig has received a Traditional Arts and Culture Keepers Award from the Oregon Arts Commission, in recognition of her work preserving Indigenous basketweaving traditions.

Craig, who received a grant last year from the Oregon Community Foundation's Creative Heights grant program, teaches traditional Native basket weaving traditions. She also works as a consultant with museums and Tribal museums on proper care of Indigenous belongings through her business, Kalapuya Weaving and Consulting.

She said the Culture Keepers award will help with visibility.

"I think it's good," she said. "I received a grant last year to make construction weaving videos, so getting this award will help get the word out about access and getting people connected to their culture, maybe wanting to get connected to their culture. … I didn't expect it. I never thought in my life I would get such an award or be recognized. That's not why I do this. Since I was a child, and in school and in college, I've seen a lot of Tribal members, not necessarily Grand Ronde but all Tribes, who are not living on the reservation or don't have access to the reservation. They don't have access to their culture."


Stephanie Craig

For Craig, helping to connect Tribal people to their heritage is an important calling.

"As Tribal members, we're all entitled to our culture and it's important that we stay connected to it," she said. "Part of the lessons that I received with learning our culture and our traditions is that it doesn't stay with me. That I pass this on to others."

Her career as a basket weaver didn't begin intentionally.

"I did not set out to be a basket weaver or any of that; I just wanted to give back to my Tribe and my community," Craig said. "Then it just happened that I'm good at basket weaving. That I love it. But my mom and a lot of Elders in community told me that the family I come from … if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be there. I was told they chose me to carry these teachings on. I feel because of that responsibility, that I have to continue it."

Craig is descended from legendary Grand Ronde basket weaver Martha Jane Sands, and from Sands' daughter, Hattie Sands Hudson, who carried on Sands' work and whose daughter was Craig's great-grandmother.

Craig grew up on her father's heritage farm, surrounded by her Tribal family, where, from both sides of her family, she learned to admire hard work, and the big, capable, caring hands that carried it out. As a child, she said, she wanted hands like that, too.

"Martha Jane and Hattie and (her husband) Moe, they worked really hard to take care of their family," Craig said, and she watched her parents do the same.

But she didn't dream of becoming a basket-weaver.

"It's funny how things turn out," she said. "I didn't expect to be a basket weaver at all. I loved history and I went to study anthropology and archelogy. This gift, I would say, was kind of given to me by my ancestors."

She began her teaching practice by seeking the Elders approval.

"I went through protocol and asking permission, from the oldest male Tribal member and the oldest female Tribal member at the time, and sat and talked with them," Craig said. "There were things they told me I couldn't share with non-Tribal people, and 20, 25 years later, I'm still following those same rules."

Craig said her work as a basket weaver also plays into her work with museums.

"My academia training is very white washed," she said. "There's no Indigenous thinking or ways of knowing or implementing Indigenous practices into museum practices. So, when I go and walk through museums, I'm looking through two different lenses."

As a basket-weaver, she has to have an understanding of botany, cultural resources, spiritualty, Indigenous gender roles, soils and hydrology.

"A person even has to know about chemicals and how pesticides and chemicals can interact and change the environment the plants are growing in, which changes the cellular structure of the plant itself," she said.

All of that, and a knowledge of which traditional basketry plants grow in which region and were used by local Tribes for their different basketry traditions, she said, helps to inform her work with museums.

Nonetheless, Craig rejects labels.

"I'm not an expert at all," she said. "I was taught by my Elders that we're not a master of anything until the day we die, because we're always learning something new. And I stand by that, because at every workshop I teach, I learn something new." ■

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.

Call 503-983-9900 (Salem) or 971-339-9240 (Portland). ■

CULTURAL EDUCATION

DROP-IN DAYS

BEGINNING OCTOBER 27th
ENDING DECEMBER 17th 2026

EVERY
TUESDAY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
1pm-5pm
AT CHACHALU

THE CULTURAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP WILL BE OPEN FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. BRING YOUR PROJECTS TO WORK ON OR GET STARTED ON SOMETHING NEW. THESE TIMES ARE FOR CULTURAL SHARING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING.

