

# Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – *iskam mək'mək 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 December food distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 and 11, and there will be holiday box distributions on Saturday, Dec. 19, and Wednesday, Dec. 30. The Food Bank will be closed Christmas week, Dec. 21-25, and on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

“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. There will be no distribution on Dec. 23.

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@marionpolk-foodshare.org](mailto:fambrose@marionpolk-foodshare.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 mək'mək haws*, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board meets monthly.** The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, 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](mailto: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.)**



**2015** – A large contingent of Grand Ronde Tribal members participated in a long-awaited flag hanging ceremony during dual assemblies held at Willamina High School. The Tribal flag was placed next to the Oregon flag, U.S. flag and POW/MIA flag near the scoreboard in the school's gym. “It is an honor what is happening here today,” Tribal Council member Jon A. George said. “A lot of the reason we wanted to hang our flag in your school has to do with sovereignty. Our sovereignty means that we are a government within a national government. We have partnerships and friendships with other governments.”

**2010** – The Tribe celebrated its 27th anniversary of Restoration with a ceremony, meal and powwow. The celebration began in the Tribe's new plankhouse and moved to the Tribal gymnasium for the meal and powwow. “This is the greatest celebration that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde can ever have,” Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “Against all odds, a new nation was created on that day, and that new nation is us.”



2010

File photo

**2005** – Spirit Mountain Community Fund celebrated \$30 million in giving with a party at the new Salem Convention Center. “Who would have thought that in so short a time, we could have accomplished so much?” said Community Fund Board Director Kris Olson. “Lives have been transformed. Hope has been restored.” Since 1997, its first year of giving, the Community Fund awarded 127 grants to arts and culture, 309 grants to education, 66 to environmental preservation, 163 to health, 14 to historic preservation, six to problem gambling and 77 to public safety.

**2000** – A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the future home of the Grand Ronde Veterans Memorial at the Tribal Governance Center. Approximately 100 supporters attended the event, which was led by the Grand Ronde Honor Guard bringing in the colors. “There would be no freedom in America without veterans,” Veterans Memorial Committee Consultant Gene Hancock said. “These are exciting times for the Confederated Tribes because this memorial is moving from the conceptual stage to reality.”

**1995** – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde announced it would establish a Housing Authority within the next several months. The authority would be similar to a nonprofit corporation and would require a Board of Commissioners to oversee all housing management and operations for the Tribe.

**1990** – Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier reported that the Tribal government was preparing to move its administrative and government functions on to Tribal land. “Naturally, our expectations for a move-in date have come and gone, and we are rapidly regrouping and targeting other dates,” he said. The most recent schedule update was to have modular buildings on the property, with utilities hooked up and the moving complete by mid-December.

**1985** – The Tribe extended its congratulations to Tribal members who were given awards in football, volleyball and cross country at an annual fall dessert banquet at Willamina High School. Those who lettered on the varsity football team were Chris Leno, Mike Colton and Steve Bobb Jr. Melanie Smith received a letter for the junior varsity volleyball team and Gregg Leno earned an award for the cross country team.

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



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