

EAST OREGONIAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

142nd Year, No. 18 WINNER OF THE 2017 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD One dollar



Candidate signs stand posted in a grassy area at the intersection of Mission and Market roads on Tuesday on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Battle for the board

Young tribal members look to stand out in crowded Board of Trustees field

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

When voters from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation go to the polls to vote in the Board of Trustees election Tuesday, they'll get to consider a variety of experience and age.

There are 20 people vying for eight total seats on the Nov. 14 ballot, including several first-time candidates, current members and others who have been on the board or run previously.

With the exception of Treasurer Rosenda Shippentower, every incumbent is running for re-election, with Shippentower running for an at-large seat instead. Every officer position on the board — chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer — is being contested and a dozen candidates are vying for four at-large seats.

A handful of younger candidates is seeking a seat at the table in 2017. Three under-40 candidates who were interviewed all said they wanted to bring their experiences as younger tribal members and listed better communication

between the board and the rest of the tribal community as one of their top issues.

Johnny Sampson, 28, is the youngest candidate in the field. An employee for the tribal fisheries department, Sampson said he comes from a line of tribal leaders — his grandfather, Carl, the chief of the Walla Walla tribe, and his father, Donald, was a former chairman of the General Council — and is running for an at-large seat on the board.

Jill-Marie Gavin, 29, is also running for an at-large position on the board. With the board generally older and male, Gavin, a reporter for tribal radio station KCUW and an interim editor for the *Confederated Umatilla Journal*, said she felt like she wasn't being represented and decided to jump into the race.

Shana Radford, a 33-year-old running for the vice-chair position against incumbent Jeremy Wolf, echoed Gavin and Sampson.

"We need a younger generation," said Radford, who added that she ran with support of some tribal elders.

See CTUIR/6A



Gavin



Kosey



Radford



Sampson



B. Shippentower



Wildbill

Board of Trustees Candidates

- CHAIR**
Gary Burke*
Elwood Patawa
- VICE-CHAIR**
Shana Radford
Jeremy Wolf*
- SECRETARY**
Kat Brigham*
Cedric Wildbill
- TREASURER**
Eugena Stacona
Doris Wheeler
- AT-LARGE (four seats)**
Aaron Ashley*
Jill-Marie Gavin
Sally Kosey
Armand Minthorn*
Scott Minthorn
Helen Morrison
Terry Parrish
Johnny Sampson
Bob Shippentower
Rosenda Shippentower
Woodrow Star*
David Wolf Jr.

*incumbent

Bills take different tacks to covering fire costs

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

If there is one thing Oregon Rep. Greg Walden and Sen. Ron Wyden can agree on, it is changing how the U.S. pays for battling increasingly large and expensive wildfires burning vast swaths the American West.

The current practice, known as "fire borrowing," essentially forces the federal government to shift money away from fire prevention programs to foot the bill for firefighting, which topped a record \$2.5 billion in 2017.



Walden



Wyden

Walden, Oregon's lone Republican congressman in Washington, D.C., has called fire borrowing an "endless cycle," while Wyden, a Democrat, recently described it as a "broken system." Both men are calling for a permanent fix to the problem, albeit through clashing proposals, where the similarities end.

Wyden, along with fellow Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley, have joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing for the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017, which would make federal disaster funding available when firefighting costs exceed the 10-year average.

In a letter sent Tuesday to White House budget director Mick Mulvaney, the senators urged passing the bill as part of a comprehensive disaster aid package. The Trump administration has committed to releasing that package sometime in the coming weeks.

"Year after year, the broken wildfire budgeting system short-changes prevention funding, literally adding fuel to fires," Wyden said in a statement. "Putting an end to fire borrowing would at long last allow America to get ahead of the West's natural disasters — wildfires."

In October, the Senate did pass a \$36.5 billion emergency supplemental that included \$576.5 million to fight wildfires, in addition \$18.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund, \$16 billion for National Flood Insurance Program debt forgiveness

See FIRES/6A

"Sometimes we need a younger voice to get a different viewpoint."
— Sally Kosey, 62-year-old at-large candidate

Young player quickly learns art of holding, folding



Tristen Barnes of Salem watches the betting at the table while playing a cash game Tuesday during the Fall Poker Rodeo at Wildhorse Resort & Casino in Mission. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Poker players converge on Wildhorse for tournament

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Tristen Barnes curved his long fingers over his cards, shielding them from the others at the poker table. His expression was nonchalant, as if thinking about something as inconsequential as his next trip to the grocery store. Inside his brain, however, he planned his next move.

He and another player were locked in a strategic battle. The dealer dealt cards rapid-fire to the two, while the other seven Texas Hold 'em players watched. Barnes stealthily peered at the card and flicked his glance to the cards on the table. So far, he had a pair of fives. A flurry of bidding and dealing ensued. By

the end, Barnes held two pairs. When the other player laid down his pair of aces, Barnes smiled and raked in the \$148 pot.

At age 20, Barnes is one of the youngest players at the Wildhorse Poker Round Up, which runs Nov. 2-12.

"I've been playing poker as long as I can recall," said Barnes, who was schooled by his father, a semi-professional player.

Barnes is barred from most other tournaments until he hits 21. However, since alcoholic beverages aren't served on the floor at Wildhorse, the Poker Round Up is open to anyone 18 or older.

The Salem poker player, who is studying to get his real estate license and works as a back flow tester, feels comfortable with players decades his elder. On Wednesday, as Barnes' chip

See POKER/6A

