

# THE ITKN CONNECTION

Leadership in Action

## Chairwoman Attends Joint Court Hearing

On February 17, 2026, the Tribe's Chairwoman attended a State and Tribal joint court hearing, to discuss matters of mutual interest and on going priorities important to Tribal governments.

During the visit, she met with Sen. Bowser, who represents Tribes in our area.

## TRIBE JOINS NAFOA

The Tribe has officially joined the Native American Finance Officers Association, a national organization dedicated to strengthening tribal financial management and policy development.

Membership provides access to specialized training, technical assistance, and peer collaboration, equipping our finance team with current guidance and practical tools. This step enhances our internal capacity and keeps us aligned with best practices in tribal financial administration.

## 2024 AUDIT UPDATE

Work on the Tribe's 2024 financial statements is underway. Beasley, Mitchell & Co. is completing year-end accounting and expects to finish by the end of March. Materials will then be submitted to Moss Adams for the independent audit, scheduled for April and May.

We anticipate the audit will be finalized by the end of May and appreciate everyone's cooperation as we continue to uphold transparency and strong fiscal management.

## New Housing

A new home will be placed across from the Bee Farm. This housing opportunity is open to all and is not limited by income.

Additional details will be shared as they become available.



## USDA Programs Informational Meeting

Representatives from the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service met with the Tribe's farm team and Tribal leadership to share information about available U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and funding opportunities.

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## RESTORING THE ECOSYSTEM

If you live near the reservation, you have probably seen the smoke and realized it is once again the time of year for prescribed burning. Have you ever wondered why we burn in the spring? Prescribed burns reduce fuel loads to help prevent wildfires, restore natural ecosystem balance, and improve habitat by clearing overgrown vegetation. They are important to the land and signal that spring is just around the corner.

You will also notice the farm crew out and about removing certain invasive tree species. When early settlers arrived, they sometimes brought trees, flowers, shrubs, grasses, and other plants from their homelands. Some of these species are highly aggressive and can overtake our native plants. We are addressing this by removing select species to restore our native ecosystem. Mulberry, locust, Chinese elm, and tree of heaven are at the top of the list. They have overtaken portions of our timber and pastureland.

Through these efforts, we are responsibly restoring the ecosystem and improving grazing conditions for our cattle.

## Grandview Oil Update

Grandview Oil is making positive changes. We are implementing a new inventory management system that will allow us to more closely manage and track inventory.

More news to come.

## PREPARING FOR A PRODUCTIVE SPRING SEASON

Although February may seem a little slow in other areas, I assure you the focus is on the quickly approaching springtime activities. The greenhouse is sprouting, and plans for the upcoming growing season are being finalized.

Plans are also being made to bring the bees back from their winter homes. Soon, they will return to the reservation to pollinate the plants and produce their honey.

You may have also seen the cattle herd wintering just west of Grandview. They are grazing on cover crops and hay, getting into good condition while the spring-bred cows prepare to begin calving next month.

## Grey Snow Sanitation

Grey Snow Sanitation is growing, with new customers joining us almost daily. Our goal is to provide excellent service and never miss a pick-up.

We are also gathering updated customer information to ensure proactive communication and keep everyone informed.



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## ION-EXCHANGE TREATMENT FACILITY

The Tribe is moving forward with plans to construct a new ion-exchange water treatment facility to address nitrate levels in our well water and ensure it meets safe drinking water standards.

Engineering services have been secured to complete 90 percent of the design for the new treatment plant. This phase includes reviewing current site conditions, conducting necessary surveying, performing detailed design calculations, and preparing technical plans and specifications. It also involves selecting the appropriate treatment equipment and materials to ensure the system is efficient, durable, and reliable for long-term use.

Ion-exchange treatment is a proven process that removes nitrates from groundwater by exchanging them with harmless ions, producing water that is safe for consumption and compliant with federal standards.

The Indian Health Service will provide professional engineering oversight throughout the project. They will finalize the plans to 100 percent completion and prepare the necessary contracting documents tailored to the Tribe's specific requirements.

In short, this project represents a major investment in protecting public health and strengthening our water infrastructure for the future.



## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATE

The Tribe continues to move forward with several important water infrastructure improvements aimed at strengthening reliability, improving system management, and preparing for future needs. These projects reflect ongoing efforts to modernize our utility systems and support long-term sustainability.

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## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UPDATES - CONTINUE

Projects include the following:

- Backup Water Supply - Connect to Brown Co RWD #2
  - Booster Pump Station
  - Water Main Work - Complete
  - Telemetry
- Alarms for Well House
- Luke Keller Sr. Water Line Extension
- Water Meter Replacement - Complete
- Iowa White Cloud Housing Site Lagoon Rehabilitation
  - This project will repair the leaking wastewater lagoon cells at the Iowa White Cloud Housing Site to protect the groundwater. It will also include the improvement of the access road.



**We honor our past while  
building a healthy future  
- thank you for staying  
connected.**