For more info
contact: CULTURALEDUCATION@GRANDRONDE.ORG





Contributed photos from the Portland Timbers

Tribal member Knox Speer, 9, middle, flips the pre-match coin before the Portland Timbers vs. Houston Dynamo FC match at Providence Park in Portland Sunday, Nov. 1. The Timbers celebrated Native American Heritage Night at that game, which included drumming, singing, dancing and a limited edition Native American Heritage scarf designed by Tribal member Travis Stewart. The Timbers offered someone from Grand Ronde the opportunity to do the pre-match coin toss. Since Speer plays on one of the Timbers youth teams and practices his culture, he was selected.

Native American Heritage Night



Tribal member Anthony Quenelle dances during the Portland Timbers Native American Heritage Night celebration at Providence Park in Portland Sunday, Nov. 1.



Senior Miss Grand Ronde Leloo Quenelle, 14, back right, displays the limited edition Native American Heritage scarf designed by Tribal member Travis Stewart during the Portland Timbers Native American Heritage Night at Providence Park in Portland Sunday, Nov. 1. The design was inspired by lower Columbia paddles.



West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Deadline is January 15, 2027

Name (as desired on memorial): DOB:

Address: City: State: Zip:

Phone: Gender: Male/Female (Circle)

Rank: Branch: Honorable: Yes/No (Circle)

DOE: Place of entry:

DOS: Place of seperation:

Deceased: Yes/No (Circle) Place of burial:

CTGR Tribal: Yes/No (Circle) If Tribal, Roll#

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

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

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

Grand Ronde Station offering gas discount

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

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

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



Position Title	Grade	Min. Start Wage	Max Start Wage	Closing Date
~~Administrative Assistant – Medical Clinic~~	~~8~~	~~$24.60/hr.~~	~~$31.84/hr.~~	~~11/23/2026~~
~~Audit Director~~	~~21~~	~~$160,360.83/yr.~~	~~$225,696.79/yr.~~	~~11/30/2026~~
~~Budget Coordinator~~	~~14~~	~~$90,630.26/yr.~~	~~$116,255.21/yr.~~	~~11/23/2026~~
Community Paramedic – Limited Duration	11	$32.74/hr.	$42.16/hr.	Until Filled
Cook – Weekends Only – Sheridan - GCR	5	$18.86/hr.	$24.07/hr.	Until Filled
~~Curriculum Coach~~	~~10~~	~~$29.76/hr.~~	~~$38.39/hr.~~	~~11/30/2026~~
Financial Wellness Coordinator	10	$29.76/hr.	$38.39/hr.	Until Filled
~~Housing Safety Specialist Assistant~~	~~9~~	~~$27.05/hr.~~	~~$34.95/hr.~~	~~11/23/2026~~
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 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	6	$20.75/hr.	$26.42/hr.	Until Filled
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.	Until Filled
Registered Nurse – Elder Care Program	15	$97,858.44/yr.	$127,796.59/yr.	Until Filled
~~Staff Attorney~~	~~18~~	~~$125,365.22/yr.~~	~~$169,779.51/yr.~~	~~11/23/2026~~
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
~~Teacher Aide/Bus Monitor – Full Time~~	~~5~~	~~$18.86/hr.~~	~~$24.07/hr.~~	~~11/30/2026~~
Tribal Court Law Clerk – Civil & Juvenile Division	11	$32.74/hr.	$51.58/hr. DOE	Until Filled
~~Tribal Security Officer On Call – Oregon City~~	~~5~~	~~$18.86/hr.~~	~~$24.07/hr.~~	~~11/23/2026~~

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

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

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

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



POSTING TITLE	CLOSE DATE	WAGE/SALARY
Uniform Attendant	**12/3/26**	**$18.02/hr. DOE**
Chef de Cuisine- Amore	**Until Filled**	**$63,586.43/yr. DOE**
Guest Safety Specialist I	**Until Filled**	**$18.29/hr. DOE**
Guest Safety Specialist II	**Until Filled**	**$18.55/hr. DOE**
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**
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.

