

Gubernatorial hopefuls seek Tribal support

Allen Alley, Bill Bradbury visit Tribal Council

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Two men who hope to be Oregon's next governor — Republican Allen Alley and Democrat Bill Bradbury — visited the Grand Ronde Tribal Council on March 24 seeking financial support and, hopefully, an eventual endorsement.

It was the first of two scheduled days during which Tribal Council members interview gubernatorial candidates, feeling them out on issues important to the Tribe.

Tribal Council was scheduled to meet with Republican Chris Dudley and Democrat John Kitzhaber, a former two-term Oregon governor, on Wednesday, March 31, after the deadline for this edition of *Smoke Signals*.

In advance of the meetings, Tribal member and lobbyist Justin Martin sent candidates a questionnaire that asked about their stands on several important Tribal issues, from off-reservation gaming to supporting federal recognition of the Grand Ronde as a Columbia River Tribe.

Alley, who ran for state treasurer in 2008, was first up.

After being gifted a necklace by Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy and briefed on Tribal history and ceded lands, Alley made his political pitch.

Alley, a mechanical engineer by education from Purdue University, worked for Ford and Boeing before becoming a venture capitalist, investing in high-tech companies.

He cited his ability to take a \$10,000 investment and turn it into a \$1 billion semi-conductor product.

"I think we need to give people a chance and get out of the way," Alley said about state government's role in resuscitating Oregon's economy. "The opportunity to have success

is fading away. The educational system is lagging, the regulatory system is lagging and the entrepreneurial system is lagging.

"I think that over the last 25 years we've taken Oregon for granted and backslid to where we are today."

Alley, who worked as deputy chief of staff under current Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski, said that state government is "massively inefficient" and that he is "appalled" that much of Oregon is controlled by the federal government.

After Martin explained the effects of Termination on the Grand Ronde Tribe, leaving the Tribe out of several important laws created in the 1970s and early 1980s, Alley said that when it comes to dealing with the federal government, he would be sitting on the same side of the table as Oregon's nine federally-recognized Tribes.

"In D.C., we are way off the radar screen," Alley said. "For you, it must be a 1,000 times worse. If you're controlling lands here, it is way better than the federal government controlling the lands."

Kennedy asked about Alley's potential support for including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde as a consulting Tribe in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act. Currently, the act only includes the Nez Perce, Yakama, Warm Springs and Umatilla Tribes. Freshman Oregon Rep. Kurt Schrader introduced a House resolution in July 2009 to do just that.

"We are the last Tribe called when remains are found, even behind the Yakama Tribe in Washington," Kennedy said about burial sites found in the Gorge. "I want to impress upon you, when you are talking about burying the bones of your grandparents, that is a very big issue."



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy reviews a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde ceded lands map with Republican gubernatorial candidate Allen Alley during a meeting with Tribal Council on Wednesday, March 24.

Although he appeared unsure of the issue, Alley said that through his business travels across the world, he has learned empathy and tries to be open and attempt to put himself in someone else's position.

Former Secretary of State Bill Bradbury followed Alley, making an impressive entrance riding a Segway because of his decades-long battle with multiple sclerosis.

Bradbury, who has visited Spirit Mountain Casino several times before but never the Tribal Governance Center, said he was impressed with the facility.

Bradbury said he would support Grand Ronde Tribal efforts to be included in discussions about issues affecting the Tribe's ceded lands, which range from the Columbia River to the California border between the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges. He also said he would support the Tribe's efforts to

be included as a consulting Tribe in the Columbia River Gorge.

"We're not after the fishing part of it," Vice Chair Reyn Leno explained. "We're after the cultural part. We gave up our fishing and hunting rights as part of the consent decree."

Bradbury also said he would continue to support the state's government-to-government relationship with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, as well as oppose attempts by Oregon Tribes to locate casinos off-reservation.

"I have met with the Warm Springs and told them exactly the same thing," Bradbury said. "I'm not trying to play one side off against the other. I really believe it only works ... reservation land is fine, but it sets off a springboard if you allow Tribes to move closer to populations centers. And it doesn't make sense to make an exception for one Tribe. The fundamental policy needs to stay on-reservation."

Bradbury said he also agreed with Martin's concern that moving Tribal casinos to urban areas would take many good-paying jobs out of rural Oregon, where most Tribal casinos are located.

