

Virus response affecting April happenings

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

As the national, state and Tribal response to the novel coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve and remain extremely fluid, Grand Ronde happenings in April are being affected.

The scheduled Agency Creek Round Dance, set for Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, in the Tribal gym has been postponed to a later date.

The Sunday, April 5, General Council meeting scheduled for the Lane Community College longhouse in Eugene has been canceled.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier pointed out during the Wednesday, March 18, Tribal Council meeting that a General Council meeting, with its

requirement of 30 attendees, would violate the suggested maximum crowd size of no more than 25 people.

In addition, Lane Community College has closed in response to the pandemic and it is unlikely any hotels in the Eugene area would be able to host the meeting anyway, he said.

The annual Tribal Housing Easter egg hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 11, also has been canceled. Easter falls on Sunday, April 12, this year.

Tribal Council has three meetings scheduled in the month on April 1, 15 and 29. Like its March 18 meeting, attendance in person will be discouraged and Tribal members will be asked to watch the meetings via the livestream feed at www.grandronde.org. ■

General Council meeting

11 a.m. Sunday, May 3
Tribal Community Center

NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday Meetings

DATE	TIME
Wednesday, April 1.....	10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 15.....	10 a.m.

Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.

Pharmacy opts for mail-order prescription protocol

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The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center instituted a new prescription pick-up protocol in an effort to protect everyone's health and safety and ensure the Tribal drug supply during the coronavirus pandemic.

After Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said the Pharmacy would no longer be opening its window for patients, the Pharmacy went to a mostly all mail-order delivery model on Monday, March 23.

"We are doing some limited drive-through for people seen in the clinic that day and people who have already placed orders for the next few days," Rowe said. "We are also doing some delivery for those who are ill and/or homebound. All new orders are going to mail order."

"We do have additional staff members answering phones to assist with this process. However, we do expect patients may be sent to voicemail. Please leave a message with your name and phone number for staff to call you back."

Rowe said the clinic is waiving

mailing fees for medication mail-out to alleviate the burden the process is creating.

"As the dynamics around COVID-19 continue to evolve, our response at Health and Wellness must shift to further mitigate exposure and transfer of the virus," she added.

Pharmacy Director Lincoln Wright said curbside pick-up is limited to patients seen in the clinic that day with "acute needs." "All other patients will need to receive their medications through the mail, with limited delivery in our local area," he said. "If a patient has an urgent need for a medication, they should be aware that most acute medications can be filled at outside pharmacies without a two-time limit."

Wright said patients can track their prescription orders by visiting the Pharmacy website at www.grandronde.org or by using the mobile app available by typing in "Grand Ronde Pharmacy" at your app store.

The Health & Wellness Center also is screening people at the front door before they enter for appointments, General Manager David Fullerton said. ■

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
MONDAY, APRIL 6.....	APRIL 15, 2020
MONDAY, APRIL 20.....	MAY 1, 2020
TUESDAY, MAY 5.....	MAY 15, 2020
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20.....	JUNE 1, 2020
FRIDAY, JUNE 5.....	JUNE 15, 2020

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