Code save ceremony



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department Firefighter/Paramedic Peter Downs, left, shakes hands with Emergency Services Department Assistant Chief Torey Wakeland as Downs is recognized during a code save ceremony at the Grand Ronde Fire Station Thursday, Nov. 12. On June 27, a priority medical call came in for a community member that quickly transitioned to a cardiac arrest. Over the course of approximately 45 minutes, the patient received numerous advanced life support measures and medication. The patient arrived at the hospital with a pulse and was ultimately discharged from the hospital without impairment or reduction of body functions. In addition to Downs, the team of first responders who contributed to reversing the cardiac arrest are Emergency Services staff Lieutenant/ Emergency Medical Technician Cooper Walters, Firefighter/Paramedic Paige Traywick, Lieutenant/EMT Jeff Nichols, Firefighter/EMT Mike Elliott, Battalion Chief Sean Hoxie, Firefighter/Paramedic Nic Heller, Firefighter/EMT Dillon Gibbons, Firefighter/EMT RJ Wynia, Grand Ronde Tribal Police Officer Bowen Mabou and Yamhill Communications Agency Dispatchers Darci Ancalade and Talia Quillen.



Grand Ronde Emergency Services Department Lieutenant/ Emergency Medical Technician Cooper Walters, left, shakes hands with Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George during a code save ceremony at the Grand Ronde Fire Station Thursday, Nov. 12.

Drug take-back kiosk located at Tribal Police Department

There is a new drug take-back kiosk in the front lobby of the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road. It is open during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The following items are accepted:

- Unused or expired prescription medications, including pet medications
- Unused or expired over-the-counter medications

The following items are not accepted:

- Thermometers or any item containing mercury
- Needles
- Pre-loaded needles
- Empty bottles
- Personal care products (vitamins, herbal remedies, supplements, cosmetics)
- Batteries
- Illegal drugs
- Aerosol cans ■

GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG

Thursday, Oct. 1
- Officers responded to the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway for a DUII investigation.
- A warrant arrest occurred at North Street Trail.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 8700 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Attempted burglary was reported at the 47000 block of SW Hebo Road.

Friday, Oct. 2
- Possible theft was reported at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a domestic disturbance at the 21000 block of Gooseneck Road.
- Possible drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 1100 block of Northeast Oaken Hills Drive.

Saturday, Oct. 3
- Fraud was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an intoxicated individual at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred at North Street and Grand Ronde Road.

Sunday, Oct. 4
- A welfare check occurred at the 9600 block of Raven Loop.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with loose dogs near McPherson Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a theft investigation in Tillamook County.
- Burglary was reported at the 500 block of Sheridan Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a medical call at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Possible drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a possible burglary at the 500 block of Southeast Sheridan Road.

Monday, Oct. 5
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a theft investigation at the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A welfare check occurred near the 48000 block of Dragonfly Drive.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic stop near Hebo Road and Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a theft investigation at the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 8500 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 2 on Highway 22.

Tuesday, Oct. 6
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 100 block of Wind River Drive.
- A traffic hazard occurred near milepost 25 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a chainsaw-related injury at the 7700 block of AR Ford Road.
- A follow-up with the Tribal Behavioral Health Department personnel occurred.
- Package theft was reported at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.

Wednesday, Oct. 7
- Theft was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a vehicle that entered a creek near Northwest Main Street in Willamina.
- Found property was reported near Fort Hill Restaurant.
- An emotionally disturbed individual was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A domestic disturbance was reported near milepost 20 on Highway 18.
- Officers monitored a possible Amber Alert vehicle traveling through the area along Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a suspicious vehicle near Northwest Main Street in Willamina.
- A suspected impaired individual was reported in the Sheridan area.

Thursday, Oct. 8
- Citizen contact occurred over the phone about a fishing regulation violation.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with investigation in Grand Ronde.
- A DUII arrest occurred on Highway 18.
- An injured animal was reported in the area of Fire Hall Road and Highway 18.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A welfare check occurred at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a medical call at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, Oct. 9
- Fraud was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Possible drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A single-vehicle crash occurred near milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- A DUII arrest occurred near milepost 22 on Highway 18.

Saturday, Oct. 10
- A traffic hazard was reported on Grand Ronde Road.
- Found dogs were reported at a business on Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a possible break-in near the 400 block of Grant Street in Yamhill County.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a report of suspicious activity near Bridge Street and Old Sheridan Road.

