

# General Council briefed on Health & Wellness efforts

By Dean Rhodes

*Smoke Signals editor*

Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe briefed General Council on planned improvements and programs at the Tribal Health & Wellness Center in 2018 during the Sunday, Jan. 7, General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center.

“Our mission is to be the premier health and wellness choice for our Tribal members and community by delivering excellent care that improves health and quality of life,” a PowerPoint presentation delivered by Rowe said.

Rowe said Health & Wellness’s priorities continue to be quality of care, access and satisfaction.

“This last year, we’ve been very busy, very productive,” Rowe said. “We’ve had all of our departments working on different projects to improve the access and quality of our health clinic.”

Rowe’s presentation was separated into discussing medical, dental, behavioral health, optometry, pharmacy, community health and the business office.

Individual departmental highlights included:

- **Medical:** A new hepatitis C elimination program is being implemented in 2018, as well as a pain management policy and procedure update. Medical is also seeking to bring in a pediatric practitioner in 2018;
- **Dental:** An Elder dental initiative is being started this year with



Photo by Dean Rhodes

**Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe glances at her PowerPoint presentation during the Sunday, Jan. 7, General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center. Rowe gave a 13-minute presentation on the Health & Wellness Center and its various programs that provide health care to Tribal and community members.**

outreach planned beyond Grand Ronde;

- **Behavioral Health:** A new child and adult psychiatrist will be working at the Health & Wellness Center, starting on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning in February. The new position is being funded by a \$110,000 Oregon Tribal grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund;
- **Optometry:** The Health & Wellness Center now has two optometrists to serve Tribal and community members;
- **Pharmacy:** A new bag location

system is significantly cutting down the wait time for people picking up prescriptions. A light on the plastic bag containing prescriptions lights up, making it easier for Pharmacy staff to locate client prescriptions;

- **Community Health:** More collaboration will occur between Adult Foster Care employees and clinic health care providers;
- **Business Office:** An onsite Shasta customer service representative is in place and the Business Office plans on reporting annually on Tribal members’ health status.

After her 13-minute presentation, Rowe fielded two questions from Tribal members in attendance.

Tribal Vice Chair Chris Mercier also discussed the Tribe’s new green policy and the need for more sustainability and recycling of materials at Tribal events. He said Tribal members will see blue bins at events in which to deposit recyclables.

“We need to rethink our daily practices,” Mercier said. “A lot of these small steps add up over time.”

In other action, the next General Council meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at the Monarch Hotel and Convention Center in Clackamas. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said that a session to seek input from Tribal members about potential advisory votes to be placed on the September Tribal Council ballot will be held after the General Council meeting. Turnout is important, she added.

Tribal Elders Steve Bobb Sr., Alan Ham and Jenny VanAtta won the \$100 door prizes and Diana George, Gary Sharp, Barbara Steere, Dorothy Leno and Ashley Tuomi won the \$50 door prizes. Bobb donated his winnings to the Veterans Special Event Board.

In addition, two necklaces donated by Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, a \$25 Target gift certificate and five Health & Wellness Center gift bags were given away.

Winners of four open seats on the Elders Committee were Louise Coulson, Cherie Butler, Linda Brandon and Diana George.

Jon A. George and Cultural Adviser Bobby Mercier opened the meeting with cultural drumming and singing. ■

## ATTENTION CTGR TELEPHONE SERVICE

If you have an emergency and need to dial “911” you must first dial a “9” (9911). The only calls that do not require that you dial a 9+ are those made from the CTGR extensions within the CTGR campus and/or those who use CTGR Tel for their home phone service. ■

### Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkʰmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board** meets monthly in Room 204 in the Tribal Governance Center. Chair: Siobhan Taylor.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Chair: Tammy Cook.
- **Elders Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- **Enrollment Board** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Michael Mercier.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Tyson Mercier.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Monday of the month in the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- **Housing Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Matt Thomas.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets monthly at noon at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the old Elders Craft House. Chair: Steve Bobb Sr.

To update information on this list, contact Publications Coordinator Dean Rhodes at 503-879-1463 or dean.rhodes@grandronde.org.

## Social Services offers clothing gift cards

The Social Service Department’s program to provide school clothing for Tribal member children has funding in the form of Old Navy gift cards.

To receive a gift card, contact Social Services for an application. The cards are for Tribal member children who have not accessed the program this year.

For more information, contact Administrative Assistant Tammy Garrison at 503-879-2077 or tammy.garrison@grandronde.org. ■

## ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

### COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL EVENT BOARD VACANCIES

The following Committees and Special Event Boards have vacant positions.

<u>Ceremonial Hunting Board</u>	3 terms expiring
<u>Culture Committee</u>	4 terms expiring
<u>Editorial Board</u>	1 term expiring
<u>Education Committee</u>	2 terms expiring
<u>Election Board</u>	1 term expiring, 2 vacancies (alternate positions)
<u>Enrollment Board</u>	3 terms expiring
<u>Fish &amp; Wildlife Committee</u>	5 terms expiring, 1 vacancy
<u>Housing Grievance Board</u>	6 terms expiring
<u>Health Committee</u>	4 terms expiring
<u>Powwow SEB</u>	2 terms expiring
<u>Timber Committee</u>	4 terms expiring
<u>TERO Commission</u>	1 term expiring
<u>Veterans SEB</u>	2 terms expiring
<u>Youth Council</u>	7 terms expiring

**Application deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, March 15. All applications must be submitted to Tribal Council staff before to the deadline to be considered for appointment.**

Please send completed applications to Stacia Hernandez or Shannon Simi, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.