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JULY 1, 2012

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

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UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

13 running for Tribal Council this year

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Thirteen Tribal members were nominated to run for three open Tribal Council seats and all accepted at a special General Council meeting held in the Tribal Community Center on Sunday, June 24.

As of the day of nominations for Tribal Council, 3,892 Tribal members are eligible to vote in the election slated for Saturday, Sept. 8. Last year, of 3,844 eligible to vote, 1,136 ballots were counted.

Eligible voters must be registered to vote and all can register up to and including Election Day on Sept. 8. Each eligible voter is entitled to vote for up to three candidates.

Of the 13 nominees, the top three vote-getters will fill three vacancies, which are seats

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Smoke Signals file photo

Grand Entry of the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde in July 2011.

Veterans Powwow slated for July 6-8

By Ron Karten
Smoke Signals staff writer

Navajo gourd dancers from southern Oregon and two dance specials will highlight this year's Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow to be held Friday, July 6, through Sunday, July 8, at Uyxat Powwow Grounds in Grand Ronde.

The powwow grounds are located off Highway 22 near Fort Yamhill State Park.

The Tribal tradition of honoring veterans, Native and otherwise, is expected to bring thousands to Grand Ronde from across the country. Previous powwows have drawn many from overseas as well.

Drummers and dancers from all over have been invited, said Dakota Whitecloud, an Elder and chair of the Tribe's Veterans' Special Event Board, which organizes the powwow. Thirty to 50 vendors are expected, including many supporting Tribal programs, such as housing, social services and health care.

The dance specials will be an Owl Dance and a Team Dance, she said. And along with the

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If you go

Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow

When: Grand entries are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, July 6; 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, July 7; and 1 p.m. Sunday, July 8.

Where: Uyxat Powwow Grounds off Highway 22 near Fort Yamhill State Park.

Cost: Free parking and camping available.

More information: Contact Dakota Whitecloud at 503-879-4240 or by e-mail at sangretta@yahoo.com.

Tribal voters approve primary process by too small a margin

By Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals editor

Tribal voters approved a primary election amendment to the Tribal Constitution on June 13, but it fell 13 votes short of the required two-thirds approval to institute the measure.

In certified election results released Wednesday, June 20, 407 Tribal voters favored a primary election and 222 opposed it for a 64.7 percent approval rate — 2 percentage points short.

To change the Tribal Constitution, at least 30 percent of those registered to vote must cast ballots and then 66.7 percent of those voting must approve of an amendment for it to take effect.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1,108 Grand Ronde Tribal members registered to vote in the special election for an approximately 28.6 percent registration turnout of eligible Tribal voters.

Of those who registered, 629, or 56.8 percent, voted. To pass with that voter turnout, 420 yes votes were needed.

Tribal Council voted in January to send the primary election idea to voters. If the amendment had been approved, starting in 2013 the field of Tribal Council candidates would have been pared to six candidates through a primary election if 10 or more Tribal members were nominated in June.

In a 2010 non-binding survey, Tribal members supported a primary election process 584-366, or 61.4 percent in favor of the idea.

Recent Tribal Council elections have consistently seen more than 10 or more Tribal members nominated. With so many candidates on the September general election ballot, those elected to three-year Tribal Council terms customarily receive less than 20 percent of the total vote. ■