

Tribe formalizes school resource officer agreement

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved an inter-governmental agreement with the Willamina School District during its Wednesday, Dec. 14, meeting that formalizes the Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department providing a school resource officer to the district's three schools clustered together on the Oaken Hills campus.

Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight said during the Tuesday, Dec. 13, Legislative Action Committee hearing that the arrangement of the Tribe providing a school resource officer to Willamina schools is "working really well" and that he felt now was the right time to formalize the situation.

Tribal Police Officer JJ Flynn started working at the Willamina schools in early 2022. His position is paid by a grant that allowed McKnight to hire another officer position, which freed up Flynn to work in the schools.

In addition, the agreement will include the Yamhill County and Polk County Juvenile Departments so that the four entities can exchange



JJ Flynn

information. The Willamina School District is located in both counties.

The school resource officer will remain a full-time employee of the Tribe and the

four entities will re-evaluate the agreement on an annual basis.

"It is great to have the official presence of a uniformed officer on campus," Willamina School District Superintendent Carrie Zimbrick said. "I think it creates an added layer of safety to the community, but it can't go without saying that JJ's personality and demeanor are a perfect fit for this work. He has developed relationships with students that are grounded in genuine care, and he provides a level of expertise for our facility operations. He has taken the lead on our safety response protocols and works closely with our administration and tech director to improve systems that

impact the safety or our campus."

McKnight added that having a school resource officer provides an opportunity to deal with minor situations with students before they balloon into major and potentially criminal problems.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a Tribal credit card with a \$100,000 limit for Procurement Manager Nathan Rolston for Tribal operations to purchase items from Amazon, which no longer accepts purchase orders;
- Approved an easement to Portland General Electric for the Tribe's Commercial Street property in Salem. The Tribe is seeking to install an electric vehicle charging station at the Great Circle Recovery medication-assisted opioid treatment clinic and PGE requires the easement to improve and extend the electrical equipment and systems at the site;
- Approved the Tribal prevailing wage rates for 2022-23. Prevailing wage rates are based off wage rates for the region and are in alignment with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

rates. The rates will be used when the Tribe is not required to pay federal Davis-Bacon wage rates;

• And sent amendments to the Tribal Building Code, which has not been updated since 2010, out for a first reading that will give the membership 30 days to comment. The amendments will reflect updates to applicable Oregon State Codes and require contractors to be licensed by the state, among other items.

Also included in the Dec. 14 Tribal Council packet was an approved authorization to proceed instructing staff to investigate funding and building 15 houses in the first phase of the home ownership project that are not currently being built by Tribal members. In addition, Tribal Council member Kathleen George said, the Tribe has committed to building 20 more apartments in the Grand Ronde area in 2023 whether there is grant funding or not.

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

'It feels good to get together'

SERVICE continued
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room together," Tribal General Manager David Fullerton said. "It feels good to get together and recognize our employees. It's been a hard couple of years and everyone has stuck with us. We appreciate you."

Tribal Council Chair Cheryle A. Kennedy led the invocation before employees dined on prime rib, cedar plank salmon, turkey, sage stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh vegetables, pasta salads, fruit, rolls and a variety of desserts.

Other Tribal Council members in attendance included Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Secretary Michael Langley, Brenda Tuomi, Kathleen

George and Lisa Leno.

Celebrating 27 years of service were Social Services Department Manager Dana Ainam, Facilities Senior Administrative Assistant Daphney Colton, Benefits and Risk Manager Tammy Gould, Records Clerk Hollie Mercier, Compensation/HRIS Administrator Candy Scranton, Tribal Court Records Clerk Linda Evans and Lands Department Manager Jan Reibach.

Timber Manager Michael Karnosh marked 26 years of service and rounding out the quarter century or longer club were Dental Assistant Donnette Spaulding, Cultural Education Specialist Crystal Szczepanski, Tribal Court Administrator Julie Boekhoff and

Records Clerk Egypt Leno with 25 years of service.

Those who reached or exceeded two decades of service included Employment Specialist Tauni Tollas with 24 years; Procurement Department Manager Nathan Rolston with 23 years; and Home Improvement Coordinator Donald Coon with 21 years.

Other employees recognized for their service of five years or more during the ceremony included:

19 years: Tribal Librarian Kathy Cole.

17 years: Home Improvement Coordinator Loyal Hamilton, Gaming Commission Compliance Manager Rose Smith and Post-Treatment Counselor Christopher Holliday.

16 years: Utility Maintenance Supervisor Joe Loomis and Human Resources Health Care Generalist Tauni McCammon.

15 years: Housing Administrative Program Manager Joan Dugger.

14 years: Cultural Education Specialist Flicka Lucero and Enrichment Coordinator Isaiah Sherwood.

12 years: Employment Case-worker Rhonda Leno and Early Head Start Teacher Melissa Phillips.

11 years: Firefighter Daniel Hyatt, Pharmacy Technician Supervisor Stephanie Wolfe, Senior Applications Administrator Jose Luna and Maintenance Technician Brent Buckner.

10 years: Home Improvement Administrative Assistant Nicholas Kimsey, Pharmacy Technician Cindy Brickell, Secretary/Medical Assistant Jamie Adams, Education Services Coordinator Devin Boekhoff and Utility Maintenance Technician Richard Smith.

9 years: Senior Maintenance Technician Daron Pond Jr., Payroll

Administrator Michelle Peterson and Groundskeeper Anthony Henry.

8 years: Day Shift Housekeeper Shelly Fox, Medical Assistant Amanda Walker, Child/Family Services Caseworker Santi Atanacio, Community Fund Administrative Assistant Marissa Leno and Chinuk Immersion Preschool Classroom Aide/Bus Monitor Shantell Ulestad-Salinas.

7 years: Dentist Ryan Davis, Classroom Aide Wendy Mercier, Housing Maintenance Technician Winston Mercier, Lead Housekeeper Coley Parazoo, Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe, Gaming Licensing Specialist Jeffrey Smith and Staff Accountant Gloria Schwalger.

6 years: Certified Application Assister/PRC Assistant Leah Bailey, YEP Grant Coordinator Vincent Chargualaf, Lead Pharmacy Technician Sommer Coleman, Tribal Security Officer Derek Ellenwood and Ceded Lands Program Manager Torey Wakeland.

5 years: Library aide Crystal Bigelow, CMA Fermin Deras Diaz, Publications Secretary Katherine Warren-Steffensmier, Employee Relations Specialist Linda Warren, Family Partner Coach Lyndsey Stuckey, Laboratory Assistant Kateri Marrufo and Housing Safety Specialist Bradley Leno.

Employees recognized during the awards received an additional bonus check and those reaching the 10-year mark also received a Tribal Pendleton blanket or additional \$100.

Raffles were conducted during the event and included Portland Trail Blazers' tickets, cash prizes, gift cards and administrative leave. After it concluded, employees were dismissed with pay for the remainder of the day. ■

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