

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 June food box distributions on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“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.

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. ■



2016 – The second of three educational sessions to review two proposed amendments to the Tribal Constitution attracted 53 Tribal members. The two proposed amendments, which would be decided in a July 8 vote by Tribal members, would affect the powers of General Council and enrollment requirements.

The first proposed amendment would reduce the General Council participation requirements for exercising the power of initiatives or referendums and the calling of special General Council meetings.

The second proposed amendment would eliminate the requirement that an applicant for Tribal membership must be born to a parent who was a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe at the time of their birth, as well the requirement that their parent be a Tribal member at the time of their application.

2011 – Tribal Elder Marcellus “Marce” Norwest walked on at the age of 82. Norwest was honored by fellow veterans and Tribal members for a life of service to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as the Forest Patrol officer and to the nation as a Korean War veteran. He was



File photo

one of the founding members of the Grand Ronde chapter of the Northwest Indian Veterans Association and became a member of the West Valley Veterans Honor Guard. He also was a driving force for the construction of the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Grand Ronde Tribal campus.

2006 – Tribal member David Lewis’s work with the Southwest Oregon Research Project included finding letters from Tribal members and Indian agents that were dated in the 1880s, helping to uncover and distribute thousands of pages of Northwest Tribal history. Lewis served as the manager and director of the project, and had visited Washington, D.C., twice to comb through Native American archives and bring the fruits of his research back home. He searched through the National Anthropological Archives and the National Archives of the Smithsonian Institute to collect written pages relating to the Northwest Native American experience.

2001 – A group of Tribal members traveled to New York City to be reunited with the meteorite Tomanowos and perform the first ever blessing ceremony. The visit followed a historic agreement that the Tribe reached with the American Museum of Natural History in 1999 to allow the museum to keep the meteorite there in exchange for Tribal members having the opportunity to have a private visit with Tomanowos every year, and Tribal youth doing an internship at the museum. Tribal Elder and Tribal Council Secretary Kathryn Harrison was among those who made the trip, and said she felt the reunion with the meteorite was long overdue.

1996 – A weekend celebration was set to celebrate the 36,500-square-foot expansion of Spirit Mountain Casino that included the opening of Legends Steakhouse, family entertainment options and 3,000 square feet of banquet and meeting room space. A series of concerts was also in the works, featuring performers such as John Anderson, Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings. “We’re proud to be able to offer our guests the chance to see these great artists,” Marketing Director Chuck Galford said.

1991 – Community development efforts were in full swing with the pending construction of the Tribal Community Center and current planning for a health clinic. “Additionally, we are looking at the creation of housing for Elders in the first phase, and then for single and multi-family units later on,” Tribal Chairman Mark Mercier said. “Recent developments have given us the opportunity to include a dental operation in the new Community Center.” The dental program would include three chairs for patients, staffed by a full-time dentist and support staff.

1986 – Tribal Council authorized the start of a social services program for the Grand Ronde Tribe. The program was Bureau of Indian Affairs-funded and designed to provide counseling and family assistance to members, along with responsibility for implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act.

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

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, June 25, using the Zoom teleconference application. 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: Harold Lyon.
- **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 Tuesday 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.)