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# SMOKE SIGNALS

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

July 1, 1995

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Smoke signals

## Spirit Mountain Board selects Gaming Commission

The Grand Ronde Tribe took a historic step towards an ethical and forthright gaming operation with the first meeting of the Grand Ronde Gaming Commission. The commission is an autonomous governmental agency charged with regulating gaming activities on the reservation. The commission will make suitability determinations about prospective gaming employees, develop regulations and minimum internal control standards to govern gaming operations and perform various other monitoring functions to ensure compliance with tribal and federal laws.

Gene M. Davidson, Leonette M. Galligher, T.N. Lynn Hillman, III and Robert J. Watson were sworn in as commission members by Judge Robert Goodwin. Thereafter, the commission elected Robert J. Watson as Chairman. Mr. Watson, a tribal member, is a graduate of Willamette University and upon graduation went to work for the Oregon Department of Correction. In 1976 he was appointed head of the department and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1985. He is currently the Commissioner of Correction for the State of Delaware, a cabinet position appointed by the governor.

T.N. Lynn Hillman, III was elected to the Vice-Chairman position. Mr. Hillman, a non-tribal member, retired from a career in law enforcement with the Oregon State Police after 29 years. He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Operations Service

Bureau, prior to his retirement and was instrumental in planning, developing and implementing the Oregon State Police Indian Gaming Section.

Leonette M. Galligher, a tribal member, has had a floral business for many years and has played a dominate role in her community raising funds for various charitable organizations. She has compassion and a dedication to improving the standard of living for her fellow tribal members by safeguarding the integrity of gaming activities.

Gene M. Davidson works as a millwright in the Grand Ronde area, is also a tribal member and has been active in several governmental committees on behalf of the Tribe addressing various quality of life issues. He brings to the commission a sincere desire to serve the tribal membership and create a strong regulatory agency.

In addition to the swearing in of commission members and election of officers, the commission also ratified the appointment of Joe H. Smith as Director. A certified public accountant, recently relocated from Las Vegas, Nevada, Mr. Smith is an ex-investigator with the Nevada State Gaming Control Board and has 10 years of experience in regulating gaming activities.

The meeting was accentuated by the enthusiasm of the participants as they dedicated themselves to formation of a just and thorough regulatory agency.

(More Spirit Mountain Development news on page 2.)



**FIRST PLACE:** Kristen Wheeler, Miss Grand Ronde, waves at the spectators during the Phil Sheridan Days parade. The Royalty float won first prize. Photo courtesy of George Robertson.

When: Sunday, July 16  
from 1 to 4 p.m.

Where: Grand Ronde  
Tribal Community Center

## Candidate's Forum

All tribal members are welcome to attend to ask questions of the Tribal Council candidates.