



Photo by Jennifer Clark

West Valley Fire District personnel closed Grand Ronde Road due to a listing power pole on Tuesday, April 30. The thoroughfare was closed for more than two hours, but re-opened before the 5 p.m. rush hour.

Listings power pole closes Grand Ronde Road for two hours

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

A listing power pole that was threatening to drop power lines on to Grand Ronde Road near its intersection with Salmon River Highway forced the closure of the heavily traveled thoroughfare for more than two hours on Tuesday, April 30.

West Valley Fire District Public Information Officer Tami Tigner said that the speculation is that a large truck grabbed telephone lines and dragged them, causing the power pole to start listing.

Although the power lines were still 10 to 12 feet above ground, the roadway was closed until a CenturyLink crew arrived and repaired the pole and telephone lines.

“It’s actually a common call for us out here,” Tigner said.

Grand Ronde Road was closed from approximately 2:30 until 4:45 p.m. and traffic was detoured to Hebo Road.

West Valley Fire District dispatched four personnel to assist with traffic control and the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department had Police Chief Jake McKnight and Officer Clint Cardwell on the call.

Tigner said the driver of the suspected truck did not stay on scene.

The road re-opened in time for the 5 p.m. closure of Tribal governmental offices and the exodus of Tribal employees. ■

Tribal Council extends chief judge’s contract

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council extended the contract with David Shaw to serve as Tribal Court chief judge through the end of June at its Wednesday, May 1, meeting.

Shaw, who has been serving as Tribal Court chief judge since February 2015, saw his contract expire at the end of March, but Tribal Council previously extended it through the end of April at its March 20 meeting.

Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Hernandez said at the Tuesday, April 30, Legislative Action Committee meeting that interviews for Tribal Court chief judge applicants were to be held on Monday, May 13.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved applying for a maximum \$15,000 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for supplies, materials and contracts to restore 15 acres of the Chahalpam 2 property southeast of Salem. The Tribe acquired the 91-acre property in 2014 through the Bonneville Power Administration’s Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program;
- Approved applying for a three-grant package offered to Tribes by the Environmental Protection Agency. The grants total \$232,000 annually and would be used to fund environmental stewardship under the Clean Water Act;
- Approved the 2019 Right of Way logging unit proposal presented by the Natural Resources Department that is estimated to bring the Tribe more than \$16,000 in revenue. It also would provide an access road to a planned timber harvest and two temporary log landing areas;
- Approved two easement agreements with the U.S. Forest Service that will allow the Tribe legal access to 55 acres at the southwest corner of the Reservation to harvest high-value timber and

perform land management activities. The Tribe has been working on obtaining the easements for seven years, said Natural Resources Department Manager Michael Wilson;

- And approved the enrollment of one infant and one noninfant into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Enrollment Ordinance and Tribal Constitution.

Also included in the May 1 Tribal Council packet were two approved authorizations to proceed that would transfer \$25 million from the Gaming Dividend Fund to start a Business Interruption Fund to safeguard against potential catastrophic events and to send a support letter to the Metro regional government regarding a potential bond measure for natural areas.

According to the authorization, the Finance Department has recommended maintaining a minimum \$25 million balance in the Gaming Dividend Fund for that purpose and the authorization formalizes that concept by creating a separate fund.

In addition, there was a failed authorization to proceed that would have re-introduced the split siblings constitutional amendment and start the process of having another election. The authorization received four yes votes from Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Jon A. George and Denise Harvey, while Steve Bobb Sr. and Jack Giffen Jr. voted no. Kathleen George, Michael Langley and Lisa Leno did not vote.

Tribal voters favored resolving the split-sibling issue 601-345 during a March 22 election, but the 63.5 percent in favor failed to meet the Tribal Constitution’s two-thirds approval requirement for an amendment to be adopted.

The entire meeting can be viewed on the Tribal government’s website at www.grandronde.org by clicking on the News tab and then Video. ■

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REWARD

offered for information leading to the resolution of this case:

Up to \$5,000 is being offered for information that leads to solving a missing person case. Heather Cameron was last seen Aug. 18, 2012, with Daniel Lusby, heading to Keswick Dam, a remote area approx. 20 minutes outside Redding, Calif. in Shasta County. She placed multiple calls to 911 from that area from Lusby’s cell phone and has not been heard from since.



Call or text the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department tip line with any information: 541-921-2927

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