Sunday, Oct. 11
- Fraud was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A deceased animal was reported at the 55000 block of Hebo Road.
- An emotionally disturbed person was reported at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Oct.12
- Possible drugs were found at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 22 on Highway 18.
- A road hazard was reported near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 22 on Highway 18.
- Vehicle damage was reported near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Oct. 13
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an ongoing fraud investigation.
- There was an inquiry about a previous traffic collision that occurred near Highway 18 and Grand Ronde Road by an insurance company.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an assault investigation at the 200 block of Blair Street in Sheridan.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a traffic crash near milepost 18 on Highway 18.
- A traffic crash occurred near milepost 8 on Highway 22.
- A warrant arrest occurred at the 30000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A follow-up on an assault investigation occurred near the 300 block of Blair Street.
- A deceased animal was reported on the roadway near milepost 29 on Highway 18.
- Possible drugs were found near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, Oct. 15
- Fraud was reported at a business near the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted another officer with illegal camping reported near Fire Hall and Andy Riggs roads.
- Trespassing was reported at a business along Salmon River Highway.
- A possible kidnapping was reported near the 25000 block of Creekside Drive.
- Possible drugs were found near the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A possible impaired driver was reported near milepost 38 on Highway 18.

Friday, Oct. 16
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a structure fire in the 7000 block of Fire Hall Road.
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 26 on Highway 18.
- Citizen contact occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- An abandoned toy resembling a firearm was found near a business in the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported near milepost 15 on Highway 18.

Saturday, Oct. 17
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a search warrant at a resi-

See POLICE LOG continued on page 15

GRAND RONDE POLICE LOG

POLICE LOG
continued from page 14

dence in Otis. K9 kishkish was deployed to assist with the search.
- Citizen contact occurred at a business in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A noise complaint was reported in the 200 block of Ead Creek Loop.
- A stolen cellphone was reported at a business in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- There was an attempt to locate a reported hit-and-run crash near milepost 15 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a single-vehicle rollover crash near milepost 17 on Highway 18.
- An assault was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.

Sunday, Oct. 18
- A two-vehicle crash occurred near the intersection of Highway 22 and Highway 18B.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with the processing of an elk that was being prepared for donation.
- A lost animal was found in the area of Tillixam Circle.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Monday, Oct. 19
- A possible impaired driver was reported at the 8600 block of Fort Hill Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in Willamina.
- A domestic assault was reported at a business in the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
- Trespassing was reported at the 200 Ead Creek Loop.
- Possible drugs were found at the Willamina School District.

Wednesday, Oct. 21
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Thursday, Oct. 22
- A disabled vehicle was reported near milepost 27 on Highway 18.
- A road hazard was reported near milepost 24 on Highway 18.
- A prohibited person was reported possessing a firearm while hunting in the Gold Creek Area.
- A possible impaired driver was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Friday, Oct. 23
- Citizen contact occurred at the 8600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Suspicious activity was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Saturday, Oct. 24
- A warrant arrest occurred at a business in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with locating a runaway in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with locating two individuals at a business in Willamina.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with locating a runaway in the 9500 block of Raven Loop.

Sunday, Oct. 25
- Officers assisted an outside agency with inspecting a vehicle and determined the content inside was a BB gun.
- A welfare check occurred at the 9500 block of Raven Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred at Kissing Rock.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in the 22000 block of Highway 18B.

Monday, Oct. 26
- Possible drugs were reported at the 48000 block of Southwest Eagle Loop.
- Citizen contact occurred at the Highway 18 Park & Ride near Hebo Road.
- A suspicious individual was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a reported domestic disturbance in the 22000 block of Highway 18B.
- Possible theft was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Tuesday, Oct. 27
- A disorderly individual was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A possible alarm was reported at the 9600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emergency response involving an armed suspect in Sheridan.
- A welfare check occurred at the 28000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Follow-up of a hit-and-run collision occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A suspicious individual was reported at the 26000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Wednesday, Oct. 28
- Citizen contact occurred near milepost 23 on Highway 18.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an investigation at the 18000 block of Rock Creek Road near Sheridan.

Thursday, Oct. 29
- A welfare check occurred at Fort Hill Road.
- A welfare check occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Trespassing was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a planned K9 deployment at a correctional facility in Sheridan.

Friday, Oct. 30
- Officers assisted an outside agency with a vehicle collision involving a deer at the 19000 block of Highway 22.
- A single-vehicle collision occurred near milepost 22 on Highway 18.
- A domestic disturbance was reported at the 8600 block of Grand Ronde Road.
- A 911 hang-up call occurred about a possible fire at the uyxat Powwow Grounds.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported in the area of King Road and Highway 18.

