

## Candidates' Forum Finally Happens

■ Rescheduled, delayed event features 7 of the 9 candidates.

By Ron Karten

Seven candidates for three Tribal Council positions presented their platforms to some 60 Tribal members at the Tribal gymnasium on Sunday, July 23.

It signaled the start of the annual election season at the Tribe.

Of nine Tribal Council positions, three open up each year for elec-

tions, and each elected member serves for a three-year term. One-third of the Council is up for grabs each summer.

While it is the *Smoke Signals* policy to maintain a news blackout on the election to avoid issues of favoritism, we do report the event each year, and describe changes in the process.

As always, candidates this year were offered a short time to present their platforms to the membership. Each had four minutes for that presentation.

Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor emceed the event.

Also, as in the past, Tribal members were encouraged to present questions to the candidates, but unlike in past years when each candidate answered



**Audience Participation** — Some 60 Tribal members were on hand for candidate presentations. Questions for the candidates were chosen by computer for the first time this year.

the same questions, this year, a new process included a computer-generated way of choosing a different candidate for each question.

No candidate saw the questions in advance. The questions included one asking nominees to describe volunteer efforts they have made for the Tribe to one about the Tribal Council voting for their own raises.

Following the Q&A session, Tribal members were offered individual

time with the candidates. That part of the process has not changed.

The start of the event was delayed by half an hour because a car fire on Route 18 tied up traffic. While nobody was hurt in that incident, the Tribal Council nominations originally scheduled July 2 were delayed for a week by a deadly accident in which two were killed and a third remains hospitalized (see *Smoke Signals*, July 15 issue). ■



**Interested** — Tribal Elders Butch, left, and Monty Parazoo during the Tribal Council Candidates' Forum.



Tribal member Bryan Langley worked on the forum.



Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor coordinated the Tribal Council Candidates' Forum.

## Tribal Youth Visit OMSI



**Summer Fun** — Tribal member Eric Saben, above at left, is seen with his hair flying at one of OMSI's many exhibits. Tribal member Toni Mercier, group leader, is at right. Below, the whole group got together for a photo.



Photos by Ron Karten

## Knight Oversees Open Gym Time



**Side Out** — Housekeeping Supervisor Curtis Rentsch serves up the ball while Recreation Coordinator Intern and Tribal member Rebecca Knight watches during a recent game of volleyball at lunch.

Photo by Toby McClary