

Tribal Council approves broadband connectivity grant application

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved an application for a \$2.6 million grant to improve high speed internet services at its Wednesday, Jan. 10, meeting.

The federal Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program is a grant designed to bring better internet service to rural Tribal communities. If approved, the four-year award would provide up to \$2.6 million for 195 houses within Tribal Reservation lands to receive updated broadband services.

“This grant is primarily a construction grant allowing for new towers and fiber to be installed and will allow us to network with the Native-owned and operated company, Native Network, so that we can ensure its success,” Grants Management Assistant Dana Morfin said during a Legislative Action Committee meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 9.

The Tribe received \$500,000 from the same grant in 2023.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved a \$120,000 application for a Bureau of Indian Affairs Endangered Species Program grant to assess western pond turtle presence on Tribal lands;
 - Approved paying annual Indian Gaming Association membership dues of \$25,000 and appointing Tribal Council member Denise Harvey as the Tribe’s delegate and all other council members as alternates;
 - And approved enrolling one infant into the Tribe and approved a non-infant emergency enrollment because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

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

Gift making



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Youth Empowerment & Prevention Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator Shannon Lafferty, left, beads a keychain while Tribal member Veronica Gaston works on making a necklace during the YEP gift making day in the Tribal Community Center on Wednesday, Jan. 10. The gifts will be given to guests during the annual Native Youth Wellness Day scheduled for March 8 and Agency Creek Round Dance scheduled for March 8-9.

YOUTH (AGES 10-24) ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE

Winter Gathering

on January 20th @ 11am at Astoria, OR.

YEP is offering limited spots for youth who would like to attend the chinuk winter gathering hosted by the Chinook Indian Nation. This will be an all-day event.

This is an opportunity to come together as a tribal community and honor the customs of our ancestors. A time to practice traditions of singing, dancing, and storytelling.

If you are interested in attending please email: yep@grandronde.org or call 503-879-1471

Drop box installed

The Grand Ronde Tribal Police Department, 9655 Grand Ronde Road, has a medication drop box located in the front lobby.

Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The drop box is for any prescribed or over-the-counter medication. If the containers are too large to fit in the drop box, please repackage them in a zip-lock plastic bag. Tribal Police employees cannot handle the medications so the person dropping them off must repackage them.

Needles and liquids are not allowed in the drop box.

Tribal Police suggest mixing liquid medications with cat litter or coffee grounds and then throwing them away with the household trash.

For more information, call 503-879-1821. ■

TRIBAL EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OFFICE

CDL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAINING

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde TERO Department is looking for Tribal members with CDLs who are interested in current employment opportunities or Tribal members who are interested in obtaining their CDL for future employment.

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Must obtain your CDL permit before you register.
- Must show proof of completed ODOT physical and other requirements.
- Four weeks to complete.

- TERO will assist with funding CDL course.
- Employment opportunities available now.
- Schedule courses when you are ready.

Contact Jacob Boekhoff at 503-879-2146 or e-mail Jacob.Boekhoff@grandronde.org

Ad by Samuel Briggs III



LISTEN

TO SMOKE SIGNALS
103 PODCASTS

MMIP BILLBOARD MOVEMENT REACHES GRAND RONDE:

This year the Tribe saw an increased effort to raise awareness for missing and murdered Indigenous people. A main advocate in the growing awareness efforts is Tribal member Amanda Freeman.



Part one: Podcast 102 - The story behind Grand Ronde's MMIP billboard.

Freeman's work caught the eye of Great Circle Recovery Operations Director Jennifer Worth and Spirit Mountain Casino CEO Camille Mercier. Together, they created a billboard along Highway 18.

Part two: Podcast 103 - On the record: MMIP Awareness Dinner.

Once the billboard was up, Freeman and Worth planned a community event, an awareness dinner held Friday, Dec. 1. Smoke Signals is following these efforts with an MMIP awareness podcast series, with more to come in 2024.

For more information, contact Kamiah Koch at 503-879-1461 or kamiah.koch@grandronde.org



VISIT SMOKESIGNALS.ORG AND CLICK ON PODCAST

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