

2010 Tribal Marketplace dates

- April 2-3, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; April 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- May 7-8, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; May 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- June 4-5, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; June 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 6-7, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Aug. 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 20-22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Powwow
- Sept. 3-4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sept. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 1-2, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Nov. 5-6, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 3-4, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dates subject to change due to conflicting Tribal or SMC events. Located across from Cedar Plank Buffet. For more information, contact Buzz Simmons at 971-226-9799.

Unmarked grave sites

If anyone knows the location of an unmarked grave or knows the name of someone who was buried at the Grand Ronde Cemetery and their grave has not been marked, contact Mike Larsen, Facilities Manager, at 503-879-2407. ■

Easter Egg Hunt set for April 3

Tribal Housing's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, April 3, in the Tribal Family Housing covered area.

Hunts will be separated into the following age groups: 1 to 4 years of age, 5 to 8 years of age and 9 to 12 years of age.

The Easter Bunny also will attend.

For more information, call Housing Services Specialist Deborah Kroeker at 503-879-4522. ■

Low ridership could jeopardize service

FREE RIDES continued from front page

in front of the Tribal Governance Center at 7:45 a.m. and 5:10 p.m. There is no weekend service.

Mercier said she is concerned that low ridership numbers could jeopardize the service's continued availability at current service levels to both Grand Ronde and Salem residents.

She visited the Tribe in February to speak with Tribal managers about a planned promotional push in April that is kicking off with the free fare month.

Other promotional pushes include articles in the casino's employee newsletter, touting the service and featuring employees who ride the bus to and from work; Tribal Council member Chris Mercier — her son — writing about taking the bus to Salem for a meeting in his recent *Tilixam Wawa* article; and incentive giveaways for casino employees who ride the bus to work during April.

"I really would hate to see this service fail," Chris Mercier wrote in his *Tilixam Wawa* column, "because it is the perfect example of how the Tribe can benefit by entering into partnerships with local businesses and governments. ... I also like the idea that community residents who cannot drive for whatever reason are just a 30-minute bus ride from a major city with shopping centers, movie theaters and a host of other



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Chris Mercier gets money out to pay his fare as he boards the Route 2X - Grand Ronde Express bus at Spirit Mountain Casino to attend a meeting at the Mid-Willamette Area Commission on Transportation in Salem on Tuesday, March 16.

activities that aren't always available in a historically rural area."

The biggest push, however, will occur during the week of April 22, which is Earth Day.

Pat Mercier said she is planning themed ridership days that week, with Monday being Tribal Youth Day, Tuesday being Tribal Elder Day, Wednesday being Tribal Employees Day, Thursday concentrat-

ing on Earth Day events in Grand Ronde and Friday being Tribal Members Day.

Pat Mercier stresses the environmental benefit of riding the bus, based on her 6.5 years of commuting between Grand Ronde and Salem, but also acknowledges the financial benefits as well.

She estimates that an average commuter driving 65 miles daily

and averaging 20 mpg with gas at \$2 per gallon will save more than \$1,000 annually, plus the wear and tear on their vehicle.

Of course, those savings would be more nowadays with gas averaging slightly less than \$3 a gallon in Oregon.

Mercier has estimated that taking hundreds of cars off the road between Salem and Grand Ronde could eliminate the pollution equivalent of more than 3 million vehicle miles per year.

Most of the operating costs for the transit service are being paid by federal Tribal Transit and state Special Transportation funds with fares and the state's Business Energy Tax Credit program covering the rest of the expenses.

Tribal Planning and Grants Development Manager Kim Rogers said the Tribe has funding for the current level of service through June, and will re-evaluate frequency of trips if ridership does not increase.

Tribal governmental and casino employees can purchase monthly bus passes on a pre-tax basis through their respective Human Resources departments. Grand Ronde-area residents can purchase monthly passes or day passes at the Tribal Governance Center front desk or at the casino, or pay when boarding the bus.

For more information, check the Web site www.cherriots.org and search for the Route 2X — Grand Ronde Express. ■

Weekdays (No service on Saturday, Sunday or holidays)

A	B	C	D	E	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
N.E. Park & Ride	Transit Mall	Edgewater/Rosemont	Rickreall Park & Ride	Arrive Spirit Mountain	Leave Spirit Mountain	Tribal Governance Center	Spirit Mountain	Rickreall Park & Ride	Edgewater/Rosemont	Transit Mall	N.E. Park & Ride
5:10a	5:30a	5:33a	5:50a	6:25a	6:30a	-	-	7:00a	7:12a	7:20a	*
*	6:30a	6:33a	6:50a	7:25a	7:30a	7:45a	8:15a	8:45a	8:57a	9:05a	*
*	7:30a	7:33a	7:50a	8:25a	8:30a	-	-	9:00a	9:12a	9:20a	*
*	1:30p	1:33p	1:50p	2:25p	2:30p	-	-	3:00p	3:12p	3:20p	*
*	3:15p	3:18p	3:35p	4:10p	4:20p	-	-	4:50p	5:02p	5:10p	*
*	3:45p	3:48p	4:05p	4:40p	4:55p	5:10p	5:30p	6:00p	6:12p	6:20p	*
*	5:30p	5:33p	5:50p	6:25p	6:30p	-	-	7:00p	7:12p	7:20p	*
*	8:00p	8:03p	8:20p	8:55p	9:00p	-	-	9:30p	9:42p	9:50p	10:05p
*	9:00p	9:03p	9:20p	9:55p	10:00p	-	-	10:30p	10:42p	10:50p	11:05p
10:20p	10:30p	10:33p	10:50p	11:25p	11:30p	-	-	12:00a	12:12a	12:20a	12:35a

Schedule times may change without notice by as much as 3 minutes to adjust to traffic conditions.
* Rt. 17-Market St., has 15 minute service between the N.E. Park & Ride lot and the Transit Center.



Salem to Grand Ronde route