

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 a continuing reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold October 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. ■

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 is 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, using the Zoom teleconference application. Chair: Mia Prickett. 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.)

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2016

2011

2016 – The Tribe hosted the fifth Coffee & Conversation meeting in Medford and an encampment at nearby Upper Table Rock trailhead. The Tribal contingent included seven Tribal Council members and administrative staff, as well as Cultural Resources and Education department employees. “This is a meaningful event,” Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno said. “I really hope one of these years we can have a larger event.”

2011 – A first-ever Tribal Government Day between the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and city of Portland was held in a concerted effort to build more awareness throughout city staff about the Tribe and its historical connection to Portland.

The meeting also laid the groundwork for a more official government-to-government relationship. “The message we’re conveying today is that the connection to this land is with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said.

2006 – Familiar faces returned to Tribal Council. Former Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and Tribal Council member Jack Giffen Jr. were re-elected along with Valorie Sheker, who returned to council after her last re-election bid came up short. “The year off that I took was good,” Sheker said. “It was educational. I needed that year to take care of some things. Now, I feel strong.”

2001 – Various state and Tribal leaders gathered at Spirit Mountain Casino to honor Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison for her years of service to the Tribe. Approximately 400 people attended the event. Among them were Sen. Kate Brown, who served as the evening’s master of ceremonies, and former Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh, who played a key role in assisting the Grand Ronde Tribe with its Restoration efforts. “Some of you know that it wasn’t too long ago this casino was not here. It wasn’t too long that the hotel was not here,” Atiyeh said. “It wasn’t too long ago the administration building was not there. They all sprang forth upon Tribal recognition. We know what Kathryn Harrison and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde have given to Oregon.”

1996 – The first annual Community Health Fair held at Grand Ronde Elementary School was successful. More than 60 immunizations were provided to children and 400 fingerprint identification kits were completed. Bill Shonley, radio announcer for the Portland Trail Blazers and spokesman for Oregon LifeFlight Network, arrived on a helicopter and signed autographs while children toured the helicopter.

1991 – Community Center construction was underway with the foundation poured and framing of the walls. All utilities for sewer, water and electricity also were installed for the underground portion. The project was expected to be completed sometime in February 1992. “Over the next several weeks the building will actually begin to take shape as the walls and the roof go up and some of the parking is completed,” a *Smoke Signals* article stated. “The general contractor has been extremely fortunate with the warm weather we have had and we hope it continues for us as long as we need it.”

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

Health & Wellness offering vaccinations for youths

The Grand Ronde Health & Wellness Center is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations for youths 12 to 17 years of age, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe announced on June 15.

The Tribe is using the Pfizer vaccine for youths. To schedule an appointment, contact the clinic at 503-879-2032.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control recently expanded the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine to adolescents, meaning the two governmental organizations determined that clinical trials show the vaccine is safe and effective for children in this age range.

According to www.grandronde.org, the Tribe has vaccinated more than 20,900 people since it started receiving the two-dose Moderna vaccine in late December with more than 9,950 of those people being Elders 55 and older. ■