

## Barbara Roberts Joins Governor's Race

Former Student of Eula Petite

Secretary of State Barbara Roberts, a former student of the late Tribal Elder Eula Petite, recently accepted a surprise hand-off from Gov. Neil Goldschmidt and announced her bid for governor.

"I don't believe I've ever said of any Oregon problem, 'It's not my job'" Roberts said.

Goldschmidt said Wednesday that he would not seek re-election because he and Margie Goldschmidt, his wife of 25 years, were separating, and he wanted to devote time to his family.

Roberts, 53, said Goldschmidt let her know Sunday that he was thinking about not running and called her early Wednesday with his decision.

"This was a statement I had hoped to make in 1994," Roberts said. "Gov. Goldschmidt's announcement yesterday has not changed my goal - it has simply changed my timetable."

Fellow Democrats were relieved that Roberts was so quick to respond.

"We are very pleased that Barbara is going to get in the race, and she is apparently going to be the consensus candidate," Paddy McGuire, the Oregon Democratic Party executive director, said. "I think she's extremely well-prepared, given for the last five years she's been a heartbeat away."

Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer, the declared Republican gubernatorial candidate, said Thursday in Eugene that he was not ready to go head-to-head with Roberts. He called it premature and "utterly presumptuous" to consider her his opponent in the race.

Both candidates must pass a May primary, but so far no serious contenders have come forward to challenge either of them. The filing deadline is just a month away.

The change in opponents appeared to stun Frohnmayer.

He said his strategy would remain basically the same, but his tactics would change. He called the Goldschmidt's separation a tragedy and admitted a feeling of emptiness with Goldschmidt out of the race.

"The strategy was always to bring before Oregon the issues," Frohnmayer said. However, "it does obviously change the dynamics of the campaign."

One noticeable change was that Frohnmayer no longer had an incumbent to attack.

Roberts was quick to assume the role of a challenger. She said Frohnmayer has rarely played out of position in his 10 years as Oregon's attorney general.

"He has not been as visible on the issued that matter as I've been," Roberts said. "I haven't seen him out there on issues broader than his office."

## Blackfeet Reburial Ceremonies Held in Montana

In September 1988, the Smithsonian Institution returned 16 Blackfeet remains to their tribe. The Blackfeet conducted a traditional reburial ceremony for the remains in May 1989 in Browning, Montana. Elders from the tribe hosted a three-day event at Old Agency, where more than 600 Blackfeet perished during what is known as the Starvation Winter of 1883.

The Blackfeet began the ceremonies in advance of the actual reburial, to prepare the spirits of the living and the dead. Both before and after the ceremony, the traditional leaders conducted a sweat-lodge ceremony to purify and pray for the spirits and ask for guidance.

The actual reburial ceremony took place on May 26. The entire Blackfeet community, as well as Smithsonian representatives and members of the press, were invited to observe this solemn occasion.

In addition to serving as secretary of state since she was elected in 1984, Roberts said she took on concurrent roles as chairwoman of the Governor's Task Force on Workers' Compensation Reform and a member of the Task Force to Finance Long Term Care.

"The job is clearly not done yet, but I wasn't afraid to tackle the issue and risk the controversy," Roberts said.

Although he wouldn't take any direct shots, Frohnmayer did defend himself.

"I have a very full plate of issues on which I have spent an enormous amount of time," he said. "It's premature to pick a quarrel with the secretary of state, but I'll let my record speak for itself."

Roberts also said her small town upbringing and blue-collar background brought her closer to Oregonian's than Frohnmayer's background. Roberts was born in Corvallis, and Frohnmayer was born in Medford.

"I can't compete with his money, his Oxford degree or his experience as a lawyer," she said.

Roberts said that she could compete on the issues, however, and that the race would focus on workers' compensation reform, financing for elementary and secondary schools, and the personalities and backgrounds of the candidates.

McGuire said that Roberts would have an uphill battle, but that she has high name familiarity.

"For us, we're definitely back at the drawing board, but the Republicans are, too," McGuire said. "Dave Frohnmayer's strategy was to make this a referendum on Neil Goldschmidt, and he can't do that."

