

**NOTICE — Monthly Tribal Council Wednesday meetings**  
**DATE** **TIME**

Wednesday, July 23.....4 p.m.  
Wednesday, Aug. 6.....4 p.m.

*Please note that these times and dates are subject to change if needed.  
Attendance in Tribal Council Chambers and via Zoom.*

## Food programs face more cuts

By Katherine Warren

*Smoke Signals staff member*

Healthy Food Boxes, a popular monthly program for Tribal members that is grant funded, will not continue after August.

Tribal Council has said it hopes to find a way to continue funding the boxes.

Additionally, local food pantries are also feeling the federal funding cuts and increased costs elsewhere.

Grand Ronde Food Bank (iskam mək<sup>h</sup>mək haws) Coordinator Francene Ambrose said, “We have seen a decrease in food available from Marion-Polk Food Share, from the grocery stores and no money donations for food purchases... We went from three pallets of food per week to one pallet per week.”

The food bank fiscal year ended Monday, June 30, and the new budget began Tuesday, July 1. Ambrose said the pantry can use donations of proteins such as canned tuna, peanut butter,

meats in a can and easy to prepare shelf-stable meals.

GrandShermina Food Bank in Sheridan is cutting back on its food distributions, effective immediately. The organization will be doing distributions on the first and third Tuesday of the month instead of their weekly distributions.

Rick Gaupo, president of Marion-Polk Food Share, said that the funding cuts equal half of what the food share received from the federal government last year. Most of the cuts were to frozen meat, eggs and dairy products.

The recent congressional bill, approved by both the House and the Senate, includes an approximately \$200 billion cut over the next 10 years to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as well as an approximately \$930 billion cut over the next 10 years to Medicaid. Both of these programs directly affect low-income families, who often rely on food banks. ■

# Letters welcome

**smok signalz**, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, is published twice a month. No portion of this publication may be reprinted without permission.

Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper and current events happening within the Tribe. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested. **Letters must be 400 words or less.**

**smok signalz** reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on any individual, as well as individual Tribal staff members, individual Tribal administration members or individual Tribal Council members. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer.

Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of **smok signalz**.

# STORY IDEAS?

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

Please share your suggestions at [news@grandronde.org](mailto:news@grandronde.org) or by calling Editor Danielle Harrison at 503-879-4663.



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Ad by Samuel Briggs III

# smok signalz

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DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE	MEMBERS OF:
Wednesday, July 23 .....	Aug. 1	Indigenous Journalists Association
Wednesday, Aug. 6 .....	Aug. 15	Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assoc.
Wednesday, Aug. 20 .....	Sept. 1	2022 IJA General Excellence
Thursday, Sept. 4 .....	Sept. 15	2023 IJA General Excellence

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## 2025 TRIBAL COUNCIL

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