

Gifts for guests



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Renee Norcross puts together a beaded necklace during gift making in the Tribal Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The Tribe’s Youth Empowerment & Prevention Program sponsored the event to make gifts that will be given to guests during the annual Native Youth Wellness Day happening Friday, Feb. 28, and Agency Creek Round Dance happening Friday-Saturday, Feb. 28 to March 1. Additional gift making gatherings are planned for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15; 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22; and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29. Meals are provided and everyone is welcome.

MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

Tribal Court is issuing marriage licenses and able to perform marriage ceremonies for a filing fee of \$40. Contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

Tribe sends crews to help with Los Angeles fires

By Nicole Montesano

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde sent two trucks and a team of firefighters to California last week to help fight the fires that are devastating the Los Angeles area.

Emergency crews spent much of the day Wednesday, Jan. 8, determining who was available to go. Administrative Services Lt. Mariah Walters said the department sent a heavy brush rig and a structural engine, with two task force leaders, two assistant task force leaders and seven firefighters.

They joined other crews from Oregon counties, all organized through the Oregon State Fire Marshal’s office.

“These resources are sent through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact,” Walters said. “The compact provides help during governor-declared emergencies or disasters by allowing states to send personnel, equipment and supplies, to support response and recovery efforts in other states. The strike teams will be reimbursed directly by California. When we deploy we work with one goal in mind: Protecting people, property and critical infrastructure. Our staff’s main focus down there will be to provide structural protection.”

In addition, the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department sent a wildland fire engine crew that was called out and began traveling on the morning of Friday, Jan. 10.

The NRD crew specializes in wildfire and natural disaster response, prescribed burning, fuel management, habitat restoration and forestry, according to Fire Management and Protection Program Manager Andrew Puerini.

According to a press release from the Fire Marshal’s office, Oregon

mobilized 12 strike teams to send south.

“The Oregon State Fire Marshal has been monitoring and working with California throughout the event and received a request for assistance late Tuesday (Jan. 7) evening,” the press release said. “As of midnight, the department has 12 strike teams made up of 240 firefighters and 60 engines that will be mobilizing later this morning. The agency will continue to monitor and will fill more requests as it progresses.”

Later in the day, the state announced it would send three additional teams.

Altogether, it said, Oregon has sent 15 strike teams, 300 firefighters and 75 engines to assist with the fires. Crews came from Polk, Benton/Columbia, Douglas, Clackamas, Clatsop, Central Oregon, Lane, Lincoln, Linn/Polk, two from Marion, Multnomah, Rogue Valley, Washington and Yamhill counties.

“Oregon and California have a strong partnership supporting each other,” Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. “We both understand that fire does not recognize map lines and we are ready to help each other whenever there is a need. During our historic 2024 wildfire season, California sent us help and in their time of need, we are working as fast as possible to lend them support during this emergency. Our hearts are with those impacted by these wildfires in southern California and we are doing everything we can to help. We are in constant contact with our partners in California to assess the resources they need to respond to this historic event.”

Those looking for information about the fires should follow the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, CAL Fire, or Los Angeles County, she said. ■

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & PREVENTION

JANUARY – MARCH 2025 EVENTS

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Chinuk Winter Gathering Dates: TBD	Love Rocks Date: 2/14 - 11am-2pm Location: Community Center	Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 3/1 starting at 6pm Location: Tribal Gym
Round Dance Gift Making Dates: 1/8 - 3:30-6:30 1/15 - 11:30-1:30 1/22 - 3:30-6:30 1/29 - 11:30-1:30 Location: Community Center	Unity Conference Date: 2/6-2/9 Location: Arizona	9 Tribes Youth Prevention Camp Date: 3/24-3/28 Location: TBD
Stick Game Dates: 1/16 - 3:30-5:15 1/30 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	Youth Native Wellness Day Date: 2/28 9am - 4pm Location: Tribal Gym	Canoe Journey Prep Dates: TBD
	Agency Creek Round Dance Date: 2/28 starting at 5pm Location: Tribal Gym	Stick Game Dates: 3/13 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J
	Stick Game Dates: 2/11 - 3:30-5:15 2/27 - 3:30-5:15 Location: Youth Ed. Building J	

**All events are subject to change, please look out for our official fliers on the Youth Empowerment & Prevention Facebook page.*

STORY IDEAS?

Do you have Tribal story ideas you would like to see in Smoke Signals?

Please share your suggestions at news@grandronde.org or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.

WWW.SMOKESIGNALS.ORG

Ad by Samuel Briggs III

ADULT FOSTER CARE

Priority is given to Grand Ronde Tribal Elders, dependent on need and acuity of all Tribal applicants

Eligibility Requirements

- TRIBAL ELDER (55+)
- COMPLETED WAITLIST APPLICATION

RETURN APPLICATIONS TO ALISHA PARKS SHELL, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ADULT FOSTER CARE MANAGER
PHONE: 503-879-6542
ALISHA.PARKSSHELL@GRANDRONDE.ORG

If level of need and/or safety concerns at time of admission exceed a Level 2 Classification as defined by Oregon Department of Health Services OAR 411-049-0125, the applicant will be notified of ineligibility