16 JULY 1, 2021 SMOKE SIGNALS

# Police Department has nonemergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. "When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

## **Optometry hours**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday (no eye exams, optical only)
Please call to schedule your appointment at 503-879-2097 or 800-775-0095.

### **Community Health Program**

## Medical Transport Services

Medical transportation services are available to Tribal members within the six-county service area when an alternate means of transportation is not available. Advance notice required.

Please call 503-879-2078 to schedule a reservation



# Haaland orders boarding schools report by April 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve in a presidential Cabinet, has ordered her federal department to prepare a report by April 1, 2022, that will comprehensively review the legacy of federal boarding school policies.

While speaking before the National Congress of American Indians midyear conference on Tuesday, June 22, Haaland announced the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative that will be supervised by Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland.



"The Interior Department will address the inter-generational impact of Indian boarding schools to shed light on the unspoken traumas of the past, no matter how hard it will be," Haaland said. "I know that this process will be long and difficult. I know that this process will be painful. It won't undo the heartbreak and loss we feel. But only by acknowledging the past can we work toward a future that we're all proud to embrace."

Beginning with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the United States enacted laws and implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools whose purpose was to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating them to distant residential facilities where their Tribal identities, languages and beliefs were suppressed, often forcibly.

One of those schools, Chemawa Indian School, opened in February 1880 in Salem, Ore. Spurred by the recent discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada, the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative will investigate the loss of life and the lasting consequences of residential Indian boarding schools in the United States. The goal will be to identify boarding school facilities and sites; locate known and possible student burial sites; and identify children interred at such locations and their Tribal affiliations.

The Interior Department continues to operate residential boarding schools through the Bureau of Indian Education, but now the schools aim to provide quality education to Native students and empower them to better themselves and their communities, according to the Department of the Interior.

Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Nation in New Mexico, also became the first Native American to lead the Department of the Interior when she was sworn into office earlier this year after being nominated to the post by President Joseph Biden. ■

#### THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE



### 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

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www.grandronde.org/government/tribal-court



