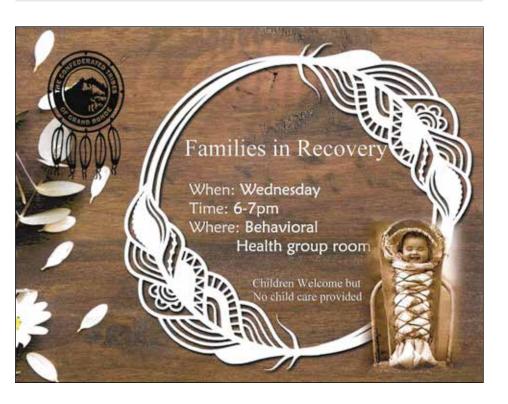
MARCH 15, 2023 SMOKE SIGNALS

## SSI recipients eligible for Internet service aid

Any household with an individual receiving Supplemental Security Income is eligible to receive discounted Internet service through the Affordable Connectivity Program recently launched by the Federal Communications Commission. Social Security does not count Affordable Connectivity Program assistance as income or a resource for SSI purposes.

The program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward Internet service for eligible households and \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households also can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 toward purchasing a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers.

To enroll in the Connectivity Program, go to www.fcc.gov/asp for more information.  $\blacksquare$ 



## Police vehicles currently have at least 114,000 miles on them

COUNCIL continued from front page

The \$219,295 Public Safety and Community Policing grant is designed to expand the implementation of community policing and meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in Indian Country. The funding can be used for hiring officers, as well as basic equipment, technology and training.

"We have applied in the past and been successful," Tribal Grants Assistant Dana Morfin said during the Tuesday, March 7, Legislative Action Committee meeting. "Grants are announced in fall of 2023 and the wait for vehicles is approximately six to nine months. ... I do know that we have some older vehicles that are around and they're actually needing repairs right now."

She added that the vehicles currently in use have at least 114,000 miles on them due to the amount of driving done by Tribal police officers, who patrol the entire Reservation as well as Spirit Mountain Casino. Tribal police officers also are asked to provide support for nearby police agencies, such as the sheriff's departments in Yamhill and Polk counties and Oregon State Police.

In other action, Tribal Council:

 Approved an amendment to the Housing Grievance Board bylaws. The amendment requires that board members who are also tenants in Tribal housing remain in good standing under the terms of their rental agreement;

- Approved a resolution for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund plan application for fiscal years 2023 to 2025;
- Approved a resolution for a coordination funding agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration for up to \$132,711 per year. The agreement funds the Tribe's participation in BPA processes on the Tribe's ceded lands;
- And enrolled one infant in the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Also included in the March 8 Tribal Council packet was an authorization to proceed that OK'd the Cultural Resources Department manager entering into a two-year contract with Southern Oregon University for up to \$35,000 to research Chinese history in Oregon City in the 19th and 20th centuries. Additionally, authorizations to proceed were approved for the Eel Rock and Walton home site demolitions.

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 nonemergency text line

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department has a nonemergency text line at 541-921-2927.

"If you have a nonemergency situation or question, feel free to contact my officer via text through this line," said Grand Ronde Tribal Police Chief Jake McKnight. "When one of my officers receives the text, they will call you back when they have time."

McKnight said that emergency situations still require calling 911. For more information, contact McKnight at 503-879-1474. ■

