


# IN THE FUTURE



(k<sup>h</sup>apa atqi)

**February**

- Monday, Feb. 15 – Tribal offices closed in observance of Tribal Chiefs' Day holiday.
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

**March**

- Sunday, March 7 – General Council meeting, 11 a.m., held via the Zoom teleconferencing application. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, March 10 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.
- Wednesday, March 24 – Tribal Council meeting, 10 a.m., Governance Center, 9615 Grand Ronde Road. 503-879-2304.

*(Editor's note: All events are tentative depending on the status of the Tribe's COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic response.)*



## CULTURAL EDUCATION

Are you missing out on what Cultural Education has to offer? Follow us on Facebook to get detailed class information, photos from events, and updates.

Plus, check out the tribal calendar for a quick glance of upcoming events and classes.

Open to Tribal and Community members. Join us!

## Blue Heron fire suspect to undergo mental health exam

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

OREGON CITY – The man suspected of starting a fire that damaged the Grand Ronde Tribe's Blue Heron property will receive a mental health examination from Oregon State Hospital personnel before his case possibly proceeds to trial.

Clackamas County Judge Heather Karabeika ordered the mental health examination on Jan. 4 after finding there was reason to doubt Enrique Omar Mejia's mental ability to proceed with a criminal defense against the arson charge filed against him.

Oregon City police arrested Mejia, 29, for the Dec. 5 fire at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site that the Tribe purchased in August 2019. He was originally scheduled to go on trial on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Mejia's court-appointed attorney Ruben Medina Jr. requested a psychiatric/psychological examination, saying that a criminal trial could violate his client's "fundamental right to competency."

Mejia reportedly made "concerning statements" that call into question his ability to stand trial, Medina said. He added that his client's family members said that he has been having mental health issues for some time.

Medina told the court that Mejia claimed to have had a chip implanted in his head and wanted to know what would happen when the chip was discovered. He also asserted that he has since been followed around by a cult that is trying to frame him for a crime.

According to a Dec. 29 court fil-



Enrique Omar Mejia

ing reported by *The Clackamas Review*, Mejia said that because of his brain implant "a group of people can see what I'm thinking; they

can see what I see, and they can hear what I hear. ... I'm not sure exactly what it is, but I think it's part of a cell phone or Google eye or something."

Mejia's previous convictions include a 2018 disorderly-conduct charge in Lincoln City. According to the *Lincoln City News Guard*, he also was cited and released by the Lincoln City Police Department in July 2020 after police received a report of a man with a beer pushing a crosswalk button over and over again.

Oregon law states that a person may be found incapacitated if, as a result of a qualifying mental disorder, he or she is "unable to understand the nature of the proceedings against the defendant or to assist and cooperate with the counsel."

Mejia remains in the Clackamas County Jail in Oregon City on \$100,000 bail on one count of second-degree arson. He has been previously denied release because of failure to appear charges, the felony arson charge, having adult convictions and being unemployed.

A hearing is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 29, to determine his mental fitness to proceed. ■

*Includes information from Pamplin Media Group*

## Find us on

OFFICIAL TRIBAL FACEBOOK PAGES

**Smoke Signals:**  
facebook.com/SmokeSignalsCTGR

**The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde:**  
facebook.com/CTGRgov

**Grand Ronde Health & Wellness:**  
facebook.com/GRHWC

**Grand Ronde Children & Family Services:**  
facebook.com/CTGRCFSS

**Grand Ronde Royalty:**  
facebook.com/CTGRRoyalty

**Grand Ronde Education Programs:**  
facebook.com/CTGREducation

**Grand Ronde Youth Council:**  
facebook.com/CTGRYouthCouncil

**Grand Ronde Station:**  
facebook.com/GrandRondeStation

**Grand Ronde Social Services Department:**  
facebook.com/CTGRSocialservices

**Grand Ronde Food Bank:**  
facebook.com/GrandRondeFoodBank

**Spirit Mountain Community Fund:**  
facebook.com/SpiritMountainCommunityFund

**Grand Ronde Cultural Education:**  
facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Cultural-Education

**Grand Ronde Community Garden:**  
facebook.com/GrandRondeCommunityGarden

**Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department:**  
facebook.com/Grand-Ronde-Tribal-Police-Department



Ad by Samuel Briggs III

## THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

# TRIBAL COURT



### INDIGENT DEFENSE PROGRAM

The Tribal Court is actively seeking attorneys for our Indigent Defense Program to represent parents and children involved in neglect and abuse cases within the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court.

If interested please contact the Tribal Court:

Shane Thomas  
Tribal Court Programs Coordinator

9615 Grand Ronde Road,  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347  
Phone: 503-879-4623  
Fax: 503-879-2269  
shane.thomas@grandronde.org



[www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-court](http://www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-court)

Ad by Samuel Briggs III