

Tribal Council approves pharmacy agreement with Washington state

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved an agreement with the state of Washington on Wednesday, July 8, that will save the Tribe money by billing the state first for Tribal member medications.

The Washington State Health Care Authority, which administers the Medicaid program in the state, required the Grand Ronde Pharmacy to renew its agreement.

By approving the agreement, the Tribe will be able to bill the state first for medications dispensed to Tribal members under the Health Care Authority's purview before spending Tribal dollars.

There are approximately 750 Tribal members who live in Washington state, but not all are covered by the Health Care Authority.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved an agreement with the Grand Ronde Community Water Association for the inter-tie that provides water to Spirit Mountain Casino when special needs arise for additional supplies. The agreement was last renewed in June 2010;
- Approved the enrollment of 13 non-infants into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance;
- Approved amendments concerning two grants from The Collins Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust that will extend the Tribe's sub-recipient agreements to Aug. 31. The Grand Ronde Tribe sub-recipient agreements with the Siletz, Umatilla, Warm Springs and

Nez Perce Tribes concern contaminant-related injuries to the lower Willamette River and the assessment of injured Tribal natural resources;

- Approved new two-year contracts for Tribal Court of Appeals judges Patricia Davis, Robert Miller and Patricia Paul;
- Approved applying for a \$1.2 million, three-year Administration for Native Americans Social & Development Strategies grant that would hire a project director and site development planner for the Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City. The Tribe purchased the property in August 2019;
- And approved applying for an annual \$62,500 Oregon Office of Emergency Management performance grant that help funds the Tribe's full-time emergency coordinator.

Also included in the July 8 Tribal Council packet were approved authorizations to proceed that will allow the leveling of úyxat Powwow Grounds due to the cancellation of this year's Veterans and Contest Powwows and declared June 19 as an annual Tribal holiday in honor of Juneteenth and directs staff to prepare a statement on behalf of Tribal Council speaking out against racial injustice in the United States. The powwow grounds work will include re-seeding, fertilizing and tilling approximately 10 acres.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Tribal Council chairwoman recovering from car accident

By Danielle Frost
Smoke Signals staff writer

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy was injured after her vehicle was involved in a traffic accident on Wednesday, July 1.

According to an Oregon State Police incident report, at approximately 9:41 a.m. an officer responded to a crash at westbound Highway 22 and Kings Valley Junction (Highway 223) near Dallas.

A Ford Edge driven by Kennedy, 72, of Dallas, was stopped on Highway 223 at the intersection of Highway 22. A Ford Focus driven by Richard Buscher, 81, of Sheridan was eastbound on Highway 22 approaching the intersection.

"There were conflicting reports that the Edge started to pull out then stopped," the report stated. "The operator of the Focus veered right to avoid what he thought would be a collision. The driver front of the Focus impacted the driver front of the Edge. This caused moderate damage to both vehicles."

Kennedy had two passengers in her vehicle and Buscher had one. All occupants were transported to local hospitals with complaints of pain.

The Edge and Focus were towed by OK Motors of Dallas. No prop-



Cheryle A. Kennedy

erty damage occurred.

According to Oregon State Police, definitive fault could not be determined.

During the Legislative Action Committee meet-

ing held Tuesday, July 7, Secretary Jon A. George mentioned healing for Kennedy in his invocation and Vice Chair Chris Mercier told her "everything is under control." Kennedy joined the meeting from her home via conference call.

"Cheryle was in an accident last week and is a bit banged up and on her way to recovery," Mercier said. "We're wishing a speedy recovery to her."

During the conference call, Kennedy thanked the Tribal community for all the help she and her husband, Vernon, have received since the accident, from those who accompanied her to the hospital to others who sent cards and offered support.

"I just want to thank everyone for all the support given to me and my family," she said. "We have a wonderful, caring Tribe. Thank you all." ■

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For QUESTIONS or ASSISTANCE

Please contact Anita Espino (CTSI Tribal Member, Niece to Aggie Pilgrim)
Call or text at (503) 983-5783, or e-mail Anita.L.Espino@doc.state.or.us

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put their interviews on [speaker.com](https://www.speaker.com)
beginning Wednesday, July 22.



Michael Langley



Chris Mercier



Lisa Leno



Peter Groul



Reyn Leno

For more information, contact
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or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org



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