Craig Berkman, the Republican Party chairman, pointed out that a race between Frohnmayer and Goldschmidt was expected to be close, and that Roberts did not have the incumbent's advantage.

Berkman also questioned Roberts' qualifications for the job.

"I'm not aware of anything in her background that shows executive experience in managing large groups of people and complex programs that a chief executive of state has to deal with on a daily basis," Berkman said.

Roberts started her political career as an advocate for disabled children's educational rights. She served on the Parkrose School Board for a decade beginning in 1973 and was a Multnomah County commissioner.

She was elected as a state representative in 1980 and served two two-year terms, including a stint as the state's first woman

House majority leader. She was elected secretary of state in 1984 and re-elected in 1988.

She does not have to give up her current position to run for governor.

Roberts is married to state Sen. Frank Roberts, D-Portland, and is the mother of two sons.

- Courtesy of the Statesman Journal

## Area Updates

### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ

Tim Wapato, former Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission Director, and now Director of the Administration for Native Americans, was this year's keynote speaker for the Siletz Restoration Celebration which has been held in November of each year since 1977. Key government activities have concerned health care plans, and personnel changes. The tribes have recently undertaken a program of contract health services for eight counties. Plans also are moving forward to locate their health clinic in the city of Siletz. In personnel issues they are working on comprehensive manual, and they have made major position changes. The former Tribal secretary has been promoted to Program Manager and member John Roe has returned as their Chief Judge of the Tribal Court.

## Coos Tribe Claims Federal Land

COOS BAY - The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians have a claim on federal land being considered as the site of a new pulp mill.

The claim adds a new dimension to the battle about a \$400 million pulp mill proposed by a Japanese paper company. The battle has pitted people interested in the mill's 300 new jobs against those fearing that it would use too much water and create an ugly smell.

Tribal administrator Joseph Miller said the Confederated Tribes' claim to the land as part of a new reservation predated by two months the action taken by the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay.

Port officials have been working to arrange an exchange with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for 173 acres on the North Spit, an arm of sand that forms the bay here.

The port's request for the exchange was published in the Federal Register on Nov. 27. The Confederate Tribes submitted its plan for creating a new reservation Sept. 30, Miller said.

The Confederated Tribes' claim has been backed by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, which has asked the Bureau of Land Management to stop any attempts to transfer the land to anyone but the Confederated Tribes.

Paul Vetterick, the bureau's associate state director, said the bureau was working on a response.

Port Manager Paul Vogel said he never had seen the Confederated Tribes' reservation plan but thought that the port's claim was solid.

Miller said the plan for assembling a new reservation was a requirement of 1984 congressional action restoring tribal status to the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

Like many others, the Confederated Tribes were dissolved by federal action in 1954 in an effort to assimilate them into the general population. The tribes now number 425 members.

The Confederated Tribes had given up their ancestral lands in 1855, when they were uprooted and moved first to the north spit of the Umpqua River and a year later to Yachats.

In 1875, the tribes were told that their treaty never had been signed by the president, and they could no longer stay at their camp in Yachats. But when they returned to Coos Bay, they found that their lands were occupied by settlers.

## San Juan Southern Paiutes Win Federal Recognition

TUBA CITY, Ariz. - The San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona on Dec. 15 received word it had been federally recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Branch of Acknowledgement and Research. The Native American Rights Fund of Boulder, Colo., represented the Southern Paiutes in their initiative.

The small Southern Paiute community of 200 resides in the area of Tuba City and Navajo Mountain. The small Paiute band is involved in ongoing litigation entitled *Masayeva v. Haskie v. James*, seeking portions of traditional lands in what is usually designated as the Navajo-Hope Joint Use Area. The litigation is underway in Federal District Court in Phoenix.

Southern Paiute Tribal Leader Evelyn James can be reached at P.O. Box 2656, Tuba City, Ariz. 86045.

No land was put into trust for the Southern Paiutes pending the outcome of the federal trial, said a NARF spokeswoman.