

Tribal Council approves contract for Great Circle detox center

By Danielle Harrison

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Council approved a design-build contract agreement to expand and modernize Great Circle Recovery in Salem by including a detox center and medical services for those seeking treatment for opioid addiction.

Tribal Engineering & Community Development Department Manager Ryan Webb said there had been five bids for the project and Perlo Construction of Tualatin was the lowest qualified bidder.

“They will help us create the plan, specs and permitting of this work and then allow us to the do the construction as well,” he said during a Tuesday, Nov. 19, Legislative Action Committee meeting.

The Tribe opened its first medication assisted clinic, Great Circle Recovery, on Commercial Street Northeast in Salem in 2021 and a Portland clinic in 2023. Since then, both clinics have served hundreds of clients.

Additionally, both clinics provide mobile units for those unable to get to the brick-and-mortar locations to receive treatment.

Webb added that Tribal Health Services Director Kelly Rowe applied for and received a \$2 million grant from Indian Health Service to help offset the cost of construction and had applied for two other grants as well.

“This is another great grant opportunity to continue the good work for the community,” Webb said.

In other action, Tribal Council:

- Approved final adoption of amend-

ments to the Tribe’s Gaming Ordinance which will amend numerous definitions, revise license applications and background investigation requirements to better reflect information currently needed for safe operation of Spirit Mountain Casino, and other changes as per the National Indian Gaming Commission;

- Approved a new contract for pharmacy benefit management services with Optum RX Incorporated;
- Approved a \$412,781 grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency for 2026-27 Performance Partnership Grant;
- Approved an application to the National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund Save America’s Treasures Grant for \$750,000;
- Approved an application to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development for the Community Green Infrastructure Program grant for \$396,000;
- And approved an application to the Oregon Department of Forestry for the Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act grant for \$1 million.

In other news, Tribal Council set the agenda for the Sunday, Dec. 1, General Council meeting. It will include nominations for the Elders Committee, a program report from Smoke Signals and a board report from the Editorial Board.

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

Former casino employee pleads not guilty

Former Spirit Mountain Casino Marketing Manager Chris Cherry pled not guilty in Grand Ronde Tribal Court on Wednesday, Nov. 20, in response to a civil citation for a public safety violation.

A trial date is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Chris Cherry was issued a non-criminal citation under the Tribal Public Safety Ordinance for violating the campaign provision by using a casino graphics printer to print out sample proofs of campaign signs for his wife, now-former Tribal Council member Michael Cherry’s, reelection campaign.

According to the police report and Smoke Signals interviews, Chris Cherry said he was using the computer to help troubleshoot a print quality issue that had come up with the signs.

He said in an Aug. 15 interview with Tribal Police that he had not printed the actual signs at the casino. Additionally, Michael Cherry provided Smoke Signals with invoices from the printing companies, Graphic Print Solutions of Lake Oswego, for a 6x12-foot billboard cover, three 60x30-inch signs and two 84x42-inch signs, and 1 Day Signs of Salem for 20, 14x16 inch brochures.

Michael Cherry had no advance knowledge of the incident, according to Grand Ronde Tribal Police reports and what she told Smoke Signals. She was not cited in the matter.

The incident came to light in August, while Michael Cherry was running for re-election. Chris Cherry, who had worked for the casino for 28 years, is no longer employed there. ■

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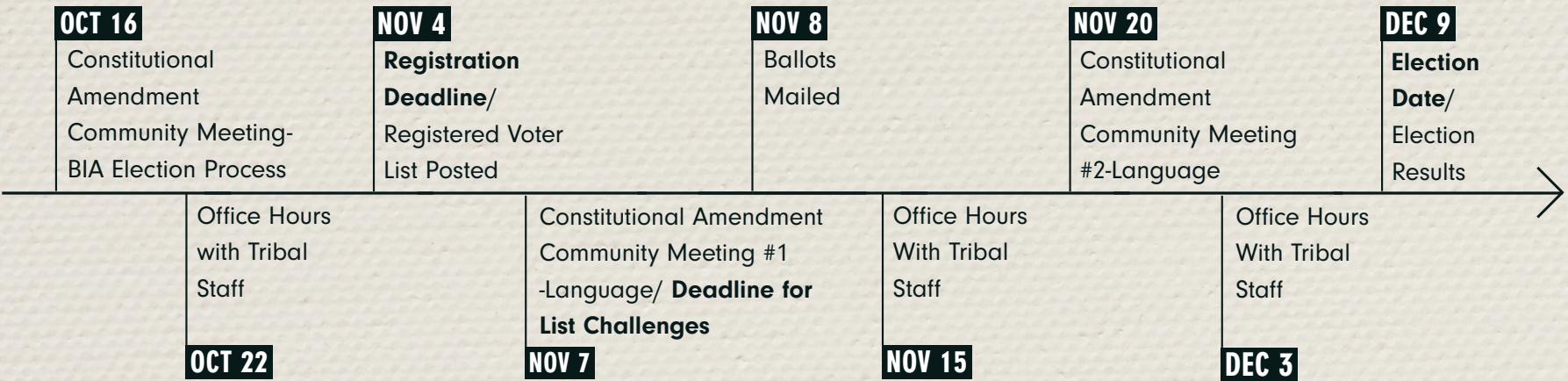
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Gas discount in Grand Ronde

Grand Ronde Tribal members, as well as Tribal and Spirit Mountain Casino employees, can receive a 30-cent per gallon discount on gasoline at the Tribally owned Grand Ronde Station convenience store.

Tribal members and employees must go inside and show either their enrollment card or employee identification card to receive the discount. ■

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TIMELINE



All meetings and office hours will be Hybrid. In-Person location is the Tribal Council Chambers in the Tribal Governance Center. Scan for more information and to register for online participation.

Important Note: The Election Board will be holding office hours from Oct 17- Nov 26 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00AM -1:00PM in the Community Center.