



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council approved purchasing the Sheridan Country Inn property, located at 1330 W. Main St. in Sheridan, during its Wednesday, May 17, meeting. The \$1.8 million sale is expected to close by June 18.

Tribal Council approves purchase of Sheridan Inn

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals assistant editor/staff writer

Tribal Council approved purchasing the 3.5-acre Sheridan Inn property during its Wednesday, May 17, meeting.

The \$1.8 million sale is expected to close by June 18 and the property is located at 1330 W. Main St. in Sheridan.

During a Legislative Action Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 16, Tribal Lands Department Manager Jan Reibach said the purchase was part of a Health & Wellness Department project and completely funded by a grant.

Health Services Executive Director Kelly Rowe said the property will be used for programming and housing for Tribal members suffering from behavioral health diagnoses. The property has 20 rooms and a common area with a kitchen.

At the same meeting, Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryl A. Kennedy said the project is essential.

“I just want to express my gratitude to Jan and his team for the good work that they've done, not only through this property but the many properties that have been worked on and all the increased acreage that has been added to our Tribe because of this work,” she said. “This project specifically, I know that I've said this before, but it is so essential to meet the needs of our membership (who) are caught in the web of addictions and the lifestyle that they've been trying to deal with and overcome. This is a step in the recovery (process). I'm so pleased that we're able to address these kind of issues.”

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a contract amendment with GBD Architects of Portland for \$622,000 for master planning and design services for the Tumwata Village project in Oregon City;
- Approved applying for an Environmental Protection Agency Performance Partnership Grant for \$375,960 in 2024 and \$370,063 in 2025;
- Approved a credit card for the Social Services Department with a \$2,500 credit limit;
- Approved a professional services agreement with MCA Architects of Portland for the design of a

20,000-square-foot resident and recreation center across from Tribal Housing Department offices;

- Approved a resolution declaring Friday, June 9, as the quarterly per capita payment date;
 - Reappointed Jerri Schmidt to a three-year term on the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission that expires in June 2026;
 - Approved a resolution for a construction phase amendment to allow Scholten Construction of Willamina to complete the work for the \$8.8 million Grand Ronde Fire Station remodel and expansion;
 - Approved a limited waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity to allow the city of Salem to litigate if any action arises out of an emergency reporting systems services contract so that the Tribal Police Department can enter into a contract with the city for 911 services;
 - Approved a cash out and credit consent decree and authorized a limited waiver of the Tribe's sovereign immunity to allow any litigation resulting from the Portland Harbor confidential settlement be conducted in U.S. District Court;
 - Approved re-appointing Richard VanAtta to the Veterans Special Event Board with a term ending on March 31, 2025;
 - Approved an agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for off-reservation and non-trust land hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering, and for cooperative management of natural resources between the Tribe and state of Oregon;
 - And enrolled four infants into the Tribe because they meet the enrollment requirements outlined under the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.
- One approved authorization to proceed also was included in the May 17 Tribal Council packet to conduct a supplemental budget process to establish \$2 million in additional funding for the Tribal Sponsorship Program (Tribal member grants), which will be funded by the gaming dividend.
- To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government's website at www.grandronde.org and click on the Government tab and then Videos. ■

Polk County OKs repaving Grand Ronde Road

Grand Ronde residents and governmental employees will be facing a summer of repaving work on Grand Ronde Road now that the Polk County commissioners have approved a \$2.27 million contract with K&E Excavating of Salem during its May 17 meeting.

The 1.5-mile stretch of Grand Ronde Road between highways 18 and 22 will be repaved starting around June 15 and last until mid-October.

Polk County Public Works Director Todd Whitaker said the project is a “full depth” reconstruction that will clear away the entire old roadway surface and lay down six inches of new asphalt, two more inches than was laid down during the last repaving that occurred in 2009-10.

The Grand Ronde Tribe is paying for about 50 percent of the project with Yamhill County paying for about 7 percent while Polk County is accounting for the other 43 percent. The northern end of Grand Ronde Road is in Yamhill County.

Whitaker said that one lane will remain open with flagger control throughout the project, which is being managed by Polk County Public Works.

On April 19, Tribal Council approved a memorandum of understanding between Polk County and the Tribe to fund the engineering design and an intergovernmental agreement authorizing up to \$1.5 million for the Tribe's portion of the project. ■

— Includes information from the Polk County Itemizer-Observer

GRAND RONDE PADDLE PRACTICE DATES

Saturday, June 10 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at East Devil's Lake State Recreation Area

Wednesday, June 14 - 3-5 p.m. at Huddleston Pond Park in Willamina

Wednesday, June 28 - 3-5 p.m. at Huddleston Pond Park in Willamina

For more info contact Jordan Mercier
503-879-2185 | CulturalEducation@grandronde.org



CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

Portland Office Food Distribution

Thursday, June 8
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

CTGR Portland Office Parking Lot
4445 S.W. Barbur Blvd.
Portland, OR 97239.

503-879-1881

