

Kennedy heading to Tribal Nations event

Meeting with President Obama set for Nov. 5

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy will meet with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, Nov. 5, as a participant in the president's Tribal Nations Conference.

Obama committed to the annual meeting with Tribal leaders during his 2008 campaign.

The meeting will coincide with the National Congress of American Indians' 66th annual convention and the grand opening of the Embassy of Tribal Nations on Nov. 3.

In addition, Kennedy will participate in a Tribal Roundtable with U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and meet with U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

She also is attempting to meet with representatives of the British Embassy to discuss return of the Summers Collection held by the British Museum.

Tribal Council members Valorie Sheker and June Sell-Sherer are also traveling to Washington, D.C., and participating in the Health & Human Services and Labor Department meetings, as well as the Embassy of Tribal Nations open house. However, only one representative per Tribe will be permitted to attend the presidential Tribal Nations Conference.

Kennedy will become the second Tribal Council member to meet President Obama, but the first to do so as president. Tribal Council member Chris Mercier met Obama when he was a Democratic candidate traveling through Oregon on a campaign stop. ■

PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS OPEN FOR COMMENT

The Tribal Council has proposed several amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance. The first reading of the amendments to the Enrollment Ordinance was presented at the Sept. 30, 2009, Tribal Council meeting.

The purpose of the amendments is to make technical corrections to various provisions of the ordinance and to make substantive changes to the ordinance. The numerous substantive changes include, but are not limited to: (1) bringing the Ordinance into compliance with the most recent Constitutional amendment by including the requirement that individuals must fully and unconditionally relinquish membership in another Tribe for 5 full years to be eligible for enrollment; (2) increasing the number of times the Enrollment Committee can meet on enrollment applications from 2 to 4 times per year; (3) codifying current procedures for amending the Tribal membership roll for blood quantum and non-blood quantum technical corrections; and (4) authorizing limited use of identifying information, such as name, address, telephone number, roll number and Social Security number by Tribal departments, programs and wholly owned enterprises as needed to provide benefits and services to members.

The Tribal Council believes amendment of this ordinance will assist the Tribe in continuing to provide efficient enrollment procedures and services to its members.

The proposed ordinance amendments may be viewed on the Tribal member accessible Web site at www.grandronde.org. You may also obtain a copy of the proposed ordinance amendments by contacting the Tribal Attorney's Office at 503-879-4664. Tribal Council invites comment on the proposed amendments. Please send your comments to the Tribal Attorney's Office, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

Comments must be received by Nov. 15, 2009.

Christmas tree contest

The Elders' Activity Center is looking for teams to decorate a Christmas tree.

Voting will be conducted by people who come into the Elders' Activity Center. Prizes will be \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

The trees then will be sold by silent auction.

Decorating will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

Call Elder Activity Assistant Daniel Ham at 503-879-2233 to sign up your team or call Tribal Elder Louise Medeiros at 503-879-4312 for more information. ■

Tribal donors



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal member Vanessa Chavez, 18, right, gets a hug from her lifelong friend Marisa Bonilla during an Indian taco fundraiser that was held for her at the Tribal Community Center on Monday, Oct. 12. Chavez was diagnosed with leukemia on Aug. 5, and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments every three weeks.



Jason Henderson, the Tribe's cancer navigator, swabs the inside of Tribal member, and aunt to Chavez, Dorothy Spivey's mouth so she can be screened to be added to the National Marrow Donor Program registry during the fundraiser for Chavez. Henderson arranged for educational information and screening packets to be available at the event for attendees who were interested in becoming marrow donors. The event raised approximately \$1,000 for future medical needs for Chavez and a portion of these funds will be donated by the family to the National Marrow Donor Program.

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2009 Tribal Marketplace dates

■ Nov. 6-8, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Dec. 4-6, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dates subject to change due to conflicting Tribal or SMC events. Located across from Cedar Plank Buffet.