Saturday, Oct. 31
- Possible drugs were reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Two loose dogs were reported in the area of Grand Ronde Road and Highway 18.
- A driving complaint was reported at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.
- Officers assisted an outside agency with an emergency response to a vehicle collision on Gooseneck Road.
- Suspicious activity occurred at the 27000 block of Salmon River Highway.

Compiled by Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department Officer Prommisse Thornley

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

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Walking On...

Johanne Howe Dancing Cloud McCorry

July 31, 1936 – Oct. 25, 2026



Tribal Elder Johanne Howe Dancing Cloud McCorry lived a long life of wisdom, strength and grace. She carried her stories and she shared them freely with her family, her community and everyone who had the blessing of sitting with her.

Her name, Dancing Cloud, was a fitting one. Her spirit moved lightly and her presence could be felt by all who knew her. Though we grieve, we celebrate her journey home and know she walks on in the stories she told, the love she gave and the lives she touched.

A drum ceremony honoring Johanne will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery, 11800 Gas Point Road, Igo, CA, 96047. There, she will rest next to her husband, Joseph McCorry.

Matthew Marvin Warren

Sept. 8,1956 – Oct. 21, 2026

Tribal Elder Matthew Marvin Warren, son of Lyle and Josephine Warren of Sweet Home, passed away Oct. 21, 2026, at the age of 70.

He was the sixth of seven children, born Sept. 8, 1956. His siblings are Martha Jones of Albany, Michael Warren of Lebanon, JoBeth Harry of Albany, Jeffery Warren of Sweet Home, Anthony Warren of Lebanon and Angela Thoma of Sweet Home. There are too many nieces and nephews to list, but all were very important to him.

He and Candace (Stark) were married May 20, 1989. They lived in the same house in Albany for 37 years. He was a civil engineer like his father, and very much enjoyed the outdoors and building beautiful wooden garden benches and structures that made their yard beautiful. His hobbies from his younger years included riding motorcycles, fishing at Diamond Lake and hunting in the LaPine area.

There will be a private family gathering held in the spring. Donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Robert Lee Schmid

May 28, 1938 – Nov. 13, 2026

Tribal Elder Robert Lee Schmid passed away Nov. 13, 2026, at the age of 88.

Bollman's Tribute Center is assisting the family.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 825 W Main St., Sheridan.

Congratulations
Tribal member

Marcellus James Scott

has completed his U.S. Marine Corps recruitment training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. His great-grandfather, Harold Jones Sr., served his country during World War II.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION

GIFT MAKING WORKSHOPS

GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY CENTER

~~Wednesday 11/04 11:00am-2:00pm~~

~~Wednesday 11/18 4:00pm-6:00pm~~

Wednesday 12/02 11:00am-2:00pm

Wednesday 12/16 4:00pm-6:00pm

All are welcome to join us in preparing for our annual Agency Creek Round Dance. We would love your help in making beautiful, handmade gifts for our guests to recieve in the giveaway. Materials and a meal will be provided at each session.



Get your Tribal ID at the Portland office

&

Members Services assistance!

- Eagle Feather Permits
- Medicare Part B Reimbursement
- Elder's Direct Deposit
- And more!

10AM-2PM
During Food Box Distribution

[redacted] & December 15th.

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

TRIBAL HEALTH SCHOLARS

School of MEDICINE OHSU | NNACOE



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

PROGRAM TIMELINE

OCT 1 – Application Opens
JAN 31 – Application Closes
FEB – Applicants Notified
MAR 1 – Online Program & Orientation Begin
MAY – Online Program Wrap up
SPRING & SUMMER* – Complete Clinical Shadowing

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

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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

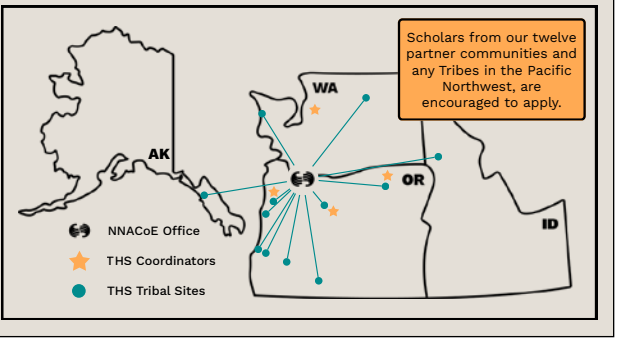
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

LEARN MORE & APPLY

tribalhealthscholars@ohsu.edu

nnacoe.org/tribal-health-scholars



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), 97317 (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 REPRESENATIVE:	ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE:
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

Students of the month for October 2026

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



Tribal member Kova Speer was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 because she consistently demonstrates empathy, helps peers without being asked and brings a positive, welcoming energy to our classroom every single day. Thank you for making our program a brighter place!



