



Achaf-hammi turns 3

Kyoni Mercier dances during the third birthday celebration for Achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse, on Saturday, Oct. 19. Dancing behind her is SuSun Fisher (Siletz). About 150 people attended the celebration, which included the Grand Ronde Canoe Family singing and dancing, other Tribes honoring the plankhouse, dinner and a giveaway.

Kalliyah Krehbiel cuts fringe for a buckskin skirt as she prepares for the third birthday celebration for Achaf-hammi on Saturday, Oct. 19.



Mekyla Fryberg (Tulalip) dances during her Tribe's time honoring Achaf-hammi during its third birthday celebration on Saturday, Oct. 19. The Grand Ronde Canoe Family joined in drumming for some of their songs.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

SSI, SDD eligibility and statement copy info

Dear Tribal member,

If you have reached the age of retirement (65) and have started to receive Social Security Retirement benefits, or are disabled and receiving benefits through Social Security (SSD); you may be eligible to receive Medicare Part B benefits. As a Grand Ronde Tribal Member, the Tribe will reimburse your Medicare Part B premium if not already paid by a third party, such as the state where you live.

To find out if you are eligible, or to get enrolled in Medicare Part B, please do the following:

- Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online at www.socialsecurity.gov to request an application for enrollment in Medicare Part B and return it to your local Social Security Office.
- You'll receive a Medicare Part A&B card and a statement from the Social Security administration showing the Medicare amount deducted from your Social Security check within a month or two of signing up. Your Medicare activates once you use your card at your doctor's office. Medicare should now be used as your Primary insurance and Skookum Tribal Health Plan (Shasta) Secondary.
- After your Medicare Part B coverage begins, the Medicare premium deducted from your Social Security or paid out-of-pocket will be reimbursed to you each month by the Tribe up to the standard rate.

In order to have your Medicare Part B reimbursed by the Tribe you'll need to provide the Tribe with the following: 1) a copy of your Social Security statement showing your Medicare Part B deduction from your check each month. If you are paying out-of-pocket submit a receipt of payment along with the correlating statement from the Social Security Administration. 2) Supply us with a copy of your Medicare card, and 3) fill out and return the release of information.

For additional information please contact: Jolanda Catabay/ Member Benefits at 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2253 or e-mail jolanda.catabay@grandronde.org.

Dear Tribal member;

It's getting to be that time of year again. Time to remember to send us a copy of your current (2013/2014 preferably) benefit statement from the Social Security Administration (when you receive them) so that we can update your file. If you do not receive your current benefit statement you may order one by calling the Social Security Administration at 1 800 772-1213 or go online at www.ssa.gov. Your current benefit statement must reach our office by Jan. 31, 2014, to avoid any future delays in your benefits.

For Elders age 55 and up, if you have been qualified under the SSA department as SSI or SSD Eligible, your Pension checks may qualify as non-taxable. We will need a copy of that document on file in order for this to take effect.

Please mail copies of your benefit statement to:

CTGR Member Services
Attn: Jolanda Catabay
9615 Grand Ronde Rd.
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

You may also e-mail or fax a copy to the following:
Fax: 1 800 879-2480, e-mail jolanda.catabay@grandronde.org

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tribal member to notify the Tribe of any changes in your benefits from the Social Security Administration SSI/SSD program. Failure to notify the Tribe may result in an obligation to repay ineligible benefits received, interrupt or delay your Tribal Supplemental Security Income and Disability payments (disregard this letter if you have already sent us a current copy of your benefit statement).

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or concerns. My contact number(s) are 503-879-2253 or toll-free 1-800-422-0232, ext. 2253.

Respectfully,
Jolanda Catabay
Enrollment Member Services Specialist
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde