

# 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 January food box distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. In addition, there is a light food box (mostly bread and produce) distribution from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays.

The Food Bank will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, so there will be no produce distribution on that date.

People must check in 15 minutes before closing to receive a food box on both days. 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 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 email for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider. Contact Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or [fambrose@marionpolkfoodshare.org](mailto: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 as needed 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 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10 via zoom. Contact Chair Mia Prickett at [Editorial.Board@grandronde.org](mailto:Editorial.Board@grandronde.org) for the meeting link.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Interim Chair: Valeria Atanacio.
- **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: Reyn Leno.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Darlene Aaron.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Harris Reibach.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets as needed at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the second 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. Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the Quenelle House. Chair: Raymond Petite.

To update information on this list, contact Smoke Signals Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663 or [danielle.harrison@grandronde.org](mailto:danielle.harrison@grandronde.org).



**2020** – Tribal member Allison Empey, who was working part-time as a pediatrician, took job as deputy director of the Northwest Native American Center for Excellence, to oversee a program to help Native American and Alaska Native students prepare for medical school. The center was formed as a collaboration between Portland State University, Oregon Health and Science University and the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board. It was funded by a 5-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, OHSU School of Medicine and the support of all 43 Tribes in the Pacific Northwest. The program, Wy’East Post Baccalaureate Pathway, began accepting students in 2018.

**2015** – Some in Grand Ronde, including casino employees, reported feeling a 3.2 magnitude earthquake that took place about 6 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 19 near Willamina. However, the quake did not cause damage to Tribal buildings or Spirit Mountain Casino. According to the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network, the quake was about 16 miles deep, about 25 miles west of Salem.

**2010** – Spirit Mountain Casino delivered a semi-truck of new, unwrapped toys to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland for Christmas. It marked the second consecutive year the casino held an annual holiday toy drive, participated in by both casino guests and employees.



2010

File photo

**2005** – Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy was scheduled to open the 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Championships at the Portland Rose Garden. Tribal Elder and former Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison was to offer the invocation, and the Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard presented the flags.

**2000** – The Elders Committee held a surprise recognition ceremony for Tribal Council Chairwoman Kathryn Harrison, who had been recently named one of three Oregon Women of the Year by the Oregon Commission for Women. They presented Harrison with a bouquet of red roses and a beaded necklace.

**1995** – Smoke Signals Editor Tracy Olson announced that the newsletter would begin publishing twice a month, to allow more timely publication of news, and would hire a part-time assistant.

**1990** – No edition available.

**1985** – The Tribe’s ordinance committee announced that an election for the first Tribal Council following Restoration would be held in March. The Restoration Act stated that the election must be held within 120 days of when the Secretary of the Interior signed the Tribe’s Constitution, which had occurred on Nov. 30, 1984. An interim council was serving in the meantime.

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

## Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship now open

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde’s Cultural Resources Department Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship (IPKA) is now open.

It is expected that two fellows will be named in 2025. Fellows will receive \$20,000 to advance their artistic work. The fellowship exists to develop Indigenous artist capacity within the Grand Ronde Tribe’s homelands.

“The Cultural Resources Department feels that art by Indigenous people is one of the most effective and recognizable ways that Indigenous people of place can hold a place in their homelands and further their own recognition and persistence,” an email stated.

The fellowship is open to anyone who can demonstrate a verifiable Indigenous connection to the ancestral peoples of western Oregon from the lower Columbia River in the north all the way to the Klamath River in the south.

Applications are due on Monday, Jan. 20. Selections will be made in March.

Full details about the 2025 Indigenous Place Keeping Artist Fellowship and how to apply are available on the Chachalu Tribal Museum & Cultural Center website, [chachalu.org/programs/ipka-fellowship/](http://chachalu.org/programs/ipka-fellowship/). ■



### GRAND RONDE HOUSING DEPARTMENT

28450 Tyee Road – Grand Ronde, Oregon 97347 – 503-879-2401 – Fax 503-879-5973

**ATTENTION ALL HOUSING TENANTS AND GUEST  
PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN ELDER HOUSING**

Also, please make sure and maintain low levels of music in the Elder community.