Tribal member Lucas Baranski was chosen as student of the month for grades K-2 for his kindness. He consistently looks out for his peers, offers a helping hand whenever it's needed and ensures that everyone feels included and valued. Lucas's empathy and positive attitude make a wonderful impact on our entire class. Lucas has been such a leader helping students with drumming and singing.



Tribal member McKenzie Tofte was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 for her exceptional empathy and dedication to lifting up others. Every day she leads by example, making our classroom a brighter and more welcoming place for everyone. Whether she is welcoming a new classmate, offering words of encouagement or jumping in to help a peer with a difficult task, McKenzie acts out of genuine compassion without expecting anything in return. Her consistent politeness, warm smile and willingness to include everyone show the true meaning of kindness and we are incredibly proud to celebrate her this month.



Tribal member Saedy Smith was chosen as student of the month for grades 3-5 because she has always been a pleasure to have in the classroom. She is always so helpful when it comes to her classmates and friends. She is always the first one to offer help when cleaning messes and volunteering to show how to do specific crafts. She never creates problems and her enthusiasm and positivity are always appreciated.



Tribal member Tim Murphy was chosen as student of the month for grades 6-12 because he has consistently shown leadership through example. Two big things stood out. Tim took it upon himself to teach an art lesson. He also led the way on a public speaking day with an incredible speech and good questions to help the other students shine.

Contributed photos

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.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS NEWS

Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week



Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week is Dec. 1-7. This is an opportunity to learn about two illnesses that affect the digestive system: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. These conditions are part of a group of illnesses called inflammatory bowel disease.

Our health is important, and learning about these conditions can help us recognize warning signs, seek medical care and support family and community members who may be living with IBD.

What are crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis?

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis cause swelling and irritation in the digestive tract. This can make it difficult for the body to digest food and absorb the nutrients it needs.

- Crohn's disease can affect any part of the digestive tract, from the mouth to the anus.
- Ulcerative colitis causes swelling and sores in the large intestine (colon) and rectum.

These illnesses are long-term conditions. People may have times when symptoms are active and other times when they feel better.

What are the warning signs?

Symptoms can be different for each person. Some common warning signs include:

- Ongoing diarrhea
- Stomach pain or cramping
- Blood in the stool
- Feeling very tired or weak
- Losing weight without trying
- Not feeling hungry
- Frequent trips to the bathroom

These symptoms should not be ignored, especially if they continue or keep coming back.

Why is early care important?

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are not contagious. They are not caused by something a person did wrong. Researchers believe these illnesses may be connected to the immune system, family history and other factors.

There is no cure yet, but treatment can help control swelling, reduce symptoms and prevent some complications. Treatment may include medication, nutrition support and sometimes surgery.

If you notice ongoing stomach problems, talk with a health care provider. Do not feel embarrassed about discussing changes in your bowel movements. These conversations are an important part of taking care of your health.

Taking care of ourselves and our community

For Native American communities, caring for our health is also about caring for our families, Elders, children and future generations.

It is important to remember the people living with Crohn's disease or colitis deserve understanding and support. These illnesses are not always visible and someone may look healthy while dealing with pain, fatigue or other symptoms.

Here are a few ways we can support one another:

- Talk openly about digestive health and break the stigma around bowel problems.
- Encourage family members to seek medical care when symptoms continue.
- Support healthy eating and staying hydrated.
- Help loved ones attend medical appointments when needed.
- Share reliable health information within our families and communities.

If you have concerns about your digestive health, contact your primary care provider to discuss. ■

Inclement weather!

Please be sure to call the Health & Wellness Center before traveling in to appointments at the clinic during inclement weather.

Health & Wellness Center staff will make every attempt to call patients during closures. Also, sign up for emergency notifications about Tribal campus closures on the Tribal website at www.grandronde.org or follow the Tribe's primary page on Facebook. ■







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