

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.”

The Food Bank will hold December food box distributions on Friday, Dec. 3 and 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Dec. 23. The holiday food box distribution will occur from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18.

The Food Bank will be closed on Friday, Dec. 17, to prepare the holiday food boxes, on Friday, Dec. 24, and for the entire week of Dec. 27-31.

“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. ■

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, Dec. 17, 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.)



2016 – Tribal Environmental Resources Specialist Meagan Flier was recognized with a leadership award from the West Coast Regional Planning Body for her work coordinating Tribes along the West Coast that were part of the Regional Planning Body and the West Coast Ocean Partnership. The group was a partnership of federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, Washington and California, and federal and state agencies. It focused on implementing the U.S. National Ocean Policy, and engaging stakeholders in marine planning and other tools to effectively address existing and future uses of the region’s oceans and coasts. Flier’s award was the first ever given by the group.



2016 File photo

2011 – Tribal members rejected a bundled proposal 536-457 to overhaul enrollment requirements in a constitutional election held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They voted 54 percent to 46 percent against the proposal, which would have reduced the relinquishment period from five years to two years, eliminated the requirement of having a parent on the roll at the time of birth or application to become a member of the Tribe, redefined Grand Ronde blood and established an annual quota set by Tribal Council on how many new Tribal members could be enrolled.

2006 – The Tribe’s Cultural Resources Department held its first ever webinar that featured the Cultural Resources virtual gallery, which opened earlier that year after eight months of development. Attendees spanned the country, from Massachusetts to California. The primary goal of the presentation was to reach Tribal members who live outside the area through technology.

2001 – Tribal member Sara Farlow was interviewed by *Smoke Signals* about her conversion to Islam in 1989 after marrying a Saudi national. Although the couple divorced four years later, Farlow continued to practice Islam and moved to the United Arab Emirates. “In my life I’ve finally found something that makes sense to me,” she said. “I really got the answers that I needed.”

1996 – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde celebrated 13 years of Restoration at Grand Ronde Elementary School. More than 200 Tribal members and their families celebrated the event and reflected on an important day in Tribal history. The day’s event included a meal of salmon and ham, member testimonies and a mini-powwow.

1991 – Tribal member Willie Mercier began writing news for a new youth section in *Smoke Signals* as part of Willamina High School’s work experience program. “At my job I write articles about Tribal youth and their activities,” he said. “I also write stories pertaining to the Tribal youth and government. I take pictures of the Tribal youth activities and edit the youth news section.”

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

Tribe to receive Justice Department funding

PORTLAND – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will share in U.S. Department of Justice funding with two other Tribes and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Oregon announced on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

On Nov. 15, the Department of Justice announced awarding more than \$177 million to improve public safety and serve crime victims in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Of that, more than \$73 million will be awarded to 84 Tribal communities and commissions under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, a streamlined grant application program that helps Tribes apply for Tribal-specific grant programs seeking to enhance law enforcement and justice practices, expand victim services, and sustain crime prevention and intervention efforts.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Coquille Indian Tribe and Klamath Tribes, along with the Fish Commission, received a cumulative total of \$3.5 million of those funds.

“Supporting and enhancing public safety in Tribal communities is a top priority for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Oregon and has been for many years,” said Scott Erik Asphaug, acting U.S. Attorney for Oregon. “We are very pleased to join in announcing these important awards and congratulate all award recipients in Oregon.” ■