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Tribal Council approves two land acquisitions

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved the purchase of two properties – an apartment building in Salem and forestland in Grand Ronde – during its Wednesday, Nov. 16, meeting.

According to the staff report, Tribal Council OK'd an authorization to proceed in August for the Tribal Lands Department to enter into a purchase and sale agreement to buy a six-unit Salem Transition House property located about six blocks away from the Tribe's Great Circle Recovery medication-assisted opioid treatment clinic on Commercial Street in Salem.

The property was not specifically identified during the meeting and the purchase price was not revealed. Closing is scheduled for mid-December.

The Evey forestlands are located southwest of Spirit Mountain Casino and include approximately 122 acres. Tribal Council approved a \$2 million supplemental budget in July to fund the purchase of the property from Lillian and Edmond Evey.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a per capita distribution date of Friday, Dec. 9. Controller Christine O'Day said during the Tuesday, Nov. 15, Legislative Action Committee meeting that the per capita amount will not be known until after Dec. 1;
- Approved Tribal Court purchasing new civil court software from Tyler Tech for \$110,764. Tribal Court needs the new software because it is losing support from its previous vendor in July 2023;
- Approved a loan not to exceed \$8.9 million to Spirit Mountain Gaming Inc. to fund the purchase of new slot machines and the casino's surveillance system project. The loan will be funded by the Tribe's line of credit;
- And approved accepting an approximately \$240,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Human Services that will be used for substance abuse and family preservation efforts, said Children & Family Services Program

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Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison receives a kiss on the cheek from Tribal Council member Michael Cherry as she arrives to take part in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, Nov. 22. It was the first in-person Restoration celebration since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Harrison is a former Tribal Council chairwoman and the Tribe's eldest Elder. The Tribe was restored to federal recognition on Nov. 22, 1983, when President Ronald Reagan signed the Grand Ronde Restoration Act.

In-person Restoration restored for 2022

Tribe celebrates 39 years of returned federal recognition

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor / staff writer

Tribal members, family, friends and others gathered at Spirit Mountain Casino's Event Center to fete what many call the most important day in the Tribe's history on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The first in-person Restoration celebration since 2019 because of the COVID-19 pandemic drew more than 200 eager attendees on a blustery day.

"Take a look around and acknowledge everyone who is here," Tribal Council member and Restoration co-emcee Michael Cherry said. "It's a



Tribal Elders make their way through the buffet line during the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde 39th Restoration anniversary celebration held at Spirit Mountain Casino on Tuesday, Nov. 22.

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