

# Tribe receives \$500,000 grant

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

At a time when budget cutting is the loudest mantra coming out of Washington, D.C., the Grand Ronde Tribe received a \$500,000 Indian Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The award to the Tribe was among competitive grants to Tribes and Alaska Native villages totaling \$33.6 million.

The block grant will be used to design and build a transitional housing facility for women who have graduated from alcohol and drug treatment programs.

"We have a significant need for transitional housing for women in our community," Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. "They are women who are completing drug and alcohol rehabilitation and need a home that is safe and helps them continue their commitment to

live drug- and alcohol-free.

"It will also help women who are returning to the community after serving time in correctional institutions. They, too, need a place to live that is safe and will give them the shelter and time they need as they put their lives back on track."

The proposed 3,000-square-foot transitional housing project will house women and women with children and assist with their transition back into the community, and seek to break the cycle of addiction using behavioral health, alcohol and drug counseling, post-treatment services and cultural support.

Tribal Planning and Grants Manager Kim Rogers said the decision on the final location for the transitional housing facility has yet to be made.

The estimated total cost is \$667,000 with the Tribe paying the other \$167,000. Annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated at \$30,000. Tribal Council approved the application for the

grant in October.

The Tribe already has a transitional house for men.

Kennedy said the Tribe is "thrilled" to receive the grant for the transitional housing.

"We've received the award from HUD not only because we have a significant need for improved housing and economic development, but because the federal government respects the Tribe's ability to assess community need and to implement solutions for those needs," she said.

"The grant is significant not only because of its size, but because we received it at a time when the federal government is making so many cuts to the budget. All of us have been told not to expect any help from the federal government, but here we are receiving this grant."

Kennedy said the Grand Ronde Tribe received the grant not only because of the need, but because the Tribe has a national reputation for making "wise and efficient" use of federal grant money.

"Our work on the improved Grand Ronde Road is another example of this reputation," she said. "We are able to work with our community partners and state and federal partners."

The Tribe also received approval for a \$500,000 youth activity ad-

dition that was an amendment of a previous project for recreational facilities since the Tribe was able to build a baseball field and Housing was able to build an outdoor basketball court.

The 2,432-square-foot youth activity addition will be added to the western end of the Tribe's Youth Education Building.

The Tribe will match the grant with \$167,000 and estimated operating costs are \$16,920 a year. Tribal Council approved applying for the grant amendment in March.

The youth activity addition will give Tribal youth a place to hang out when the Willamina School District goes to four-day school weeks in September.

The Indian Community Development Block Grant program was established in 1977 and supports a wide variety of community development and affordable housing activities for federally recognized Tribes.

"This funding helps our country's Native American and Alaska Native communities improve the living conditions for hard-working families who need the most help," said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "This is an investment to promote neighborhood development, produce affordable housing and create much-needed jobs." ■

## 'He stayed true to his values and his friends'

PROPEs continued from front page

to-government relationship with the Tribe.

But many Tribal members remember Propes before he became an elected official.

"Having gone to school with his older sister, Sheri," recalls Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr., "Mike's leadership abilities became apparent from an early age, from on the football field of the Willamina Bulldogs to being a favorite teacher of my son's in the forestry classes at Willamina High to just being an all-around friend to everyone."

Bobb said that Propes would not succumb to prejudice against the Tribe or its members.

"Mike would not have any of it," Bobb says. "When he eventually evolved to becoming a commissioner for Polk County, he stayed true to his values and his friends. He remained a close part of the Grand Ronde people, standing shoulder to shoulder with us on many occasions."

Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno said that Propes' support in 2010 for the Tribe's Reservation Land Act amendment helped garner unanimous support from both Polk and Yamhill counties.

"Mike went to bat for the Tribe," Leno said. "It didn't take Mike long to understand the Reservation Land Act amendment. He provided information to his county commission in the Tribe's behalf that listed all that the Tribe has given back to Polk County in terms of improvements to land, road projects, Community Fund support and charitable giving.

"He impressed on his fellow commissioners that the Tribe actually added value to the community when we acquired land. And that our giv-

ing far outweighed any perceived loss in tax revenue to the tune of millions of dollars."

Former Tribal Engineer Eric Scott said the Propes was involved in many Tribal projects and efforts to improve the Grand Ronde community.

He worked closely for Polk County with the Tribe and Oregon Department of Transportation on the Van Duzer corridor refinement and worked to bring the state Highway 22 realignment project to fruition.

Propes' support of the Grand Ronde Road improvement project helped allocate \$50,000 in bond funds towards the project.

He also helped the Tribe on water rights transfers, on incorporating a small triangle of county-owned land into Fort Yamhill State Park and encouraging joint Tribal-county planning for emergency management.

Besides sitting on the Board of Commissioners, Propes served on the Chemeketa Community College board of directors and many other boards and commissions.

"In working on the Council of Governments board, I always found Mike to be very professional, willing to listen and understanding of the value of intergovernmental relationships," said Tribal Council member Chris Mercier. "I think he was a good partner for the Tribe."

"With Mike, it wasn't about the business end of it," Leno said. "It was what the land meant to the Tribe. He had that communication with all of the Tribal Councils that have been here, not just this current council. He came and sat at the table across from you and told you about what he could do."

"He leaves a giant hole in the hearts of many of us and shoes that can't be filled," Bobb said. ■

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**Chinuk Family Night set for April 26**

- The next Chinuk Family Night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, in the Tribal Community Center.
- All past and current participants, as well as anyone who is interested, are welcome to attend.
- For more information, contact Kathy Cole at 503-879-2249 or kathy.cole@grandronde.org. ■

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**Tribe seeking 2011-12 Hatfield Fellow applicants**

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is accepting applications for the Mark O. Hatfield Congressional Fellowship.

Each year, a Hatfield Fellow serves as an intern for a member of Oregon's congressional delegation. The fellow is selected from adult Native American applicants who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe in Oregon.

If there are no qualified applicants from Oregon, enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes in Washington, Idaho and Montana will be considered.

The selected candidate will intern in Washington, D.C., for nine months beginning in November and will receive a monthly stipend, relocation and travel expenses, and tuition for the American Political Science Association orientation.

Again in 2011, applications will be accepted and submitted through an electronic Web-based process only at [www.thecommunityfund.com/hatfield-fellowship](http://www.thecommunityfund.com/hatfield-fellowship).

Videos providing an overview of the Hatfield Fellowship program and interviews with previous fellows can be viewed at Spirit Mountain Community Fund's Web site.

Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, April 29. Applicants will be notified in May if they qualify for interviews. Late applications will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Programs Officer Louis King at Spirit Mountain Community Fund at 503-879-1462, e-mail at [louis.king@thecommunityfund.com](mailto:louis.king@thecommunityfund.com) or by mail at 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

The fellowship honors Mark Hatfield for his accomplishments as a U.S. senator, former Oregon governor and for his mentorship of many community leaders. ■