

Muscogee Nation to vote on free press amendment

OKMULGEE, Okla. – The Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma will be voting on a ballot question that would strengthen free press protections within its Tribal Constitution in September.

The Muscogee National Council passed legislation 13-2 on May 22 that would amend the Tribal Constitution. Like the Grand Ronde Tribe, it would require a two-thirds vote of eligible citizens who vote in the Sept. 18 primary election to be adopted.

The Muscogee Nation, the fourth largest Native American Tribe in the United States with more than 86,000 members, restored free press protections to its Tribal code for Mvskoke Media in July 2020. The amendment to the Tribal Constitution would ensure that citizens must approve any future changes or repeal of the free press law.

The Mvskoke Media Editorial Board serves as a buffer between the department's leadership and the government. It outlines the board's responsibility to hire the director of the independent agency, as well as the director's oversight of staff.

The amendment also allocates Tribal funding to support daily operations of Mvskoke Media, covering essential staff and news production costs.

If adopted, the Muscogee Nation would be the first Tribe to add free press protections to its Constitution for the Tribe's independent Tribal media.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Council adopted an Independent Tribal Press Ordinance in December 2016, which became effective in January 2017. It created an Editorial Board to oversee the editor of *Smoke Signals* and ensure the Tribal newspaper reports news in an unbiased fashion. It also created a buffer between Tribal administrative and elected officials and the leadership of the newspaper.

The Grand Ronde Constitution states that Tribal Council shall not deny to any person within its jurisdiction freedom of speech, press or religion, or the right to assemble peacefully. ■

LET'S TALK YOUTH ENRICHMENT

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7TH AT 5:30PM

To join this meeting go to zoom.com and enter the Meeting ID: 853 7893 3166 and Passcode: 478203

For more information contact Devin Boekhoff at 503-879-2275 or devin.boekhoff@grandronde.org.

2021-22 OPEN ENROLLMENT CHINUK KINDERGARTEN IMMERSION

As of May 17, 2021, we will be accepting registration applications for interested incoming kindergarteners. We are a Chinuk Wawa immersion program offering literacy instruction through the use of ChinukWawa. Our students are shared with the Willamina Elementary School, so they are dually enrolled. In the year's past, we have been a half-day program holding services from 7:30-11 a.m. with transportation provided for students to end their school day at Willamina. However, due to the pandemic and unknowns regarding school plans in the Fall, our programming model has not yet been determined. If interested, please contact us for more info or fill out a registration and be updated on our plans as soon as they are decided. No prior language experience needed. If a student in a grade beyond kindergarten wants to enroll, please contact us for more information.

Once we are at capacity, we give Tribal preference.

Applications are available at <https://www.grandronde.org/services/education/elementary-chinuk-language-program/> and can be turned in starting **May 17** by:

Mail: 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347
 OR e-mailed to either contact listed below

Elaine Lane
 K/1 Chinuk Teacher
 503-879-1920
elaine.lane@grandronde.org

We enroll families, not just students. It is our belief that the only way for the language to live and flourish is for it to be learned and used in the home by the whole family.

TERO Worker of the Month May 2021

Name: Gabriel Knight
Employer: Washington Roofing
Position: Roofing repair/laborer
 Gabe Knight applied to the TERO Skills Bank program in February 2021. He was referred to Washington Roofing four days after applying and started work on the Elder housing project.



Gabriel Knight

Since then, Gabe has proven to be very dependable, hard-working and willing to learn new skills. His hard work and diligent work ethic has gotten him a raise in wages and he has been offered permanent employment with the company. Way to go, Gabe!

For more information on the TERO Skills Bank and any other TERO opportunities, contact the TERO office or the TERO director.
TERO Office: 503-879-1488 or tero@grandronde.org

WIFI HOTSPOTS

NOW AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT AT THE TRIBAL LIBRARY!

For patrons without access to reliable internet, 10 T-Mobile hotspots have been made available for use. Devices provide access within the T-Mobile coverage area.

To borrow a hotspot library cardholders must be 18 years or older and have their library account in good standing. Parents/guardians are responsible for the use of the hotspot by minors.

For additional terms and agreements please contact the library
Kathy.Cole@grandronde.org
 503-879-1488

These hotspots were made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with the Chemeketa Community College and the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

2021

photo of Helen Tonso – Previous Tribal Graduate from 2018

Virtual Graduation Celebration

Recognizing our GED and College Graduates
Friday June 18, 2021

Join us on the CTGR Education Programs Facebook Page

Helen Tonso – B.S. - Advertising Journalism – University of Oregon