

## MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

Tribal Court is issuing marriage licenses and able to perform marriage ceremonies for a filing fee of \$40. Contact the Tribal Court at 503-879-2303. ■

## More than 2,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy for event

**EGG HUNT continued from front page**

various treats.

“We are very excited to be able to have the Easter egg hunt,” Housing Services Coordinator Lacy Leno said. “We look forward to seeing everybody and watching the kids have fun finding eggs.”

There are four hunt categories for children ages 1 to 2, 3 to 4, 5 to 8, and 9 to 12. Typically, there are approximately 200 participants.

The Easter Bunny will be posing for pictures with children before and after the hunt, but parents will be responsible for taking their own photos.

Members of the Tribe’s Housing

Department, Community Health employees and other volunteers stuff about 2,000 plastic eggs with candy during the week before the event. Tribal Council sponsors the hunt and pays for the candy.

For those who are looking for a healthy, egg-cellent opportunity after the hunt, there will be a community run/walk sponsored by the Tribe’s Children & Family Services Program in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. It will feature grab-and-go lunches, T-shirts and a goody bag to add to the Easter candy haul.

Participants are asked to meet at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus following the egg hunt. ■

## Tribal Council approves grant application for voc rehab program

By Danielle Harrison

*Smoke Signals editor*

Tribal Council approved a \$3.77 million American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services grant application at its Wednesday, March 6, meeting.

The grant, provided through the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, will provide 5 years of program operating costs to help Tribal members with disabilities achieve gainful employment.

“This specifically services the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde by providing funding for five positions,” Grants Program Manager Wendy Sparks said during a Tuesday, March 5, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “This is a long standing, ongoing grant and is absolutely critical to the vocational rehab project so it’s an appropriate use of grant funds to support full-time employees.”

The funding will cover a multi-year contract for a client tracking system and consultant fees for client training, as well as assessment services to assist clients with achieving gainful employment and work experience.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved a \$375,000 grant between the Tribe and the Oregon Department of Education Office of Indian Education to fund projects that address learning loss as well as academic, social, emotional and mental health challenges students have faced in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Approved an amendment to a grant between the Tribes and the Oregon Department of Early Learning and Care for language preservation and revitalization through the Chinuk Wawa Education Program. The amendment adds an additional \$140,955 to the previous grant award of \$133,000;
- Approved a \$3 million grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Housing

Block Grant for the design and construction of eight low-income housing units;

- Approved an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program for \$342,444;
- And enrolled one infant into the Tribe because they meet the requirements outlined in the Tribal Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance.

Tribal Council also approved an authorization to proceed with a home-ownership preference process for its new development located at McPherson Road. First-tier preference will be given to Tribal members with a preapproval letter, lease application submitted to the Tribal Housing Department and who are the only Tribal members interested in a specific lot. They will have 60 days to close on the lot.

Second-tier preference will be given to Tribal members with a preapproval letter and lease application submitted to housing but prefer a lot with multiple people interested. All interested parties will be placed in a lottery-style drawing. The Housing Department will contact the person who is drawn as the first candidate on the preferred lot. If the Tribal member doesn’t close on the lot within 60 days, then it will be offered to the next member on the list.

The remaining lots and homes will be advertised and sold on a first-come, first-served basis to those Tribal members who can obtain a preapproval letter, lease application and close within the 60-day time period.

Additionally, Tribal Council approved an authorization to proceed with design and construction of 25 one-bedroom units and 20 two-bedroom units for phase 3 of the Wind River Apartments, located adjacent to the Housing Department offices at 28450 Tye Road.

To watch the entire meeting, visit the Tribal government’s website at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) and click on the Videos tab. ■

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