

2002 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

□ Todd Shandy



It is an honor to be nominated for Tribal Council. Some of you may be wondering: who is this person named Todd Shandy? You might recognize me if you were to see me, because I have faithfully been attending Tribal Council meetings the past four years. I am the son of Louise Coulson, whose father, my grandfather, was Lewis L. Riggs Jr.

Growing up I attended school in Grand Ronde, Willamina and Philomath. I graduated from Philomath High School. During high school, I worked for my father at his lumber mill, Shandy Hardwood. After I graduated, my father moved to Alaska, however, I stayed in Philomath. I was employed for 14 years for a lumber business called WTD. During those years, I held important positions with this company. I was a Supervisor/Manager for two years then a Quality Control Manager for seven years. Unfortunately, economics in the lumber business started to decline. WTD was forced to lay off employees and put the business up for sale. I felt this was an excellent opportunity to go back to school and study accounting, which has been an interest of my mine for some time. At this time, I have completed 6 terms in accounting and am one class shy of receiving my Accounting Certificate. I have been married for 18 years and have 3 children.

I believe that we need to continue to take care of our Elders by providing the necessary assistance and programs. We need to recognize their contributions to the Tribe and thank them for their guidance. We must always remember that with out the Elders' accomplishments our Tribe would not be where it is today. We also need to look out for our children and their children for the future wealth and health of our future leaders. I think the per capita at 25 percent is a good percentage. Our Tribe needs to first secure all the programs that are currently being funded and make sure we can sustain them. I think we need to look at opportunities for improving those programs and/or adding new programs that will benefit our members and expand opportunities in addition to looking out for the best interest of the Tribe as a whole. I believe education is extremely important and every Tribal member deserves the opportunity to continue his or her education.

I wish to thank the current Tribal Council. They have done a great job for our Tribe. I wish to bring my leadership and experience to help the Tribe to continue to grow. I have strong work ethics. I am a dedicated, hard working, quick-learner, and use independent decision-making skills. The Tribe has given me assistance with my education and I believe it is important to give back to the Tribe.

□ Patsy Pullin



Hello Tribal members:

My name is Patsy Pullin and I would like to say THANK YOU to those who voted for me last year. Your support and encouragement helped me decide to run for Tribal Council again this year. Together, we can make a difference.

I currently reside in Willamina, have four grown children and nine grandchildren. My husband and I worked years in the entertainment field as musicians, but I feel my first career was as a mother. I hold a degree from the University of Alaska and have business experience as co-owner of three businesses. Kathryn Harrison is my mother and her good work for the Tribe is an inspiration to me. Presently, I am an Employment & Training Specialist with the Tribal Social Services department. What I like best about my job is it allows me to help my people. At this time I serve on several national and local boards and committees. Work is important to me and I enjoy being active. Working for the Tribe has allowed me to learn about some of the programs, processes and policies governing us.

Last year I said better communication was needed within the Tribal offices and with Tribal members. The need still exists. Sharing my feelings I said the Tribe has much to gain with a Tribal Employment Rights Office as a means of securing jobs for members. This year jobs have gone to people outside the Tribe to build the Education campus and now the low-income housing. We need T.E.R.O. more than ever to make a permanent change in this policy. A percentage of Tribal hire could be a requirement written into each contract. With a new T.E.R.O. Specialist position, someone would be on site not only to ensure Tribal hire but fair treatment as well.

I support the Members Benefit dividend program and Elder Pen-

sion. Numerous lives have been improved by these two programs. I also support healthcare for all members, economic development, restoration and preservation of our culture and protection for our lands.

I am in favor of an active Mentoring program to help Tribal members currently working for the Tribe or the casino with upward mobility. The present Mentor Program is a means of employment during the program training but offers no employment upon completion.

Many Tribal members were affected by the enrollment vote cast in 1999. We need an amendment to right the wrong that has divided families and excluded members.

Currently, our Tribe is at odds and many members now feel unsure of our future. The money lost by Strategic Wealth Management investments is appalling. A loss of this magnitude makes one wonder who is keeping watch or holding people accountable in our behalf. Clearly strong leadership is called for. Again I say, our future council members should be educated, business savvy individuals to assure our members a solid future. They should also be capable of making informed, objective decisions in behalf of the entire Tribe.

I pray this information will help you with your decision. I ask for your vote in the fall election and promise to work hard as your representative if elected. Thank you.

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□ Christopher Mercier



"It is much easier to ride a horse in the direction he is going."

— Makah saying

Some attribute that statement to the Makahs, some to others. I focus less on it's origins, and more the meaning, and how that applies to the Tribe presently. We've one horse, named Grand Ronde, and he is being painfully whipped in

too many directions at once. No good can come of this.

Sadly I've one word to describe the Tribe these days: turmoil. Those in the Grand Ronde area will know of what I write, and others, well... read on. In 1995 Spirit Mountain Casino opened. The Tribe was poised for greatness, the next step in a colorful legacy. I'm not quite sure what happened, but my instincts hint that the present situation is definitely not it.

The Tribe has regressed recently into a system of closed-door meetings, unwarranted confidentiality, cover-ups and council meetings where the General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, and Tribal Attorney answer the questions. The openness and candidness that were normal only a few years ago vanished. That must change.

Therein lies my candidacy. Change — in philosophy, direction, leadership.

I represent openness, if only because honesty never hurt anyone. I want a free press, a free flow of information. I want a system that not only encourages responsible, ethical leadership from the top down, but discourages abuse and dishonesty. During my days as a reporter for the Smoke Signals, where a dangerous contrast existed between what we published and what actually occurred in the Tribe, I learned that such a system isn't here.

Many know me as a traveler. Yes I've seen a share of the world. I've seen countries mired by communism, regions scarred by dictatorships. Trust me when I say the surest sign of a corrupt government is that it seeks to influence the flow of information and taint what is already out there.

But I make no accusations. No, I only communicate how strongly I support and strive to create an unrestricted press and free flowing system of information. They are issues that upon closer scrutiny relate to many other points of concern for Tribal members, regardless of age, living location, or family.

Do you want to know why fewer services exist for out-of-state members? I do. Do you want to know the complete background of every council member, including criminal records and lawsuits? I sure do. It affects my vote. What about enrollment? Why can somebody be denied membership while another in their family be allowed to enroll? There is an issue needing addressing. What about the millions of dollars at stake in Strategic Wealth and Kalispel lawsuits? I think we need a comprehensive explanation, don't you? The list contin-

Chris Mercier continued on page 9