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."

In reaction to the continuing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold November food distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 and 13, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21. The Food Bank will be closed Thanksgiving week, Nov. 23-27.

"We are asking clients to not come for a food box if they are having any symptoms or concerned about their health," Ambrose said. "We are limiting our geographic service area to Sheridan to Otis on Highway 18 and Sheridan to Hebo on Highway 22. We are asking clients and volunteers to wash their hands immediately upon entry to the building. Our lobby is closed until further notice.

"Food box distribution is happening outside while maintaining a safe distance between clients. We are sanitizing and keeping the food quarantined for three days before distribution. Pre-made boxes are available on distribution days, limited to two days of food for two adults. Clients within our geographic service area are still welcome to visit us weekly."

People must check in 15 minutes before closing to receive a food box. 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 is continuing the Farm Share Rx program with 35 farm shares being distributed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. It is a first-come, first-served distribution until the shares are depleted.

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.

The Farmers to Families food box distributions that were occurring on Tuesdays in Grand Ronde have been discontinued until a new distributor is found. Please follow the Food Bank on Facebook for updates about how and when distributions will start again.

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly e-mail for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.

Call Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or contact her at 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 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.** The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, using the Zoom conferencing program. Chair: Siobhan Taylor. Contact: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first 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: Penny DeLoe.
- **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: Bryan Langley.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Bernadine Shriver.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 4 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Simone Auger.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets monthly at noon at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the first Monday 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. Interim Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the old Elders Craft House. Chair: Rich VanAtta.

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

(Editor's note: All committee and special event board in-person meetings have been suspended during the Tribe's reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.)

YESTERYEARS | A LOOK BACK...

2015 – Tribal Council voted to pursue the purchase of the 31-acre Multnomah Greyhound Park site in Wood Village during its Oct. 14 meeting. The site, which was no longer used for dog racing, was listed for sale at $11.2 million. Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno said that the Tribe was developing a business plan for the property that would diversify the Tribe's economic base.

2010 File photo

2010 – Tribal member Hattie Mercier, 5, was featured in Nickelodeon Junior's "Kids Across the World," documentary. The Nickelodeon crew conducted interviews with children ages 4 to 6 from around the world. The 60-second spots had the children show and talk about their lives. The crew filmed Hattie at home in Willamina, at the home of her grandfather, Tribal Elder Darrell Mercier, and at her Tribal kindergarten Chinuk Wawa immersion class.

2005 – The Grand Ronde Tribe was selected by the Northwest Indian Housing Association as "Tribe of the Year." Grand Ronde Tribal Housing Director Carina Kistler Ginter presented the award to Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy at a General Council meeting. Acting General Manager Chris Leno presented Ginter with the "Executive of the Year" award from NIHA.

2000 – Tribal member Lynn Robertson returned home after four months of fighting wildfires with the Interagency Hotshot Firefighting Crew. He worked in Washington, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon. Robertson's firefighting crew worked an average of 18 hours a day and he estimated putting in approximately 1,200 hours of overtime in four months. "It was a lot of hard work, but it's worth it because we got a lot of community support from the people whose homes we were saving," he said.

1995 – More than 4,000 Tribal members, civic leaders, business vendors and others involved in Spirit Mountain Casino celebrated the opening of Oregon's newest and largest Tribal gaming facility. Celebrants crowded the casino's bingo hall to hear presentations by Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier and Vice Chair Kathryn Harrison. Afterward, attendees adjourned to try gambling on the 700 slot machines, 25 blackjack tables and other games available in the 90,000-square-foot facility.

1990 – Tribal member Angie Leno was honored at Western Oregon State College, where she was a freshman. She was one of 16 minority students honored at a dinner hosted by the school president for receiving the Minority Achievement Scholarship. "The dinner acknowledges that the students are here on campus," said Director of Minority Affairs Oscar Galindo. "I felt that the school needed to let these students know, 'Hey we're glad you're here and we're proud of you.' "

1985 – Tribal Chairman Henry Petite announced his resignation at a General Council meeting. The council nominated Vice Chair Mark Mercier to fill the vacancy. "As you know, we have been extremely busy working on our Reservation plan," Mercier said. "Once these meetings are complete, the final wrap-up of the plan will be implemented."

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