

Tribal Council approves grant agreement for large McMinnville housing project

By Danielle Harrison
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a grant agreement and amendment to a memorandum of understanding between the Tribe and the Yamhill County Housing Authority at its Wednesday, July 10, meeting.

The agreement will allow a \$7 million grant from the Tribe to be used by Yamhill County to provide housing options for Tribal members who want to live in the McMinnville area.

The amendment to the MOU requires consultation with the Tribe if any changes are made to the project that will have substantial effects on Tribal member tenants.

“Stratus Village is a large housing project going right next to the hospital in McMinnville and approximately 170-plus apartments eventually will be built out,” Housing Department Manager Shonn Leno said at a Tuesday, July 9, Legislative Action Committee meeting. “Grand Ronde will be in charge of 25 of those for our members, ranging from one- to three-bedrooms. Plus, there is a community center building that will have office space for us... Basically, it’s a housing option for Tribal members who don’t necessarily want to live in Grand Ronde or who have obligations in McMinnville. ... I think it creates a new opportunity for our membership, especially our youth.”

Leno added he is hoping that the new development will help alleviate the inability of Tribal members to

utilize housing vouchers due to the current lack of available rental units in Yamhill County.

- In other action, Tribal Council:
- Approved the 11 Tribe O’Link memorandum of agreement. The annual agreement is necessary because the Grand Ronde Tribe’s Indian Housing Block Grant service area overlaps with 10 other Tribes in Oregon and California. The federal government requires that Tribes in overlapping service areas agree on how to distribute funding and the 11 Tribes have agreed to use Tribal enrollment data instead of Bureau of Indian Affairs labor force statistics. The agreement includes the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Siletz, Klamath, Coquille and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribes in Oregon and the Karuk, Quartz Valley, Tolowa Dee-ni’, Yurok and Fort Bidwell Tribes in California. The agreement will benefit the 11 Tribes a total of \$2 million in additional funding;
 - And approved a \$356,422 grant agreement between the Tribe and the Oregon Department of Education to fund culturally-specific afterschool care services.

In other action, Tribal Council approved an authorization to proceed with the planning process of developing a dog park in Tribal housing west of the playground area.

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

Casino seeking vendors

Spirit Mountain Casino is seeking vendors for the upcoming Spirit Mountain Marketplace, which will celebrate Native American heritage, craftsmanship and community.

The event times are all set for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Remaining dates are Wednesday and Thursday, July 24-25; Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13-14; and Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11-12.

The Marketplace is seeking Native American and community members who create handmade products that are at least 80 percent crafted by hand or produced locally.

To secure a spot, vendors should contact Rob Henly at 503-879-3721 to obtain details and confirm a spot as a vendor.

Fees, rules and guidelines will be available to sign, along with a table assignment, at 9 a.m. Friday before every event. Marketplace spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The vendor fee will be \$30 and provides access to one table, one Flex linen, two chairs and a black linen to cover the table overnight.

The Marketplace will be located in the Events Center hallway with space for 35 vendor tables. Table placement will be determined through a lottery process at 9 a.m. Friday before the event. Additional space up to 5 feet beside and in front of tables will be available for clothing racks.

In addition, vendors can temporarily park vehicles in the roundabout behind the hotel for unloading and loading between 9 and 10 a.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m., respectively.

“We aim to create an inclusive and vibrant Marketplace that honors the craftsmanship of Native American and local artisans,” a press release said. “We hope these guidelines provide clarity and excitement as we prepare to host the Marketplace.”

Vendors are asked to contact Henly with any Marketplace-related questions instead of approaching casino staff during the event. ■

Vehicle crash call volumes have increased due to summer traffic

HEAT WAVE continued
from front page

should remember never to leave children or pets in vehicles, including the back of pickup trucks, where hot metal can burn paws, and to avoid walking dogs during the afternoon or early evening, when streets and sidewalks are hot enough to burn paws. Make sure any outside animals have access to deep shade and plenty of cool water.

It is also important to stay well hydrated, limit outdoor activities, check on neighbors and older adults and know the warning signs of heat-related illness.

Factors such as high humidity,

dehydration, prescription drug use, heart disease, sunburn and alcohol use can increase the risk of developing a heat-related illness. Warning signs include high body temperature, hot, red, dry or damp skin, fast, strong pulse, headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion and loss of consciousness.

Walters said that, fortunately, “our fire call volume has not increased much over the normal annual burn complaints for people burning into the burn ban that started on July 1.”

She noted that vehicle crash call volumes have increased, which is common during the summer season with increased traffic to and from the coast. ■

ODOT approved



Contributed photo

Oregon Department of Transportation Director Kris Strickler visited the Tribal campus on Tuesday, June 25, to meet with Tribal Council members and employees involved in construction and transportation programs, including the Tribal Employment Rights Office. Grand Ronde TERO is one of only a handful of Tribes in the United States with an active memorandum of understanding with the state Department of Transportation for Tribal hiring goals/preference on federal highway funded projects. The first MOU was signed in 2014 and renews every 5 years. “This is an invaluable collaborative relationship to help the Native American population gain fruitful employment,” TERO Director Harris Reibach said. “Grand Ronde TERO has dispatched hundreds of people with thousands of hours on projects made accessible by this MOU.” From left are TERO Administrative Assistant Kristy Summers, Training and Development Coordinator Jacob Boekhoff, ODOT Delivery and Operations Division Administrator Mac Lynde, Compliance Officer Duke Kimsey, Strickler and Reibach.


Children & Family
SERVICES



PRESENTS A

Water Safety Event

Where: Day Use Park on CTGR Campus
When: July 16th from 3pm - 7pm

Join us for a fun day of water slides, a BBQ and raffle prizes!

Questions? Call or text 541-921-0610