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Smoke Signals

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

15 vying for Tribal Council

Incumbent June Sell-Sherer opts not to seek re-election

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

With Tribal Council member June Sell-Sherer retiring after nine years of service, the Grand Ronde Tribe is guaranteed at least one new Tribal Council member come September.

Fifteen Tribal Elders and members were nominated to run for three open seats on Tribal Council at a special meeting held Sunday, June 27, in the Tribal Community Center.

The other two incumbents, Tribal Elder Steve Bobb Sr. and Chris Mercier, accepted nominations to run again.

Sell-Sherer was first elected in 1999 and served two three-year terms, including serving as Tribal Council Secretary from 2001-05. In 2007, she ran again, won and that

term ends with the current election in September.

"I feel like it's time for me to turn over the reins to somebody whose got more time to spend," she said. "I have a young grandson (Tribal member) Nicholas Cardinal of Kennewick, Wash., that I want to spend more time with. He is growing up before my eyes.

"It's been an experience that I'd do over again. I really enjoyed my

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Smoke Signals



More 'full service'

Opening of Grand Ronde Fire Station makes area safer

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

Grand Ronde became more of a full-service, as well as safer, community on Friday, June 25, with the grand opening of the Tribally funded \$1 million Grand Ronde Fire Station at the corner of McPherson and Grand Ronde roads.

The new fire station will be operated and managed by the West Valley Fire District and have two firefighters assigned per shift who can provide fire and emergency medical services to the Grand Ronde area 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The new building will reduce response times by at least 10 minutes for emergency medical or fire calls.

About 100 Tribal and community members attended the 11 a.m. grand opening of the new fire station, which includes three vehicle bays, three dorm rooms that can sleep two apiece, a kitchen, laundry, meeting room with workout equipment, storage area and two offices.

Tribal member and Tribal Director of Development Peter Wakeland said the project came in under-budget, thanks in part to using surplus furniture from Spirit Mountain Lodge.

As a backdrop for the event, West Valley Fire District staff drove the vehicles that will be stationed in Grand Ronde -- a fire truck, ambulance and the Quint (a fire engine that serves the dual purpose of an engine and ladder truck) that the Tribe purchased to ensure safety at Spirit Mountain Lodge, the tallest building in the fire district.

Tribal Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor was master of ceremonies as she



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council Chair Cheryle A. Kennedy introduces herself and talks with West Valley Fire District firefighters and paramedics before the start of the grand opening ceremony for the new Grand Ronde Fire Station in Grand Ronde on Friday, June 25.

ushered people to tent-covered seats to start the ceremony.

Following an honor song from the Grand Ronde Canoe Family, Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. gave the invocation, thanking the Creator that the Tribe and West Valley Fire District worked together for the safety and protection of the community.

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy delivered the keynote address, recounting a story of how Grand Ronde Tribal members in the 1800s shared their rations and wild-life harvests with a non-Native woman who

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