

INDEPENDENT TRIBAL PRESS ORDINANCE
OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council is considering amendments to the Independent Tribal Press Ordinance. The proposed amendments were given a first reading at the July 24, 2024, Tribal Council meeting.

The proposed amendments would provide that no member of the Editorial Board be currently sitting on Tribal Council; allow for an Editorial Board member to retain their active voting seat while running for Tribal Council, provided that their seat shall become immediately vacant upon being sworn-in as a member of Tribal Council; amend all references to the Native American Journalists Association to read the Indigenous Journalists Association; and may include other minor and technical changes.

Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed amendments to the Independent Tribal Press Ordinance. For a copy of the proposed amendments, contact the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Send comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347 or by email to legal@grandronde.org. Comments must be received by Sept. 3, 2024. ■

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Social Security Disability Insurance Benefit Advocate
Request for Proposal

The Request for Proposals is being conducted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Social Service Department for the purpose of obtaining a contractor who has experience in SSI/SSD advocacy/ benefit determination and the qualifications to advocate for Tribal members who are seeking assistance in the application process. Qualified applicants shall possess the ability to:

- Provide general information to Tribal members and assist in referrals regarding SSI/SSD.
- Screen Tribal members who claim their disability does not allow them to work to determine potential for an SSI/SSD application.
- Assist Tribal members in applying for SSI/SSD.
- Refer members to appropriate physical and/or mental health evaluations related to SSI/SSD application.
- Assist Tribal members with completing paperwork to file for appeals for denial of SSI/SSD.
- Refer Tribal members to Tribal member benefits to apply for the Tribal SSI/SSD program.
- Serve as a resource to employees when working with clients that may benefit from SSI/SSD.
- Assist Tribal members in preparation for retirement to understand Social Security benefits.
- Provide assistance to Tribal members 1-2 days per week, contract rate negotiable.

Preference will be given to members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and or Indian-owned business registered with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO office.

Successful candidates must provide the following insurance:

- Commercial general liability insurance limits not less than: \$500,000 general aggregate limit, \$500,000 personal injury, \$500,000 each occurrence limit.
- Submit your proposal to Tammy Garrison via U.S. mail or email by 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024.

Tammy Garrison, Social Service Department
9615 Grand Ronde Road
Grand Ronde, OR 97347
Tammy.garrison@grandronde.org
503-879-2077

First Fish Ceremony held



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal members Keri Kimsey, middle, and Tawnie Kimsey, right, help portion out salmon for attendees to consume during the First Fish Ceremony held at the fish weir at Agency Creek on the Tribal campus on Thursday, July 11.

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

Under a clear, sunny sky, Tribal drummers drummed and sang the Tribe's gratitude to the salmon people for the gift of food at the annual First Fish Ceremony on Thursday, July 11, at the Tribal fish weir on Agency Creek.

More than 30 people attended the ceremony. Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy delivered the invocation and Tribal members drummed and sang, first the Salmon Song, and later, as the bones were placed in the river, a song of thanks.

Tribal Council member Kathleen George said she wanted to thank the Tribe's Natural Resources Department for working for decades to have the Tribe's hunting and fishing rights restored, and for continuing to make sure everyone is safe during fishing season.

Tribal Council members Jon A. George and Brenda Tuomi also attended the ceremony.

Once the smoked fish, brought in on a cedar plank dish carved by Cultural Policy Analyst Greg Archuleta, had been consumed, the bones were carried to the river, where the spine was carefully set under the rocks and the remainder allowed to float downstream, along with the cedar branch garnish.

Cultural Advisor Bobby Mercier told participants that the ceremony

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"is to let their people, the salmon people, know that we took the time to honor them, so they will come back and keep feeding us. ... We want them to know that we didn't just take."

The bones that float downstream, he said, travel to the salmon people, letting them know they have been properly honored, while the ones pinned down by the rocks tell them where to return.

"They come back to where the bones are buried," he said.

The Tribe has an ancient agreement with the salmon people, Mercier said.

"One time, our people were starving, and the animals were deciding who would feed us," he said. "And the salmon stepped forward. But they said, 'remember us, honor our people.'"

The Tribe held its inaugural First Fish Ceremony in 2011, after regaining the right to fish at Willamette Falls. Every year, the first fish caught at the falls is celebrated and the bones returned to the river.

"We have other uses for the bones and skin," Mercier said, "But the first one must always go back to the river in thanks. It's our unwritten law." ■

Linn County hosting Cultural Encampments

Tribal Elder and Linn County Cultural Encampment Director Deitrich Peters is hosting Cultural Encampments again this summer.

Upcoming encampments will be held Friday to Sunday, Aug. 23-25 at Cascadia County Park in Cascadia.

The three-day encampments open with a morning prayer on Friday, a meet-and-greet, storytelling and flute music, and an evening prayer. On Saturday, craft classes and Native American traditional dancing are taught. Sunday includes more dancing and then a thank you feast in the afternoon.

For more information, contact Peters at petersdeitz@gmail.com, visit the Linn County Parks web page or naculturalencampment.org. ■



On Fridays you will receive a message
about mental health, a social
emotional tip or a simple quote or
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