

Sheker seat on Tribal Council vacated on May 30

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

As dictated by the Tribal Constitution, the Tribal Council seat held by Valorie Sheker was officially vacated on Wednesday, May 30, when she did not attend her third straight meeting and Tribal Council voted not to excuse the absence.

Sheker also did not attend the May 2 and May 16 Tribal Council meetings and those absences were, likewise, unexcused.

Tribal Council Vice Chair Reyn Leno read the Tribal Constitution article affecting Sheker's seat during the May 30 meeting.

"If a Tribal Council member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Tribal Council without a written excuse accepted by a majority vote of the other members of Tribal Council, that member's seat will be declared vacant and



Valorie Sheker

the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with this section."

Sheker was serving her third term — second consecutive — on Tribal Council and her seat is up for election in

September.

A May 31 letter sent to the Tribal membership states that the Tribal chairperson shall recommend a person who meets the requirements of a candidate for Tribal Council to fill the vacancy and serve the remainder of the term upon approval from a majority of the elected members of Tribal Council. The Constitution does not mandate a time period in which that recommendation must occur. ■

Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center institutes Broken Appointment Policy

In an effort to make medical services more efficient, the Grand Ronde Health and Wellness Center (H&WC) has approved and instituted a broken appointment policy for medically-related appointments at the H&WC. To qualify as a broken appointment a patient must either not show up for their appointment, show up more than 10 minutes late or give less than 24 hours notice of cancellation. When any of these events occur, the patient is notified in writing. After the third broken appointment in a six-month time frame, the patient will not be allowed to schedule routine appointments. However, they will be offered a "sit and wait appointment" — the chance to sit and wait for an opening with a provider. This probationary period will last for six (6) months. The H&WC has a process for reminding patients of appointments and strives to notify patients of appointments the day before.

The broken appointment policy is very important as broken or missed appointments create unused time in a provider's schedule, which is inefficient financially and leads to barriers to accessing care. Ultimately, a broken appointment policy exists to improve access to care for all patients and is critical to providing responsive, cost-effective health services. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

Below is the most current information on the meeting days and times for Tribal Committees and Special Event Boards:

- **Ceremonial Hunt Board** meets as needed. Chair: Shonn Leno.
- **Cultural Trust Board** meets at 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Modular No. 2. Chair: Perri McDaniel.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Modular No. 3. Chair: TBD.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:15 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Adult Education Building. Chair: Jon George.
- **Elders' Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders' Activity Center. Chair: Gladys Hobbs.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Building. Acting Chair: Robert Schmid.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month in the Tribal Wellness Center. Acting Chair: Patti Tom-Martin.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **Rodeo Special Event Board** meets at 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month at the Tribal Rodeo Office. Chair: Harold Lyon.
- **Social Services Committee** meets at 4 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Social Services Conference Room. Chair: Jenny Sanchez.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources Building. Chair: Bob Mercier.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 4 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of the month in the Tribal Community Center. Chair: Dakota Whitecloud.

Natural Resources has forest passes

The Natural Resources Department has annual Northwest Forest Passes available at no charge for enrolled Tribal members. The pass is valid for one year from date of issue.

The Forest Pass is valid at day-use sites in Oregon and Washington where "Recreation Pass Required" signs are posted.

Some examples are Hebo Lake Picnic Site, Derek Road Trailhead, Quinalt Rain Forest Trailhead, Tumalo Falls Trailhead, Lava River Cave Interpretive Site, Crane Prairie, Bagby Hot Springs Trailhead, Wickiup Plains Trailhead, Lake Serene Trailhead, Clear Lake Public boating site and West Fork Humtulpis Middle Trailhead.

The Forest Pass does not cover fees for sno-parks, some concessionaire-operated sites, developed campgrounds and cabins rentals, wilderness climbing and river permits.

For more information, contact the Natural Resources Department at 503-879-2424 or visit the Tribal Web site at www.grandronde.org/departments/natural-resources. ■

Lamprey harvest lasts until July 31

Are you an enrolled Tribal member interested in harvesting lamprey for personal use?

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced the 2012 harvesting schedule for lamprey on the east side of Willamette Falls. Enrolled Tribal members may harvest lamprey for their personal use between June 1 and July 31, 2012, while following established guidelines.

Contact the Natural Resources Department at 47010 S.W. Hebo Road in Grand Ronde or call 503-879-2424 for more information and specifics. ■

Chinuk Family Language Retreat scheduled

A Chinuk Family Language Retreat will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 28-29, in the Tribal gym.

The retreat will be a fun, family language-learning experience in which participants will learn some of the language and traditions of the Grand Ronde Tribe. Previous Chinuk Wawa language experience is not required. The event will require that the Lilo preschool class close so that all Tribal language employees can participate. In addition, children must be accompanied by an adult. Dinner and lunch will be provided both days.

For more information, contact Esther Stewart at 503-879-1443 or Ali Holsclaw at 503-879-1490. ■

College Cohort session set for June 26

An informational session to learn about the new Chemeketa Community College Cohort group in Grand Ronde will be held at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, in Adult Education Building Classroom 126.

Those attending will learn about the new associate degree cohort group starting in September and receive assistance with filling out the Chemeketa admission application and scheduling a placement test.

Dinner will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, call 503-879-2275. ■



**Marce Norwest
MEMORIAL**

Traditional
Dinner & Giveaway
Saturday, June 23
Noon till...

Welcome all
family, friends
& veterans
Community Center
Grand Ronde, Or

contact:
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Marcella Selwyn
C: 503-879-3666 H: 971-237-8530