



Smoke Signals file photo by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Housing’s annual Easter Egg Hunt will return on Saturday, April 16, for the first time since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hunt begins at 10 a.m. and is usually over in minutes.

An egg-cellent event returns April 16 after a two-year pandemic hiatus

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals staff writer

The popular Tribal Housing Department Easter Egg Hunt is back after a two-year COVID-19 hiatus.

Easter is Sunday, April 17, which means the event will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 16, rain or shine, at the covered area in Tribal housing on Raven Loop.

Since the hunt hasn’t been held since 2019, organizers want to remind participants to arrive early or risk going home empty-handed as participants are not shy about cleaning out the treats quickly.

In past years, the time for all the candy to be spoken for is about one minute after the hunt begins. Attendees are also asked to bring their own basket or bag to carry their treasure home.

So, this is one Tribal event that requires extreme promptness on the part of parents and prospective Easter egg hunters, lest they miss out on the various treats.

“We are very excited to be able to have the Easter egg hunt this year,” Housing Service Coordinator Lacy Leno said. “We look forward to seeing everybody and watching the kids have fun finding eggs.”

There are four hunt categories for children ages 1 to 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12. Typically, there are approximately 200 participants.

The Easter Bunny will be posing for pictures with children before and after the hunt, but parents will be responsible for taking their own photos.

Members of the Tribe’s Housing Department, Community Health employees and other volunteers stuff about 2,000 plastic eggs with candy during the week before the event. Tribal Council sponsors the hunt and pays for the candy. ■

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GRAND RONDE GAMING COMMISSION POSITIONS

The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission is seeking applications for two positions. The positions are for three-year terms beginning June of 2022. The terms will expire June of 2025. The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission regulates all gaming-related activities associated with Spirit Mountain Casino. The Tribal Gaming Ordinance requires both positions to be filled by Tribal members. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age. Commissioners may not hold elective or managerial Tribal positions, and may not be employed in or own any interest in or gamble in a gaming operation authorized by the Tribal Gaming Ordinance. Commissioners are independent contractors and expend approximately 30-40 hours per month to fulfill their responsibilities. The Commission generally meets on the second and third Fridays of each month. Appointment is contingent upon successful completion of a background investigation. Applications may be obtained by calling Kathy Doane at 503-879-2393 or e-mail at kathy.doane@grandronde.org.
Closing date is April 30, 2022, by 5 p.m.

Smoke Signals seeking perspectives from incarcerated moms

Are you a Tribal member and a mother who has been in the correctional system? What were some of the challenges and obstacles you faced trying to mother from the inside of prison walls? Were you able to reconnect with your children upon release and mend fractured relationships?

If so, *Smoke Signals* would like to hear your story. Staff writer Danielle Harrison is writing a series on mothers who have been in prison and the effects on family relationships, and would like to talk to Tribal members who are in various stages of the process, from incarceration to post-release.

What has worked for you to stay an active/engaged part of your children’s lives and why? What services do you wish were more readily available for mothers in prison?

Your story is important and we would like to hear from you, no matter where you are at in the process.

Please contact Danielle Harrison for more information at danielle.harrison@grandronde.org or call 503-879-4663. ■

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HOW? Contact the TERO Office at 503-879-2188 or email tero@grandronde.org

WHO CAN SIGN UP? Grand Ronde Tribal members and members of other federally recognized Tribes. Must be 18 years or older.

WHAT IS NEEDED? TERO Skills Bank application and Tribal ID

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