

Tribal Council increases Blue Heron demo contract

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved increasing the contract with Elder Demolition of Portland by \$1.413 million to demolish nine more buildings at the former Blue Heron Paper Mill site in Oregon City during its Wednesday, July 13, meeting.

The increase brings the maximum contract amount with Elder Demolition to \$2.345 million, up from \$931,527.

Elder Demolition was first hired by the Tribe in May 2021 to begin demolishing the more than 50 abandoned and dilapidated buildings on the 23-acre Blue Heron site, which the Tribe purchased for \$15.25 million in August 2019.

Demolition officially started on September 2021 and the second phase began in April.

The contract increase will bring the number of structures demolished at Blue Heron to 24, which is 44 percent of the existing buildings on the site, said Engineering and Planning Manager Ryan Webb.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved the third supplemental budget of 2022 that will allocate \$485,000 from the Fire Enterprise Fund to purchase two type-6 fire engines and two utility terrain vehicles;
- Approved the annual memorandum of understanding with 10 other O'Link Tribes regarding federal Housing & Urban Development funding. The agreement will bring the Grand Ronde Tribe an additional \$5,000 in housing funding;
- Approved the Tribal Transportation Program's fiscal year 2022 agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- Approved a \$730,605 contract with R.L. Reimers Co. of Albany to upgrade a culvert crossing and side channel inlet on the Tribe's Chahalpam conservation property in Marion County. In addition, Tribal

Council approved applying for a maximum \$2 million grant from the American the Beautiful Challenge that would provide funds to replant 128 acres at Chahalpam back to riparian hardwood/floodplain forest. Tribal Fish & Wildlife Program Manager Kelly Dirksen said during the Tuesday, July 12, Legislative Action Committee hearing that the American the Beautiful grant would put the Tribe five to eight years ahead of schedule in phasing out previous agriculture use on the property if received;

- Approved the enrollment of one infant into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance and approved the voluntary relinquishment of Tribal membership by one person;
- Re-appointed Tribal Court of Appeals judges Robert Miller, Patricia Paul and Patricia Davis for two-year terms that will expire in July 2024;
- And approved signing the Willamette Valley Threatened and Endangered Plant Database memorandum of understanding that will allow the Tribe to share information about threatened and endangered species populations on Tribal lands with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oregon field office.

During a special Tribal Council meeting held on Thursday, July 21, Tribal Council approved an easement for the Keizer stormwater agreement regarding Chemawa Station, which is a development co-owned by the Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes. The agreement and easement will facilitate development, operation, maintenance and inspection of facilities at the property.

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

Social Service's School clothing program opens

Social Service's school clothing program opened on July 30.

This is a first-come, first-served program and children who benefit must be an enrolled Grand Ronde Tribal member.

The child must be of school age and enrolled in school (preschool, elementary, middle or high school). Income criteria applies.

Contact Social Services at 800-242-8196 or 503-879-2034 for application. Deadline for all applications is Sept. 30, 2022. ■

Additional bleachers are around the perimeter

POWWOW continued
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Powwow weekend will kick off with the Grand Ronde Royalty Pageant at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at the Tribal Governance Center. The 2022-23 Royalty Court will officially be crowned later in the day at 5 p.m. at the powwow grounds.

Ainam says thus far, preparations have gone smoothly and COVID hasn't interfered with the powwow moving forward.

"We haven't had to make additional plans for that and just recommending that people wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so and bring hand sanitizer," she adds.

A solemn aspect of this year's powwow will be an honoring on Saturday after grand entry for Charles "Charlie" Tailfeathers and Fred Ike Jr., who walked on in 2020 and 2021, respectively. However, a lighter moment of that portion will include an award for the best dressed drum group. There also will be other dance specials during this time as well as a prize for best classic song by a drum group.

Tailfeathers (Cree/Blackfeet) was a fixture at numerous powwows held in Grand Ronde while Ike Jr. (Yakama) served as arena director for many years at the contest powwow.

"We lost two very special people to our community," Ainam says. "We are making preparations to honor them in the right way."

A noticeable change for the dancers and powwow attendees will be all the new upgrades to the arbor and powwow grounds.

Upgrades include:

- An expansion of the powwow arbor, which added an additional 14 feet of covered area to the perimeter and a new concrete sidewalk installation. The roof also was upgraded with new water-proofing and a cedar roof.
- Additional bleachers around the perimeter for Elders seating.
- Upgrades to the Wi-Fi service to provide better connectivity.
- Reseeding and leveling the powwow grounds, which make them easier to navigate.

Besides the upgrades, however, the 2022 Contest Powwow will have a format very similar to years past.

More than \$22,000 in prize money will be danced for and prizes range from \$100 for a consolation prize to \$2,000 for first place.

If you go

Grand Ronde
Contest Powwow

When: Grand entries at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19; 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20; and 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21.

Where: úyxat Powwow Grounds, 9600 S.W. Hebo Road.

Cost: Camping, \$5 with parking and opens Wednesday; parking, \$1 a day or weekend passes, \$3.

More information: 503-879-2037.

Specials will include the Saturday Night Best Dressed Drum Group, Classic Song Drum Group Contest, Men's 18-Plus Fancy, Men's 18-Plus All-Around and Women's 18-Plus Basket Cap Traditional.

Head staff for this year's powwow include master of ceremonies Howie Thomson (Assiniboine), arena director Anthony Quenelle (Grand Ronde), head dance judge Douglas Scofield (Wintun) and head drum judge Jermaine Bell (Northern Arapaho and Oglala Lakota).

Blackstone & Tha Boyz will be the host drum and drums will compete for \$32,000 in prize money, with the best drum taking home a \$10,000 prize.

Ainam's advice for a good time at powwow is to remember it is a drug, alcohol- and weapon-free event, and also to allow enough time for parking and finding a seat in the often-crowded arena.

"Plan to get there early," she says. "This is not an event you want to arrive late to. I always think making it in time for grand entry is good, too."

During a Wednesday, July 20, Facebook Live event, Tribal Council member Lisa Leno said she was excited that powwows had come back to Grand Ronde, and urged everyone who attends the contest powwow to be kind.

"We know this powwow will be large and we want to be gracious hosts," she said. "It's just a reminder that we always have issues with seating, so please be kind to people and try to work out these situations. We know this will be a large event and the powwow committee has been working hard on it." ■

Kamiah Koch wins second-place award for multimedia story

PUBLICATION continued
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readers can then share the news as they see fit. Some stories now are a week or two old by the time the print edition arrives in readers' mailboxes."

Tribal member Kamiah Koch, who is *Smoke Signals'* social media/digital journalist, won a second-place award for her multimedia package about Tribal member

Steph Littlebird designing artwork for Deschutes Brewery's seasonal beer release that was published on Oct. 15, 2021.

Koch not only wrote the story, but created a YouTube video to complement the story that can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnHnEUg5wx0&t=60s.

The two awards are the 74th and 75th received by *Smoke Signals* from the Native American Journalist Association since 2008. ■