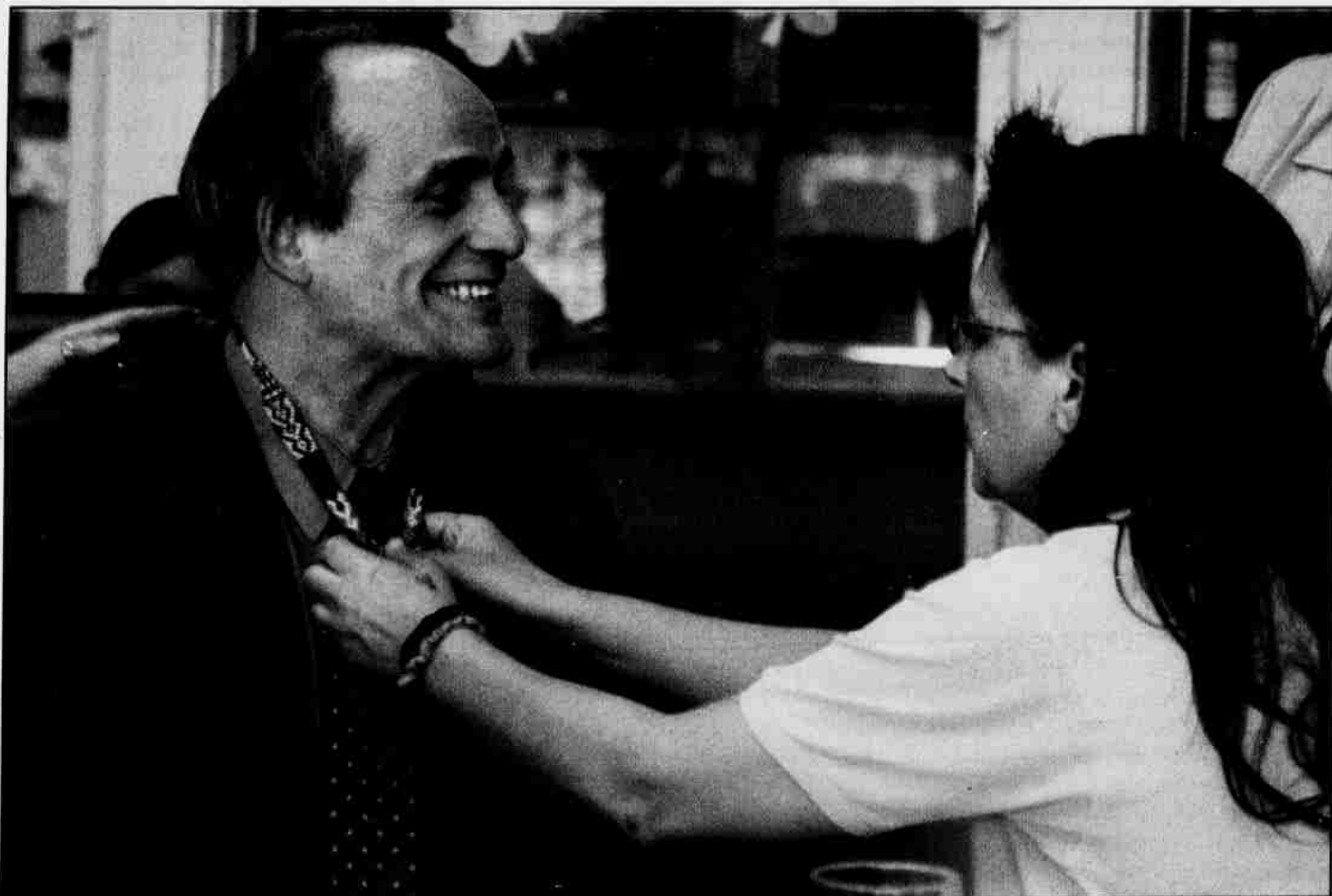
In response to a question from Kennedy, Bradbury said he would support the state Department of Education developing, with Tribal assistance, a curriculum that would teach students about Oregon's Native history.

"I would agree," Bradbury said. "People can learn some wonderful things about where they live. It would be a great addition."

Bradbury said his greatest achievement, if elected governor, would be adequately funding education in Oregon.

"We're dropping the ball in this state," he said.

Martin told both candidates that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde would financially support its friends seeking the state's highest office, but might not necessarily endorse any candidate, especially in the primary phase of the election. ■



Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker, right, straightens a beaded necklace gifted to Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill Bradbury during his meeting with Tribal Council on Wednesday, March 24.