

Tribal Council approves contracts for new buildings

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Two new buildings will be going up in Grand Ronde now that Tribal Council approved the contracts to build them at its Wednesday, June 25, meeting.

Tribal Council approved a contract with Gerding Builders to construct a new Employment Services building on the Tribal campus next to the Community Center. The building will be a “one-stop shop” for Tribal members seeking employment with the Tribal government or Spirit Mountain Casino, as well as those seeking employment assistance from the Tribal Employment Rights Office or 477 and vocational rehabilitation programs.

The contract is not to exceed \$2.4 million.

Tribal Council also approved a contract with Dan Kaufman Excavating (Whisler Construction) to build a food bank building on the Curl property on the west side of Grand Ronde Road across from the Tribal Housing Authority office.

The contract is not to exceed \$620,000 and construction should be completed by November.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved the Tribe’s application to Spirit Mountain Community Fund for a \$150,000 Education category project;
- Adopted a resolution disbanding the Personnel/Human Resources Planning Group;
- Approved the Salvage Logging Unit timber sale contract with Round Valley LLC as presented by Natural Resources Department staff. The sale is estimated to be worth \$104,939;
- Approved a loan to Illihi, LLC, for use by MicroGREEN Polymers of Arlington, Wash;
- Approved increasing the Tribe’s line of credit from TriState Capital Bank;

- Approved applying to the Oregon Youth Development Council for a \$175,000 grant. If received, the grant would fund services and activities to help motivate youth at risk of being disconnected from education, and include family coordinator services and educational assistance;

- Approved the correction of a Tribal membership roll number and the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe.

Education Department Manager Eirik Thorsgard, Land and Culture Department Manager Jan Looking Wolf Reibach and Tribal Council member Jon A. George opened the meeting with cultural drumming and singing.

Authorizations to proceed included in the June 25 Tribal Council packet:

- Directed staff to proceed with an assessment of the Risseew property at Highway 22 and Grand Ronde Road to determine the feasibility of leasing approximately one acre to the Lighthouse Recovery Services Group;
- Directed the Finance Officer to conduct a supplemental budget process to establish the appropriation for the Employment Services building construction project;
- Approved the General Manager’s Office transferring \$30,000 from contingency to pay for an upcoming socioeconomic assessment;
- Appointed Tribal Council member Kathleen Tom as the representative to the Governor’s Regional Solutions Advisory Committee;
- Approved sending a Declaration of Partnership to the British Museum, which houses the Summers Collection;
- And established a summer internship program for a high school- or college-aged Tribal member in Tribal Council. ■

Help needed identifying plots

The Facilities Department is asking for help identifying veteran’s plots. If your family member’s or friend’s plot is a veteran and we do not have a veteran’s flag present on holidays, please inform us.

We will do our best to mark all plots of veterans. Contact Adam Leno at 503-879-5525 or adam.leno@grandronde.org. ■

Ceremonial Hunting update

I would like to let everyone know that we have harvested more than 500 pounds of deer and elk meat for use by the Tribe. There is meat available for cultural activities. If you like heart or liver, we have that plus stew meat and elk hamburger. Please take advantage of the opportunity to use traditional food. I want to congratulate Shane Thomas and Steve Brooks, who each harvested a bull elk. Our hunters are really putting in a lot of effort and we should all be very pleased with the outcome. If you are interested in being on the Ceremonial Hunting Board or have other questions,

call me at 503-474-7000. – **Marline Groshong**

Luncheon preparation



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Elder Leonette Galligher adds a carnation to a vase as she makes flower arrangements for the mother/father lunch at the Elders’ Activity Center on Thursday June 19. The lunch was in honor of Mother’s and Father’s Day and was held at the center on Friday, June 20. Tribal Elders Linda Brandon, Julie Duncan and Claudia Leno also made arrangements while fellow Elders Cherie Butler and Janet Billey prepared strawberries for a dessert.

Veterans Powwow starts Friday, July 11

EVENTS continued from the front page

at 8 a.m. and an opening ceremony is set for 9 a.m. Speakers will take the stage at 10 a.m. and the afternoon will feature workshops and activities starting at 1 p.m.

Workshop topics will include post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health, suicide prevention, self-care, transition from soldier to civilian and vocational rehabilitation. Activities will include talking circles, support meetings, veteran’s benefits coordination, employment information, health and dental care, a healing village, traditional games, massages and haircuts, cultural activities and ceremonies, and a parade of color guards.

Featured speakers will include Linda Woods (Ojibwe), the Woman Eagle Staff carrier, and Navajo code talkers. Both were featured at the 2013 gathering.

On Friday, July 11, breakfast will again be served at 8 a.m. and events will follow the same schedule as Thursday until the 5 p.m. closing. A parade of honor guards set for 6 p.m. will segue into the Veterans Powwow, which has its first grand entry slated for 7 p.m.

The Native Veterans Summit is free and all meals will be provided. Camping at Uyxat Powwow Grounds is also free and a limited number of tents and sleeping bags will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To register for the event, go online at www.nativewellness.com, contact Will Penn at 360-390-7463 or e-mail at info@nativewellness.com, or send a registration form to Native Wellness Institute, 2830 S.E. Cleveland Drive, Gresham, OR 97080, fax 360-877-4051.

Veterans Powwow

The 2014 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow starts at 7 p.m. Friday, July 11, with the first of four grand entries scheduled over the weekend. Other grand entries are set for 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, July 12, and 1 p.m. Sunday, July 13.

Nick Sixkiller, a familiar face at powwows in Grand Ronde, is once again the master of ceremonies. West Coast Boys are the host drum. All veterans, drummers and dancers are welcome.

The powwow will honor two Tribal World War II veterans who recently walked on – Biff Langley and Eugene Hudson – and honor Korean War veterans on Saturday.

Tribal member Deitz Peters and his wife, Rose (Shoshone), will be the head man and woman. Specials will include a drum contest and Men’s Traditional sponsored by the Peters.

In addition, gourd dancing is set for 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. There also will be exhibition dancing, committee specials (Women’s Basket Cap) and Teen Girls Jingle Jackpot and Teen Boys Grass Jackpot contests. The family of Marcellus Norwest will sponsor a Tiny Tot special.

Powwow vendors should contact Veterans Special Event Board member Wayne Chulik at 503-437-3052. For more information, e-mail gr.honor.guard@gmail.com or call 503-757-7965.

The Veterans Powwow is open to the public and camping is available. No alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed at the powwow grounds.

The powwow is put on by the Tribe’s Veterans Special Event Board. ■